

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Friends and Families of Offwell,

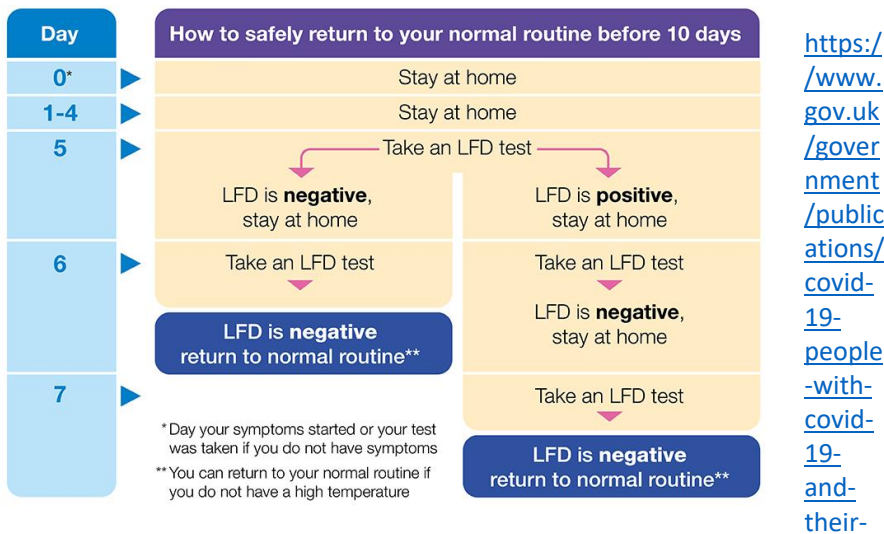
Highlights of the Week:

All classes: Our World Book Day celebrations. The children enjoyed bringing in their blankets and teddies and sharing their favourite book. Also, Ash created the houses for the 3 little pigs and acting out the story with masks ...and fabulous story voices!

I hope you were able to escape serious damage during the storms at the start of the half term, although that seems a long time ago now! I am sorry that there was a problem sending out emails at the end of last half term and at the start of the week. It has been fixed, so you will hopefully now be aware, as set out in my letter at the start of the week, that the **Government's Covid guidance changed on Thursday 24th February**, during half-term.

The *legal* requirement to isolate has gone, but **there is still a public health duty for positive or symptomatic people to isolate**, to protect others. So:

- If someone develops symptoms (or has a positive LFD) they should still isolate and get a PCR if no LFD.
- If someone has a positive LFD or PCR test result, the guidance still advises people to isolate for 10 days.
- You can still return to school or work on Day 6, if you have two negative LFDs (see diagram), although the routine use of LFDs is no longer required (e.g: for close contacts).



[contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts)

The legal requirement to wear a face covering no longer applies, but the government still suggests that you continue to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces. Therefore, both staff and visitors still have the option to wear a face covering, based on their own needs and own personal assessment of risk.

Most parents and carers will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of Covid should not attend school, given the potential risk to others. I know this can cause complications, but please be aware that school can take the decision to refuse a confirmed or suspected case to protect other pupils and staff, if necessary.

Friday, 4th March 2022



Stars of the Week

- Ash-** Freddie
Willow – Oliver F & Toby
Beech – Ayla & Tamara
Oak – Jacob



House Points

Attenborough: 107 Anning: 116
 Well done Anning! This means Anning are the overall winners of last ½ term (+ 1 week due to the school closure because of the storm). This means they will be rewarded with a non uniform day on Friday, 11th March.



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In other News...

There have been so many difficult events reported recently, that it is most likely our children have heard or seen some of it, especially the level of coverage of the most recent aggression in Ukraine. While we would not want to bring it up, it is helpful if children know they can ask questions. If not, they can assume the worst, or think it must be too bad to even talk about, or might rely on dubious sources. You could explore the following:

- What have they have heard?
- How are they feeling?
- What have they understood?
- What are their fears or worries?
- How you will support them and keep them safe?

This website is very helpful:

<https://www.rootspychologygroup.co.uk/post/how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-world-events>

It suggests we cannot know all the answers, but we can give our children a safe space to seek knowledge. We can give important messages, such as ensuring our children understand that all the people of a country do not want to fight, even if their leader seems to. Perhaps, if nothing else, we can use the opportunity to look at the Geography and History of this area with our children, we can learn a thing or two ourselves, as I have never been clear about the many countries surrounding Russia.

To be able to engage with difficult news, we need balance in our media diets. Put simply, it's easier to confront the bad stuff when you know there's good out there too: <https://www.positive.news/opinion/ukraine-crisis-its-vital-to-manage-our-media-diet/>

Finally, we can help: Aid agencies are asking for financial donations to support their vital work. **The Refugee Council** tries to help all those in need, who have had to leave their homes in the face of conflict or environmental disaster: <https://act.refugeecouncil.org.uk/donation/donate-help-refugees-rebuild-their-lives>

When large-scale disasters hit countries without the capacity to respond, the **Disasters Emergency Commission (DEC)** brings together 15 leading aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently. In these times of crisis, people in life-and-death situations need our help and our mission is to save, protect and rebuild lives through effective humanitarian response. <https://www.dec.org.uk/>



World Book Day

Thank you for supporting this so well. We were delighted by the sheer range of books (and the variety of cuddly toys) that the children shared with us on Thursday. As well as having lots of time to enjoy relaxing with their books, the children also took part in online World Book Day activities, such as special story time, an online lesson, a live reading by Michael Morpurgo and the creation of their own book covers...



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Wilfred's amazing artwork created on the 'storm day'!

After School/Early Morning and School Dinner Payments

Attendance for the above have all now been put on Parentpay if you pay for them in this way. Please visit the site to make payment if this applies to you.

Ash Parents/Carers' Meetings

If you have a child in Ash Class you should by now have received a parents/carers' appointment by email. If you have not, please let us know. Other classes will be offered appointments later in the term.

Lorna Legg

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

Fish and Chips

Fish and chips nights start again this Saturday March 5th, frying in the car park from 6.00-7-30pm. Bar open, please bring own condiments, eat in or takeaway. Our new Veranda is nearly finished, the children's play area is finished so it's a good night for all the family They also do, sausage, pies, scampi, fish cakes, burgers and cheese burgers, curry sauce and of course chips. We look forward to seeing you all. Ann Richards, Secretary Offwell Sports and Social Club.

Online Safety

Please see the attached Parents' Online Safety leaflet produced by Scomis.

<https://s6.newzapp.co.uk/t/click/1530225708/29303629/15634200>