



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 A huge well done to all of you, all of our pupils and all of our staff. This half term has seen everyone undertake significant learning outside the usual way and routines—mastering ICT and working together in creative ways to enable our children to be well supported emotionally, socially and academically. We know it has been a challenging time for everyone. You have all made it to half term, and now it really is time for a break. Children, parents and staff all need a rest from the new routines and pressures of home learning. Now, please relax and play. For those adults who are continuing to work over the half term, I hope you get a bit of a break at some point.

When we come back, all we know at present, is hopefully there will be further guidance issued to everyone on the 22nd Feb; but, schools are certainly not back (it would appear under current information) until at least the 8th March. We will continue with our Google Classroom learning from the 22nd Feb and have all manner of plans in place for when schools do get the go ahead to return. These plans we will communicate with you, when it is appropriate to do so, when the government make clear the next phase for schools opening.

It is Valentine's day over the holiday, and whilst some may find this another commercial opportunity, I always think of it as a chance to just say 'I love you, you matter' to those we care about. For one day, to stop and not take those we care about for granted and to do something nice for them; or even to do something kind for someone, a pay it forward opportunity. 'Love' is often dismissed as too soppy or intense, but what is always evident in the best of schools, the strongest communities is love. Love in its purest form, where we really do want the best for our children and each other. That love has been truly evident these past weeks. Thank you. Take care, stay safe and well. 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 we have had lots of fun doing wake and shake and playing outside on the ride on toys. During this colder weather though, we have also enjoyed a range of indoor activities including tower building and junk modelling.

Please check the Little Oaks section of the Timberscombe school website for some new activities based on The Three Little Pigs, including an e-book: <https://www.timberscombecofirstschool.co.uk/pre-school/>



We hope you all have a happy and restful half term break.

ECO NEWS

Before Christmas, the Dunster Eco Committee received packs of free native hedgerow trees from the Woodland Trust and had begun planting trees to create new hedgerows around their school field and at the Buttercross Community Orchard. This week, the Keyworker group finished the planting and all together, 140 new trees have been planted in our local area! This will provide food and habitats for animals and help to offset our carbon footprint.

The Woodland Trust website is a great place to find resources and ideas for activities to help you to get out during half term and enjoy trees with your children. Have a go at the 'winter tree ID' - you can even download an app to help you. We have done it in school and the children really enjoyed it. They learned the names of native trees just by looking at twigs! Check out these links for more ideas:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2021/01/lockdown-activities-kids-winter/>

<http://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/categorymenu/?cat=activities>

Book Week and World Book Day

Here is your e-token for World Book Day: [£1 book token](#)

We have also included a pdf of this at the end of this newsletter, which includes clear instructions how and where to use it.

Book Week is 1st—5th March and we will be celebrating all things "Books" during our online learning with stories, quizzes, reading challenges and literary DT and art.

We will finish the week with our dress up day on Fri 5th March—come to school or your live lesson dressed as a book character. Please do not go to any expense or make unnecessary journeys for your costume—upcycle last year's costume if you can or there are lots of quick and simple ideas online: <https://www.madeformums.com/toddler-and-preschool/last-minute-easy-world-book-day-costumes/> This is just one website, but there are loads more if you google "quick and easy world book day costumes"

Key Dates

12.02.21—Last day of half term
25.02.21—Parents' IT Workshop Google Classrooms
05.03.21—Dress Up Day for World Book Day.

Safeguarding

Absence Reporting

During this period of online learning, please continue to follow the absence reporting procedures. If your child will not be accessing the online learning, on any day, for whatever reason, please notify us at school via phone (Dunster office 01643 821254; 821243) email (timberscombe@educ.somerset.gov.uk) or via the ParentMail app. It is our duty to make contact with you if we don't hear from you in any one day, to make sure that everyone is safe and well.

Lockdown Mental Health

In this video, Educational Psychologist Abigail Wright has five tips to help parents keep their children's mental health on track:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/education-55620288>

Online Safety

As our children are spending more and more time online at the moment, online safety has become more important than ever. Please see our website for resources for parents:

<https://www.timberscombecofefirstschool.co.uk/>



FIRE SAFETY

Your Fire Service needs YOU!



As we are still unable to visit our schools for the annual fire safety talks, we still want households with children to be aware of the importance of having working smoke alarms.

If you don't have working smoke alarms then you can call
0800 05 02 999 to request a **free HOME SAFETY CHECK**
(quote code : 294)

And if you or someone you know answers "yes" to at least one of these questions:

- is over 65 years old?
- finds it difficult to move around?
- can't hear things very well?
- smokes?
- doesn't have one smoke alarm for each level of their home?
- has NO smoke alarms?

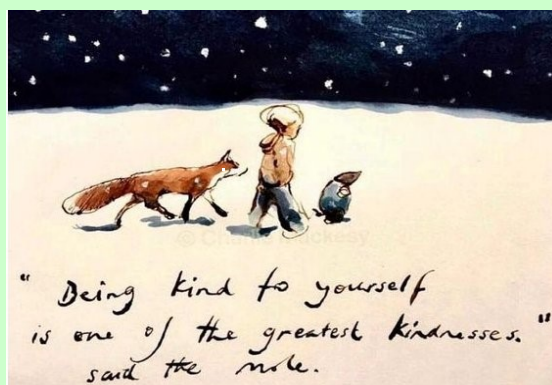
They can also request a free **HOME SAFETY CHECK** by calling **0800 05 02 999**

An Extract from Thought for the Week

Ed Gregory, Director Education
Diocese of Bath and Wells

So, next week why not just be you. The pandemic has had some strange and unexpected impacts and we have all had to make many adaptations as the pandemic has changed our usual rhythms, routines and ways of connecting. Maybe we have lost touch a little with who we really are or how to be comfortable just being ourselves. This half term starts with Valentine's day on Sunday 14th February. What a great excuse to devote some time in the week before and after to finding yourself again and, in doing so, to show yourself some kindness and some love. (That can include some wise choices for Lent too!).

