



TIMBERSCOMBE C OF E FIRST SCHOOL

Nurturing our unique acorns, for the infinite possibilities of the mighty oaks they shall become.

Inspired by John 10:10, Gideon 6:11 and Corinthians 13:4



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Head Teacher's Blog

This week we have been busy preparing for testing in primaries and setting up our systems and protocols, so that this can occur safely without any negative impact upon onsite provision. To reassure families, test kits are (should be) arriving in schools making it possible for our staff to self test twice a week. This will then mean those who are asymptomatic are isolating and hopefully, as a result, make our school environment safer from COVID-19.

In other news, we would like you to take part in a 'heart-art prayer project' to create a large collage. We would like hearts on a piece of card 12cmx12cm. You can save these and bring them back into school when we return or post them to us. We would like you to take a photo and email that to us or send it to your teacher through Google Classroom. You can decorate your heart and then write a prayer in the middle, you might want to think about people you miss, or family and friends you are grateful for, or for key workers etc. These will be made into a large collage when we come back, but also an electronic version will be made from the photos— just like our Rainbows last lockdown.

Miss Masters (and the kitchen team) also has a lockdown project she would love you to engage with – the creation of a recipe book. We are hoping that families will share their favourite recipes that they are making at home together and we can collate them into a commemorative book of this time.

Cooking can be science, it can be design technology, it can be linked to history or geography, it is a social time to chat and figure out instructions together. Eating together hugely helps children develop their vocabulary and grow in confidence. This time is even more precious given the amount of screen-time children will experience, so for us this project is not just about healthy eating, or healthy lifestyles but it is about wellbeing, and good old fashioned family fun! Get messy and email in your family recipes and photos for our commemorative cook book— staff that means you too!!

Watch this space for news on FareShare Friday, as we are aiming to get those out to you before half term. We had 76 families across both schools sign up— so we are gathering an army for deliveries! Have a safe and happy weekend, Mrs Naomi Philp



*Our school is about kindness, caring for others, ourselves, and our world.
Our school values our faith, our location, our community and most of all each other.
We aim to instill a life long love of learning.*

Little Oaks News

This week, the children have continued to enjoy their new surroundings and forming new friendships. On Monday we spent a lovely afternoon on the school field making dens. Watching the children working together was wonderful to see!

Please check the Little Oaks section on the website for links and activities.

Jasper from Dunster year 2, had an award in the Dunster Newsletter this week for his care and kindness towards Little Oaks children. This is one of the positives of our schools working so well together; the new relationships formed when we link up our pupils. Well done Jasper!

Don't forget Little Oaks children can also join in the 'heart art prayer project' Mrs Philp talks of— you just might have to help them with the prayer writing.

Plus, the recipe project is a lovely one— do send in some of those.

We really are part of the school



Safeguarding

Online Safety

With schools closed and most of our children undertaking home-learning, many have new devices on loan from school and most will be spending more time online than usual.

Net-aware have released this useful guidance. For new devices. It covers laptops, phones, tablets, games consoles and other devices and can be found at:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/new-devices>

Other Online Safety Resources:

<https://www.childnet.com/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/>

Free School Meal Provision and Fare Share

If you are in receipt of our weekly FSM food boxes, we hope you are enjoying them. We have chosen deliveries rather than vouchers as we prefer the personal touch.

Miss Masters and Mrs Coles are doing an amazing job putting them all together, even including a simple recipe that you can cook with your child(ren) based on some of the ingredients included. The contents far exceed government minimum standards and are supplemented on top of that by our FareShare produce.

Key Dates

12.02.21—Last day of half term

04.03.21—World Book Day. Watch this space

An Extract from Thought for the Week

*Ed Gregory
Director Education
Diocese of Bath and Wells*

As we go through this lockdown we may become absorbed with the now or the worry of the 'next'. Sometimes we may forget, or simply side-line, looking forward, not connecting with the importance of future hope, wisdom, community and dignity. We, and those we love, will be experiencing this pandemic in very different ways across a vast continuum of severity yet we still look ahead. As your mind makes plans, imagines possibilities and 'wanders over the contours of the future' you can consciously use forward thinking to improve your well-being in the present, to grow emotionally and flourish spiritually. Whether you have any faith or none, allow yourself time to seek a root of peace, a ray of hope. Matthew's Gospel advises don't worry about tomorrow, seek first God's kingdom.

The link below is to a recent BBC series of podcasts called 'The Happiness Half Hour'. The science of happiness, yes a real thing at Bristol University, is unpacked into some really practical ideas. One of those proven ideas is looking forward. Enjoy!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/brand:p08r2ymx/p08zfbwh>

"The funny thing is"
said the mole...



