

Issue 22
Term 4
27th March 2020



Amesbury CE Primary School

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart” Col 3:23

Website: www.amesbury.wilts.sch.uk



5th Sunday of
Lent, Year A

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Children and Governors.

We have come to the end of our first week of the reduced school opening; the most bizarre week of my teaching career and one I never thought would occur. Our school gates have remained opened for to provide childcare for some of our children: 44 children have been cared for so far, enabling their parents have been able to continue with their key worker roles, with more new families joining us next week. In addition to this Mrs Carter-Heatley and the catering team have been able to deliver over 130 meals this week for many of our children, with still more families being supported with some basic groceries provided by the school. Every day, just outside the school gate, we have placed hundreds of books for all child ages and interests so if you pass the school on your daily outdoor exercise/walk please do take as many books as you want to keep. We will continue to provide support to all members of our school community for as long as we are able to so please do just contact us if there is anything that you need at all.

We know that the stringent social distancing measures may mean that some of our families are feeling particularly isolated, and in particular those children who are an only child. The sunny weather or knowledge you have friends only a few doors away may make it tempting to want to play with friends on the street. I urge all of our families to heed the government advice to stay home, only leave the house for one essential daily exercise each day, and to maintain a 2m distance from anyone who does not live in your house. This will help to prevent the spread of the virus, and protect frontline key workers in the NHS, school and other vital services.

This week we've been helping the children to say 'Thank You' to our key workers, we've made a huge handprint rainbow on the main hall window and the children have made cards and letters for key workers that we will deliver next week. Radioshack is back in business thanks to the wonderful Miss Card and Miss Mundy has been leading the way with a Joe Wicks daily workout each morning. Our main aim has been to provide a happy and safe environment for our children whilst their parents are continuing with vital work, whilst also including some academic tasks too. I've also loved getting the update emails from so many of our families this week - please do keep these coming. As the partial school closure continues, staff will endeavour to phone or receive calls from all of our families as part of our ongoing support to ensure all families are safe and well whilst we do not see you in school.

To all of our families and children: stay safe and keep in touch.

*Yours sincerely,
Mrs Sophie Short*

**FOLLOW
US**

Our staff are working hard to update our existing and new online platforms. If you haven't already, take a look:



<https://www.amesbury.wilts.sch.uk/>



<https://www.facebook.com/AmesburyCEPrimary>



<https://twitter.com/AmesburyOf>



<https://soundcloud.com/user-410170009>

Our School Vision & Values

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart"

Colossians 3:23

To allow all members of the community to be the best versions of themselves possible through our Christian values of:

- ❖ Dignity
- ❖ Kindness
- ❖ Endurance

Leading to learners who *work hard* and *show kindness*

IN SCHOOL

Fond Farewell



After joining the school 5 years ago as an newly qualified teacher, Miss Clark has bid us a fond farewell to take up a teaching post in a school much closer to her home. Miss Clark is a beloved member of our school team and whilst we are sad to see her go, we are excited for the new opportunities this will provide in her career. It is a shame that in the current circumstances we did not get to give Miss Clark the big 'send-off' she so rightly deserves, but we were able to present her with a small gesture in front of the staff and pupils in attendance on Wednesday.

We wish you lots of luck and happiness in your new role Miss Clark, with love from all of us at Amesbury C of E Primary School.



The children of key worker parents who are still attending school this week created a hand print rainbow to show their support for all of the staff who work in roles crucial to supporting the nation during the coronavirus pandemic.

Thank you.



Mr Jeffries enjoys playtime with the children as they navigate the trim trail.

Mind your head Mr Jeffries!





Some children made bird feeders and hung them in the tree by the school gates to welcome more feathered friends to school. We will be keeping a careful watch to see how many different species we can spy.



We made the most of the weather and the children went on a mini beast hunt on the school field.



Adding colour to the playground with our chalk drawings. Check out our Twitter page for more pictures.



The start of our hand print rainbow. Have you seen it yet?



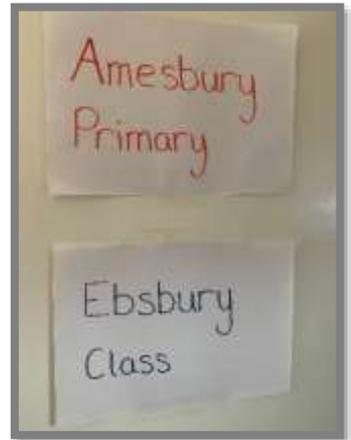
AT HOME

It's been wonderful to receive e-mails updates and photos from some of our families this week. It looks like you are all doing some fantastic learning, and having lots of fun, as you have to take time away from your school and friends. I particularly love the idea of renaming some of the rooms in your house after our classes.

Keep sending photos in and let me know if you are happy for these to be published in the newsletter and on our social media platforms.

