



Offwell C of E Primary School

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

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Offwell's mid-term Autumn 25 SEND Newsletter

Welcome to our Autumn SEND Newsletter. We have had a very busy start to the year and there is plenty to share regarding supporting our children with additional needs. As more provision becomes focussed around classroom support, we have been making adjustments with the aim of continuing to make learning accessible to more children.

Assessments, carried out over the last half-term, will help to inform the basis of any additional support which children may need. If your child already has a My Plan in place, these targets will be reviewed with you and your child's class teacher at your next parent meeting. I am very happy to meet with you then also if this works within the timings you have requested. If you would like to request a separate meeting so that you have more time, please do let me know and I will do my best to accommodate this.

Nessy Logins

We are continuing to use Nessy, our fun online learning programme that helps children build confidence in reading and spelling. If your child has been given a Nessy login, please encourage them to practise at home as often as they can — even 10 minutes a day makes a big difference.

If you need help logging in or haven't received your child's details, please speak to either me or your child's class teaching team.

Neurodiversity Navigators

We are regularly asked about neurodiversity in relation to children managing at school and at home following a big, sensory overwhelming day at school. The NHS has recently launched a new service, Neurodiversity Navigators, which may be of interest to some families.

The Navigators provide support and guidance to Families and Young People who are on waiting lists for a neurodevelopmental diagnosis or those presenting with neurodivergent needs. For more information, please contact livewell.devonndnavigators@nhs.net

I also have information and resources from ELSA (please let me know if you would like copies)
[Resources for Emotional Literacy Support Assistants - ELSA Support](#)

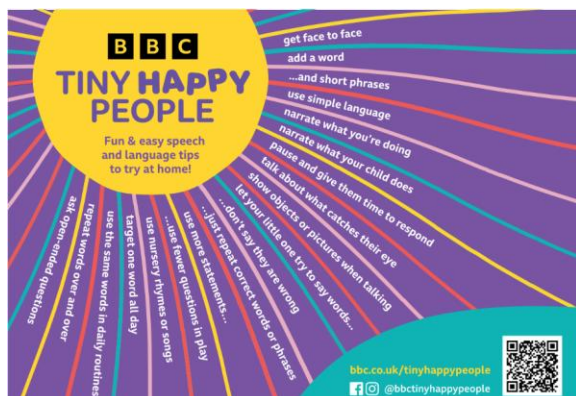
Togetherness

The togetherness website is a fantastic resource supported by the NHS and developed by psychologists in Solihull. The approach recognises that relationships are the cornerstone of good mental health and wellbeing. The online 'learning pathways' support everything from parenting neurodiverse children to managing transitions and navigating the teenage years. Advice is tailored for professionals, parents, children and grandparents and many of the courses are either very low cost or free.

[Moving up - Togetherness](#)

Speech and Language in the Early years

[Tiny Happy People](https://www.bbc.com/health/child-development/tiny-happy-people) is a BBC website packed full of tips and advice on how to develop language skills for babies, toddlers and younger children. Aside from the more obvious learning and communication skills, language development is important for forming relationships, expressing thoughts and opinions, developing critical thinking and managing emotions.



CFHD SALT

The NHS Children and Families Health Devon Speech and Language Teams are changing the way that they work with children and schools in Devon in an attempt to cut the long waiting lists which we have experienced in the last few years. I hope we will be allocated our own Speech and Language Therapist to work with us as a school and with individual children in the Spring Term. Watch this space!

Whole school focus: Learning about our brains

As a school we are focussing on teaching children about the emotional brain and its responses.

[Dr Dan Siegel's 'Hand Model of the Brain'](#) can be used to provide a model that demonstrates what is happening when we experience big emotions which overwhelm us. Please go to the link to hear this wonderful explanation for parents. We will also be supporting this through teaching of the 5 zones of regulation which include strategies for calming and refocussing.

Focus on reading

One of the best ways to support your child is to make sure that you read with them and to them as often as possible. This has benefits in a whole range of areas from building their 'web' of contextual knowledge which makes learning new information easier, developing empathy, practicing retrieval of information and decoding skills, building secure attachment and emotional wellbeing as well as developing their all-important speech and language skills. Reading is fun, cosy and opens up a world of learning – what's not to like?

[Reading Rights: Books Build a Brighter Future | BookTrust](#)

Transition to Secondary

If you have a child in Year 6 you will have just completed your application to your preferred secondary school for September 26. If you are the parent of a child with SEND in Year 5 and would like to meet with the SENDCo of HCC, Declan Farrell, he is very happy to meet parents and give tours of the school from a SEND perspective. Let me know and I can put you in touch with him or you can contact the school directly.

Finally, two support avenues which are frequently recommended to us for parents are:

Parental minds - [Home - Parental Minds](#) Based in Honiton, Parental Minds provides support, practical guidance and a listening ear to anyone supporting the emotional wellbeing of someone. They offer robust guidance, developed through families' experiences with insights from professionals and researchers.

DiAS - [Home - Devon Information Advice and Support](#) Free, confidential and impartial information for anyone navigating the world of SEND.

If you have any questions, or if you'd like to talk about your child's progress or provision, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support in working with us to support your child.

Best Wishes

Mrs Helen Sutton

hsutton@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk

Working days: Wednesday – Friday (Wed pm – ASH Class Teacher, Thurs & Fri pm- BEECH Class Teacher)