

Offwell C of E Primary School

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

Our vision: **Be well; Learn well; Live well; Offwell**



15th November 2024

Dear parents and carers,

A warm welcome to our first Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) newsletter. I hope that there will be plenty of SEND-related news to fill this letter on a termly basis throughout the year, informing you about school-based and wider initiatives aimed at supporting our children with additional needs.

The newsletter will go home to everyone because there will always be relevant or interesting information for parents of children with and without SEND or who may find some of the content and links useful to pass on.

I thought it would be timely, for those of you who have not yet met me to introduce myself. Some of you will have met me last year when I was learning the role and undertaking my NASENCo course. I have now officially taken on the role of SENDCo this term, supported with a wealth of knowledge from Mrs Legg who had the role of SENDCo at this and her previous school for many years, our local county SEND Advisor, Hannah Jones and all of the expertise of our teaching and support staff. So, rest-assured that although I am new to the role, I have plenty of sources of advice and support to draw on in order to support you and your child.

Our School SEND web-pages

You will find lots of advice and information on our SEND pages which I am in the process of developing. We have recently, as a staff, updated our SEND Provision Maps and our SEND Information Report. The SEND Information Report, if you have not already met it, is a statutory document which sets out all of the provision and approaches used by the school to support children with additional needs. Our provision maps should be read alongside this report, as they set out the targeted and ordinarily available provision in place across the school in easy-to-read tables, one for each area of need.

Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision: Jargon Buster!

A new buzz-phrase and strategy currently being implemented and developed by Devon County Council, and which all schools will adopt as part of their strategy for SEND, is 'Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision' (OAIP). This is a catch-all term which refers to simple adjustments which are part of excellent teaching provided across the school for ALL children, not just those with additional needs. *It describes approaches, provision and practice that is 'helpful to all, harmful to none and crucial for some'.*

All of this provision is described in our SEND provision maps and will be developed further over the year as it is rolled out by the Council. The Council's aim is also to make this more consistent across schools, whilst acknowledging the unique and contextual strengths individual settings have for meeting children's needs. It also hopes to enable most support for SEND to be delivered through the whole-class provision,



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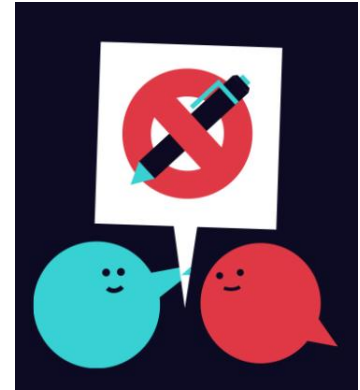


citing that the best place for your child to learn is within their class, adapted to meet the needs of the majority of learners. More information can be found on the website below:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/support-schools-settings/ordinarily-available-inclusive-provision/>

No Pens Day!

On Wednesday 27th November, we will be taking part in 'No Pens Day', a nationwide event run by Speech and Language UK. It's an amazing opportunity for pupils across the country to take part in activities that put the importance on talking, listening and interacting with peers and teachers. The initiative was originally launched to spread the word about what it's like to be one of the 1.9 million children struggling to talk and understand words but we hope it will also put the spotlight on what it is like to struggle with getting ideas down on paper and provide creative ways to record great ideas, knowledge and stories in other ways.



Timid to Tiger!



Devon's Mental Health Support Team (MHST) are offering a parenting group intervention for parents who have a primary school aged child (4-11 years) who struggles with worries or anxiety or is low in confidence. MHST are able to offer either Timid To Tiger or Parent-Led CBT. Both courses are scheduled to run from January. Please contact Miss Phillips if you would like more information.

As we hear of courses, advice or drop-in sessions provided by outside agencies which may be of interest, I will update the SEND pages of the school's website as well as forwarding to individuals who may find them particularly useful. If you have any questions or suggestions about useful topics for this newsletter, please let me know.

Best wishes and thanks

Helen Sutton
SENDCO
Offwell C of E Primary School