

Link – December for January 2017

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year. All the productions went well at the end of last term and the children joined in enthusiastically.

2017 is going to be another exciting year for Offwell School as the Governors and Staff face the challenges of reducing budgets whilst maintaining our extremely high standards of education. However, Staff and Governors are delighted with one 'new' opportunity where we are going to be able to build on one of our existing links. For some years the school has been linked with a primary school, Kombezi, in Tanzania which gave the chance for staff exchanges and wide ranging learning opportunities



for our children. The exciting development is the award of a substantial two year grant to fund an Erasmus+ Project which will see both staff **and** children visiting schools in Spain, Italy and Latvia. Following a planning visit by Mrs Billington

to Spain, where she joined headteachers from all the other schools, groups of children and staff from Offwell will be visiting each country over the two year period. The first trip is in February when six of our Year 6 children and two members of staff travel to Lorca in Spain spending the week as members of a 'European Class'. They will be learning about the local geography and history of the area, and have a chance to put some of their Spanish language skills to the test!

The project will share and develop teaching and learning skills and styles, research foreign language learning and social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding. Each of the Spanish, Latvian and Italian schools teach part of their primary school curriculum in English - the children and staff are fluent and language will not be a barrier meaning that our children will have the chance to develop friendships with their peers across Europe!

We look forward to sharing more about the children's visit next time!

