

## Newsletter

### 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

This is the first newsletter of the Spring Term – we are at the end of our first 3 weeks and they have flown by. There is lots going on in and school and much planned for the rest of this term.

#### Covid Update

I wonder when I am going to not start a newsletter with a 'Covid Update'? I am unfortunately beginning this with the sad news that our Covid cases are beginning to rise again this week. We have gone from one confirmed case on Monday to 5 today. These are currently mainly in Kingfishers.

The guidance has changed a number of times over the last weeks and days. In a nutshell, currently if you are identified as a close contact you must do a LFT daily. If a LFT is positive and you have no symptoms you must isolate immediately. If you have any of the classic symptoms you should get a PCR test. The isolation period is still 10 days, however you may test on day 5 with a LFT (where day 0 is the day of you initially LFT tested). If it is negative and another test the next day is also negative, then you can leave isolation. You must remain in isolation until you have 2 negative LFT tests 1 day apart or until after day 10.

Please keep us informed if you or your children test positive. We can help get your children to school if they are able to come but you are in isolation. If your child is in isolation but well enough to work, links to live lessons will be sent home along with books. Sarah Brown will continue to keep you updated with any changing guidance and help if you are confused. (And I am sure you won't be the only one!) As always, thank you so much for your continued support.

#### Diary Dates

This is a list of dates – please see sections for further information about each event.

<b>January</b>	
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Tom Kitchings – historic creative writing sessions
<b>February</b>	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Recycling Workshops
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Break up for half term
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Return to school 'Twosday' – sponsored event
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parents Evening week
<b>March</b>	
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	Y5/6 Visit to Fitzwilliam Museum
Thur 24 <sup>th</sup>	Bingo Night
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	Production by Hawks 'Glint of Gold'
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Hawks Residential Visit
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Last day of Spring Term

#### Recycling Workshops

##### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February

We have made some New Year's Resolutions in School. The children have been working on: Being Kind, Perseverance and Respect as well as being green.

To start our 'green' journey we have been ensuring that our waste gets thrown in the appropriate bins. We have booked some workshops to help us in our mission to become more green. These are being run by Cambridgeshire County Council and are designed to educate and demonstrate how we manage waste, what we can do to reduce, reuse and recycle it, and how we can reduce waste going to landfill.

The workshops are for Hawks and Kingfishers. There will also be an assembly on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> for the whole school so that we all know how to play our part.

#### Parent Consultation Evenings

##### Week of 28<sup>th</sup> February

We will let you know when appointments are available to book for this term's Parent Consultation Evenings. At present we plan to use the School Cloud System again.

If you need to speak to your class teacher about anything before this date, do contact them via the school office or catch them on the playground.

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## New ipads at Offord

We are so excited about our new ipads. Following a donation from the Dr Newcombe School Trust, we have bought a large number of ipads. We are currently putting them in cases and getting them synced to the IT system, but they should all be ready to go next week.

The new ipads will mean that we have enough ipads for every child to be able to have use for one whenever needed. This will not only assist in the teaching of our computing curriculum, but will allow ipads to be used in all other subjects easily too. We have many apps available to us that allow children to practice skills, eg times table or mental maths, so these can easily be used to keep brains sharp during the day. I am sure the children will be very excited about not having to wait to do 'quizzes' before they change their reading books. Now ipads can be available all the time, we can use them in our teaching to help with knowledge retrieval (making sure the children remember what has been taught already before the next lesson is taught) and collectively sharing ideas direct to a single document. It is very exciting to be able to have this resource available to enrich and enhance the learning at Offord Primary School.



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## Attendance

Please could we remind parents that medical appointments where possible need to be made outside of school hours. Where this has been unavoidable please could you send a copy of any letters or text messages confirming the appointment to the office email.

Our attendance for last term was 91.89%. These figures were of course affected by the spike in Covid cases that we had last term.

The threshold for monitoring an individual child's attendance is 95% and we are duty bound to issue letters if children who have frequent absences are identified. We understand that illnesses cannot be helped, so if you receive a letter from us to advise of your child's drop in attendance, please understand this is not us being unreasonable, we have a legal obligation to carry out these tasks. We care about supporting our families who are in this situation, so please work with us and we will help wherever we can to improve children's attendance.

