

# Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Families and Friends

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

Recovery and return is the theme of this newsletter. While school ended for good reason, it ended so suddenly and without warning, that you lost your routines, your friends and your freedom all at once! It was especially difficult not knowing how long it might last. Now, our return to the world of school and work may seem sudden, but I know many of you will be more than ready. Having had about one third of our children return over the past month, we feel confident that our children can understand and accept the sensible precautions in place to keep us all safe. We should cherish the summer and our families, as at least we know how long we will have together, before school starts again, which feels a bit more normal.

**Guidelines for September** have now been published, which we will follow carefully, as with previous guidance, to ensure the safety of all attending. In brief (these are just the highlights - there will be a bit more detail to follow, I'm sure):

- All children are expected to return to school in September, to ensure all children get their educational entitlement.
- All children will return to their expected classrooms and sit at a desk, facing the front, and each class will become a new 'bubble'.
- Reception children are entitled to full time, but could have a phased return over first week.
- There will be social distancing of staff from each other and from children at all times.
- We aim to ensure social distancing of children from each other at all times (they have been brilliant at it!).
- There will be handwashing and hygiene practices in place on entering school and in each class.

**To help those returning in September**, we have been thinking about our curriculum, so that we are making the most of this opportunity for a fresh start, with exciting, engaging and inspirational new themes to explore in each subject, alongside a clear focus on building basic skills. We will make sure we offer every child the chance to share their experiences, talk with friends and ask questions, so we are supporting good mental health for everyone, every day.

**For those moving on to a new class**, with a new teacher in some cases, next week (8.7.20) your new (or existing) teacher will say 'Hello' and send you a message via Google Classroom. Then, the week after (15.7.20), you will have the opportunity to have a Google Classroom session with your new teacher and classmates, many of whom will already be familiar to you, of course. While things are still evolving for September, we do know which class you will be in and which teacher you will have, so I will share this news now:

**Ash** – Mrs Hunt with Miss Hansford

**Willow** – Mr Thomas with Mrs Hurst and Mrs Reeve

**Beech** – Miss Kirkland with Mr Bardot

**Oak** – Miss Phillips and Mr Dunning, with Mrs Holohan.



**Offwell's Gallery:** Last week we had photographs from: Genevieve, Chloe and Tilly and Jamie. If you have photographs or work to share, please send it via [admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Chloe and Tilly, sorry I couldn't fit you in last week, but huge congratulations to you both for your beautiful banner, your compassion for Key Workers and for your prized first Blue Peter badges!



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You will notice that Mr Thomas and Miss Kirkland have swapped places! This was planned before everything, but means that both teachers have not only had each other to share planning with, but have also been able to think about their new classes. Mr Thomas is looking forward to teaching exciting new themes, developing early number skills, phonics training opportunities and extending Early Years outdoor learning, alongside Mrs Hunt, while Miss Kirkland is excited about the chance to move on with some of her existing pupils, and to be able to offer excellent support for reading, spelling and maths, as well as some inspiring new themes to share with her new class. All teachers and children benefit from learning new things, and it is good that all our pupils will be familiar with both teachers from Google Classroom over the next two weeks, before returning in September.

**For those of you moving on to Year 7**, we are so proud of you. We are grateful we have been able to see most of you again, as you have been such an important part of our lives. Hopefully, the Transition work you will have been doing, as well as the video tours many schools have posted on their websites, will help you to get as clear a picture as possible of your new school, so you can imagine yourself there (having the best time!) While it will seem strange at first, it is vital to remember that everybody else will feel the same and they will all have had similar challenges (see 'My Back to School Bubble' below). Your new teachers will also be aware that you all might need more help to start with. Most of you have adjusted well to the changes, so we know you have resilience. We will still be here and look forward to hearing all about it. There will be more to share about saying Goodbye properly, next **Friday (10.7.20), when we will be celebrating YOU! Please check our whole School Google Classroom for details of how to join us next week.**

**Resources to help us all [Be Well](#); [Learn Well](#) and [Live Well](#):**

'[My Back to School Bubble](#)' aims to help children understand the new protective measures that may be in place at their school, in an age-appropriate way. It reinforces public health messages including the importance of hand and respiratory hygiene, while reassuring children that everyone makes mistakes, helping to combat feelings of anxiety about returning.

