

Issue 23  
Term 4  
6<sup>th</sup> April 2020



Amesbury CE Primary School

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

Website: [www.amesbury.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.amesbury.wilts.sch.uk)



Holy Week,  
Year A

*Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Children and Governors.*

We are officially at the end of Term 4, although for many of our families it has already been some weeks since we saw you last. Usually school would have closed the doors and locked the gates for a fortnight as we enter Holy Week and celebrate the first week of Easter, but as so many of us celebrated a 'virtual' Palm Sunday yesterday this was not the only change to our usual Easter break as the school gates opened again this morning for a small number of pupils.

This past week in school we have seen children become established radio stars and they have even performed a reworking of a popular song to help us have some fun as we remember how to wash our hands properly - we hope to be able to share this with you soon. In the meantime, our staff have been creating videos of stories and activities for you to enjoy at home: you can find all these on our new YouTube channel.

Another rainbow has materialised in school, this time a brightly coloured ribbon creation close to the main gates, as our ongoing weekly tributes to the key workers who are continuing with their vital work. I wonder what the children will make this week?

We've also been mixing it up with our workouts, trying a Les Mills superhero fitness video this week and on Friday the children enjoyed toasting marshmallows to make smores before singing 'Happy Birthday' to Mr Jeffries who turned 21 this week! 🙄

We continued to provide meals and printed learning packs for our families and the number of children who we have provided care for since the announced school closures now exceeds 50. Staff have also been working our way through the school registers to make phone calls to, and respond to emails from, our families to see how you are getting on during this period away from school. For those of you in receipt of Free School Meals, you may be aware that a voucher scheme has been set up by the government, more information about this can be found below.

Thank you once again for the updates on how you are adapting to learning away from the classroom, please do keep sending photos in. The next newsletter will come at the end of the Easter 'break' where we will update you on all the Easter treats and fun we've had in school; until then we are still working and responding to calls and emails to school so please do keep in touch.

As always, to all members of our wonderful school community: stay safe and take care.

*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>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ7zxdfwDzLeykKRnL-utjw>

## 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*

# Free School Meals & Vouchers

Last month, the Government announced that families in receipt of Free School Meals would be eligible for a national food voucher scheme whilst their children are unable to attend school due to the coronavirus pandemic. This is **not** the same as families whose children qualify for 'Universal Free Meals' because their children are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

- If you are currently in receipt of the following benefits you may be eligible for Free School Meals:
  - Income Support
  - income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
  - income-related Employment and Support Allowance
  - support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
  - the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
  - Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
  - Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
  - Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you are in receipt of one of the above benefits and your child does not currently get Free School Meals then you can apply [here](#).

At school, we are currently working hard to address a technical issue with the provider of the vouchers that has meant we have not been given access to set our families up with the vouchers yet. This is a frustrating hurdle at a time when I know our families need this support most. I would like to reassure you that as soon as I am able to, I will be setting this up as my utmost priority. In the mean time I ask for your patience and understanding as I try to tackle an issue that is, ultimately, beyond my control. We will continue to provide cooked meals for those in receipt of Free School Meals until this issue is resolved.

### **What can parents do to help speed the process up?**

As I await resolution for this technical issue it would help me if families could let me know their preference for either being sent an e-code to print out your own e-voucher, or if you will require school to select a voucher on your behalf and print this out for you.

## Community Support

As I mentioned earlier in the newsletter we continue to provide cooked meals and printed home learning packs. Until now members of staff have been delivering these. As demand increases, and to reduce times staff need to go into the community, we are asking - where possible - for families to collect these from school themselves when they take a walk outside for exercise. We will continue to deliver for families who are unable to do this. Thank you for your help in this matter.

# IN SCHOOL

**THANK YOU**



This week our Key Worker 'Thank You' rainbow has been made by lots of ribbons tied to our school fence. We think the fluttering effect makes the rainbow look like it is shimmering. If you see any of our rainbows don't forget to post a photo onto social media and tag us in!



Our younger children in school took part in some super science investigations led by Mrs Pegman. Look at those balloons whizz by!

