

# Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Friends and Families of Offwell,

## Highlight of the Week:

**Ash:** Discovering nocturnal animals by torchlight, in our 'narrow, gloomy cave'.

**Willow:** Listening to stories on Oxford Owl and other reading activities.

**Beech:** Enjoying football in PE in the wind.

**Oak:** Observational drawings of stuffed animals.

Entering our second Lockdown should mean we are more prepared than the first time, which came as such a shock. Despite watching it happen across the world, it still seemed, somehow, impossible that this should reach us.

However, it did; and it has again.

It is obviously harder to manage when the weather gets wetter and the days darker. In addition, we cannot meet outdoors during the Lockdown (aside from situations specified in the guidance), so many more of us and our children are communicating online. There are many advantages to this - excellent games and platforms suitable for Primary aged children, plus helpful websites for parental support to prevent and manage online issues:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/but-everyone-else-is-playing-it-how-do-i-decide-if-a-game-is-right-for-my-child>

However, recently, there have been several issues arising in school, which seem to have resulted from various groups of children communicating online. Disagreements tend to escalate, with misunderstandings and usually kind children saying and doing things they would never consider appropriate in real life.

I am asking you to follow the lead of many other parents, who have agreed to limit their child's online access to a specific time period, when at least one adult is nearby and available, so that you can intervene early and avoid this escalation. This group action has the advantage of taking away your child's worry that 'everyone else is allowed!'

Setting clear rules with your child for online gaming or communicating in general is helpful; they should be the same as in real life and can be summed up as: Treat others as you would like to be treated e.g:

- Never do or say hurtful things
- Take turns to listen and talk
- If you make a mistake, own up to it and apologise

Can I also recommend the home telephone? Once an ancient device, joined to the wall by a curly flex, which meant you could only get so far away from your parents prying ears (now, I understand why!) The beauty of the home phone lies in talking to one person at a time, so no misunderstanding when a text is misread; no feeling of being left out; only being able to have a conversation if you take turns to talk and listen; only being able to say what you are prepared for your parents to hear...

**“But everyone else is playing it!” – How do I decide if a game is right for my child?**



**Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

## Stars of the Week:

R – Ella                      Yr 1 – Oliver F

Yr 2 – Taylor                Yr 3 – Marley

Yr 4 – Oliver                Yr 5 – Isaac

Yr 6 – Lilly-May

## Next Week:

Monday: WASP, Music lessons

Tuesday: WASP

Wednesday: WASP

Thursday: WASP

Friday: Celebration Collective

Worship – 9.10 Google Meet

Login to Google with your child's login details and then select

'Meet' (not 'Classroom'). The

code is a 6 figure date eg today's

was 161020. The Powerpoint for

the assembly is always put on the

main Google Classroom with links

to videos, etc

## Weekly House Points:

Drake: 64    Raleigh: 80

Well done Raleigh!

## Collective Worship:

Theme for next week:

Putting on the right attitude!

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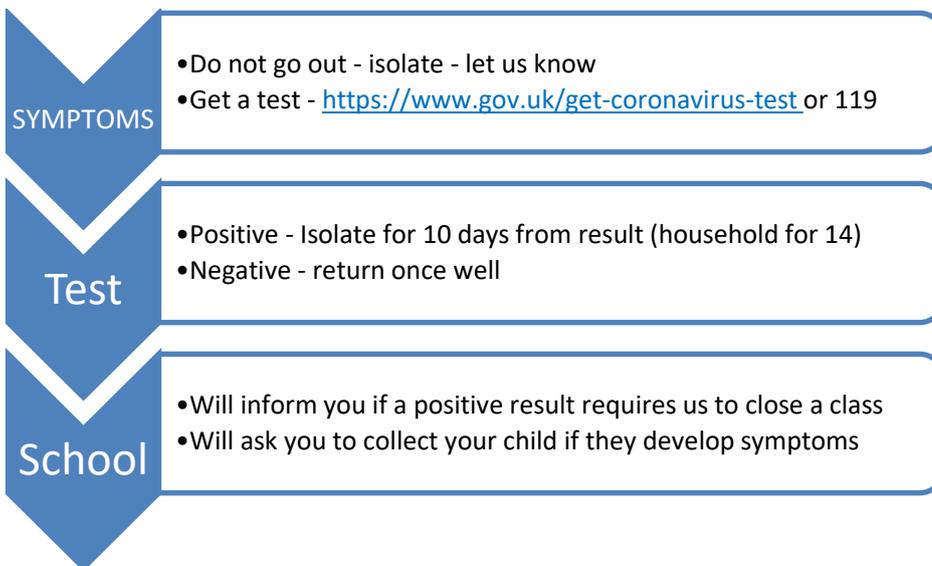


