

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Families and Friends,

I hope you have all had a lovely, warm and safe Christmas with your families, as far as possible.

By now, you will all be aware, that to keep everyone safe, until the vaccine can help protect those at risk, we all need to stay at home, as much as possible, for at least this half term. Some of you will continue to come to school, but most of you will now join us online.

Our wonderful teachers, with a day's notice, have adapted their lessons for use in school, or at home (see previous email about our online offer and our website for our online learning policy). In addition, they have arranged set times to meet with those of you at home, face to face, twice a day. This allows you to ask any questions about your day's work, and then for your teacher to check how you got on. It also gives you the chance to see your friends, which is also important, we know. We look forward to finding out about the exciting learning activities you get up to at home, too. You can post them on the Offwell Google Classroom, to share with the whole school, or on your own classroom page.

Parents will have noticed how we have developed our use of Google Classroom as a learning platform over the past nine months and how we have rapidly adjusted our provision to meet the requirements of both classroom and remote education. With the best will in the world, we may not always get everything right, but our aim is always the same: to protect everyone in our small, close school community from harm; to ensure we give our children the best possible education in these difficult circumstances and for the future, and to always treat each other with compassion and respect. We ask for your trust that we are doing the best we can, as we know you are too - and we ask for your patience and understanding when letting us know of any issues, and you know we will give you the same - we are all in this together, again.

This is a time of adjustment for us all. I do not know if past experience makes it better, but it does, at least, give us the benefit of hindsight. Learning at home naturally involves certain parental responsibilities, as you will remember, to ensure that your child can access their learning. In addition, the DfE has stated that every Primary aged child should receive a minimum of three hours of learning each school day. It is important, therefore, to consider, together, how we ensure every child's wellbeing, promote the best educational outcomes and find ways to achieve a good balance between work and home life, in a spirit of mutual support.

We commit to providing you and your child with the support you need, and in return, I ask all parents and children to read our **Code of Conduct for Pupils for Online Learning**. This outlines guidelines for pupils on safe and acceptable behaviour during online sessions, and asks parents to ensure they support this, to keep your child and others safe, and so they can gain the most benefit from online learning. You will find this on the Offwell Google Classroom page (either in the main stream, or click the 'Classwork' tab - you will see a question: Do you agree?)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>



8th January 2021

We understand that every home has unique challenges, but helping your child to learn is our shared aim over the next five weeks, so we are keen to help you to create the best learning environment possible. If you have issues with access to online learning, do not hesitate to contact us; Mrs Davey, as you know, is incredibly knowledgeable and patient. She has already helped most families to log on and attendance online is very good. We have also lent out devices to several families already, so please get in touch, where this is an issue. However, you may find the information on how to access 'Goggle' Classroom on a games console, of some help...



HOW TO ACCESS GOGGLE CLASSROOM FROM AN XBOX AND PS4

PS4

1. Turn on PS4
2. Use your controller to scroll to the far right of the bar with games to *Library*
3. Select *Library* application
4. Within the library use the search bar to type in *Internet*
5. Select the *Internet Browser* app
6. Start Internet Browser and press the triangle button on the controller to search
7. Once on the internet, type in the search box *Google Classroom* and select the first link that comes up:
Classroom: manage teaching and learning Google for Education - link below'
<https://edu.google.com/products/classroom>
8. Select *Go to Classroom*. Then log in using student email and password.

XBOX

1. Go to Home Menu
2. Select *My Games and Apps*
3. Scroll down to Apps
4. Go to *Microsoft Edge* application
5. Type in a search for Google Classroom
6. Select *Go to Classroom*
7. You will need to log in using your student email address and password.



At least, from now on, each day will, in reality be brighter :) Do you know why? Take a look on our Offwell Google Classroom to find out...

Keep in touch and take great care, while we are apart, so that we can look forward to being together again.



Lorna Legg

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

Increasingly, sources of support for learning at home are becoming available. The BBC, which has been a lifeline for us throughout this pandemic, has provided three hours of programming, on CBBC and also online, to ensure there is a daily diet of learning, readily accessible to all: Operation Ouch, Horrible Histories and Art Ninjas, as well as PE with Joe Wicks and Storytime with David Walliams This should prove invaluable, especially if the internet goes down.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/55552121>

This sits alongside other aspects of BBC provision, which are still available:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons/primary-live-lessons/zmc9jhv>

Five ways to manage your wellbeing as a parent during lockdown

This supportive resource looks at protecting your own wellbeing, as a parent and carer, through this time and is well worth a look:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrmhscw>