



IGHTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

22nd January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have had a good week and are keeping safe and well.

You may have seen the Secretary of State announced on Wednesday that schools will be given at least two weeks' notice when they are to fully reopen. I remain optimistic that this will be the case and I will therefore be in a position to share this information with you in good time.

Virtual School Library

Oak National Academy and the National Literacy Trust have come together to launch a [Virtual School Library](#) to keep children reading during lockdown.

Every week, a popular children's author will become the '[Author of the Week](#)' and provide a free book or audiobook and exclusive videos and activities aimed at primary school children, all available at library.thenational.academy.

The first [Author of the Week](#) is Dame Jacqueline Wilson DBE, who talks about how her infamous character Tracy Beaker got her name, offers exclusive activities and recommends her top reads to check out. *The Story of Tracy Beaker* is also available to read for free for a week. Spread the word!

Reading Books

A small number of parents have asked about reading books. We are not sending home reading books during this period of substantial closure in order to minimise social contacts and thereby keep everyone as safe as possible. There are plenty of online resources that you can use with your child to support their reading. Below are some resources that you may find useful.

[Teach Your Monster to Read: Free Phonics & Reading Game](#)

Free to use on a computer / app charges

[Oxford Owl for Home: help your child learn at home | Oxford Owl](#)

[Vooks — Storybooks Brought to Life](#)

30 days for free



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[Audible Stories: Free Audiobooks for Kids | Audible.com](https://www.audible.com)

Selection of free audible books for children

We Are With You

A parent very kindly told me about this organisation which is available to help families needing support.

<https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk/help-and-advice/find-service/how-we-help-mental-health/>

Children's Mental Health Week Virtual Assembly

Oak National Academy has teamed up with charities [Place2Be](https://www.place2be.org) and [BAFTA Kids](https://www.baftakids.com) to create a [free assembly for Children's Mental Health Week 2021](https://www.oaknationalacademy.com/childrens-mental-health-week-2021), celebrating this year's theme of "Express Yourself".

Set your reminders for **9am on Monday 1st February** and spread the word as Blue Peter's Lindsey Russell and CBBC Presenter Rhys Stephenson host the assembly alongside some other special well-known faces...!

The assembly will be available on demand if you aren't able to make it at this time.

PASS Virtual Sports Lessons and Clubs

The PASS team wrote to us to say: *"It was fantastic to see so many of your pupils join us for some PE and physical activity last week. Our live lessons saw over 350 individuals taking part with an additional 10 school bubbles joining them. 218 households joined us for after school clubs with KS1 gymnastics being the most popular club of the week with 99 participants logging in. We also saw over 5,000 views of our pre - recorded PE lessons."*

A reminder that the Zoom links were included in my newsletter on 8th January. This newsletter is available on the school website.

Oak National Academy

The Oak National Academy provides resources for children. This is a collection of lessons and online learning that has been backed by the government. The feedback I have received from a number of our parents has been very positive. You can access all the resources here: <https://www.thenational.academy/information-for-parents-pupils/>



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The Oak National Academy also has an archive of “live” assemblies that were first broadcast over the internet in summer 2020.

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/assemblies/>

Kind regards,

Mr D Sherhod
Head Teacher



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