The following links take you to the Archbishop of Canterbury's prayers for February: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/PftN%20Booklet%20single%20pages.pdf>



FREE Workshops to help Parents with Home Learning:

3:30pm-4:30pm Monday 22nd February 2021 - Tapestry for Remote Learning

3:30pm-4:30pm Tuesday 23rd February 2021 - Parental Controls and Managing Screen Time

3:30pm-4:30pm Wednesday 24th February 2021 - Microsoft Teams for Remote Learning

**** 3:30pm-4:30pm Thursday 25th February 2021 - Google Classroom for Remote Learning**

To book onto the workshops please register by following this link https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=m0W7dVoeE2n5_DP-psr41vAJUnUowpFq-nswVg2XntUOVBUkk4U1dETkhCTjIGQjVKNjJDQVFQNi4u



Our Stars of the week are Noah, for his amazing painting for school and Olivia and Hermione for their great presenting.

Class 1 Archie gets a Kindness Award this week for his hard work in school and supporting other children in the class. An Achievement Award for Aurora, for a brilliant diary entry and growth mindset with her home learning.

Class 2 Miss Sparks has chosen Hudson for an Achievement Award this week for baking some wonderful cakes.

Growth Mindset Weekly:

"I never Lose. Either I win, or I learn" Nelson Mandela

Mindful Awareness – talking with your child

With increasing concerns in the media about how this pandemic is affecting some children's mental health, we thought we would compile some ideas that may help your child find it easier to share any problems or worries with you.

Very often (I know I have been guilty of this myself!) we assume that our children want advice or solutions to their problems and instead of listening and hearing their point of view, we often jump in with our own opinions and thoughts.

Ask, "do you want help solving this problem?"

Encourage brainstorming and problem solving. Let your child try their own ideas, even if it might not be the perfect solution

Sometimes we talk too much; if your child is quite introverted, they may just need some time to quietly process what you are asking, I know I was more like this as a child, so could easily be overwhelmed with too many questions or instructions. Ask open-ended questions, then wait for a reply. Listen without interrupting; support with silence and kind facial gestures.

Our child may be afraid of our responses or feel criticized about their decisions. They might worry that you will say something negative about a friend or give a consequence for actions, even if what they are offering is truthful and honest. Instead of being judgmental, watch your response and stay neutral. Ask questions rather than jumping to conclusions. Check in with how your child feels or what they think. Ask "how does that make you feel?" or "what do you think about that decision?"



Huggle Buddies

I know we are all guilty of being too distracted, especially at the moment whilst juggling work, home learning and all the other plates we have spinning at the same time. So, our children may be ready to talk to us about something, but you are not picking up on their cues because you are too busy, your child may be tired of competing with the phone, computer, or other siblings.

Your child may be feeling out of sorts and just doesn't know how to ask for a cuddle or for you to be just be with them for a bit until the uncomfortable feeling passes.

Having a visual cue to hand that your child can use, can really help ease this worry about interrupting you. It can help stop the child using negative behaviour to get your attention and remind you to take a break and give your child your full attention.

It is very easy for families to get stuck in negative communication patterns. By changing the way you communicate with your children, you begin to change the pattern, therefore changing the outcome. You may need to try a few different ways until you find what works best for your children. With time, you will notice a big difference in the way the children feel comfortable opening up more.

We called these cues, Huggle Buddies but you can call them whatever you like!

We just recycled some straws and designed different faces showing different emotions. My youngest wanted hers to be a magic wand that she could leave near me if she wanted my attention but didn't want to interrupt me. We had a lot of fun making these together and it brought about a lovely discussion about our feelings and how to ask for help or attention in a kind and loving way.



£1 Book Token

Primary Schools and Nurseries/Pre-Schools (UK)

World Book Day changes lives through a love of books and shared reading. Our mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the chance to have a book of their own. World Book Day is an opportunity for everyone to celebrate the joy of reading. Visit worldbookday.com for brilliant ideas and resources for reading together at home. Your **£1 book token** is available below.

The World Book Day £1 books are a gift from booksellers, who fully fund the cost of the £1 book token redemptions. Check with your local bookseller what plans they have in place for World Book Day. Please note:

- The £1 book token can be exchanged for one of our **exclusive, new £1 books** (see the full line-up at worldbookday.com/books/) OR for getting £1 off any book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more in participating bookshops and supermarkets.
- The book token is valid from **Thursday 18 February – Sunday 28 March 2021**. Participating booksellers will honour the tokens beyond the 28 March while stocks last. Please contact your local bookseller to check if they are able to offer £1 off other titles.
- The book token can **ONLY** be used in participating bookshops (find your nearest at booksellers.org.uk/wbd)
- The book token can be printed out and taken to your local bookseller. Booksellers such as Sainsbury's and Asda are unable to accept the voucher on a phone or tablet screen. For all other booksellers, please check before you visit.
- The digital £1 book token cannot be redeemed online.
- The digital £1 book token is intended for **SINGLE-USE ONLY**.

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Rob Biddulph