

Oare Church of England Primary School

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NEWSLETTER

01/05/2020



“The most important thing in life is our connection with others”

Tom Ford

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of Week 2, Term 5, I wanted to start this week's newsletter by recognising the parents who have sent us messages of thanks over this difficult time. Nothing prepares a school for this situation and translating what we normally deliver in school into an accessible, reasonable home learning offer remains our priority. Please take seriously my message that this has to work for you as families and that there is no finite expectation from the school of how much work needs to be completed every day. I know some parents may be concerned about their child falling behind, but there is no measure of falling behind at this moment in time. I would please urge you to just keep going with your 'best endeavours' whilst concentrating on the wellbeing of everyone in your family.

Our website is regularly updated with information regarding our response to Covid-19; this includes our home learning offer, suggestions of how to approach this and the support available to you from staff. The relevant webpage can be accessed by clicking [here](#) and I would request that you read through the important information held there.

I personally cannot thank the staff of OPS enough for their commitment to our little school. With families of their own to support, this isn't easy for anyone. We genuinely are all in this together and the staff's positivity, sense of humour, passion for supporting the remote learning of your children and compassion for the situation we all find ourselves in, shines through. Thank you lovely colleagues - virtual staff meetings are fun, but I cannot wait to be back in school with you for real.

You will be receiving regular phone calls from us to check that all is well; if you receive a phone call with an unknown number it may well be one of us ringing up to say hello. I know Mrs Dodson has been singing over the phone to some of Skylarks today, which was good for the wellbeing of all!

I would love to create a display at school of things the children of Oare have done over this time. I don't mean just maths and literacy work. I have always personally believed that learning is SO much more than just the core subjects. Whilst I hugely recognise the incredible support you are providing for these important numeracy and literacy skills at home (and they are important), wouldn't it be wonderful to display and celebrate in school every creative, wonderful, thoughtful thing that the children and staff of Oare have done during this time? I have been moved to tears by some of the musical performances, art work, gardening, bike rides, bluebells, virtual walks to the moon, radio debuts!, compassion posters, videos, photos, siblings learning together...I could go on. We have even been visited on Seesaw by some ex-pupils getting in on the act! Thank you everyone - OPS has a strong community and one we very much value.

Please don't be anxious about home learning, please contact us and please be reassured that for some of us as staff, we are also having to face what home schooling looks like for our own children whilst trying to work remotely or come into school.

Gudrun Osborn, Principal

Birthday Congratulations this week to:

Amelia

John



Free School Meals

Families entitled to free school meals are receiving electronic vouchers. If your circumstances have changed and you think you may now be entitled to free school meals, we would encourage you to apply to Wiltshire Council:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-free-school-meals>

SEESAW TIPS OF THE WEEK

Ensure your work can be seen by your teacher

Please ensure work can be seen by your class teacher by:

- Ensuring all photos are the correct way round
- Making uploaded photos as large as possible - you can do this in Seesaw by dragging the corner of the photo to make it larger.

Student announcements

All weekly learning grids and associated documents will be posted to student announcements on Friday afternoon. Once signed into Seesaw, click on the inbox and then on student announcements to find the work set by your class teacher. Please read carefully the title of each document to check that you are reading the correct learning grid for your year group.

Class Blogs

In order for the children to be able to share uploads that they are proud of and comment on each other's uploads, we have enabled the Seesaw class blogs. We will send the passwords for each blog to parents via email and to the children through student announcements on Seesaw. All comments have to be authorised by the class teacher, but we would also ask you to please remind your child of appropriate ways to comment online.

<https://blog.seesaw.me/skylarkclass>

<https://blog.seesaw.me/kestrelclass>

<https://blog.seesaw.me/oareowlclass>

Teacher authorisation of Seesaw posts

In order to help teachers manage their workload at this time, they will be available to approve and feedback to posts on Seesaw between 9am and 3.15pm during the working week.

They will also be available between 9am—10am and 2pm –3pm on the letters account to answer any additional queries. The letters account will be monitored throughout the day by Mrs Evans and Mrs Osborn to ensure we respond to anything urgent.

Please note that school is still open daily for key workers children and staff are on a rota for this. Mrs Osborn will stand in for class teachers to cover Seesaw when they are required to cover in school.

Wiltshire Council Primary Newsletter

Please click [HERE](#) to read this week's edition.

Please follow our Twitter account [@OareSchool](#).

If you post anything on Facebook or Twitter that you are up to at home during this time and are happy to share with us, please add #OPSathome #TinybutPowerful or @OareSchool to help build our following.



Compassion

I cannot even begin to tell you how happy the children have made me this week. Their responses this week to my musical compassion challenge have been just lovely and put a BIG smile on my face.

Watch out for my ongoing compassion challenges which I will post on Seesaw every Monday morning!

Thank you children of OPS - I continue to be so proud of your understanding of the values of our school.

Mrs Osborn

VE Day Street Party and the Great British Camp Out

We often engage the pupils at Oare in vertical learning opportunities. This means all of our pupils get to work alongside each other on the same task - these are often art, music, drama and cooking activities. In recognition of VE day next week, on next week's learning grids, we have suggested some creative activities that siblings can do together.

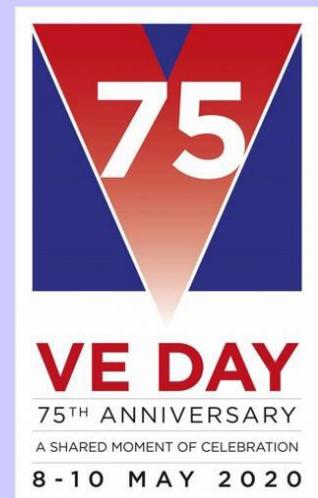
In addition to our VE 'Street Party' celebrations on Friday 8th May, we are also proposing that the families of Oare get involved in the 'Oare Primary School Great British Camp Out' over the bank holiday weekend (Friday 8th - 10th May). You don't necessarily need a tent to do this, incredible camps can be made indoors too!

News from your 'camp' can be shared on Seesaw and uploaded to your class blog to make us all feel as if we really are on a camp together!

#GreatBritishCampOut #OPSathome @OareSchool



<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/greatbritishcampout?>





'OPS IS SO PROUD OF OUR VERY OWN
MISS DAVIES'

Last weekend, I made my radio debut on BBC Radio Wiltshire. Since 'lockdown' I have been putting together a weekly newsletter for my church. It's an opportunity for members to share family news, share ideas and place requests.

One lady, Margaret, who is 94, asked for audiobook CD's. Margaret is visually impaired and therefore relies on listening to books as a way of reading stories. Usually she visits the library to get her CD's but now they are closed. Margaret doesn't have the internet and therefore can't download books to listen to. Using my computer knowledge, I offered to download books for her and burn them to CD. One book takes about 10 CD's!

Margaret was thrilled by this and I was able to find her favourite author, Nevil Shute. She was so grateful by this kindness that she shared it with her friend, who in turn told the radio. Currently there is a slot called, 'Make a Difference' in which the presenter, Jonathan Fido, interviews people who are making a difference to someone else's life during the virus.

On Friday, Jonathan phoned me up to interview me and then it was heard on radio Saturday afternoon.

In my opinion this is such a small thing to have done, but it has made a huge difference to someone else. It is another reminder to me about the power of the mustard seed.

Miss Davies

Click [here](#) for the link to my 2 minutes of fame. You need to fast forward to 2:45:00