

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: Creating some wonderful calendars based on Vincent Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' painting.

Willow: Making our lift the flap books about the UK.

Beech: Helping Miss Kirkland clean her tarnished pennies!

Oak: Our beak investigation on Darwin's finches using different tools to pick up different seeds.



This week, I was struck by a quote from our Exeter Diocese Director for Education, which I thought it summed up this year and the hope this season can bring rather well:

'Christmas is a time of hope, a time to spread joy and to remember afresh that God loves us all. Jesus was born in unlikely conditions to a virgin mother, in a stable, visited by shepherds and wise men, and subject to a murder plot by Herod! His birth gives us hope that light can emerge in times of darkness.'

We are now only two weeks away from the Winter Equinox, when we can at least know that the darkest and shortest days will have passed and we are on our way back round to lighter mornings and evenings at last. In other reasons to be hopeful: the first vaccine has been passed for use, with the first roll out expected as soon as next week, for those who are most vulnerable! I did not realise how I felt, until, on hearing the news, I had to brush away tears of relief. To be able to see loved ones again and hold them close will be wonderful; even if we have to wait a while, it is amazing to have an end in sight.

As we end the first week of Advent, here is a calendar of Kindness, with daily suggested activities, from the Action for Happiness website. As kind and generous people already, you can spread a little more hope and happiness every day, simply by being you!

MONDAY



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

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

1 Share the Kindness Calendar with others and spread kindness

2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are

3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment

4 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today



Friday, 4th December 2020

Stars of the Week:

R – Romily Yr 1 – Jessica
Yr 2 – Rowan Yr 3 – Elizabeth
Yr 4 – Beth Yr 5 – Abigail B
Yr 6 – Jessica

Next Week:

Monday: WASP, Music lessons
Tuesday: WASP
Wednesday: WASP
Thursday: WASP
Friday: Christmas Jumper Day, PTFA Quiz – 7pm
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 041220. The Powerpoint for the assembly is always put on the main Google Classroom with links to videos, etc

Weekly House Points:

Drake: 73 Raleigh: 88
Well done Raleigh!

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

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Over the next two weeks, so we can all have a happy and healthy Christmas, please let's all make an extra effort to protect each other, by:

- properly cleaning hands and surfaces as often as necessary
- staying at least 2 m away from people beyond our household
- adults wearing masks when this is not possible
- taking other precautions: meeting outside or ventilating rooms before and after use
- Isolating and getting a test if you have symptoms

If you have any difficulty getting a test, please let us know.

Christmas Cards

Like so many things this year, we are having to do this a little differently, so, from next week, please write cards stating the child's class, as well as their first and surname (which helps!). 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 'rest' over the weekend). Ash children can post all their cards (to other classes as well) in a special box in their classroom. Mrs Hunt and Miss Hansford will sort them at the end of the week and post them in the other class' boxes.

Seasonal Generosity

The Offwell Flower and Produce Show committee have kindly donated some money towards developing our support for reading. We are very grateful for their generosity. Funding for schools has taken quite a knock; not just due to Covid, but over the past decade, especially for small schools like ours. Teachers are already planning what to buy for their class; it's a lovely, early Christmas present: Thank you!

Helping Hand Fund:

Another generous benefactor and friend to our school has provided us with a fund to help families experiencing financial difficulty. Please contact us if we can help make Christmas a bit better, in some small way, for a child. Your enquiries will be dealt with in confidence.

So many families are facing hardship, as their circumstances have been impacted by Covid. If you are in receipt of benefits, you might find your child is entitled to Pupil Premium – extra income for the school, which supports children in many ways, for example: free school meals, support staff, laptops, music lessons and, during Lockdown, and over the holidays, direct, additional money for food. DCC have now put in place arrangements to provide supermarket vouchers to nearly 15,000 children across Devon who currently receive free school meals, to help their families buy groceries over the Christmas holidays.

If you think your child may now be eligible for free school meals due to a recent change in your family's circumstances, please ensure they can access this holiday voucher support over Christmas by applying online through the [Devon Citizen's Portal](#) as soon as possible. This is the quickest and easiest way for their eligibility to be assessed and you will get an instant decision. Alternatively, you can call DCC's **education helpline on 0345 155 1019**. To ensure that they receive the free school meals holiday vouchers for this Christmas period you **must apply by Friday 18 December 2020**.



It's Quizmas!

Join us for our Christmas Zoom Quiz – back by popular demand! - When: Friday 11th December 6.50pm for 7pm start. Where: Zoom. How: Pay £5 donation per team. Get your thinking caps on, grab the family, get the snacks ready for a fun evening raising valuable funds for the Children of Offwell School. Parents - please pay via Parent Pay, Non parents - please email payment details (via bank transfer). Once you have paid please email and we will send you joining instructions before the quiz. Please email offwellptaquiznight@gmail.com payment details (via bank transfer). Once you have paid please email offwellptaquiznight@gmail.com

PTFA Woodland Nativity Trail

Do you like quizzes? Do you like visiting Offwell woods? Well why not combine the two and enter our PTFA Nativity woodland trail? Simply answer some questions that relate to the Nativity story, before searching for more hidden letters in the woods. Those hidden letters will make your final Nativity word. All of the questions and a map to help you find the hidden letters are being sent home in paper copy tonight but are also attached to this newsletter electronically. When you have finished your trail, just attach the £1 entry fee, write on your name and return it to your class teacher before January 8th 2021. There will be a prize for the winner. Good luck

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Easy Fundraising

Please remember to sign up and log in to use

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> when buying your Christmas shopping online. I have and it is really easy to use! You don't pay a thing, but school is able to benefit, if you select us as your 'Good Cause'. Thank you, and enjoy your Christmas Shopping!

