

Dear Parents and Carers

This week is the last week of term and it has seen both highs and lows for our school community. We are all sorry to have missed the chance to see Year 3 and Year 4 perform their Easter production and it is still strange not being physically together as a school. We have seen some lovely highlights though, and it is my pleasure to share some of those in this newsletter.

Lots of families have watched Susie Hopkins' lovely retelling of the **Easter story** on YouTube. Do watch it if you haven't seen it yet: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLZSOgSjIBI&feature=youtu.be> Amber has responded with a poem. ↓ There are some lovely **Easter and Holy Week activities** that can be done at home, including Lego models and stone painting that will be added to our home learning website and is in my Google classroom. (Class code: 7ptisb7 – Y2 to Y6 please do join my classroom!)

At Easter there's no snow  
and bunnies start to grow

You look for yummy candy  
also eggs will come in handy

Chicks hatch out of eggs  
and use their tiny little legs

There's no way Jesus survives  
and with sadness he finally dies

Then Jesus rose from the dead  
and that is what the bible said

Hot cross buns have a cross on  
to remind us what Jesus died on

I also know that many families joined in with our first virtual assembly, and particularly enjoyed singing together: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qanJSB1clb8&feature=youtu.be> After Easter we will have a SuperStars assembly to celebrate the great learning children are doing at home and to share their other achievements. Good work can be 'brought' to my Google Classroom, the children can email me via [msdevane@shireoak.online](mailto:msdevane@shireoak.online), you can use my ordinary address [janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk) or tweet it to [@shireoakce](https://twitter.com/shireoakce). I am interested in seeing all sorts of projects, practising, and evidence of good citizenship! If your children need some ideas then we have collected links to some good ideas for home learning here <https://sites.google.com/shireoak.online/homelearningshireoak/home?authuser=0>



It is great when children **follow their own interests** too to research a topic (perhaps with the books they have at home... large dictionaries can be useful for this if you do not have an encyclopaedia) and then write about it. C and E in Year 1 have done this very well and shared their findings with me.

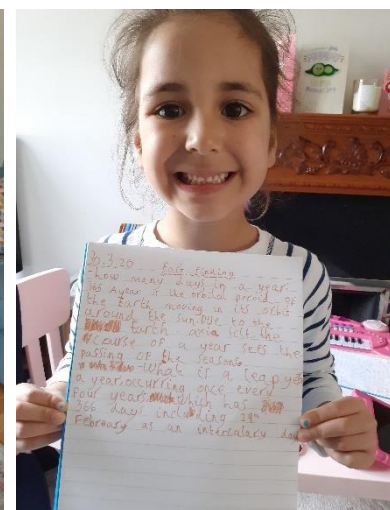
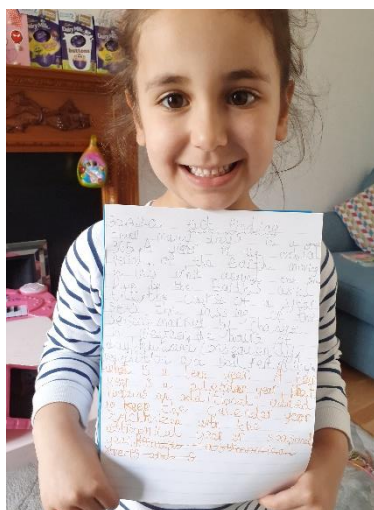
As we try to keep the children connected I know that they are also finding their own ways of doing that. I have

- Be e-Kind
- Be e-Safe
- Be your e-Best



heard that the app **Houseparty** has become very popular. Here is a link to the safety risks to look out for and how parents and carers can mitigate the risks to some extent:

<https://www.ineqe.com/2020/03/30/houseparty-how-safe-is-the-app-taking-the-uk-by>




**ZIP IT**  
Keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do online.

**BLOCK IT**  
Block people who send nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments.

**FLAG IT**  
Flag up with someone you trust if anything bothers you or if someone asks to meet you offline.

Can I please also remind parents to not let children use Google Hangouts in their bedrooms? If space is tight then the stairs or landing is preferable to somewhere too private. It is also helpful if parents say hello online at the start of any session so we know you are there - and absolutely vital for 1:1 sessions (e.g. music lessons and Drawing and Talking).


