

# Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Parents and Friends,

19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**This week**, the children have been exploring the events of the past tumultuous year: Covid, Lockdowns, NHS claps, Rainbows, Major Tom, Zoom cats etc., and remembering some of the other global events since last March. On Google Classroom, you can share some of these memories and our Collective Worship from each week.

**Ash:** What's different these days? We are all a year older, and how has life changed?

**Willow:** Asking and answering puzzling questions about the past year, plus positives from Lockdown.

**Beech:** Have been reading and writing news reports about a key event from the past year.

**Oak:** The Oak newspaper - crammed with news from the past year, plus each child has contributed to a Time capsule...

**Census Day is this Sunday, 21 March! Don't forget...** Please see the attached poster. <https://census.gov.uk/>

Looking back at the past year - almost to the day - when we had to close school to all except a very few last March, I want to say thank you from us all, for taking on board the simple steps we have all had to use for the past year, which have served us so well, so far. Here is a quick reminder:

1. **One parent / Carer only**, on drop off and collection at school gate.
2. **Maintain 2 m distance between your family group and any other families at the school gate and beyond.** Please do not allow children from different family groups to play together at the field. You should not share lifts with anyone outside your bubble for this reason.
3. **Wear a mask** if coming onto school premises, or whenever it is impossible to maintain 2m distance, for your protection, and for the protection of others.
4. **Staggered drop off and collection times** will continue, to promote safe distancing. Parking is at the village hall only and please avoid driving past school when children may be at risk.



As mentioned, I was very impressed with the safe social distancing I saw at the end of the day on Wednesday - you all get a gold star.

We have made and continue to make, every effort to keep you and your children safe. We now depend upon your sensible approach beyond the school gates

to keep us safe.

**However, I would like to draw your attention to point 2.** I have been made aware that a number of families have assembled in the car park and have continued to allow their children to play together after school. I know we all long for this to be possible again, but I need to remind you that this is not only against the current regulations, but could have a very real impact on others. While many of the vulnerable groups in the community have, thankfully, had their first jab, other members of our community, including most school staff are still without this protection. None of us want to return to even greater restrictions if we can help it. To keep updated on current rates in the locality, check here: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/coronavirus-data/>



## NHS Test and Trace

**REMEMBER: Parents and other adults** with a school aged child (includes childcare and support bubbles) can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing, even without symptoms. Undertaking twice-weekly testing reduces transmission rates. The tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, either collected or ordered online or by telephone on 119. Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

**Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.**

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. and will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

## Hot School Meals

Fresha has issued a new menu for after the Easter break. We are sending home a copy to children who sometimes have a hot meal. As usual, unless your child always has the main option, please advise Mrs Davey of your child's menu choices, preferably for the 3 week period.

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## E-SAFETY – Parents please read:

It is illegal for any child under 13 to go onto social media, but it can sometimes be very hard to resist the pleas of children who say all their friends are. However, **the Police advise that social media apps are being used to groom children**, who believe they are talking to a friend, and even where you are careful, many privacy settings can be either temporary or very confusing. **Please take a minute to educate yourself and your child in how to stay safe online, using CEOPS and NSPCC:**

CEOPS stands for: **Child Exploitation and Online Protection command** and offers excellent support, both for making a report of online abuse or to learn how to avoid it.

To report Online Abuse, visit:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

To find out how to keep safe online, visit Thinkuknow:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>



In 2019 Offwell PTFA committed to fund the library scheme to pay for the reading books our children all use. Obviously at that time we had no idea that we would all face the pandemic, with this we have not been able to run the big fundraising events we have in the past, this scheme cost £2400 a year. We will make a donation towards this but we cannot afford to pay it all which means our poorly funded school will need to find the funds to top up.

We desperately need to find funds to support the school for the next financial year and beyond as we will have no reserves as we have reached the rainy day! We urgently need your help and support to do this. Please support us with our events and any other ways you can. If anyone has any ideas of ways we can raise money please do either join one

of our meetings or contact us [pta@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:pta@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk) Don't forget you can help us to raise money without it costing you anything by using Easy fundraising for your online shopping.

If anyone would like to join our next meeting it will be on Monday 29th March at 8pm on zoom, we will be discussing how much we are able to contribute to the school at this meeting. Please contact via email address above for zoom codes.

Finally BINGO! Please get your tickets now and invite your friends and family along. See attached poster. Please sign up by Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March so we are able to get bingo books out to you. We send a big thank you to select windows who have kindly sponsored this event. [www.selectwindowsandconservatories.co.uk](http://www.selectwindowsandconservatories.co.uk)

Best wishes, Tracy



## Welcome to Thinkuknow

Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline.

Explore one of the six Thinkuknow websites for advice about staying safe when you're on a phone, tablet or computer.

Are you...

4-7?

8-10?

Parent/  
Carer?

The NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) offers specific support to ensure your child's online safety, with latest safety news, help with setting parental controls and trying to keep up with all the games and gadgets every child seems connected to, as well as their general support and advice:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

### Internet connected devices

Advice on how to make internet connected toys and devices safe for your child.

[Learn more](#)

### Parental controls

How setting up parental controls can help keep your child safe online.

[Learn more](#)

### Net Aware

In partnership with O2, your guide to the latest social apps, networks and games.

[Learn more](#)

## Red Nose Day

It was lovely to see so many superheroes in school today! We'll add up the final donation next week as I know there are some of you who have forgotten to send money in today.



Lorna Legg

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