Updated guidance for parents and carers

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

Devon is now in tier 2 (high alert). This will be reviewed on 16th December.

Follow the link to see advice on:

1. [Meeting family and friends](#)
2. [Support and childcare bubbles](#)
3. [Meeting in larger groups](#)
4. [If you break the rules](#)
5. [Keeping you and your friends and family safe](#)
6. [Protecting people more at risk from coronavirus](#)
7. [Visiting venues, including shops,](#)

...Amongst other subjects. Please take the time to check what you can/cannot do.

COVID Symptom Study App – ZOE

It is important that parents and teachers are aware of all the symptoms that children might present with. The research highlighted that children display a different range of symptoms compared to the overall adult population. The top five symptoms in school aged children who test positive for COVID are; fatigue (55%) headache (53%), fever (49%), sore throat (38%) and loss of appetite (35%).

The COVID Symptom Study App was developed and is managed by health science company ZOE. Research using data from the app is being undertaken by academics at King's College London. The findings are based on the data from 198 children with positive tests and roughly 15,800 negative tests, making it currently one of the largest studies of COVID positive children in the UK.

The COVID Symptom Study app allows parents to log the health of their children with its multiple profile setting. Currently the app has nearly 250,000 children on the app, but in order to help increase the accuracy of hotspot detection and help to further research the symptoms in children, more children are urgently needed. The app is available to download from the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#).

<https://covid.joinzoe.com/post/back-to-school>

Library Book Track Survey

Book Track is the reading challenge for primary-aged children run by Libraries Unlimited through your local public library. Lots of children enjoy taking part, earning badges and stickers as a reward for reading lots of books and talking about them. Now Libraries Unlimited has received some funding, from Tesco Bags of Help, to create a brand new reading challenge to replace Book Track. This is where you can help. Before making any changes or creating something new, Libraries Unlimited would like to find out what you think. They are interested in the views of all parents and children that are interested in books and reading. Please follow [this link](#) to a short survey that is designed for children aged 5+ and a parent/carer to complete together. It won't take long to complete, and you could win a fantastic prize. The survey is open until Friday 11th December 2020 and all entries submitted before then will be entered into a prize draw to win a Samsung Galaxy Tablet! (T&Cs apply)

Christmas Dinner Thursday, 17th December

Please see the information from Fresha. If we are expecting your child to have a dinner on that day there is no need to do anything further. If you would like your child to have Christmas Dinner as a one off, please email admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk as soon as possible as the kitchen require numbers for ordering purposes. The dinners will be served in individual classrooms as they are at present.

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Collective Worship:

Theme for next week: Advent

Week 2:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2ENnVscPEY>

Click the cards below to access the printable cards on the website.

Week 2 - Shepherds in Nature



WOW!

Grab a blanket in the daytime and go outside and lay it on the ground. Lay on the blanket and look up – what can you see? Perhaps some clouds, or trees or the blue sky. What have been your WOW moments this week? Maybe something fun, something you did well, or something that happened. Lay still and think about these WOW moments and enjoy the memories!



Tree Thanks

Go outside to the park or a local forest. Look for leaves that have fallen on the ground. Hold a leaf in your hand and look at it. What do you notice? Did you know that no two leaves are the same! Everyone is unique – such is the wonder of the natural world. Now think about what you are thankful for. You could write your words of thanks on the leaf!



Listen Up!

Head outside into your garden, local park, or forest. Find a safe space to sit and get as settled as you can. Set a timer for 2 minutes, then close your eyes and start to listen carefully. How many different sounds could you hear? How did the sounds make you feel? How might you listen more carefully in your life? Say a prayer of thanks for all the different sounds you enjoy!

Safety Concern

Following concern raised by other parents, I need to remind parents to stop any child of theirs from playing on the road and areas around the phone box and driveway opposite school, both for their own safety and out of respect for the property owners, who should not have their walls or gates used as seats or climbing frames.

I appreciate some are waiting for siblings, but this entails a 15-minute gap at the most. I would suggest that any parents who feel their children cannot wait outside school, leave their child with the teacher for a few more minutes, and collect all children at the later time, but this defeats the point of our carefully arranged exits, designed to ensure everyone can be safely distanced.

Once children leave the school gates and enter the care of parents/carers, their conduct and safety clearly becomes a parental responsibility; however, if it is difficult to see which parents are responsible for each child, I will intervene if necessary, to ensure safety, social distancing and the continued good relationships with our village neighbours. There have been no complaints as yet, and I aim to keep it that way!

And in other news...<https://www.positive.news/>

There was a lot to tell you about this week! Please get in touch if you would like to tell us anything.

Lorna Legg

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

Wellington Maths

Jess, Hattie, Erin and Isaac, in Oak Class, took part in the 2020 Wellington Maths Challenge. Each year that we have taken part our teams have pitted themselves against many schools across Devon and Somerset. This year 60 schools took part. Our children did themselves proud and there is a Powerpoint on Google Classroom to explain the event.



Christmas Jumper Day

Friday, 11th December

It is Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day next Friday and children are invited to wear non-school uniform with their jumper for a voluntary donation of £1.

We intend to split any contributions between our Urafiki fundraising and Save the Children. If you particularly wish your donation to go to one of the charities, rather than the other, please let us know.

We raised an amazing £80 from last week's non-uniform day for Urafiki. Well done everyone!