**Guidance about the changes from 4 July** and how this might affect any of us:

- you can meet in groups of up to two households (your [support bubble](#) counts as one household) in any location - public or private, indoors or outdoors. **However, it remains the case - even inside someone's home - that you should socially distance from anyone not in your household or bubble.** This change also does not affect the support you receive from your carers. This is from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

**The end of term is nigh!** School will be closed from the 21<sup>st</sup> July, and many of you will have questions - here are a few answers from the DfE (they are 'we', the bits in brackets are me):

**Q: Are schools open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over the summer holidays?**

A: We are not asking schools to open over the summer holidays and there is not the expectation that schools should open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over this period. Teachers, support staff and school leaders deserve a break, to recharge and rest. *(It is possible that the school premises can be let to a childcare provider – please contact me if you would like to know more.)*

**Q: What provision will there be for vulnerable children and children of critical workers over summer holidays?**

A: We can confirm that providers offering paid childcare will also be able to operate over the summer holidays, in line with protective measures guidance *(Please see [Finding Childcare](#) below)*. Additional funded activities may be available in local areas, such as the Holiday Activities and Food scheme. *(Unfortunately, funding appears to have already been allocated to areas other than Devon, although I have been unable to confirm this: <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/revealed-the-10-projects-selected-to-run-holiday-food-and-activities-trials-in-2020/>)*



Oliver's marble run!

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## However, there is some extra support for those in need):

Due to the unprecedented nature of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, we recognise families will face increased pressure on household budgets over the coming months. That is why we are launching a Covid Summer Food Fund which will enable children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals to be supported over the summer holiday period.

Through the Covid Summer Food Fund, **schools can support eligible pupils with a £90 voucher** to cover the 6-week holiday period. *(Please get in touch if there is a possibility your family might benefit! All enquiries will be confidential).*

**If you are not eligible, but in need, there is also: The King's Centre Food Bank**, which is operated by The Community Church from their premises in Honiton is operating in accordance with government guidelines and currently provides food by delivery only. In order to protect confidentiality and enable the widest possible reach for our services they are happy to deliver to a home address or to the school as a trusted intermediary. Please find attached a short Application Form for a food box in Word format, which can be completed and emailed to [foodbank@thecommunitychurch.co.uk](mailto:foodbank@thecommunitychurch.co.uk) or printed out and delivered to us at The King's Centre, Lees Buildings, Honiton. EX14 1DH.

## Finding Childcare and summer provision

Parents will be able to find what childcare will be available on the [Pinpoint](#) Site, this will soon start to include holiday provision. If at that time they cannot find childcare they can complete the [Unable to Find Childcare Form](#) and the Early years team will then arrange for one of our team to contact them. Updated information on those settings that will be open in the Summer holidays will also be posted on the Devon County Council website, when available.



## Example Providers of paid childcare – others are available!

Our local Sports Centre:

<https://www.ledleisure.co.uk/activities/honiton-leisure-centre/sportzmix>  
[Summer Holidays Booking Information | News | F.I.S.H ...](#)

<https://www.funinschoolholidays.co.uk/2020/06/news/summer-holidays-booking-information>

Lorna Legg

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

Genevieve has been looking on a world map to see where some of the exciting bugs from her Bug Book originate from.



## Flower Show

We are all hoping that the Flower Show will be able to go ahead in September, even if we have to make some adaptations. So, a reminder of a couple of the classes you can be working on .

Photograph reminder- A5 size (7" x 5" max) unframed, categories are

- food
- a splash of colour
- on the farm

Children's Open Class

A vegetable animal - 12" maximum

A handmade Christmas card

An illustrated poem entitled "Weather"

A homemade decorated biscuit

A decorated stone

A junk model of a rocket

A plant (named) grown from seed

Don't forget too the Mens' Cake challenge - a decorated chocolate cake.

With the whole of the summer available there is plenty of time to practice



Clem and Polly's African masks.