

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Family and Friends,

Last week, I asked you for your comments on our Homework policy, as we would like to make sure the majority of our parents are happy with this, before we begin, after half term. It could mean a bit less homework, for some, but hopefully means reading and learning of key facts will happen on a more regular basis for the majority, allowing for better learning and less of the regular Sunday night drama! We hope to be clearer about what to do, when, so that we can work together to achieve the best for our children. That's our intention, anyway, but if you would like further explanation, or have strong feelings either way, please contact me, or your child's class teacher, over the next week, with any questions or suggestions, so we can take these into account.

After half term, we have parents' evenings, and it will be great to see and speak to many of you. I will be available if you have anything you would like to share. I appreciate it may be difficult to arrange time for school events, so please say if so as we all know their time in school seems to go so quickly. As well as picking up on ways to help your child, you may also be able to give us some guidance in achieving what we all want on another matter: giving you, our parents, more support!

We have arranged for Debbie Richards, from the Paediatric Bladder & Bowel Care Service, to be available in the log cabin on Tuesday, 25th February from 4-6pm giving advice on toileting issues. Do visit her if you think this would be useful. In addition, we are planning to run a session on Helping with Anxiety next half term – information to follow. We would like to run more parent sessions because we value the intrinsic role you have in ensuring each child can Be Well; Learn Well and Live Well.

Parent Support websites:

[Learn Devon](#) 0345 155 1014

<https://www.learndevon.co.uk> Enrol and pay for an adult learning course.

[Family Information Service](#) 0345 155 1013

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/early-years-and-childcare/devon-family-information-directory> For information and advice on registered childcare, 2 year old funding and services for children, young people and parents.



Elliott, in Beech Class, has mislaid his white school polo shirt. It has his name on the label; please check!

Highlight of the Week:

Ash: Fishing from our boat!

Willow: Using the iPads to research Kenya!

Beech: Learning about food chains by playing rabbits and foxes on the playground!

Oak: Learning tag rugby skills in PE with some of us putting them into practice playing other schools at Honiton Primary School.



Friday, 7th February 2020

Stars of the Week:

R – Wilfred Yr 1 – Taylor
Yr 2 – Toby Yr 3 – Beth
Yr 4 – Abigail Yr 5 – Erin
Yr 6 – Alana

Next Week:

Monday: KS2 Sports Club, ½ Marathon Club
Tuesday: WASP,
Wednesday: WASP, Number crunchers, KS1 Sports Club
Thursday: WASP, Residential Parent Meeting, Story & Rhyme
Friday: Celebration Collective Worship, WASP, Choir, Safer Internet Session – Parents' invited

Weekly House Points:

Drake: 72 Raleigh: 70
Well done Drake!

Collective Worship: Respect

Theme for next week:
Valuing different opinions.

Something to think about from this week:

Why not visit your special place this weekend?

City Community Trust

February Half term Holiday course. See link for details;
<https://www.exetercitycommunitytrust.co.uk/courses/february-half-term-2020>

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One Big Problem:

On a typical day, you, or someone in your family, will most likely: switch on lights, take a shower, use a hair-dryer, make tea, or coffee, or toast, wash up, put some washing on, switch the heating on, go online, watch TV, cook a meal...almost all activities in our homes use electricity.

Lots of small solutions:

Understanding when and why we use electricity can be really helpful. Fridges and freezers are the biggest users of energy, with heating second. A typical home can draw anywhere from 100W with only standby on, up to several thousand watts with many devices left on overnight. So we can make a difference, if we try one or two things from this list:

Switch off the TV, laptop and other appliances at the plug, at least overnight.

Switch off lights when leaving a room. Change to low energy light-bulbs

Check the energy efficiency of all appliances - bigger is not necessarily better!

Change to a 100% renewable supplier (Good Energy/ Ecotricity), or renewable heating, if you can.

Residential Trip Meeting

Next week, on Wednesday, after Booster Club, we will be holding a residential meeting for parents of children in Oak class, to ensure we share as much as possible about the trip, in good time for you to prepare, and ask questions.

Team work, resilience and a love of nature, are just some of the personal attributes we aim to develop over their three days.

Internet Safety Week

We invite parents of any child in Key Stage 2 (Beech and Oak) to join us for the last 45 minutes of Friday 14th, to share some of the online support available to children and parents, as part of our Internet safety Week. Children in Ash and Willow will share some of what they have learnt over the week.

Bell Ringing

Mr Tristram, one of our long standing governors, is also a campanologist! He gets to go up into the towers of our oldest churches to ring the bells on a regular basis. If that appeals to you (!), the local bell-ringers are keen to have new members come for a trial. The youngest members, apparently, practising twice a week, can become competent in six months.

Safety Note on Field

The village hall committee has asked us to ask you not to allow your children to play on the football pitch after school.

Thank you.

Story & Rhyme

There will be a Story & Rhyme session in Ash Class next Thursday at 2.45pm.

Everyone with pre-school children is invited to attend so please pass this invitation to anyone who you think may be interested.

Swimming Gala Report

On Tuesday, 4th February, 12 children from Beech went to a swimming gala at Honiton Swimming Pool. They competed with Upottery, Littleton (who won), Honiton Primary, Jubilee (Broadhembury and Farway) and Stockland schools. They did some fantastic swimming. Well done!

Jack Hodder, Sports Ambassador

Home Fire Safety Visits

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service offer free home fire safety visits. This visit will include fire safety advice and free fitting of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms if required. The service is completely free and could save the lives of you and your family. If you would like to book a visit or want more information please send your name, address and phone number to thardy@dsfire.gov.uk or Tom.HARDY@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk or text the information to 07971773489.

As well as the target group relates to households with under 18's, there are a number of other eligibility criteria such as:

- Anyone aged over 65
- Anyone with a disability, mobility issues or sensory loss
- Anyone who smokes and lives alone
- Anyone with a thatched property
- Anyone considered to be vulnerable

Therefore if you know anyone who meets any of the above criteria and would be interested in a visit, please encourage them to contact Tom.

Vegbank, Honiton

is now supplying Foodbank users, NHS users and vulnerable people in need identified by EDDC support workers. Anyone can now donate at vegbankuk@gmail.com

Food is the biggest leveller of all of us and the government clearly states that proper nutritious food must be available for all. This is clearly not happening, with so many examples of food deficiency in the UK. Vegbank tries to feed who it can and get everyone back into growing again. This way your food needs are in your own hands and not the supermarkets. For further information email:

vegbank@gmail.com