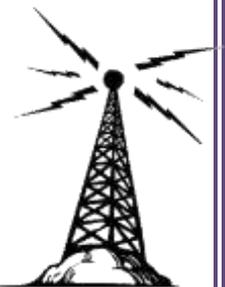
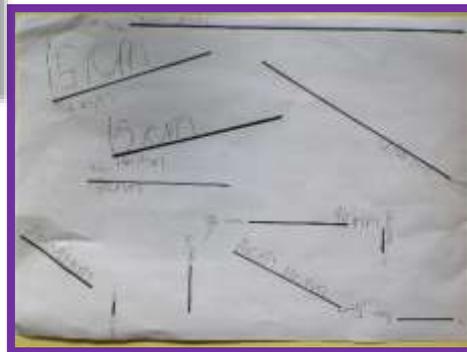


Happy birthday Mr Jeffries!

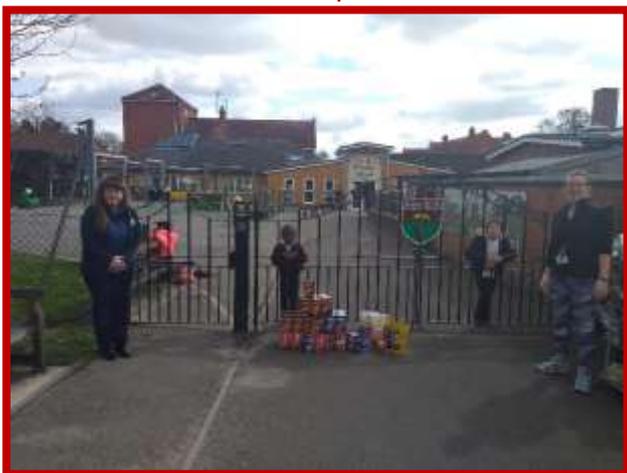
Enjoying smores by the Forest School fire. Yum!



Marvellous measuring in maths



A kind and generous donation from our local Tesco store. We will be handing these treats out over the Easter holiday weeks.



Rockin' Radio Shack. Have you tuned into our soundcloud account yet?



# AT HOME

How could one not enjoy switching on the laptop to do work every day when the email inbox is filled to the brim with pictures, news and work sent in from our families. Please keep sending in photos and updates you'd like to share in our school newsletter. Although we may be apart, our Amesbury School family can still stay together.



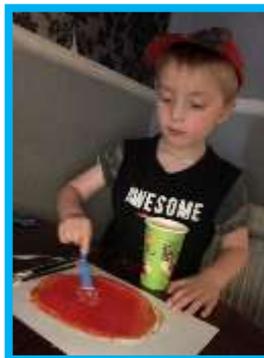
Jac in Year 2 and sister Izzy in Year 5 have been making the most of their garden looking at growing things, as well as getting fit with Disco Dion or Joe Wicks every day. Izzy is extra proud of her beautiful letter formation as she continues to practise cursive writing, and rightly so: We are proud of you too Izzy!



Rueben in Year 4 has been busy keeping active too. His work in endangered species is very informative but I just love the Easter garden that he has made.



Freddie in Year is creating a journal of his time away from school. It's filled with all sorts of artistic creations: look at this beautiful butterfly and perfect pizza painting he has created.



Vincent Van Gogh in the making, well done Freddie!



Meanwhile, Nate in Year 3 has been up to all sorts.

Not only has he completed some maths tasks, but he's been cooking up a storm in the kitchen, planting in the garden and is that some DIY I see you doing?

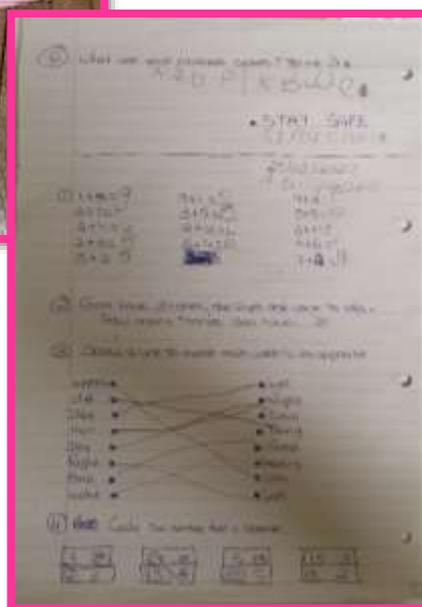
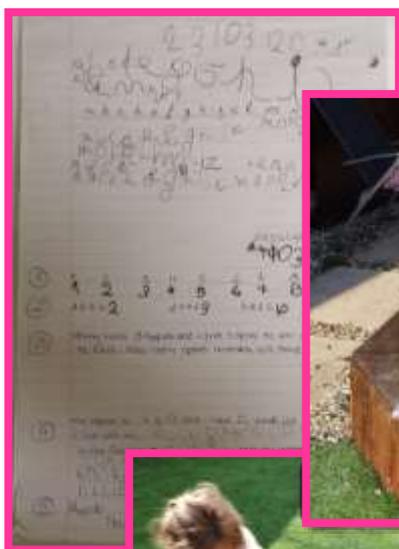




