

# Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Friends and Families of Offwell,

This week we welcomed Starr and Finley and their family; joining us in Beech Class.

Last Friday – too late to go to press – I was invited into Willow Class to hear their amazing re-creation of the sounds of a rainforest. Using only body percussion - rubbing their hands for the whisper of early rain; clicking their fingers to represent increasing drops; clapping their hands as the downpour advances – the sounds rippled round the circle they had made, as they followed their teacher's actions. This music lesson formed part of their learning linked to Kenya. It was a wonderful experience for me and is just one of the many inspirational learning experiences our teachers provide for our children every day.

Keeping safe and protecting our identity online has been the theme of several lessons and assemblies this week, and I hope as many parents as possible will join us today, for the last 45 minutes in Beech and Oak, to share some of the online support available to children and parents. As part of our Internet safety Week, Children in Ash and Willow have also had an age appropriate assembly and lessons and should be able to share some of what they have learnt over the week, as well. See our information sheet on Internet safety.

I was also able to share the exciting adventures ahead for our Y5 and 6 children, looking ahead to our Summer Residential, in a meeting for parents of children in Oak class, on Wednesday this week. Thank you to all who attended. As well as cooperation, resilience and a love of nature (just some of the personal attributes we all aim to develop over the three days!), the children will also hopefully experience at least one of those moments of silent reflection and reverence (also known as Mindfulness) when, as part of the programme, they spend some time walking along a stream bed, or looking up into the branches of an oak. These are activities I took for granted as a child, but which, as an adult, I appreciate can produce a true sense of wellbeing.

I hope the weather will be kind to us over half term, so we can, at least, see the daffodils, heralding the spring, and the buds burgeoning on the hedges! Random precipitation aside (that's two for the Word Wall, kids!) we are now clearly able to look forward to longer, lighter evenings at last. I hope you all feel loved and valued on this St. Valentine's Day, and will have a restful week together.

## One Big Problem:

Plastic bottle tops can be seen on almost every tide line now, across the world. Being so small, they float for thousands of miles – even the Galapagos Islands receive our waste. Most plastic bottle tops are made from a plastic that can be recycled, but the vast majority of local authorities do not have the equipment or facilities to process them, particularly small bottle tops. This is often because the bottle tops are too small to go through the machinery, and can cause a problem in the process.

## Lots of small solutions:

Some authorities will recycle them, if they are on the bottle, so it is worth checking, but you can also collect them for a range of purposes. Handmade cosmetic company [Lush](#) will recycle your plastic bottle tops so save your lids and head on down to your local Lush shop and help the environment at the same time! Thank you to those who have already collected their plastic bottle tops and left them in the box at St. Mary's. This eco-initiative is part of a charity in Plymouth that converts the tops into children's toys. We are collecting them in school so please bring them in.



Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020

## Stars of the Week:

R – Oliver F      Yr 1 – Oliver  
Yr 2 – Elizabeth    Yr 3 – Mathilde  
Yr 4 – Faber      Yr 5 – Jamie  
Yr 6 – Mirabelle

## Week beginning 24.2.20:

Monday: Sports Club KS2, WASP, Parents' Evening  
Tuesday: WASP, Parents' Evening, School Council  
Wednesday: WASP, KS1 Sports Club, Parents' Evening, Booster  
Thursday: WASP, Tag Rugby – Yr 5/6  
Friday: Celebration Collective Worship, WASP

## Weekly House Points:

Drake: 33    Raleigh: 42  
Well done Raleigh

That means Raleigh is the half termly winner. Members will be rewarded with a non-uniform day on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February.

## Collective Worship:

Theme for next week:  
Good to be me!

Something to think about from this week:

When somebody has a different opinion, how do you disagree respectfully?

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## Highlight of the Week:

**Ash:** Working out who sank the boat!

**Willow:** Writing stories about a storm at sea.

**Beech:** Mini mountains that are now completed.

**Oak:** Awareness of healthy eating choices making and drinking our smoothies.  
Thank you Mel!

## Safety Note on field

Please supervise your children when on the field after school generally, and in particular, please keep them away from the fenced off area on the Village Hall Field, as the posts are potentially dangerous. Our use of the field is at the discretion of the Village Hall Committee and I ask that we respect the hedges and the football pitch, to avoid causing undue damage when sheep or children get through the hedge!

## Parents' Evenings

By now you should have received your Parents' Evening appointment times for the week after half term. If you have not received the slip, please let us know. WASP, Sports Club and Booster Class will all be running as normal with WASP and Sports Club at the Village Hall. Please collect your child directly from the hall if collecting before 5pm. Any remaining children will be brought back to school at that time and should be collected from there. A reminder that Debbie Richards, a specialist in toileting problems, will be available for drop in sessions between 4pm and 6pm on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February.

## Tag Rugby Report

*On Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 9 children in Oak Class took part in Tag Rugby. After a worse start than we had hoped, losing 3-2 against Upottery and 6-2 against Honiton Red, we won 5-4 against Honiton Yellow, 4-2 against Awliscombe, 3-2 against Honiton Green and finally 3-2 against Littleton. We played great! Good job! Have a good half term!*  
*Jack Hodder, Sports' Ambassador*

Lorna Legg

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

## Church Quiz Night

Friday 28th February from 7.00 p.m. popular Quizmaster Max Pipe will be asking the questions. There will be a bar, a raffle and a Ploughman's Supper. Teams of 4 - 6 at £5 per head. Call 01404 831450/830055/831520 for tickets.