

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Family and Friends,

Welcome to Ellsie who began in nursery this week. I hope you have all enjoyed the half term, if you managed to get out between the showers! It was great to see so many of you at Parents' Evenings this week and thank you for your support with our Homework Policy. As it is a new approach, we really appreciate your effort in making it work over the next half term. We are happy for your feedback and you should be able to see the impact on your child's learning when they practise their skills on a regular basis over the next few weeks. The aim is simply to ensure that a) reading is central to every child's daily life, b) that all underpinning number and word knowledge is secure at each stage. If your child is already confident in the areas set out for their homework, please see the excellent website link provided, where there are homework tasks galore, or feel free to extend either their reading, spelling or times tables practice. You can do more than the minimum expectation, but little and often works, and it is always good if they ask for more!

Approximately once every half term, there will be a more creative, open-ended task, to inspire curiosity and develop knowledge across the curriculum, either in preparation for a subject, or to enable reflection upon it.

This week, I rejoiced with Oak, as they explored the internet and our planet, using Google Earth, without a single technical hitch! In Beech class, I was delighted by an active Science lesson, looking at materials in different states (who does not feel wonder at the properties of simple cornflour and water?). They have also learnt about The Water Cycle, and should be able to not only explain the processes of evaporation and condensation, but also, perhaps the precipitation we have had recently!

One Big Problem:

Is it raining again? As our planet warms, we will see increasing rainfall, because warm water evaporates more quickly and warm air will lift the vapour, forming clouds, until it cools and falls (Beech class will know this from the Water Cycle!). This has led to the flooding you will have seen on the roads and the news.

Lots of small solutions:

This is a huge issue; what can on Earth can we do about it? Well, simple things like planting more trees will catch rainfall, slow it down, and allow better drainage. In addition, the roots help draw water from the soil at an amazing rate. Our E-Team will be planting trees provided by Forestry England, with the help of Ranger Rob, and Vernon Whitlock of the Offwell Woods Trust.

Highlight of the Week:

Ash: Making a dentist surgery in the classroom.

Willow: Learning about animals in Africa from our new book 'The Ugly Five'.

Beech: Making oobleck (cornflour and water) in science and learning about solids and liquids.

Oak: Using our brand new Chrome Books to find longitude and latitude to map co-ordinates and plot them on our paper map.



Friday, 28th February 2020

Stars of the Week:

R – Rhys Yr 1 – Ayla
Yr 2 – Toby Yr 3 – Ava
Yr 4 – Isla Yr 5 – Lily-Ann
Yr 6 – Layla

Next Week:

Monday: Sports Club KS2, WASP, ½ Marathon Club
Tuesday: WASP,
Wednesday: WASP, Sports Club KS1, Booster, Number Crunchers
Thursday: WASP, World Book Day
Friday: Celebration Collective
Worship

Weekly House Points:

Drake: 81 Raleigh: 60
Well done Drake

Collective Worship:

Theme for next week:
The Lord's Prayer

Something to think about from this week:

Think about the 40 acts of kindness over lent and perhaps have a go:

<https://40acts.org.uk/>

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Governor

At our most recent Governing Board meeting held just before the half term break, we welcomed Ms Laurelie Gifford as our new Local Authority governor. Ms Gifford fills the vacancy left by Dr Ambler. Ms Gifford works for the Diocese in Exeter and has an educational and financial background. She lives locally and I am sure you will have the opportunity to meet her soon. Although this means we have no vacancies on our GB presently, please let us know if you are interested in helping in any way as there are ways you could be included without actually becoming a governor.



Headlice

There has been a report of headlice in school this week. Please check your child/children's hair and treat if necessary. A reminder that you need to check your child regularly as this is often an ongoing issue in primary school.

World Book Day – 5th March

We are holding a themed book day in school next Thursday. We are sending home a World Book Day voucher today together with a BookClub magazine. You can use the voucher with the BookClub or at a local bookseller. Orders with BookClub give us free books for school. Postage is free if the order goes through school but please return order forms by next Friday, 6th March. Children should wear school uniform.

Text Service and On-line Payments

From next week, we are changing our provider for text messaging to ParentPay. We have also signed up to ParentPay's online payment system and once this is set up and necessary information transferred we will give you further information about making payments, etc. Some of the local secondary schools presently use ParentPay and if you already have an account with ParentPay for these schools, it will be possible to add your child/children at Offwell to your account. ParentPay has been added to our list of organisations to whom we supply your information to for GDPR purposes. If you do not want your information shared with them, please advise us.

Parent Support app

Thanks to those who joined 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. **The BBC Own it app** is highly recommended for parents to download to any mobile phone. It comes with its own keyboard and unique emojis, which support and praise positive messages, while checking any negative messages. It is reassuring if you worry that your child might send or receive messages which could be upsetting or abusive and you want to develop good online safety habits.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2018/childrens-app-own-it>

Lorna Legg

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

Coronavirus: Please refer to the email we sent recently, containing the latest Coronavirus advice for those returning from abroad. If you are concerned, please follow the links, or contact NHS 111.

E-Team Request

The E-Team would appreciate anyone who could help with a sign for our new area of trees in Offwell Woods – please contact Mrs Hunt.

Scooters in the car park

While this is not our responsibility, please could you ensure your child is safe, and wearing a helmet, as a number of motorists have been concerned?

Traffic through the village:

Several families walk through our village and they have been extremely worried by how fast cars have passed them. Please do keep your speed down and we strongly suggest turning left when leaving the village hall car park and getting to the main road that way which will help minimise two way traffic.