

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Parents and Friends,

26th February 2021

Just in case you missed the news, all children return to school from Monday 8th March ☺! To settle and reassure, we plan for each class to share a welcome message, at the end of next week, for those at home. This will be from their teaching team and classmates who have been in school over Lockdown, just to remind you of usual routines and the simple safety measures in place last term, remind you that the uniform is no longer pyjamas (although there are few dressing up opportunities coming up, see below) and to let you know, most of all, that we are looking forward to seeing you all again.

In anticipation of the return to something closer to normality, we are planning an exciting whole school project for the three weeks leading up to Easter, so that our children, while still maintaining separate class 'bubbles' will take part in related activities, leading to a whole school outcome. While there will be a focus every morning on developing core skills, each week's afternoon activities will have a shared focus: week 1) a journey into the school's historic past; week 2) a review of the recent past, as eye-witnesses to future history; and week 3) will give the chance to look ahead, to ask children what their plans and predictions of the future might be. We will also take every opportunity to get out and explore the woods, with every class having a weekly slot available to them.

The details will develop according to each class and the needs of the children on return, but we may ask for your help in a few different ways: if any of you have information about the school's past, any information about global news events from the past year (aside from Covid) or would be prepared to share your career pathway, to help our children consider their own possible futures, we would be happy to find out more, so we can work out the best way to share items or information.

Further details of school's reopening will be shared nearer the 8th of March, but much will be familiar to you, as it replicates what was in place for the autumn term. The diagram below, is for guidance only, as these dates and steps are all subject to review, depending on our ability, not just as a school, but as a society, to use social distancing and other measures to keep our rates of infection as low as possible.

Therefore, please note that the restrictions on distancing and mixing outside school, which were in place before this Lockdown, will need to remain for the time being, in order to protect all families and staff and to limit any potential rise in infections resulting from school opening. So until further notice, please remember:

- **One parent / Carer only**, on drop off and collection at school gate.
- **Maintain 2 m distance** between yourself, your children and any other families at the school gate and beyond.
- **Wear a mask** if coming onto school premises, or wherever it is impossible to maintain 2m distance.
- **Staggered drop off and collection times** will continue, to promote safe distancing (parking at the village hall only and please avoid driving past school at drop off or collection times)



Laptops

Please could everyone who has borrowed a laptop from us during lockdown return them before Friday, 5th March so we can prepare them for the full return of children on 8th March. Just a reminder: we have a list, but would rather not nag!

After School & Early Morning Provision

We are hoping that we can resume this from 8th March and will be sending a survey out early next week. We are looking to run Early Morning Provision every day either from 8am or 8.15am but limit After School Provision to Monday to Thursday until 5pm. We will send an email with the survey details in due course.

School Meals

Hot school dinners will resume for those returning with the menu being the one sent to you at the end of last term. Please ask if you require another – 8th March begins with Week 3. Please advise if your child will be having something different to that previously ordered. The menu is being sent with this newsletter electronically for your information. We will NOT be offering chips on Fridays.

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MAR 8 STEP ONE A <ul style="list-style-type: none">Schools re-open, childcare allowedOne plus one social meetings outdoorsOne visitor to care home residentsStay at home stays in place	APR 12 STEP TWO <ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-essential retail, personal care premises, hairdressers and nail salons, libraries, gyms, zoos and theme parks can reopenPubs and restaurants can reopen outdoors. No need for substantial meal, no curfewsWider social distancing rules continueOne household can stay at a cottage or holiday let	MAY 17 STEP THREE <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rule of Six will be dropped outdoorsTwo households can meet indoorsHotels, cinemas, soft play areas re-open1,000 people or half full permitted at indoor sports venues. Outdoor venues 4,000 people or half full. 10,000 allowed at WembleyInternational travel possibleReview of social distancingReview of certificates for jobs, tests	JUN 21 STEP FOUR <ul style="list-style-type: none">All legal limits on social contact to goRemaining hospitality re-openRestrictions on large events liftedRestrictions for weddings may still be in effect
MAR 29 STEP ONE B <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rule of SixOutdoor sportsStay LocalWork from home where possibleStill no overseas travel			

Over Lockdown, we have had a significant number of children attending throughout, and those that are returning have almost all engaged fully with our online learning, all children, everywhere, are in much the same boat. In fact, following other crises, where children in one country were unable to attend school for a term, as in New Zealand after the Christchurch earthquake, it is impressive how quickly they were able to regain their confidence and perform alongside their peers. Professor John Hattie, a leading educator and Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) chairman, has good news for parents:

"You have to be amazed what teachers have done to turn the whole system around so that kids can work at home doing various things," he said.

"But my message is 'let's not get stressed about it'.

"When we get back to the old normal the recovery will be reasonably quick."

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-04-17/will-missing-school-due-to-covid-19-matter-for-school-students/12154266>

As well as all this going on, we have other exciting events coming up (so best start to look for old costumes now!)

- 4th March **World Book Day** – Create a hat which tells a tale or represents a character from your favourite book
- 8th March **Science Week** – Historic Scientific discoveries and related activities
- 19th March **Comic Relief** – dress up as a super-hero (and bring £1/your chosen contribution)

Lorna Legg

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

