

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Families and Friends,

For those families who have joined us – welcome! – I thought I should share, below, our vision, with a bit of a blurb, since it appears almost everywhere and may not have been fully explained recently:

Be Well: We know we need to feel well: physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually, in order to engage fully in learning and life. Therefore, we aim to support each other - children, families and staff - towards developing better mental and physical health.

Learn Well: We know learning as the acquisition of information and skills and the ability to recall and apply them, but it is also so much more: a life long journey of discovery and wonder, which should change and shape us for the better.

Live Well: We support the central role of family life in supporting children to achieve their goals, and we develop our pupils' natural desire to help others, protect nature, be creative and contribute positively to wider society.

Therefore, we are constantly adapting our teaching and our curriculum to meet our children's needs:

- We aim to show we care, every day; promoting healthy habits for life; helping children to feel loved and safe; giving fair boundaries; consistent messages and modelling positive behaviour;
- We furnish our children with the core skills in a reading, writing and maths and a love of learning, so that they can access the world of learning for life;
- We also provide experiences and teaching about the wider world: our children's place in it and the beliefs, knowledge, skills and talents they can learn, understand, enjoy and apply, as they find their place in the world.

In partnership with you, we have been able to create a vision for our children we can all share. As part of developing this, we would like to review how we set homework, because this really needs your support to work! We have attached our draft policy for you to consider. From those who responded to a question about homework in our last survey, it was impossible to achieve a consensus (as many said there was too much, as those who wanted more). So, please let us know your thoughts regarding our proposals (see attached policy), which we would like to start after half term, given sufficient parental support.

If you would like to discuss this further, please make contact; we do want to know what you think and we would like this to be a shared approach; after all, ensuring our children can **be well**, **learn well**, and **live well**, is one thing I'm sure we can all agree on!

Highlight of the Week:

Ash: Making buses to eat in snack time!

Willow: Learning about capacity with Miss Fawcett.

Beech: Measuring objects and learning about length.

Oak: Four part rounds accompanied by tuned percussion instruments. We have been playing the glockenspiel and belle plates.



Friday, 31st January 2020

Stars of the Week:

R – Gabriella Yr 1 – Cohen
Yr 2 – Fiona Yr 3 – Polly
Yr 4 – Elliott H Oak – Hannah
(German Student)

Next Week:

Monday: Sports Club KS2, ½
Marathon Club
Tuesday: WASP, Swimming Gala
(yr 3/4), School Council, PTFA
Meeting
Wednesday: WASP, Number
Crunchers, Sports Club KS1,
Reading Club, Booster
Thursday: WASP, Tag Rugby (Yr
5/6)
Friday: Celebration Collective
Worship, WASP, Choir

Weekly House Points:

Drake: 71 Raleigh: 64
Well done Drake

Collective Worship:

Theme for next week: Respect
Valuing others as we would like
to be valued.

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One Big Problem:

Forests purify our air and water and hold our soil together. Without them we affect everything we need to survive. Deforestation means cutting down trees and it is happening too fast for the trees to grow back: we're losing the equivalent of 27 football fields a minute!

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation-and-forest-degradation>

- Plant as many trees as possible. People power is making a difference. Our E- Team will soon be planting trees in a cleared part of Offwell Woods, as part of our partnership with The Offwell Woods Trust, The Forestry Commission and a free tree scheme by Devon County Council provided by Perrie Hale Nursery.
- Look at labels to make sure you only use [FSC-certified wood](#) and paper products. This should mean the trees have been replaced sustainably.
- Find alternatives to products made by [palm oil companies](#) that contribute to deforestation in Indonesia and Malaysia (look at the labels!), where ancient rainforests are being lost.

<https://online.univ.edu/ways-to-solve-environmental-problems/>

No Smoking at the school gates, please!

We are a no-smoking site, which includes setting a clear example to our children, for their future health. Most smokers would agree that they wish they had never started.

Healthy Snacks

Fruit or vegetables and water bottles are part of our healthy approach to school life and can prevent tooth decay. Please ensure your child has an appropriate snack.

Sports Reports

On Thursday, 23rd January some children in Year 5/6 went to High 5s netball. We started by beating Upottery 3-0 followed by a 1-0 loss to Honiton Black (Honiton Primary). Then we lost again against Awliscombe 1-0, Littleton 1-0 and the second Honiton team 2-1 even though Lilly-Grace scored 1 and Aubrey scored 3. Everyone else worked extremely hard to support and represent the school. Well done!

On Monday, 27th January some Yr 5/6 went to Quicksticks Hockey. We played 3 games losing 2 and drawing 1. After that it was called off due to rain and all 10 children got soaked. They played well and had fun. Well done!

Jack Hodder, Sports Ambassador

Lorna Legg

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

Parents' Evenings

Dates have been set for Monday, 24th, Tuesday, 25th and Wednesday, 26th February. Please see separate letter. Please return as soon as possible before Friday, 7th February so that appointments can be arranged before the half term break.

Period Products

You may have seen in the national news that schools have been invited to apply for free sanitary products in order to tackle 'period poverty' occurring in the UK. This is a fully funded government scheme. We have now received these products and they will be placed in the girls' toilet in the main building. Girls are invited to help themselves to the products as and when they are needed.

Thelma Hulbert Gallery

Family workshop –**Saturday, 1st February**

This was a really popular workshop last year so we are really happy to be running it again, with South West Academy artist Jed Falby, who has had an interesting career in the arts, particularly in film which has led him to enjoy creating his own work in a graphic novel style. There are two sessions available and each one is bookable via the following links, and costs £10 including a book and a pen: Morning session, runs from 10.30 to 12.30pm:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/82985207991>

Afternoon session, runs from 1.30 to 3.30pm:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/84000930043>