Please remember to stay home to stay safe and only leave the house once a day for exercise like a walk or bike ride; keep your distance from other people you see on the street, even if you know them, and wash your hands carefully throughout the day.

Take care and keep well!



Lily in Year 5 and Leo in Year 2 have made their own key worker thank you rainbow pictures. They look fantastic!

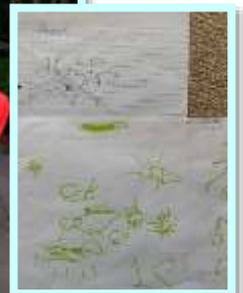


Pippa in Year 1 and Benjamin in Year 5 have been enjoying fresh air while the sun is out and keeping up with their learning at home too.

Theo in Year R, with his little sister, have had some superhero themed fun for their learning. It looks like you've been enjoying yourself Theo.



Owen in Year 1 has made a classroom at home and completed lots of learning. Miss Mundy is very impressed!



Social Distancing In School

As we continue to provide childcare for the children of key worker families, including throughout the school holidays, you may wonder how we are able to approach social distancing within school. Much like the NHS, our role means that we rely on the social distancing of other members of the community to help keep our staff and pupils safe:

The UK-wide measures are intended to delay the spread of the virus – if the majority of the country are strictly self-isolating, this allows for some people to gather where that is necessary, whether it be in hospitals...or in schools or childcare settings.

(Coronavirus: Implementing Social Distancing in Education and Childcare Settings, [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-educational-and-childcare-settings))

We know that the nature of our role at this time makes social distancing for our staff and pupils in attendance more difficult, and at times it is not always practicable. However, the following measures are in place for those attending the school setting:

- Only registered staff and pupils are permitted on site
- Parents dropping off and collecting are encouraged to maintain 2m distance from each other and staff
- Handwashing frequently throughout the day, including on arrival and at the end of the day
- All staff and pupils have their temperature checked daily to help identify any early symptoms of COVID-19
- Small group sizes in large spaces, such as the hall, so pupils can space out their seating
- Making as much use of outdoor space as possible
- High hygiene standards, including wiping down of hard surfaces, resources and equipment used using antibacterial cleaning agents
- Being particularly vigilant when attending to First Aid needs, such as cuts and scrapes
- Spray and wipe down the free books outside the school gates

Food Deliveries & Social Distancing

We continue to provide school dinners for many of our pupils, if you require this and have not yet received any meals please do contact the school or let us know when we phone you as part of our family welfare and support check-in. We are also delivering some other items for families. You may wonder how we are ensuring the safety of our staff making these deliveries and that of those we visit. Of course, whilst providing essential support to our families throughout this difficult time is important to us, ensuring we follow government guidance to keep all members of the community safe is paramount. If we visit your home please be aware of the following protective measures we are taking:

- All food and other items are carefully prepared in a clean environment and kept separate from possible contamination
- Separate equipment is used to make deliveries, where possible cardboard boxes which absorb possible virus. When plastic is used this is cleaned and sterilised carefully between deliveries
- Car steering wheels and other surfaces are cleaned with antibacterial spray before, after and during delivery routes
- Staff making deliveries use hand sanitizer between each delivery and wear protective gloves for each delivery
- Staff maintain a safe distance from members of the community and will not enter homes
- Aprons or other protective clothing are worn and washed between delivery routes

If you see our staff making deliveries or visits in your neighbourhood we welcome a wave from the window or quick hello, but please help us keep all members of our community safe by maintaining the governments advised social distancing measures.

Keep In Touch

As mentioned above we'd love to post photos, drawings, work or good news stories and updates from our pupils and their families in our weekly newsletter. Please send anything you'd like featured in the newsletter via email or post to school.

Additionally, if you are aware of any vulnerable adults, elderly person or group that are self-isolating for an extended period and would like a letter sent to them from our pupils who remain in school please forward their details to the school: office@amesbury.wilts.sch.uk

How to stick together, by staying apart



Stay at home
no unnecessary journeys
or social contact



Only leave home for
essential shopping
or **medical needs**



Or exercise once a day



Or travelling to work if
absolutely necessary



Public gatherings of
more than two people -
excluding people you live with



Police may be able to fine you
if you don't follow the rules

Online Safety

As social isolation continues I am aware that many families will turn to social media and other interaction apps. Please continue to be mindful of how you use these with your children and ensure that they are using online platforms safely.

Parents have been sent along with this newsletter a helpful parents guide produced by National Online Safety for the popular app 'House Party' which many people are using now as a means to socialise in groups from the comfort of their own home.

Please do take the time to read this and be aware of the risk factors as well as the benefits of this. As with all online platforms, school advise that pupils only access these whilst supervised by a responsible adult and that security settings are set to the maximum level.

