

# Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Families and Friends,

12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

It has been a very busy few weeks, with lots of preparation to receive more children yesterday. It was great to see you again and I am pleased to say that each child was still smiling by the end of the day, and so were we! While the classrooms were set out differently (as you will have seen on Google Classroom videos and Tapestry photos), it was good to see children focused, calm and learning, as well as catching up with each other; always at a safe distance, of course. As our sign says: We cannot accept hugs, but we will always return smiles!

Those of you returning will notice social distancing and hygiene controls are in place: signs and floor markings are set out to remind everyone of Social Distancing, and posters and hand sanitiser are available to all on entry and exit. If any parent needs to speak to a teacher, myself, or Mrs Davey, please telephone or email ahead, as all teachers will be in class to settle the children into their new routines and Mrs Davey and I will be managing the safe entry and exit of the children. Please remember, as set out in previous emails, a condition of attendance is that you continue to respect these important safety practices beyond school, to protect your loved ones and others.

I realise that for many families, the opportunity to learn at home has been an unexpected gift, with some amazing results being evident from your work, art, photographs and videos. I am really looking forward to seeing more of these and welcoming the rest of you back in September. I will communicate the form this might take as soon as I know more. I am really pleased we have been able to develop our online learning platform in time to meet the needs of those who remain at home for now. I know that teachers were able to see and chat with some of you online on Wednesday, for the first time, as the next stage in developing our online support. Please contact us if you need further help to access this, as we have laptops and advice to support you.

**Offwell's Gallery:** Last week, we had pictures from: Rory and Layla, Abigail and Dad, as well as some wonderful pictures from Reception and Nursery. If you have photographs you would like to share, please send them to [admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk) with a short explanation and your name.



This is a starling, but not like the rest of the flock! With a rosy breast, it stands out proudly from the crowd. For a bird known for being part of the flock, it is good to know they are all different, just like us. Have you ever seen a murmuration? Look it up, or follow this link and you'll be amazed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J3FXhX9io8> Thank you Noah for sending in the

photos.



Jessica, in Ash Class, has been working on her 'Under the Sea' project. She has made a seaside mobile.



Ella's 3 week old foal!  
How cute can you get?

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

### In case you missed this last week: **FREE Online Courses designed for ALL families.**

Because this is such a brilliant offer, I wanted to repeat it, so that as many of us as possible can have access to it: **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. 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 each different area of development, from pregnancy to teenagehood!

- [www.solihullapproachparenting.com](http://www.solihullapproachparenting.com).
- Link to the courses - [www.inourplace.co.uk](http://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](mailto:d-ccg.cornwallanddevonsolihull@nhs.net)

There will be a further option for Mental Health support on 111 at some stage, but for **Mental Health Crisis Support, there is a New Contact Number: First Response Service 0300 555 5000**. This is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This new service is provided by Devon Partnership Trust. It is **for anyone in crisis, not just those already known to the Community Mental Health Team (CMHT)**

### Ferne Animal Sanctuary

Hopefully opening soon, this local animal sanctuary, which cares for many animals, is hoping to raise funds (and fun) via a short story competition. An application form and poster will be on Google Classroom and from the link below. Entry will be in two age categories – ages 5 to 9 years and 10 to 13 years. Entrants must write a fictional short story with an animal theme (no more than 500 words in length). For each entry received, they ask for a suggested donation of £5 to help support the animals at Ferne. You can make your donation online, through their website, or by post to the Sanctuary. Competition closes on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

<https://www.ferneanimalsanctuary.org/short-story-challenge/>

<https://www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk/competition.html>

Please take a look at this important competition to celebrate 100 Great Black Britons – let me know what you find out! This is one to do over the summer, as the closing date is 30<sup>th</sup> September. This annual event highlights how much has been contributed to our society by often unrecognised heroes and heroines. Whatever their colour or heritage, children in modern Britain should know their full, true national history, to support social justice and promote community cohesion: You may also be interested in this website, shared by one of our former pupils, who wanted to highlight this campaign, which I fully support: <https://www.theblackcurriculum.com/campaign-tbh365>

Lorna Legg

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

## Reading at Home:



Please continue to support your child's reading every day, as

the single most important tool for their life-long love of learning. Don't forget about J.K. Rowling's serialised book, The Ickabog (details last week). And now, The 2020 Summer Reading Challenge is here!

### The [Summer Reading Challenge](#),

presented by The Reading Agency and funded by Arts Council England, encourages children aged 4 to 11 to set themselves a reading challenge. Last year more than 14,000 children across Devon and Torbay took part. With the disruption caused by COVID-19 and the impact of social distancing on schools and public libraries, the 2020 Challenge will launch as a digital activity to keep children reading over the summer and support parents and carers with children already at home. The Challenge will run from June to September.

This year, Silly Squad, the Summer Reading Challenge 2020, celebrates funny books, happiness and laughter and features bespoke artwork from award-winning children's author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson (Amelia Fang; Evil Emperor Penguin; I Don't Want Curly Hair). Children taking part in the Challenge will join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck in to all different kinds of funny books! **The digital Challenge is free to access, featuring games, quizzes and digital and downloadable activities to incentivise and encourage children and their families to take part in reading-related activities at home.**

Sign up here:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Although our library buildings are closed we have boosted the number of children's books available to borrow via our e-lending platforms which can be accessed from our [Devon Libraries](#)