

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Families and Friends,

26th June 2020

I have sent out a few emails about all the news and speculation that is circulating about schools, so to bring us back to what it's all about, I thought I would share how those who have returned to school have found it, to reassure those of you yet to return. It is also good to be able to share some of the work our children have covered as part of this week's theme: Famous and Significant People, with a reminder of some resources you might use for research at home.

Ash children have been remarkably adaptable and we haven't really had any unexpected 'upset' or questions - touch wood! They are very accepting. Our learning project this week is based around Julia Donaldson - hence quite a bit of Gruffalo work..., but we have also been looking at a 'famous person' each day - Mary Seacole, Lewis Hamilton, Mae Jemison, Serena Williams, Marcus Rashford. On Monday, some children were able to take on board the fact that people were, in their words... 'mean' and 'unfair' to Mary Seacole because of the colour of her skin. They didn't think it would happen again today.

Willow: It has been wonderful to see how a smaller group of children who wouldn't always spend time together during the day have learnt to communicate with one another so well in and out of the classroom...at break times they are starting to develop ways of playing games and chatting with one another from a distance. In class this week we have looked at both Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale so far. The [Mary Seacole BBC Bitesize](#) resources talked about her being of mixed race (/dual heritage). The children seemed to really grasp why they were significant and saw them both as inspirational nurses who helped lots of people - I think they found it very interesting!

Beech: The PE that we've done every morning has really helped their mental health. We've talked about how we are feeling. Children have felt more encouraged to ask for help with work. We've done RE and looked at Eid (Islam) which raised some interesting discussion. The Blue Peter intro (See Oak) was excellent. The class are currently researching role models from a range of backgrounds and have been watching (click 'Coming to England' below).



[Coming to England](#)

A story of a Windrush generation girl who came to Britain in 1960 from the Caribbean.

The children in **Oak** have also adjusted and adapted well to their return. We have been outside regularly, creating sequences with their own pieces of PE equipment, yoga and following the timetable of activities sent through from Kevin Moran (on the whole school Google classroom). They have enjoyed listening to music whilst working on their learning projects in the afternoons and we have also allowed time in the mornings for talking and reflection. Oak are learning more about people of The Caribbean and have also watched the video where **Blue Peter** presenters explain racism for young viewers: [Blue Peter Presenters on Racism](#)



Offwell's Gallery: Last week, we had pictures from Toby, Tamara and Nathan, Oliver K...If you have photographs you would like to share, please send them to admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk with a short explanation and your name.



Genevieve's rain forest!



Chloe and Tilly have been doing some Beech Class science experiments.



Jamie's delicious looking scones!

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

Children who are eligible for free school meals can get a voucher to cover the full six-week summer holiday beginning next month, which schools will be able to order before the end of term. To claim this, please review if your income meets the criteria (see last week's newsletter) and register through the [Devon Citizen Portal](#). This is the quickest and easiest way and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019. If you think you may be eligible and your child is in Reception to Year 2, please apply anyway as an approved application would entitle your child to a free meal for the entire time they are at primary school even if your circumstances change. This will also give access to **The Government's Holiday Activities and Food programme**, which is planned to support up to 50,000 children across 17 local authority areas and help them to stay healthy and active this summer, delivering at least four weeks of free activities and healthy food during July and August 2020. The full news story can be found here (there are no details as yet):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-children-to-benefit-from-free-meals-and-activities>

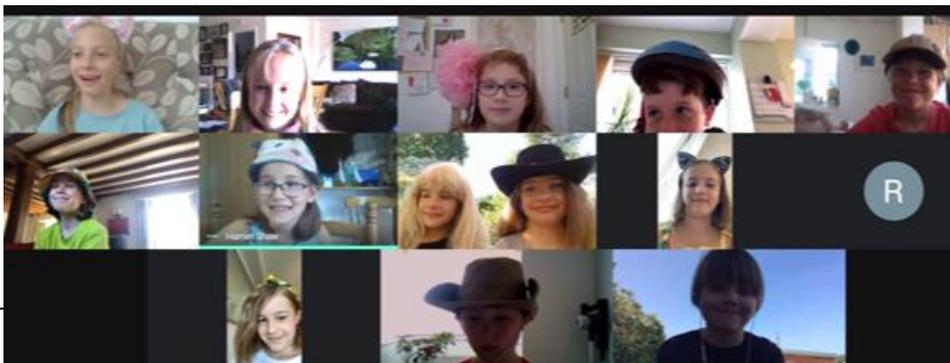
Six Daily 'basics' from Babcock SENCO support. It's been a longer slog than we would have hoped for many of you, but it's not long now until July 21st, so keep up your daily six; it will make a difference in September!

- ✓ **Read and practise spellings** (each morning, along with...)
- ✓ **Basic number work** (counting, adding, subtracting, dividing objects) and rehearsing times tables
- ✓ **Talk!** Ask children questions, encourage them to express themselves, tell you a story or act it out.
- ✓ **Cook, bake, paint, act and sing** (have a plan for your afternoon)
- ✓ **Get physical** – get outside!
- ✓ **Keep good sleep routines** (having a daily routine will help with this)

Faith at Home

The Church of England has produced some excellent resources that we've been using in school called 'Faith at Home'. The parent section has videos on themes such as courage, love and humility which are well worth a watch. Also there are some resources for helping children to deal with grief, loss and bereavement which might be helpful if required. <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/faith-home/i-am-parent>

Reading at Home: Please continue to support your child's reading every day, as the single most important tool for their life-long access to, and love of, learning. If you have ever found **Phonics** mystifying, or worry about how to say sounds so they can be blended into words, here is a wonderful little girl to demonstrate: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/read-write-inc-phonics--1/phonics-pure-sounds-video>



Free course available for parents of children with challenging behaviour Face-to-face courses have been suspended, but virtual courses are still taking place – **one of which tackles how parents of children with challenging behaviour can better cope with those behaviours.** The specific dates of the course are still to be confirmed, but if you're interested in attending please [register your interest using the online form on the HOPE website](#). For further details, click on the title to see the website.

School Nurse Service: Contact Eastern Hub: 0333 2341903 Marl pits Lane, Honiton, EX14 2DE rde-tr.easternphnhub@nhs.net

SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS (SPA) for Specialist Health Services in Devon. **You can self-refer and information to support this is available online or by speaking to one of the team.** <https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/> Tel: 0330 024 5321 Email: TSDFT.DevonSPA@nhs.net **This can give you access to:** Learning Disability Team, Speech and Language Therapy, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Occupational Therapy, Community Children's Nursing Service, Autism Spectrum Assessment Service, Specialist Children's Assessment Centres, Specialist School Nurses, Children in Care Service, Palliative Care Service, and Devon's Family Information Service for Children with Additional Needs.

Beech Class' Google Meet!

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