

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: We have been doing lots of hand printing to create a harvest display and a beautiful peacock!

Willow: Our welly walk – we drew pictures in the outside classroom and showed amazing knowledge of nature.

Beech: Our PE lesson – we had 6 stations and we concentrated on agility, balance and co-ordination.

Oak: Hearing the air raid siren as part of our WWII topic.



As Autumn gradually establishes itself - with morning mists, blackberries everywhere, and the sudden drenching brought by storm Alex - each class is making the most of any opportunity to get out and experience the wonders of nature, on our Welly Walks into Offwell Woods. (Thanks again to our resident photographer, Oliver King for his wonderful image, created during lockdown).



This week, however, we have not even had to venture beyond the gates to see wildlife. On Monday, on the front playground, a tiny rodent (known briefly as Jerry), seemingly lifeless, was protected by Oak from being trampled, while Mrs Holohan fetched Mrs Legg (clearly, rodents, like other small mammals, fall under the Head Teacher's remit). On picking it up, it snuggled into my palm and its eyelids flickered. So, I found a box, lined it with tissue and hoped it might warm up in my office for the day. It revived! Therefore, after having shown it carefully to its

rescuers, I released it, tenderly, back into the wild. A bit like Gorillas in The Mist (great film), only a much smaller version, set in the flowerbeds at the back, instead of the rainforests of Uganda.



The very next day, a tiny toad, in a confused state, was discovered by Mr Dunning, obviously having wandered about the Office for some time. Mrs Davey was quite surprised by her companion, who had not signed in. As amphibians also seem to fall under my jurisdiction, it

was brought to meet me, and promptly leapt onto my desk! I eventually managed to catch it, and took it to meet Oak class. Finally, it stayed still for long enough to be photographed and was then released into the same flowerbed as Jerry. We wish them well and are happy to share our environment with them. The enormous spider found to be sharing the staff bathroom, has also been relocated.

During the first few weeks of lockdown, many people reported feeling more in tune with nature. Lorianne Whittle, a citizen science officer at the Woodland Trust, said the charity received double the number of contributions from the public for its [Nature's Calendar](#) project as it did during the same period in 2019. "We couldn't run this project without citizen scientists from all around the UK. There is absolutely no way that scientists could be in all of these places looking out for all of these different events all through the year." Whittle told Positive News. To take part, people record the changes around them, such as leaves appearing on a tree or birds starting to nest. Many of these projects, such as [the Dawn Chorus project](#), will continue year on year.



Friday, 2nd October 2020

Stars of the Week:

R – Lexie Yr 1 – Tilly
Yr 2 – Taylor Yr 3 – Elizabeth
Yr 4 – Polly Yr 5 – Chloe
Yr 6 – Sophie

Next Week:

Monday: WASP, Music lessons
Yr 6 Bikeability – Monday to Thursday
Tuesday: WASP
Wednesday: WASP
Thursday: WASP
Friday: Celebration Collective
Worship – 9.10 Google Meet
Code: 091020

Weekly House Points:

Drake: 77 Raleigh: 67
Well done Drake

Collective Worship:

Theme for next week:
Giving our Time

Amber and Oliver, during lockdown, experimented with growing their own avocados from seed. We look forward to finding out (and possibly sharing) the results!



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Music Lessons: Have you ever wished you had learnt to play an instrument? If only you had the time! However, you can give this gift to your child! If they would like to learn either Guitar, Keyboard/ piano or a brass instrument, please contact us for rates. Families in receipt of certain benefits can receive a reduced rate – any enquiries will be dealt with confidentially. Lessons are on Mondays and are safely distanced in the large Log Cabin.

NHS COVID-19 app: As part of the government's coordinated response to Coronavirus, NHS Test and Trace has developed the new NHS COVID-19 app. It is now available for download to all residents of England and Wales to everyone over the age of 16 from the App Store or Google Play. There is more information at <https://covid19.nhs.uk>

School Meals

Thank you to everyone in Reception and Willow Class who tried a school meal yesterday. I hope you enjoyed it! This really does make a difference to our funding for the coming year!

Governors

Following our first meeting of our Governing Board held on 24th September, I am delighted to advise you that Mr Ian Wallace was elected as our Chair of Governors for this academic year and Bishop Oliver Simon was elected as Vice-Chair. We thank Bishop Oliver for his support over this challenging time and thank Mr Wallace for taking on this important role for our school. We presently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor and electronic forms are being sent home inviting nominations with this newsletter. Please do consider putting yourself forward as it is particularly important to have a stable governor board especially during these unusual times. Please let Mrs Davey know if you would like to put yourself forward or you would like further information.

Lorna Legg

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

Neighbour of the Year Award! If you have been thinking of a way to thank somebody who has helped you through this crisis, then [Click here to be taken to our nomination form](#), or copy and paste: <https://www.co-opinsurance.co.uk/hub/neighbour-of-the-year/>, where you can share your stories of neighbours, or members of your community, whose acts of kindness have warmed your hearts and brightened your days.

Devon Police message: Residents have received automated phone calls stating it is from HMRC about non-payment/prosecution or similar, an instruction is then given to press a number - please do not follow instructions – this is a scam. If you have any concerns please phone 101 or email 101@dc.police.uk