## Covid Update

As you will be aware from my email on Monday, the occurrence of Covid-19 in wider society is gradually becoming more evident, with increasing impact on local schools, including our own, so please:

- plan ahead for the possibility that you may need to isolate or that your child's class bubble might need to close.
- follow recent guidance (5.11.2020) which states: ***"When around other people, stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household - meaning the people you live with - or your support bubble. Where this is not possible, stay 1 metre apart (at least) with extra precautions (e.g. wearing a [face covering](#))"***.

Thank you all for respecting this and for keeping your distance at the school gates and beyond. All of these restrictions are put in place to protect our school community; we do not avoid them because we want to; we all look forward to the day when we can be our normal selves again – singing, and coughing without a care, but none of us want to be responsible for a single person catching this illness, where this is avoidable, just in case.



Here is a link to the new restrictions: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae>

## Free School Meals and Hardship Fund

We know this second Lockdown could have repercussions for many families, so general information was shared in last week's newsletter regarding hardship funds.

We are also sharing the link to apply for Free School Meals. This does not only mean your child can have a free meal every day, but could enable us to apply for other support, such as computers.

If you have tried both the local funds and applied for Free School Meals, but are still facing financial difficulty, please contact us. Thanks to a donation from a generous friend of our school, we have access to a fund which we can use for those families where lack of money is causing hardship. All requests will be confidential.

## PTFA fundraising

As we shared in our last newsletter, we are a good cause! Remember to download the app before you do the rest of your CHRISTMAS shopping - **it won't cost you a penny, but could make such a difference to us!** In all, find over 4000 shops – almost all the big names - on <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

## Video Editing

We have started planning some kind of remote online Christmas production as we will be unable to hold our usual performances. We wonder if there is a parent/carer out there with video editing skills. If you have, or you know someone who does, please could you get in touch? Thank you.

## Urafiki

We mentioned last week that we have shared information about how you can help Ashley and Oscar with providing food that they need and equipment for school. Please see the information being sent separately for further details including a non-uniform day on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> November.

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## Hot School Meals

As already mentioned, Fresha Foods will be offering hot meals from Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November. These will be delivered as individual portions and will be served within the children's own classrooms as we are still not able to mix 'bubbles'. These will be free to all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and charged at £2.50 for children in Years 3 to Year 6. We are sending home a 3 week rolling menu for you to see what is on offer. If your child is not already having a school packed lunch but you would like them to have a hot school dinner either all of the time, or occasionally, please could you email [admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk) letting us know your child's requirements. If your child wants a meal on a particular day and you have advised us, we will assume they want choice 1 unless you tell us differently. If you need to pay for meals you can use Parentpay or send in cash or a cheque preferably each Monday for that week's meals. See the photo of a sample of the meals in this newsletter.

Fresha are also offering a **bag of chips for 50p on Fridays** for children bringing their own packed lunch. Please could you email us as soon as possible if you would like us to order a bag for your child. They will need to be ordered before the relevant Friday! These can be paid for on Fridays by cash.

A reminder to check if your child is eligible to receive free school meals for financial reasons. Please see the link:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>



Thank you for all the positive comments in Parents Evenings. Teachers have worked hard to adjust and we thank you for your patience if the technology got in the way!

Above all, have a good weekend.

Lorna Legg

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



## Children in Need

It was great to see lots of spots today! Thank you to everyone who contributed very generously to the Children in Need charity. We raised just under £150.