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## Residential Visit to Burwell

Mrs Whitehead will hold a meeting regarding the residential trip to Burwell House on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March. The children will be heading off for their 2 night/3 day trip on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

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## TWOSDAY

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

TWOSDAY is the name being given to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 as its date is all the twos – 22.02.22

OPTA are using this as a theme for their Spring Fundraising. They are asking each child to think of their own way to raise some money. This may be by doing some chores around the house, doing a sponsored event or even having a cake sale outside their house! OPTA are challenging each child to see if they can raise £22.22 (all the twos!)

Please see the OPTA poster for more information.

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## Kingfisher Visit to The Fitzwilliam Museum

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

Miss Brown has organised a visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridgeshire to support the children's learning about The Ancient Greeks.

More information will be being sent out to Kingfishers families soon.



## World Book Day

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

We are just finalising our plans for World Book Day. It will not be fully dressing up as a book character, so please do not spend money on outfits. We will however hold some competitions, and some book themed challenges. We will be using this day to raise some money to buy some newly released books for the school library.

We will send details of the book themed activities soon.

## Glint of Gold

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Hawks Class will be performing a play based on the Ancient Egyptians for the rest of the school and parents and carers. It has been a while since we have had any productions, but we feel that it is a great opportunity for the children to be involved in these kind of drama activities. Keep the date free in your diary, so you can come along and watch the Hawks entertain you.

## Tom Kitchings' – Creative Writing Workshop

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January

Tom Kitchings is a travel writer. Through his links with Heritage England, he inspired the children to write about the history of the villages. He encouraged them to think about their senses and linked this to how they imagine Offord would have been in the past, based on the history of the village that the children had already studied. The children really enjoyed the workshops and wrote some lovely descriptive pieces of writing.

Here is an example of some of the work from both Hawks and Kingfishers classes.

I am the tree that tells a tale.  
Mine is the story of the Offords.

I was there from the very beginning, as the settlers came from Europe. Luckily I was only an acorn when they craved wood for a roundhouse. The settlement grew and grew, but were halted when the Romans came, and dwindled. Forts were built around me, new roads were walked, and stinging nettles brought. One by one, the soldiers left. But our land is never left truly in peace.

Anglo-Saxons arrived, and more new built around me. War, fire, home, peace, war, over and over again. The Oliver Cromwell came, oh so much history, & then industry! Trains whizzed with bombs and planes, and here we are now. Finally, the world is at peace. The tale of the Offords has been told.

### Perspective

I have lived here at Offord for centuries. A lot of my friends were cut down. Every now and then people come to me for my water. It's fine by me. Flowing into through the land, listening to birds, I have a rather calm, graceful life. A lot changes over time. Houses being built, shops being constructed. I've got good memories.

\* My clean beautiful water has turned into a muddy, dirty mess, loads of junk has made me sick, but the thing that makes me relaxed is the happy ch-ch noises coming from the trains going past.

It all started on day 1 when the humans came, they made the land flat and killed or chopped my friends. They built stone wall and straw roofs to make a house - they built 25. Then a new army came to rule over they were called the Romans and they changed everything. A harsh unhappy man called Oliver Cromwell built some cool things to before the Victorians were they built a railway station that was a better transport than boat.

I have seen the planes flying above me. I also saw boats and ancient rocks being carved into pick axes and fitting and worn tools to fight other people. But now people are starting building houses, buildings and starting to build railway tracks to use trains. The village is starting to get into place. Offord is now split into Offord daisy and Offord daisy. This is the perfect village ever. Offord is the name of it remember the Offord history.

I am ancient birds, since my planting I have been corrupted with surrounded by humans who solitarized my seeds and replaced them with evil contrabases of some stone and brick but I was brought to my end with warring machines of sarrated cizzing metal, and I give to a home wall that suffer like I did.

Brrrrr, the buzz of planes on there way to london. Bruhku the cold engines starting, petrol fumes lingering in the air. More coming off the line of trucks and cars. ~~Heating~~