

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Families and Friends,

12th March 2021

We're all back! It has been wonderful to watch the children bounce in, so eager and ready to see their friends and learn, while parents and carers discretely (whether of sadness or relief, we will not ask).

We have all been anticipating this for weeks, so every teacher has spent the first part of this week making sure the children who have been out of school for two months get back into the stride of a usual school day. In fact they have done so well and it is encouraging to read further support for our approach to life: that we need to Be Well, so we can Learn Well:

'Emotional wellbeing is fundamental and foundational for academic attainment. A stressed, anxious child will have difficulty learning anything. On the flip side, promoting wellbeing can [boost academic outcomes.](#)'

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/mar/03/kids-break-catch-up-year-disruption-play?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Our Highlights:

While we will return to having Stars of The Week and highlights from each class after Easter, for the next few weeks we will share highlights from our whole school Project about our personal and school history. Ash shared their historical walk and pictures; Willow presented photos of the school's history; Beech shared their illustrated historical maps and Oak presented part of a Powerpoint based on their research. This will have been shared on Google Classroom and in our Collective Celebration and Worship. We plan to be able to share some of what the children have been learning (as shared in last week's newsletter) on our website and in a film of our school, after Easter.

Look out for some more changes over Easter, as each class comes up with more ideas for their area. Areas of the school are beginning to look so much better as spring progresses and the wellies start to return to their former glory!



Max's Big Camp Out

Join Max on the 27th March to celebrate his 365th night of camping for charity. You can join him and raise funds for your chosen charity. See the attached flyer.

Testing for all parents and carers

The government has confirmed [twice-weekly testing using rapid lateral flow tests will be given for free to all households](#) with primary, secondary school and college aged children and young people, including childcare and support bubbles.

It's because one in three people with coronavirus show no symptoms and potentially spread it without knowing, so targeted, regular testing will mean more positive cases within households are found and prevented from entering schools and colleges, helping to keep educational settings safe.

The twice-weekly testing can be carried out using home-testing kits which can be collected from [NHS testing locations or ordered online](#). Please note they cannot be collected from Devon County Council community testing sites at the moment.



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Money for electricity bills is available direct from Citizens' Advice to families who are:

- On Universal Credit
- Entitled to Free School Meals
- Receive Disability Living Allowance
- Facing lost income due to Covid
- Needing to use a Food Bank
- On a pre-payment meter

This is not an exhaustive list, so if in doubt, families are asked to contact Citizens' Advice in confidence on: 01395 265077, **by April 2nd**, to avoid missing out.

Honiton & Village News

If you get a chance, please read and share the article in The Honiton & Village News, penned by the ever creative Mrs Holohan. It gives a wonderful picture of our school.



PTFA Bingo

A reminder of the PTFA bingo arranged for Friday, 26th March at 5.30pm. Bingo books are £3 each and available to order by paying on Parentpay or emailing ptfa@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk. This is open to the wider community as well as families of Offwell School.

Bags of Help

We have signed up to a textile recycling scheme called Bags of Help. We are provided with a collection bin and we will be paid per kg of textiles collected. The company will collect fortnightly and our bin will be delivered next Thursday. We will put it somewhere accessible at the front of school for you to post your contributions. We are excited to be a part of this great scheme which brings money into the school and encourages recycling at the same time!

Thank you Noah.....

for your wonderful words, which have been immortalised on the home page of our website! <https://www.offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/noahrecipe.pdf>

Noah wrote a recipe poem inspired by Benjamin Zaphariah.

Also, many thanks to Isla, for her generosity in buying some exciting new books for Oak's library area.

Lorna Legg

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



Red Nose Day

Friday, 19th March

We are inviting the children to dress up as superheroes next Friday for a suggested donation of £1.