"the finest act of
kindness can save
a life."

ECO NEWS

The Big Garden Birdwatch

29th—31st January 2021

Take part in the world's largest wildlife survey, all from the comfort of your own homes. Sign up here for all you need to take part, including your free guide, help with identifying what you see and expert advice on feeding the birds:



<https://www.rspb.org.uk>

This week in school ...

The KS2 Keyworker group had great fun Wassailing the fruit trees in our field last Friday - I think we made enough noise to wake up all the trees in Dunster and scare away anything bad! This week they have been hunting for winter bugs, as part of their science work, and feeding the birds.

ECO activities to do at home ...



Ahead of the 'Big Garden Birdwatch' at the end of this month, why not make a recycled bird feeder to attract more birds into your garden? Check out these ideas from the RSPB and the National Trust. Send us your photos to share here:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/make-a-bird-feeder-from-recycled-materials>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning-for-kids/games-and-activities/activities/make-a-recycled-bird-feeder/>



Live sessions of singing and musical fun on Tuesday mornings to wake children up and get them ready for a day of learning. The sessions are suitable for 4-11 year olds. Join us on [Sing Up's YouTube channel](#) or on [Sing Up at Home](#) Don't worry if you miss the live session, you can catch up afterwards.



Our Star of the week is Joby for trying so hard with his writing this week and producing some impressive written work as a result.

Class 1—Mr Deeks would like special mentions for Olivia for working extremely hard with her home learning and Edward for his continued growth mindset and amazing maths throughout. Achievement Awards are coming your way.

Class 2—Harry gets an Achievement Award this week for high quality home learning. Well done! Miss Sparks has chosen Hudson for a Kindness Award for helping others to solve problems on Google Classroom

Growth Mindset Weekly:

"You can't let your failures define you. You have to let your failures teach you"

Barack Obama

By Kelly Twiss

Mindful Mayhem Creative Play

This week I am sharing some fun upcycling/Recycling crafts to enjoy with your family! We would love to see your designs!!!

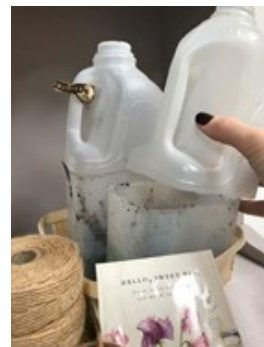
Make a mini Greenhouse:

Help a seed to grow with your care, support and patience. Check your seedling every day and notice any small changes. This is great way to practise mindfulness for a few minutes.



You will need:

A clean plastic milk bottle, (jug Shape) scissors, potting soil, spray bottle, seeds and some tape.



1. It's a great way to recycle a clean empty milk bottle, remove lid (save for school collection!) cut almost completely around the jug, leaving about an inch section uncut – this will act like hinge and open for easy access.

2. Make around 15 holes in the bottom of the jug and a couple on each side (about an inch or so above the base allowing for proper drainage allowing for ventilation.

3. place a few pebbles at the bottom and then add potting soil, wet the soil thoroughly then the seeds can be individually planted (we used 3 sweet pea seeds in each of ours as they are quite big)

4. label your pot and you may also like to decorate it.

5. last job – give your seeds a little spray, close the top with the tape and you can keep them inside your home, don't forget to check in on them each day and give them a little spray if they need it!

January & February

Seeds to Sow

Sweet peas.	Spinach/lettuces
Pansies.	Cucumber
Dahlias.	Basil
Geraniums.	Chillies
Snapdragons.	Aubergines



Seeds need light, warmth and moisture to germinate, once your seedlings have grown you can plant them outside in the garden after Jack Frost has been for the last time!



Decorative Tin Can Planters and Vases



Your imagination can run wild with these upcycled tin cans, you can use them to store your paintbrushes and pens or to display flowers or plants, their uses are endless.

You will need – Old cans, strips of paper, acrylic paint, coloured paints, paintbrush or old sponge, PVA glue, paper, magazine cuttings, material, anything that you would like to decorate your planter with.

We gave the can two coats of the white paint, you can mix poster paint with PVA glue to make a varnish type effect. Once dry, we just painted our design on top.

For the marbling effect, which is so much fun, place some water in a plastic tub, drop a few blobs of nail varnish in and swirl around with the end of your paintbrush and swirl the edge of the can in, leave to dry. In an hour or two your designs will be ready!



Once you have grown your flowers from the last activity you could display them in your new vases and give them to someone as a gift! This will make you feel very warm and fuzzy inside! Have some fun trying out with different materials.

