

# Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Families and Friends,

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

It's beginning to feel a *bit* like Spring! The mornings are getting lighter and the evenings are gradually drawing out. Snowdrops are everywhere and the first Daffodil has opened in my garden, plus, every now and then, the birds have been singing in that extra jolly way they save up for Spring. Let's start to look forward to some brighter days ahead, together.

I hope you have all enjoyed some extra mentally healthy activities this week and that you feel better for them! If so, try to keep some of them as part of your daily routine. I have seen so many examples of children's enthusiasm and optimism, both in school and at home (assisted, of course, by hard working adults!). Many of our children are attending school and almost all of our children who are at home are online and turning in work every day. We want to ensure every child can access our offer and will continue to offer as much help as needed to be able to do this. In addition, we are making sure our children are well supported in school: Ash children have been making homes for the Three Little Pigs; Willow children have been enjoying Roald Dahl stories; Beech pupils have been imagining their parents as animals; and Oak students have focused on cracking division and apostrophes, as well as joining many children who watched the live history lesson with Professor David Olusoga, on Thursday.

Looking back at the past, it is clear that people have always faced huge challenges, sometimes alone. Today, we all face similar challenges, together. From contact with many parents and children, it is clear that you are doing an amazing job to keep your children happy and motivated. This can be harder when the only message they hear is how hard it is! **We need to give our children a clear, positive message about the future, to tell them: you are not alone in this; you are resilient, you are adaptable and you are historic!** Epic times ask a lot of us, but you have risen to this challenge. Think of the history we are part of making. Try to value this time and use it well.

Those of you at home sometimes wish you were at work or school; those of us at work or school sometimes wish we could be at home. Soon, we will have a better idea of when it will be safe to resume some measure of normality. Until then, let's try to learn, or teach, the trick of accepting current reality. Sometimes, it is hard to keep things in perspective, but here are some quotes from historic figures, who have been through wars and out the other side, to help us focus on the positives:

- "Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led by the dreams in your heart." Roy T. Bennett
- "They can because they think they can." Virgil
- "Don't let your failures define you—let them teach you." Barack Obama
- "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." – Winston Churchill



## PTFA Quiz

Well done to everyone who took part in last Friday's Lockdown Zoom Quiz. Especially well done to Hattie's family who were victors on the night!

## Help!?

If you need some help to cover additional costs brought about through home schooling, or your family faces hardship because of Covid, please get in touch with us at school. We may be able to help. Any enquiry will be treated confidentially.

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Here are some resources to help you:

## Be Well:

The quotations above, plus many more and a lovely, inspirational video, can be found at:

<https://inspiremykids.com/great-quotes-for-kids-about-optimism-and-positive-thinking/>

You will also find many activity ideas to keep you physically and mentally active, posted on The Offwell School Google Classroom by Miss Phillips.

## Learn Well:

### We're taking part in Let's Count!

We're delighted to be taking part in Let's Count!, the exciting schools programme which helps children learn about the census and why it matters to everyone. The census is a survey that happens **every 10 years** and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

**The next census is taking place on Sunday 21 March 2021.** By spreading the word and taking part in the census, you will help make sure our community is counted and gets the services it needs. Find out more about Census 2021 and how to fill in your census questionnaire at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk).

**What is Let's Count!?** The ONS and resources centre, iChild, developed Let's Count! to teach children about the census and make learning fun. The lesson plans are designed to teach children both in the classroom or at home. They aim to support our school through Coronavirus (COVID-19), to re-engage children and families in learning and to celebrate our local community.



There are also exclusive video lessons, including the live YouTube lesson from Professor David Olusoga on the subject of 'Equality, representation and the census', which we watched on Thursday.



South West Water has provided additional resources for home learning, including videos and worksheets

<https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/community/education-zone/>

Lorna Legg

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

## Live Well:

### Covid Scams

Devon County has made us aware that there are currently several potential scams relating to the Covid situation. It is sad, but true, that in uncertain times, some people are prepared to trick the unwary or vulnerable into sharing personal or bank details. For example: we would contact you regarding any voucher scheme payment. If any caller claims you would be entitled to a government grant as you are home-schooling, please be cautious. It could be an offer in the form of a £100 voucher for Tesco which they say you could use to buy stationery. It is possible that this is a hoax or a con to get bank details when the 'vouchers' don't work. **If in any doubt, never give personal details or bank details over the phone or online.**

### Internet Safety Week

Safer Internet Day 2021 is next Tuesday. We will be hosting two assemblies - one for KS1 and one for KS2. KS1 will be at 1:00pm with the code 'KS1assembly' and KS2 will be at 1:20pm with the code 'KS2assembly'. Both on Google Meet.

Children will be carrying out activities on school on Tuesday and, for home, please see the family activities attached on Google Classroom. With children using the internet more and more (especially in lockdown) we all have a responsibility to ensure that they know how to use it safely.