

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 Freddie who joined us for some taster sessions in Ash Class in the nursery.

As we continue through Lent, I wonder how many of the children have been able to record a smile, or a kind gesture, in their Lent booklets, as suggested a few weeks ago? Another idea for Lent (from The Pope, I understand) is to give up saying anything negative about others, especially on social media. Basically, 'If you can't say something nice; don't say anything at all!', as my Mum would say, which is a fair mantra for almost all situations in life.

Last week, Oak wrote a report on Mental Health as part of their weekly 'Big Write' and their interest and knowledge were evident. I hope to have some excellent examples for the display in our entrance area, which focuses on the 'Be Well', or wellbeing aspect of our vision for every child. In fact, in terms of fostering good mental health, giving up social media, if only for a certain time each day, could be of real benefit to mood, self-esteem and even sleep.

Perhaps we could all lead by example, in setting aside our mobiles and tablets for some real-life face-to-face time instead? Spending just three minutes listening to another person, then having their attention in return, could be revealing and rewarding: firstly, when was the last time we did that, and secondly, what might we learn from and about each other if we did?

New Information: See [COVID-19: stay at home guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public) on the Government's site: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

During this new phase of the developing situation regarding the Coronavirus, or Covid-19, it will be important, I know, for you to have time to prepare suitable arrangements regarding work, if school were to close. While this is the same as for any other event, such as snow, this could be complicated by the fact that some of our wonderful grandparents may be unable to provide their usual childcare support, especially if they have additional, underlying health issues.

Despite the new instructions for self-isolation (below), the advice has not changed regarding school opening, despite the headlines on Devon Live, yesterday. However, as this is a rapidly changing situation, please be reassured that we are monitoring the situation carefully and will continue to keep you fully informed; as soon as I have information via County, or Public Health England, or another reliable source, I will contact you.

The latest advice is to stay at home for 7 days, if you or your child have either:

- a high temperature and/or
- a new continuous cough

This will help to protect others in your community while you are infectious. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. You do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them you're staying at home. They will not be testing people who are self-isolating with mild symptoms. Please contact us in the usual way.



Friday, 13th March 2020

Stars of the Week:

R – Olivia	Yr 1 – Ethan
Yr 2 – Monty	Yr 3 – Rory
Yr 4 – Ben	Yr 5 – Oliver
Yr 6 – Rosie	

Next Week:

Monday: Sports Club, Ash welly walk, ½ Marathon Club

Tuesday: WASP, Beech trip to Otterton

Wednesday: WASP, Number Crunchers, Booster

Thursday: WASP, Tag Rugby (Yr 5/6), Story & Rhyme (Ash)

Friday: Celebration Collective Worship, WASP, Reception Vision Screening, Parents' Meeting

Weekly House Points:

Drake: 62 Raleigh: 51
Well done Drake

Collective Worship:

Theme for next week: Lent/Easter

Something to think about from this week:

Which actions can you remember to the Lord's Prayer?

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Highlight of the Week:

Ash: Making rock cakes and eating them.

Willow: Experimenting with materials to make houses for the Three Little Pigs.

Beech: Enquiry based learning about rivers and solids, liquids and gases.

Oak: Making topographical maths of our very own islands.

Handwashing Poster Competition: The winning posters were excellent, and our thanks go to Jessica (Reception), Isla (Beech) and Erin (Oak) for their creativity in getting across this vital message. Their posters were shown in Collective Worship today and are now on display.

Open Parent Meeting: Please come if you can. As mentioned, last week, I hope to see as many of you as possible here on Friday **March 20th at 2.15pm.** This is your opportunity to air any concerns, opinions, or suggestions and to find out any more information, or support which might be available for you and your child. Hopefully, you will also be able to share positive points, so we know what we do well. Further meetings can be arranged, so let me know if you would have come at a more convenient time. Please let me know (in person/call/email) if you will be attending, so I can get sufficient cake!

Youth Speaks

Six brave and resourceful Year 5 children went to Awliscombe on Thursday afternoon, to be part of our two teams in the latest Youth Speaks competition. Jamie, Lily-May and Oliver presented their thoughts on The Rhino: an endangered animal, while Sophie, Jessica and Freya shared facts about Flooding: an environmental disaster. I was incredibly proud of their research and presentation skills, and Lilly-May's recognition as Best Speaker of the competition was well-deserved!

Maths Information Workshop

Mrs Hunt held an information session for parents/carers of children in Ash Class earlier this week and I am sure that those who attended found it useful.

Abigail's Hockey Achievement

Abigail M, in Beech Class, plays hockey for Chard Hockey Club and last weekend her team took part and won the Under 10's Girls' County Hockey Championship. The team will now play in the Regional Final in Bristol in May.

Well done Abigail and good luck for the regions!



ParentPay

You may have noticed that the text(s) you should have received this week came via ParentPay. We are in the process of setting up the payment side of it and we will send home letters with login information next week. The intention being that payments can be made to us using ParentPay after Easter.

Lorna Legg

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



PTFA Easter Tea Party and Bake Off

The PTFA had planned to have the bake off competition, afternoon tea and raffle on the last day of term, and we usually invite the local community to the event, many of whom are elderly. With this in mind, the PTFA has decided to postpone the event until the summer term owing to growing concerns regarding the coronavirus.

Sport Relief

It was lovely to see our children (and staff) dressing as their sporting heroes or in their team kit. Ash and Beech Classes have been running around the village field this week with the aim for the whole school to run at least 100 miles. This is in addition to the mileage run during Half Marathon Club. It is Willow and Oak's turn next week. All money raised will go to Sport Relief. All money raised will go to Sport Relief – an amazing £72.

Story & Rhyme

The next Story and Rhyme Session is in Ash Class next Thursday, 19th March at 2.45pm. Everyone with pre-school children or children in Ash Class is welcome to attend.

Urafiki

Polly, in Beech Class, has been fundraising for Urafiki. She held a teach party for her friends from school and another one for her grandparents raising an amazing £40.10. Well done Polly and thank you!