

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Friends and Families of Offwell,

Highlight of the Week:

Ash: Exploring rolling balls down tubes and seeing where they went!

Willow: Taking our tiny friends around the playground and meadow and starting sentences.

Beech: Making Roman clay coins and exploring the woods for the first time.

Oak: Learning about the Holocaust in a mature and sensitive way.

It has been another lovely week, with lots of learning, despite the tiredness we have all felt. We are all getting back into our routine and will soon, I am sure, feel we are back on top of things, especially with your help. Reading is our focus this half term. **Please read every day** – parents to children, children to yourselves, to your parents, or to the dog/cat/fish if nobody else will listen! This is the single best thing you can learn to do, because it helps you to learn for the rest of your life.

Parents, please keep in touch – I know it can be hard with the current restrictions - but let us know (by phone or email) of any small worries before they grow and we will try to do the same. I am almost always at the gate and each teacher will be in contact over the next few weeks, to share any ways parents and carers can help with their child's learning, as well as to let you know of your child's successes. Speaking of which, our Celebration and Collective Worship on Google Classroom is available as a Powerpoint on the Offwell whole school page each week, even if you cannot join us live.



Breakfast club is held in Beech and After School Club in Willow – please book two weeks in advance. We need to organise these groups carefully, to reduce contact between children in different bubbles. Thank you, adults, for wearing a mask when on school premises (but, to avoid confusion, they are not currently required for children under 12...)

Police Information: In a few cases, vulnerable people – isolated, young or elderly - can be at risk of being coerced and convinced by individuals involved in organised crime. This is most likely to happen in a small rural or coastal town, where these groups think it is safer to operate. This can be called county lines or child exploitation where children are involved, or cuckooing, where someone's home has been taken over. If you think you see signs this is happening to one of your neighbours, please report it to the Police, using a non-emergency channel, 100% anonymously - **Crimestoppers**.

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>



Friday, 18th September 2020

Stars of the Week:

R – Lacey Yr 1 – Aria

Yr 2 – Ethan Yr 3 – Ava

Yr 4 – Charlotte Yr 5 – Toby

Yr 6 – Erin

Next Week:

Monday: WASP, Music lessons

Tuesday: WASP

Wednesday: WASP

Thursday: WASP

Friday: Celebration Collective Worship – 9.10 Google Meet – log into Google, click the 9 dots on the top right and select 'Meet' the code is the date using 6 number format (today's was 180920)

Weekly House Points:

Drake: 56 Raleigh: 53

Well done Drake – it's very close!

Collective Worship:

Theme for next week: Giving sacrificially.

School Council

We will continue with the same representatives as last year for the time being as they had their year cut short!

House Captains

Will be selected from our new year 6 children with their new roles to be defined.

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This week has been one of contrasts: high temperatures (weather-wise!) and low attendance across all schools. These are just two of the barriers we face in making sure all our children are able to recall and connect with their learning as rapidly as possible. Alongside these, there is, of course, the virus. Like many things, this is a matter of balance: on the one hand, we know, at this time of year, we are more likely to get coughs and colds, most of which do not mean time off work or school, **but**, on the other hand, **anyone with Covid type symptoms must stay at home.**

We all know things are changing rapidly – I will try to keep you updated – but currently, if you/your child have any of the symptoms below, please do not hesitate: **call us and isolate until either a) you have a negative test or b) 10 days are up!** Use the NHS website to find out more details:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> or call 111 if you cannot get online.



The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back.
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

There are several other symptoms of childhood illness, not all related to Covid, which indicate when you should call 111 and when you should call 999. Please see these, listed in full, on the site, as it is important our children still get the medical attention they need. I can provide a copy by email if you are unable to access this online. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

And in other news: Last Sunday, I watched David Attenborough's BBC1 programme 'Extinction'. While the human world is currently feeling under pressure, our natural world has been suffering from the impact of our activities for decades. Habitats have been lost and species are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. **The good news** is; if we change now, we can change our future. If nothing else, Covid has shown us that we can change more quickly than we could have possibly imagined. In addition, I found this: 'Conservation efforts have prevented the global extinction of between 28 and 48 bird and mammal species since 1993'. While mass human activity is responsible for ten bird and five mammal species going extinct in the same time, it would clearly have been even worse without the efforts of a small group of super-humans: conservationists! For more good news: <https://www.positive.news/>

Parents' Evening

These will be held remotely, either on Google Classroom Meet or by telephone, so should be unaffected by external events. Dates to be confirmed.

Lorna Legg

Term Dates

Usually at the start of term, we give you a list of important dates but this term it is obviously a bit different! Listed below are the dates for the school terms and half term holidays.

- Autumn Term 2020 - 7th September 2020 - 18th December 2020
- Half Term – 26th October 2020 - 30th October 2020
- Spring Term 2021 - 6th January 2021 - 1st April 2021
- Half Term – 15th February 2021 - 19th February 2021
- Summer Term 2021 - 20th April 2021 - 23rd July 2021
- Half Term – 31st May 2021 - 4th June 2021
- May Day – 3rd May 2021

Non-pupil days – 3rd & 4th September 2020, 5th January 2021, 19th April 2021 and 23rd July 2021

Other dates:

24th September – Full Governing Body Meeting
5th October – Bikeability Week – Year 6
6th November – Individual & sibling group photos
3rd December – Flu immunisations – whole school if consent given
18th December – Last day of term

Offwell Play Park

We have been asked to share the link for the new play park for Offwell. It will be amazing to have new equipment!

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/damien-richards-3?utm_term=Z2ng4DGZV