

Offwell C of E Primary School

Our Core Values: Honesty, Loyalty, Caring, Sharing and Forgiveness.



Dear Families and Friends,

Well, I didn't think I would be closing our school due to a pandemic, when we started back after half term! Snow? Yes, possibly, but Covid-19? Who knew what that was last term? Last month we were planning holidays and looking forward to having a few weeks off. Now we face cancelled holidays, home schooling, enforced isolation, and potential illness and loss.

The speed of events has been breath-taking; we have all been left trying to catch up, while still worrying about our own loved ones, and those who are vulnerable in our communities. Some responded, in the first place, with denial, which is a natural stage in facing something completely new. Others reacted in fear; desperately buying things to make them feel safer. We now need to face facts and face down fear, in order to respond rationally and with empathy. Isolation sounds so negative, but it is necessary. Perhaps personal space sounds more appealing?

Some of you have been able to see the possible benefits of some time at home, while still appreciating the reasons are unwanted. In fact, some amazing advances in literature, art and science have come out of quarantine in the past, so perhaps some of us will finally write that novel! It has also been heart-warming to receive messages of support; even flowers and cake: thank you for thinking of us. There have also been those of you who are supporting the local community in different ways: see the information from Carol Hayes regarding food support for those in isolation or in need.

Our values at this time must guide how we respond in perhaps the most challenging time any of us have or will experience. We have our shared school values, which mean we share, care, stick by each other (morally, if not physically), we tell the truth, forgive any trespasses and show compassion. I also hold my own personal values and you will have yours, which motivate and inspire you. These are historic times; we hope never to see their like again, but when we look back, together, I am sure we will be able to reflect, that when we faced difficulty, we did our best.

I am so glad we have been able to spend this afternoon, as a school, outside, which, as one parents said, is so 'Offwell'. Our weekly newsletter will resume, in some form, after Easter, and we are still available to you, for advice and support via email and by telephone during the normal working week. I look forward to seeing you all again, and wish you and yours the very best.

Lorna Legg

'Be healthy in body and strong in spirit and may all go well with you...'



Grazing Cow Deliveries

By tomorrow the Grazing Cow order form should be posted on the Offwell website. Pictures and some information, times of opening etc., are already on www.offwell.org - Rosie is providing a home delivery service for all orders over £10 within a 10 mile radius. Orders can be placed over the 'phone at any time during opening hours with same day delivery wherever possible – payment by card at time of ordering. Please go to www.offwell.org for a list of items available to order. Rosie is happy to try and source other items if and when she can. All frozen foods are in single portions but do ask if you require double portions. Please keep and return, where possible, the food boxes used for your home delivery.

Honiton Food Bank

There is more information about the Food Bank on the Offwell website and parents should go to the following two websites for extensive information for those in Honiton: www.honiton.nub.news and www.honitonhealthmatters.org.uk.