

# Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Families and Friends,

This week there has been significant and sobering Covid related news, showing us why we still need to keep working together to protect each other. Here in school we have some good news, which is that we have begun a schedule of twice-weekly testing of staff via Lateral Flow Devices (self-test kits). We are reassured, and hope you are too, by the fact we will have results in 30 minutes. Staff testing allows us to quickly respond to protect each class bubble, while any positive results are checked. There are currently no government plans to test Primary aged children.

About a third of people in the population can be asymptomatic, which you will know means they do not show the usual symptoms and may feel fine, but they can pass on the virus to others who may be more affected. Therefore, this will help, but a word of caution: these tests pick up around 80% of cases, so, while they are far better than nothing, they are not 100%. This is why we must all still hold to the restrictions in place, regardless of negative test results. **For guidance on what to do (or not) see:**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#meeting-other-people>

**It is most likely that you would be notified of any class closure on a Monday or Thursday morning**, or as soon as we know. Please ensure we have your latest contact details. Obviously, **IF your child has been in school, in an affected class, they would need to isolate for 10 days**. If you or anyone in your household or support bubble has symptoms, is awaiting a test result, or gets a positive test result, you must isolate for 10 days. **Be prepared; check the latest information:** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/>



All our actions should always aim to help each other, especially those who might be vulnerable, waiting for their vaccine; and those currently working so hard in our hospitals, who depend on us to stay safe and well if we can, so that they have the capacity to help people who need them.

Therefore, stay at home if you can, and keep 2m apart from anyone beyond your bubble, or wear a mask if you can't.

And, let's all send big love and thanks to our wonderful NHS staff, for all they do for us.



29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Be Well:

### Children's Mental Health Week:

Next week, the 1-7 February, is Children's Mental Health Week. Here are some lovely resources to help keep the whole family mentally healthy:

The **Devon Recovery Learning Community** website has it all: [archaeology](#), [art](#), [bedtime stories](#), [creativity](#), [mindfulness](#), [relaxation](#) and [wellbeing](#). Go to: <https://devonrlc.co.uk/>

...and click on **Resources**.

Welcome to the  
**Devon Recovery Learning Community**  
*A Recovery College provided by Devon Partnership NHS Trust to support mental health and wellbeing*

Just as one example, you can follow this link for one of many bedtime stories:  
<https://www.talesbythefireside.com/tale-for-children-being-small-isnt-so-bad-after-all/>

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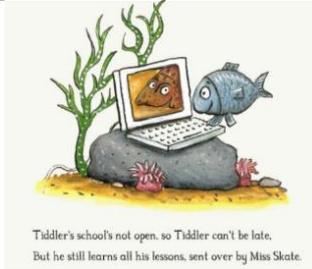
Our Core Values: Honesty, Loyalty, Caring, Sharing and Forgiveness.



## Learn Well:

### Get lost and find yourself in a book!

Last year, children's author, Julia Donaldson, and amazing illustrator, Axel Scheffler, released a set of special drawings and captions showing how some of their characters were handling the last lockdown and they've done the same for our new lockdown. Look familiar? <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/55780758>



## World Book Day Competition – Loo Roll Challenge!

**The Schools Library Service has been busy!** They are excited to announce their new competition for World Book Day! A fun opportunity for staff and pupils to get creative and demonstrate their artistic talents, with prizes for the best designs. Create a design that represents your favourite book character, using cardboard tubes in their original cylindrical shape – the challenge! **The deadline is 5pm Friday 26th February.** Email photos of your entries to:



[ldp-schoolslibraryservicecentral@babcockinternational.com](mailto:ldp-schoolslibraryservicecentral@babcockinternational.com)

Judging will take place on 1st March with the winning schools notified on 2nd March. Prizes should be sent out in time for World Book Day: 4<sup>th</sup> March

### Virtual Library Visit

Devon Library Services have created a 14-minute video <http://bit.ly/Virtual-School-Visit-Exeter>, and accompanying downloadable activity sheet (attached), that will take children on a virtual tour of our largest library in Exeter. Through the video, children will find out about the resources they can access through all our 54 libraries across Devon and Torbay, what it means to have a library membership card and much more. The accompanying activity sheet enables them to answer the questions posed through the video with some additional fun activities on the back. Families without access to a printer will be able to simply write their answers down on a bit of paper. The video is most suitable for children in Y2 - Y6.

### Digital Library

We have been increasing our catalogue of eBooks and eAudiobooks for children including our Beginner Reads collection. This means that families who do not currently have access to books from school can find new things to read via their laptops, tablets, eReaders or smartphones.

For the grownups, in addition to eBooks we have free access to eMagazines and newspapers and other digital resources such as Ancestry Online.

You will need to be a library member to access these resources but joining online is free and easy via our website [Devon Libraries](#) or [Torbay Libraries](#)

### Choose & Collect

If you are unable to access our online resources and need to borrow physical books, Honiton Library is open for Choose & Collect. This service is currently strictly by appointment to make sure everyone stays safe. Again, we have boosted our collections of children's Beginner Reads to support those children learning to read. If you would like to arrange to collect a bagful of books handpicked for you by our library staff, then please contact your local library on [honiton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:honiton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk) or 01404 42818

## Live Well:

If you want to **hear a Giant Anteater sniff**, or listen to the sounds a Zalophus Californianus makes, then you will enjoy exploring the **BBC's library of sounds**. You can create your own personal soundscape to relax in: waves lapping on a shore, birdsong, or lawnmowers...

<https://sound-effects.bbcrewind.co.uk/>



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## Design a Croods 2 inspired treehouse and win it for your local community!!!

In partnership with 'The Croods 2: A New Age' and Co-op, we want children up to the age of 16 to design their very own Croods 2 inspired treehouse for their local community. What's more, the winning entry will be **brought to life and built within a nearby Wildlife Trust** location to be enjoyed by the public for years to come!

**That means YOU could win an incredible treehouse for us all to enjoy in Offwell Woods!!!**

### What do you need to do to enter?

- Head over to [Co-op Insurance website](#) to download the **treehouse template** and **top tips** for entering
- Design a Croods 2 inspired treehouse for your local community – it can be as wacky as you want, let your imagination run wild!
- You can draw, paint, use computer software or even cave drawings to create your design, but above all be sure to think about how this could be used by the community and bring a lot of fun.
- Share the design on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #Croods2Treehouse and tag Co-op (@coopukinsurance on Facebook and Twitter) and Neighbourhood Watch Network (Facebook: @ourwatch; Twitter: @N\_Watch and Instagram: @neighbourhood.watch.insta) to enter.
- The competition closes on **22nd February** and the winner will be contacted within 5 days via social media. The treehouse will be built by 26th March, just in time for the film's release and Easter holidays!
- See the attached flyer, [or click here](#), for more details.

Lorna Legg

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

