



## Online Learning

Hopefully you have received the next batch of home learning through the post (although this may take a little longer to be delivered than usual) or online via Purple Mash.

The learning packs can be found on the school website under the Online Learning section, (scroll down to find the class packs):

<https://www.st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk/online-learning/>.

There are also links to websites that you might find useful listed below. All of these links can also be accessed from the school website under the "Online Learning" section.

### Daily Online Lessons

From this week onwards, there are daily online lessons available from the government's Oak National Academy and also through BBC Bitesize.

The Oak National Academy is a government-backed online learning platform that provides access to one hundred and eighty video lessons per week, for every year group from Reception through to Year 10. The lessons are expected to each last one hour and cover a range of subjects, including maths, art and languages and each lesson includes a quiz and worksheet. The portal will provide the equivalent of three hours of lessons per day for primary students, and four hours per day for secondary students.

These lessons are in addition to what the school are providing and can be accessed from:

<https://www.thenational.academy/>.

BBC Bitesize also has lessons for each year from Reception onwards in a range of different subjects and these are updated weekly. The lessons can be accessed from the following site:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

## Supporting Mental Health

Public Health England has produced some guidance for parents and carers about supporting children and young people's mental health during the Coronavirus pandemic. This can be accessed from the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

There are also some useful links to Mind Ed, a website which contains advice on supporting mental health for young people and for older people who have also been significantly affected by the Coronavirus situation. Their website address is:

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

A storybook for children has also been produced by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) around the subject of Coronavirus. You can access this from the following link

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2020-04/My%20Hero%20is%20You%2C%20Storybook%20for%20Children%20on%20COVID-19.pdf>

## Safeguarding

### Thinkuknow - Online safety packs

Thinkuknow has created online safety packs for families to use with children whilst at home. These can be accessed from: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

## Prayer Focus

This week's word, from the final week of the Wednesday Word Easter card sent out before the lockdown, is "Jesus".

In these difficult times, each of us can choose something to do for each other at home to be more like Jesus. We can be kind to each other, or helpful, or more tolerant. Our prayer is

*Dear Lord Jesus,  
We thank you for always being there for us. Help us to recognise you as we journey through life together.  
Amen.*

## Rainbow Thank You

Thank you to those families who have sent in photographs of rainbows, which we will upload onto the website to create a Rainbow Gallery. We have also put rainbow paintings in the windows at St Mary's so that they can be seen from the road and show our support for all the NHS staff and key workers.



## Devon Wildlife Trust

### Discovering wildlife at home

As many of you are aware, our school has been taking part in the Devon Wildlife Project this year and our children decided on the theme of protecting birds around the school grounds and local environment. Although this project has been put on hold for a while, Devon Wildlife Trust have updated their website with ideas that you could try at home:

<https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/discover-wildlife/exploring-nature-home>

## Free School Meals

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, the vouchers for Free School Meals are taking a very long time to be processed. The order was placed in the middle of last week and still has not come through. However, when it does, it will include payments up to and including week commencing Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

As soon as the codes for the vouchers arrive, we will process them and get them out to eligible families without delay.

## CPRE Competition

Each year St Mary's School takes part in the Campaign to Protect Rural England's competition and last year we won 'Best Overall School'.

This year, the opening line for the writing competition is:

'I think that it is important to protect Devon's wildlife because...'

The entry forms and further information can be found on their website:

<https://www.cpredevon.org.uk/barneythebull/>

The closing date for entries is Tuesday 30th June.

If your child wants to enter, you can either send forms directly to the CPRE or forward to the school and we can send them off.

## Chipper Club

A club for children in lockdown has been set up called 'Chipper Club'. Chipper was originally created between the wars to entertain youngsters and the character has been reinvented for this generation of children. Every week Chipper sets a challenge, with a certificate at the end. A time capsule booklet is being sent out, in .pdf format, with this newsletter. You can find out more about the Chipper Club, at: <https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/chipper-club-time-capsule/>

