

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: Acting in our nativity play!

Willow: Making a nativity diorama.

Beech: Playing football in the field in PE.

Oak: Our group and producing a broadsheet newspaper writing about Darwin coming back from the Galapagos Islands.

On Tuesday evening, just after sunset, as I was closing up the chickens for the night, I saw a 'star', move across the sky! It never blinked, so was not an aeroplane; it travelled rapidly from West to East in moments, so was not a planet. As I stared, I realised... it was the International Space Station! For a moment, I was lost in wonder at what it must be like, to look down at our Earth; not be a part of it. Although their view must be utterly amazing, I suddenly felt safe and content, to be standing firmly on the ground, in my garden, wrapped up against the cold.

It can be hard to count your blessings during a time like this; it can sometimes be hard to remember what life was like before, when we were blessed with freedoms we literally took for granted. As we come to the end of the second week of Advent, with only a week to go until the end of term, we can, at least, be incredibly thankful that the first vaccine shots are being administered to the highest risk groups. While this will take a lot of time and organisation, it is another example of what human ingenuity and cooperation can accomplish, and it offers us all hope.

Until a certain proportion of society has been immunised, we will still need to stick to the restrictions to protect each other, but at least we can now see the light ahead. Over the last week of term, let's work together to safeguard a happy and healthy Christmas for everyone, by remembering:

- Hands – wash & sanitise regularly
- Space – stay 2 metres apart
- Face – adults: cover if closer than 2 metres

As you know, Devon is still in tier 2 (high alert), which will be reviewed on 16th December. Please check what you can/cannot do at this time:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/>

Christmas decorations

A huge Offwell Thank You to Mrs Holohan and her willing accomplices (perhaps elves?) who have decorated the front of our school both tastefully and seasonally (a hard task indeed!).

Christmas Cards

Please remember to write each child's class, as well as their first and surname, when writing your cards this year. To remain Covid safe, there will be a post box for each class in the entrance porch and each class will have set times to post. Cards can then be delivered the following week (so cards can 'rest' over the weekend).



Friday, 11th December 2020

Stars of the Week:

R – Everyone! Yr 1 – Oliver T
Yr 2 – Ayla Yr 3 – Tamara
Yr 4 – Elliot Yr 5 – Ben
Yr 6 – Tom

Next Week:

Monday: WASP

Tuesday: WASP

Wednesday: WASP

Thursday: WASP, Christmas Dinner

Friday: Celebration Collective
Worship – 9.10 Google Meet
Login to Google with your child's login details and then select 'Meet' (not 'Classroom'). The code is a 6 figure date eg today's was 111220. The Powerpoint for the assembly is always put on the main Google Classroom with links to videos, etc
Last day of term

Weekly House Points:

Drake: 58 Raleigh: 42
Well done Drake!

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Christmas Performance

Each class is contributing a separate part of our Nativity this year, via video, which will be technically stitched together by Mr Thomas, so that we can all enjoy it together, while staying safely apart. We aim to share it with you via Google Classroom in our last week. To sum up:

Last Christmas, we gave you all parts,
And we all loved the way, you acted the play.
This year, to save us from fears,
We're doing an online special!

Helping Hand Fund

Please contact us if we can help to make Christmas a bit better for any child in our school, where financial issues are now a barrier. Your enquiries will be dealt with in confidence.

Please see attached information on **Operation Rudolf** which can help in many ways throughout the Christmas period. Also, attached is information from **Honiton Foodsave** which provides a fresh food hub and community larder.

Free School Meals

If you think your child may now be eligible due to a recent change in your family's circumstances, please ensure they can access the holiday voucher support over Christmas, by applying online through the [Devon Citizen's Portal](#) as soon as possible. You will get an instant decision.

Alternatively, you can call DCC's education helpline on [0345 155 1019](tel:0345 155 1019). **To ensure that you receive the free school meals holiday vouchers for this Christmas period, you must apply by Friday 18 December 2020.**

I wondered how you are getting on with random acts of kindness? This, as shared last week, is from the Action for Happiness website. I wondered if anyone would like to share if they have *noticed* any particularly kind gestures yet? Be generous today ☺

https://www.actionforhappiness.org/media/940632/december_2020.jpg

7 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member

9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead

10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them

11 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today



It's Quizmas!

Join us later for our Christmas Zoom Quiz –

back by popular demand! -
When: this evening - 6.50pm for 7pm start. Where: Zoom. Once you have paid please email and we will send you joining instructions before the quiz. Please email offwellptfaquiznight@gmail.com for payment details (via bank transfer). Once you have paid you should be emailed your joining instructions.

Easy Fundraising

Please remember to sign up and log in to use <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> when buying your Christmas shopping online. You don't pay a thing, but school receives donations from stores, if you select us as your 'Good Cause'. Thank you, and carry on Christmas Shopping!

Bingo with Zoom – Friday, 29th January – 6.30pm

Advance notice. Your PTFA has organised a bingo session. Further details will be sent out in the new year.

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Thank you to Combe Garden Centre

Some of you may have seen our 17 foot Christmas tree on Oak playground this morning! A huge thank you to Combe Garden Centre for donating it to us. Thanks also to Marina Hodder for sorting out the base and helping us secure it; that is going to be no mean feat!

Class Photographs

The children had their photographs taken within their class bubbles yesterday via drone: very exciting! As soon as we get the ordering information, we will pass this on which should be in time for receiving before Christmas.

Collective Worship:

Theme for next week: Advent

Week 3:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lvr7PFAZE8Y>

Week 5 - Wise Men Travelling



Walking Boots

Pop on your walking shoes or trainers and head out for a walk. Maybe you are on your way to school, the local shop, or to see your friends. Take a moment to slow down and notice your surroundings. What can you see? Anything you had not noticed before? Does anything make you smile or make you feel sad? Say a prayer, hope or wish as you spot things.



Leave Behind

2020 hasn't been the year we expected. As you think about your journey through the past year, what would you like to leave behind? Are there any worries or fears or experiences that you don't want to carry into the new year? If you want to, you could ask God to help you let go and leave them behind.



Christmas Journey

The Wise Men travelled following a star. Draw and cut out three stars. As you think about your journey through 2020, what have been the good memories that you want to carry with you into the New Year? Write or draw them on the star shapes and stick them somewhere to remind you that, even in difficult times, there can be beautiful memories.

Open the Book

We have missed our Open the Book friends coming into Oak Class to act our Bible stories. However, they have arranged for all the children to take home the booklet 'It Begins in Bethlehem, a nativity rhyme for Christmastime' which is produced by the Bible Society. Thank you to them and we wish them a very happy Christmas.

Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children and Urafiki

It was lovely to see everyone entering into the festive spirit today and looking so Christmassy! Thank you to everyone who gave money towards the two worthwhile causes.

Next Week

You may have heard that the government are suggesting that schools take next Friday, 18th December as a non-pupil day due to the timing of contact tracing before Christmas and minimising the onus on school leaders to pass on details of contacts and bubbles during the Christmas break. This is to confirm that our last day is still next Friday.

Information about Covid issues over the Christmas period will be sent out in a separate letter next week.

Lorna Legg

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

Fresha Meals

A reminder it is Christmas dinner next Thursday which will be served in the class bubbles in individual trays.

Fresha has published the menu for next term which is unchanged from the one presently being used as it has only been in use for a few weeks.