Ryland in Year 1 had lots of fun balancing items for his maths work this week. His big brother Corban in Year 6 leant a helping hand in making the balance scales. Great work boys!



Finnigan in Year 5 has been making the most of his extra time to hone his football skills. Ms Wildman would be impressed! And while he's not counting keepy-ups, Finnigan has been getting experimental in the kitchen. Well done!



Leah in Year R has been very busy doing lots of work and being creative. It looks like you have a keen helper there too Leah!

## 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](mailto:office@amesbury.wilts.sch.uk)



# KEEPING BUSY

Social distancing is hard, especially when you're 7 years old and you can't go out to play with your friends anymore (or, if your household is anything like mine, when you're the **parent** of a 7 year old who can't go out to play anymore!) It can be tricky trying to find different ways to keep the children entertained, and for lots of you, you may also be trying to juggle working from home whilst also being a home-school tutor/entertainer/snack provider!

By now, you should have received your Easter home learning activity pack to see you through the next two weeks, but here is a little more inspiration for you. Have fun, stay safe, and stay home!

## STAYING ACTIVE

Lots of you have already discovered the [Joe Wicks](#) daily work outs, and some of you may have even tried the [Les Mills](#) kids workouts too. But if dancing is more your thing then check out the Sadler Wells Theatre family dance workshops [here](#) or turn your living room into the Strictly Ballroom by joining in with Oti Mabuse who has been streaming [online dance lessons](#) for kids with themes from all your favourite films. If running is more your thing then check out Paula Radcliffe's [Families At Home](#) to see ways of keeping the family moving whilst lockdown endures.

## ARTS, HISTORY AND CULTURE

Although we only live a stone's throw from this wonder of the world, we can't visit Stonehenge - except through [this virtual skyscape](#). The Royal Shakespeare Company are also offering a 30 day free access to watch many plays online [here](#). You can watch Rufus Hound perform The Wind in The Willows Musical on stage right from your sofa by clicking [here](#) and if you want to go really "high-brow" the Royal Opera House is now [streaming past performances for free](#).

## NATURAL CURIOSITIES

Go on a virtual safari of Longleat [here](#).

ZSL London and Whipsnade have lots of videos teaching you all about their animals [here](#).

Or perhaps you want to see what some animals are getting up to right now? Edinburgh Zoo have live webcams here that take you right into their penguins, tigers, koalas and panda enclosures [here](#).

Whether your hero is David Attenborough or Andy Day you'll love exploring the Natural History Museum just like them [here](#).

## AMESBURY ADVENTURERS

Thrill seekers everywhere will be disappointed that they cannot visit their favourite theme parks, but with [this site](#) you can imagine you are on the real thing + some of the world's most famous theme and water parks.

For real life adventures, join Ben Fogle everyday as he gives us an [Adventure Class](#).

For wizarding adventures take a look at the [Wizards World of Harry Potter](#) to see how JK Rowling and WB are bring Harry Potter home for you.

## SCREEN FREE TIME

Whilst there is a world of discovery online, as well as lots of online learning sites recommended by your teachers, we all need a break from the screen too. If you're lucky enough to have a garden how about going for a mini-beast hunt or making a bug hotel. Paint a picture or make a card for a friend at school or teacher. Read a book, and if you need more don't forget we have lots to choose from outside the school gate. Create your own circuit workout and if you send it to school we might even publish it in the next newsletter. Listen to music, sing, dance or just boogie as you help with the housework. Offer to paint mums nails or wash dad's car. Help hang out the washing, tidy your bedroom or Hoover the living room. Aim to do a good deed a day and make your family smile. Have fun and relax, have you ever just sat in silence and listened to breeze? Whatever you do remember: the best way to stay safe is to stay at home.

# 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/consultations/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, only one member of staff per car
- 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.