

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Families and Friends,

5th June 2020

I hope you all were able to take a break from your usual routines, whatever those may be, while still keeping a safe distance. We are looking forward to seeing more of you, more often, from next week, whether online or in school.

The guidance has been hard to interpret and I have had to send out a lot of emails, but I am aware some of you may still have questions, so please bear with me as I explain again that the government guidance **only allows for specific groups to return, in the following order of priority: Key Worker families, Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6**. You will all be aware that the need to ensure safe distances between each child and adult in each class means **we can only accommodate a limited number of children**. You may not be aware, though, that schools have been advised not to use a rota system, and each class group ('bubble') must be fixed, once it's full, so no changes, or further children can be added (this is to reduce the spread of the virus beyond each group).

From next week, we will mostly continue to provide support for Key Worker families, as we have since March. We have had sufficient responses from further families in those groups to fill most of the spaces available in each class/bubble. The families involved, who requested a space, have been contacted. There are now only sufficient spaces for a few further children from the specified groups to return, therefore **I am unable to say, at this stage, when we might see a return of children in year groups 2,3,4 and 5** (aside from key Worker groups) until the guidance, or our knowledge of the virus advances. I will, of course, keep you informed as soon as I am aware of any significant changes.

To prepare for the wider opening of school, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week (8th - 10th June), we will be closed, for clearing, setting out safe working spaces, plus training to ensure all staff are confident to provide the safest return possible for all. On Wednesday, school will be deep-cleaned and teachers will have time to develop our online learning (see below). **On Thursday and Friday (11th and 12th June), we will reopen** to the specified groups, who have already been contacted, and from then on, be open, subject to review, as set out in the offer sent out to those who requested a space. **You will notice social distancing and hygiene controls will be in place and a condition of attendance is that you continue to respect these beyond school, to protect others.**

Even after we open to more children, we know that many of you will remain at home, and because we miss you, and know you miss us too (even if you might not say it out loud), your teachers will have set times to update and respond to you on Google Classroom every week. From next Wednesday, we will be developing this a stage further. **This will mean the chance for every child to see and speak to their teacher, on Wednesday each week, which will be arranged by your teacher on Google Classroom.** Please contact us if you have any technical issues with accessing our school online, even if you would like to borrow a laptop – we are here and happy to help.



Offwell's Gallery: Last half term, we had pictures from: Chloe, Tilly, Jessica, Robin, Rowan, Eric, Sophie, Ava, Noah, Oliver, Monty, William and Oliver, Lilly-May, Poppy, Toby and Tom, Hattie, Abigail & Aria! If you have photographs you would like to share, please send them to admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk



Rory and Layla being creative in the sunshine. Such concentration!

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Resources to help us all **Be Well**; **Learn Well** and **Live Well**:

IMPORTANT! FREE Online Courses designed for ALL families.

Devon Local Maternity System have purchased **FREE** ONLINE COURSES FOR RESIDENTS OF DEVON. **These courses are for everyone who wants to be the best mum, dad, grandparent, carer that they can be.** They improve emotional health and wellbeing by supporting relationships (www.solihullapproachparenting.com). The courses are written by CAMHS professionals with other health and education workers. They are evidence based and accredited by the DfE. Each course helps to understand a different area of development:

- Understanding your pregnancy, birth and labour
 - Understanding your baby
 - Understanding your child
 - Understanding your teenager's brain
- Link to the courses - www.inourplace.co.uk - access code **TAMAR**.
- Link to Devon Local Maternity System frequently asked questions - <https://devonccg.nhs.uk/health-services/maternity-and-child-birth/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions-for-people-using-maternity-services>.
- Email address for queries d-ccg.cornwallanddevonsolihull@nhs.net
- More questions, or technical queries? Contact the Solihull Approach On 0121 296 4448 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm or email solihull.approach-parenting@heartofengland.nhs.uk

Help is out there - Home Start: 'Our services remain open to support families at this time through the difficulties they face, whatever they may be. Our staff and volunteers are working hard to ensure that families continue to feel supported and have somewhere to turn during this challenging time of lockdown. We are still able to receive referrals either from professionals or from families themselves. If you would like to make a referral please email office@homestartexeter.co.uk or phone 01392 826299. We know that sometimes it's hard to speak on the phone, so you can also text Sophie on 07387 183932. You can download a referral form [here](#).'

Reading at Home: The main thing you can do to keep your child on track with learning, is to read to and with your child on a regular basis. Cambridge University Press has put together some simple hints and some free resources, to support you with this vital daily activity: <https://www.cambridge.org/gb/education/blog/top-tips-reading-home> Also, look at the following link for advice for parents - <https://www.booksfortopics.com/post/blog-five-ways-to-give-children-access-to-stories-and-reading-during-lockdown> If you would like additional help for reading, please contact us, as we are also happy to help...

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

Lorna Legg



<https://www.theickabog.com/home/> ...and here is something really helpful! The wonderful J.K. Rowling is sharing *The Ickabog*, a new story, which will be published for free on this website, in instalments, over the next seven weeks, a chapter (or two, or three), at a time. It isn't Harry Potter and it doesn't include magic. This is an entirely different story...

She says: 'The most exciting part, for me, at least, is that I'd like you to illustrate *The Ickabog* for me. Every day, I'll be making suggestions for what you might like to draw. You can enter the official competition being run by my publishers, for the chance to have your artwork included in a printed version of the book due out later this year.' Wow! Come on! I'd definitely do it (if adults were allowed!).



Abigail and Dad in their PPE – no, sorry, in their bee-keeping outfits. Bee swarms don't relocate themselves you know!