I know that online learning can put a strain on families' **data and wifi** allowances. Please, please remember that we are not expecting the children to be logged on all day in video chats. Often a quick look can give an idea of what to do that can then be completed on paper or practically. Although these tips are for people working with refugees and asylum seekers, the practical advice on reducing data usage is helpful to all of us as we juggle the practicalities and cost of this. <https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/video-calls-and-mobile-data/> If you or someone you know **doesn't have a device at home** that can access the internet for learning, do get in touch and we will try to sort something out.

We have been thinking about how we can supplement the physical resources sent home with your children. We have a tray in the foyer which has spare paper, as some children had run out of maths squared paper particularly. There is also a box of book packs suitable for Y2 upwards. These are a plastic pocket with a book and sheet of linked activities. We are aiming to add to this. They are ordered easiest (front) to hardest (back) so if you have run out of reading materials you can collect a set. Please wash hands before and after doing this and minimise 'browsing' with your fingers! For children who are on **reading scheme books** it might be helpful to register for the free e-books on <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/books/free-ebooks/> where they will be able to find more books with Biff, Chip and Kipper as well as other decodable books. Not as good as a real, paper book but a good second best at the moment.

For the next two weeks we do want children to know it is the **Easter holidays**. Your family may find it helpful to stay in some routine as you have done this fortnight, but we will not be setting lots of ordinary school work. Instead teachers will share ideas for holiday learning and activities. We will also be using this time to reflect and share what is working well and plan the start of next term's home learning.

## ARE YOU FINDING IT HARD TO ACCESS FOOD?

In light of COVID-19 we are putting additional support in place to ensure everyone is able to access the food they need.



### Am I eligible for help?

If you are finding it difficult to access food due to financial constraints or self-isolation, then you are eligible for help.

When making the referral you will be asked questions about your personal situation which will enable us to determine what type of support you require.

### How can I access help?

If you think you may be eligible to help from this scheme then you can contact a local keyworker or service who will make a referral for you.

This might be somewhere or someone you already have contact with such as a school, college, social worker, housing officer or it could be a provision in your local area such as a community hub.

Ideally a referral should be made through one of these support services, however if you are finding it hard to access these please make a self-referral by calling us on **0113 376 0330**. This is a free number.


### What happens next?

Once a referral has been made, we will pass your information on to local volunteer coordinators, and you will be provided with a food parcel or a supermarket voucher.

This will be either delivered to a provision hub near your home for you to collect, such as a community hub, school, foodbank or a charity, or delivered to your home directly.

We want everyone to feel supported and will work with you to see what route is best for you.

For more information and guidance please  
contact the Local Welfare Support Team on **0113 376 0330**.



For families on means-tested **Free School Meals** we have been providing lunchbags each day for collection from our foyer. For the next fortnight or so this will be an every-other day collection (please collect two bags per child on Monday 6<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April. From Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a weekly bag for each child instead. These include a loaf of bread, margarine, cheese, tuna, yoghurts, etc. If you are not currently in receipt of Free School Meals but are finding it hard to feed the children at this time, please text us on 07714 157030 and we will try to add you to the list if we can. At times we are getting donations of food from local charities and we are sharing this in the foyer of school – take what you need. Please also read this notice to see what other help is available. ← (Click to view larger version online)

Our parent and carer community are being kind and inventive as ever during this time at home. As some of you may know, one of our parents, Rebecca Mottram is a registered Children's Nurse with a specialist interest in **potty training**. She works with parents around the world to help them with this major milestone of childhood and raise money for charitable causes. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Rebecca will be offering a **potty training class for parents**. The class is free but she is accepting donations and these will be given to Shire Oak Primary school to help those most vulnerable.

The class will be held **online on Monday 6th April at 7pm**

UK time. To join the class, you **must register first** and you can find all the details for how to do this on Rebecca's social media pages. They are: <https://www.facebook.com/LittleBunnyBearUK/> and [https://www.instagram.com/bex\\_mottram](https://www.instagram.com/bex_mottram) You can also contact Rebecca via her website [www.littlebunnybear.com](http://www.littlebunnybear.com)

Have a lovely (if different) Easter holiday and well done everybody. Stay safe.

Jane Astrid Devane

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