

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Parents and Friends,

26th March 2021

It is one year since we all had to go home and ten years since the last census: historic times! Our children have been reflecting on these huge events in previous weeks, and looking forwards to 2030 this week. What might our world be like in the future? What do our children think they will be doing? How can we all make sure our world is a better place for everyone?

Highlights this week:

Oak – On Monday Oak had their first session of orienteering in Offwell Woods. They have also been writing to their future selves...to be opened in 2030!

Beech – Beech class have been imagining the headlines of the future: 'No! No! No! (to single use plastic)', and 'New Planet Discovered!' Excellent writing, Beech!

Willow – Children in Willow have thought about their dream job: some had very specific ideas about their future career, whereas others were simply keen to work, which is a good start! They have also written Future Tickets, to book things they hope to be able to do in the future, such as big hugs!

Ash – Ash class have been learning a 'When I grow up' song (to the tune of 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star') and painting themselves as grown-ups. We have some budding builders, doctors, teachers, a rider and a politician to look forward to!

Next week, each class teaching team will share information to help you know what activities might be helpful for your child's learning over Easter. The main messages are: any reading is good; any times tables practice is good; any time spent with family and outdoors is good; and let's aim for some screen-free time every day (that's adults and children!) <https://blog.pobble.com/100-non-screen-activities-for-kids>

Please take a look at the following website if you are concerned about keeping your child safe online: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Thank you for reading my message last week regarding the Playing Field. Just to be clear, these are not the school's rules - nor those of the Village Hall - they are the national restrictions at this time. However, neither myself or the Village Hall are saying children cannot play on the field at all, but please use the sensible strategies we all know: wearing masks, safe distancing and avoiding other people outside your household, until further restrictions are lifted. Here is a reminder of when that might be, if we all keep on doing the right thing to protect each other 😊



World Against Racism Day was on March 20th. To mark this, children everywhere are encouraged to enter The Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC) School Competition. It is free to enter, open to young people of all ages and abilities and is a great follow-on activity to educational work about racism. We want to encourage participants to think about racism and produce their own work about this serious issue. Young people are welcome to produce work in any medium – artwork, creative writing, song and film. If it's about changing people's minds about racism, we

want to see it! Why not have a go over Easter and let me know if you do. See Resources and Activities on <https://www.theredcard.org/education>

MAR 8 STEP ONE A

- Schools re-open, childcare allowed
- One plus one social meetings outdoors
- One visitor to care home residents
- Stay at home stays in place

MAR 29 STEP ONE B

- Rule of Six
- Outdoor sports
- Stay Local
- Work from home where possible
- Still no overseas travel

APR 12 STEP TWO

- Non-essential retail, personal care premises, hairdressers and nail salons, libraries, gyms, zoos and theme parks can reopen
- Pubs and restaurants can reopen outdoors. No need for substantial meal, no curfews
- Wider social distancing rules continue
- One household can stay at a cottage or holiday let

MAY 17 STEP THREE

- Rule of Six will be dropped outdoors
- Two households can meet indoors
- Hotels, cinemas, soft play areas re-open
- 1,000 people or half full permitted at indoor sports venues. Outdoor venues 4,000 people or half full. 10,000 allowed at Wembley
- International travel possible
- Review of social distancing
- Review of certificates for jabs, tests

JUN 21 STEP FOUR

- All legal limits on social contact to go
- Remaining hospitality re-open
- Restrictions on large events lifted
- Restrictions for weddings may still be in effect

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Test and Trace support payment for parents

Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria, so that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

To be eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria that:

- they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- they are employed or self-employed
- they cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- they meet all the other means-tested eligibility criteria for a Test and Trace Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment and their child (under 15, or under 25 with an EHCP) or young person:
- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Nurseries, schools, colleges and further education providers are required to provide a letter to all parents or carers of the children advised to self-isolate, to support their application to the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, therefore, you would need to let us know, in confidence, if applying.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines are the best way to protect people from coronavirus (COVID-19) and will save thousands of lives. The vaccines have been through the same regulatory approval process as any medicines to ensure they meet strict safety standards and offer high levels of protection. They were tested on thousands of people of different ages, ethnic backgrounds and with different health conditions before being approved. The vaccine cannot give you coronavirus (COVID-19), and will reduce your chance of becoming seriously ill. Some people may experience side effects from the vaccine, but these tend to be mild and short-term. The Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) has published a blog on [Covid-19 vaccines – frequently asked questions](#) to help answer any queries.

Home testing: Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school and college, it is vital for adults to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term.

- Test twice a week at home from now on (if eligible and able to).
- report results [online](#) as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping us to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country
- continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays
- **test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before**, or morning of, the first day back, to find and isolate any positive cases

Families and households can also access [home test kits for adults](#).

Lorna Legg

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



Need any help? School can support you if you are facing hardship.

Thanks to a fund we have access to, instant payments can be made, or items purchased, where we can see this would help a child. Just get in touch. All requests will be considered in confidence.

You can also access **The COVID Winter Fund scheme**, which has been extended to the 16th April. The COVID Winter Grant Fund was made available to local authorities and district councils to support families experiencing financial hardship over the 2020-21 winter. **Under this fund, Early Help is able to provide a grant per family to support:**

Buying food, energy and water bills for household purposes (drinking, washing, cooking, central heating, sanitary purposes) and sewerage. With other essentials clearly linking to the activities above (sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, boiler service/ repair, purchase and fitting of white goods)

Requests for funding linked to payment of rent or other housing costs are not included under this grant but may be supported through Early Help under other offers of support. A family's hardship does not need to be COVID related or recently acquired. Early Help partners can be accessed via school to sustainably improve a family's financial situation if required.

Hot School Meals

A reminder that Fresha has issued a new menu for after the Easter break. Please return choices as soon as you can next week.