

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Families and Friends

10th July 2020

This week, before setting our sights on next year, we are celebrating and remembering the Primary School Careers of our Year 6 children. We held a Collective Celebration this morning, which many of you tuned in for, to wish Year 6 well on the next part of their journey. The PowerPoint they have made, with memories, certificates, cups, staff farewells, and a montage of photographs (set to tear-inducing music!) are all available on Google Classroom. Please let us know if you cannot access them.

Change and loss: moving on to a new school, new class, or losing something we cannot imagine being without (If you have suffered the loss of a first teddy – as a child, or parent - you'll know what I mean!); these are a part of life's journey and cannot be avoided. Who would have thought, this time last year, that we would have experienced such enormous change in our lives? This pandemic will have affected us all differently, but there will be some common experiences: being unable to see some family or friends; not knowing when it will end; and wondering what will happen next. To recover from any life changing event, or loss, we *tend* to go through the same five stages (but not necessarily in this order):



1. **Denial** – Nope, it's okay, this is not really happening...
2. **Anger** – But I didn't ask to do it! It's not fair!
3. **Bargaining** – I'm sorry, I will do anything else - you name it - but not this!
4. **Sadness** – This is always easier to bear, if you share how you feel (see what I did there?).
5. **Acceptance** – In the end, as we have no choice, we come to terms with the 'new normal', and **once we have reached this stage, we can start to see our way forward and begin to adapt...**

To travel through these stages successfully, we need to give - or take - time, and our values can guide us in how we can help each other, whether parent, teacher, child, or friend:

- **We can care, or let ourselves be cared for:** hug (those we can) a bit more, or hold on to things which bring comfort (Teddy!), until we can regain our sense of security, confidence and optimism.
- **We can feel compassion** for others –when we see others having a hard time, we can imagine being in their shoes, sharing their cares and in turn might feel our own cares are shared.
- **We can be honest:** talk about the facts, about past challenges we/the world has faced, so we can begin to understand things can be difficult, but that this, too, will pass.
- **We can share our feelings:** listen to each other, share our own thoughts, ask for help and give it, when asked.
- **We can forgive others** if they say/do the wrong thing, and try to forgive ourselves. When facing difficult times, it is understandable that we will be less able to cope and find it harder to be our usual, positive, considerate selves – we will be, again.



Our Year 6 have faced challenges before, each time they have changed class, or on the residential last year, when they amazed us with their ability to listen, learn and show real courage (You know who you are!). This year, they have been part of a global experience like no other, yet have been calm, considerate and resilient (at least in school!). They know it is a strength to seek support if they need it; they are thoughtful of others and they have the personality, knowledge and skills to cope well, wherever they go next and whatever goals they choose to pursue. We hope to see and hear from you in the future, Year 6, but remember we are proud of you: **Be Well; Learn Well and Live Well!**

Here are some Resources specifically for Year 6, to help with the next stage of the journey: Transition video and activities to help all year 6 prepare for their next school, wherever you'll be going next: [Year 6 Video Transition Activities](#)

Transition Video Tour of Honiton Community College:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvBih6uFxeU>

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Regarding September:

'In order to effectively manage the risks that remain, things will be a bit different when children and young people return to school and college for the new academic year.' (Government Guidance)

We have been pleased at how successful the current stage of our school opening has been and it is a pleasure to have the children back - learning – it's what we do. However, school from September will not be 'business as usual' As before, I will aim to ensure that school is as safe as possible; at least as safe, if not safer than many other situations encountered in daily life. So our children and adults are safe, I will need to spend time, reading, consulting and planning carefully. County is due to publish a new risk assessment today, which will be shared as before. There will be a plan in place by the end of term, and details will be shared and explained as soon as possible. This will include a continuation of many safeguards we already have in place:

- 1) minimising contact with individuals who are unwell - those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school*
- 2) cleaning hands thoroughly more often than usual
- 3) ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- 4) ensuring enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often.
- 5) minimising contact between individuals and maintaining social distancing wherever possible – this will require set spaces for staff and children, changes to some of the curriculum, a reduction of adults on site, and staggered entry and exit times.
- 6) where necessary, we will enable the wearing of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks.
- 7) Anyone showing symptoms will follow the Test, Track and Trace procedure*.
- 8) Contacts will be traced and groups, classes or the school will close if results are positive.

The guidance for the full opening of schools at the start of the autumn can be found here:

[Full opening of schools from the start of the autumn term](#)

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#)

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

Keeping children safe online: The DfE has updated guidance for parents and carers about keeping children safe online. The BBC have a website and app called Own It. There is a lot of content for children to help them navigate their online lives, and the app comes with a special keyboard, which can intervene with help and support in the moments that children need it the most. SafeToNet is an app for parents to help them safeguard their children from online risks like cyberbullying and sexting, whilst respecting their child's right to privacy.

Join weekly collective worship sessions, led by Church of England's schools and in partnership with those of other faith traditions. Suitable for those of all faiths and none. You can find out future themes on the Church of England website.

Read, read, read!!! Wet days, sunny days in the shade, before bed, when you wake up and it's too early for breakfast; read! Never be bored again! You can travel to any place in time, or space, share another person's memories, see through their eyes, walk in their shoes! All you need is the right book, so enjoy spending your £10 wisely, Year 6 ☺. For other year groups, try the Summer Reading Challenge for 4-11s -

<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/children-src>

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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.



This week we have a photo of our very own swallows taking their first flight into the big wide world! If you look carefully, you will see Mum has popped back to check up on them!

Google Meet/Zoom

At this time of year, in the 'normal' timetable of the school year we would be holding a transition day in school when all children would spend the day with their next class and teaching team. Obviously, we can't do this in the usual way so we have set up Google Classroom with the new classes as they will be in September. When your child logs on to Google Classroom next, they will be invited to join their new classroom (many have already accepted the invitation). We have set a timetable for meetings next Wednesday, 15th July and the relevant code will be shared within the Google Classrooms. Do encourage and help your child join in with their 'old' class meeting but, more importantly, their 'new' class. The teaching assistants will join the meeting when they can. A timetable is listed below. Mrs Hunt will be hosting all her meetings using Zoom as usual and you will receive the usual invitation in due course.

- 10.30am – present class – Willow – Miss Kirkland
- 11am – new Beech Class – Miss Kirkland
- 11.30am – Oak New Class - Mr Dunning & Miss Phillips
- 12 noon – Oak present class – Mr Dunning
- 1.45pm – New Nursery – Zoom – Mrs Hunt
- 2.30pm – New Reception Ash Class – Zoom – Mrs Hunt
- 3pm – new Willow Class – Mr Thomas
- 3.30pm – Old Reception Goodbye – Zoom – Mrs Hunt

Mr Thomas will hold his meeting with the present Beech Class on Monday at 3.10pm

If you are the parent of a year 1 child, you should have received an email reminding you how to login to Google Classroom.

If you have problems accessing the meetings or Google Classroom, please let us know.

Lorna Legg

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

Tapestry

Mrs Hunt uses Tapestry to record observations and communicate with parents of children in Ash Class and from September, Mr Thomas will continue to use Tapestry with the Year 1 and year 2 children, mainly for observations. If you are the parent of a child going into Year 2 and you have forgotten your log in details, please let us know and we can reissue them.



A few weeks ago – just peeping out of the nest!