

# 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:** Having a video message from Santa, during our class Christmas party!

**Willow:** Learning to draw snowmen with Draw with Rob -

<http://www.robbiddulph.com/draw-with-rob>

**Beech:** Making Christmas crafts and playing games at the class party!

**Oak:** The maths 'escape room'!

It is time to say a huge thank you for your patience and goodbye, for now, to what has been the most...eventful year. Over 2020, we have become experts in many new skills: home educators and home workers, online Zoomers, virtual Quizzers, Google Classroom celebrators and workers. We have also shared in the myriad activities of children at home: growing and photographing and making and cooking, as well as learning new vocabulary such as Coronavirus, Pandemic, Lockdown, Tiers....

Here is just a small sample of all the **NON-COVID related information** we have shared in our newsletters this term:

- We contributed to an animation of a 1000 year old riddle. You can see it on Double Elephant's website! <https://www.doubleelephant.org.uk/riddle-57>
- We shared the Every Mind Matters campaign which contains some useful [advice for both parents and young people](#) on looking after their mental health.
- Conservation efforts to prevent the extinction of between 28 and 48 bird and mammal species since 1993'
- A big Thank You to the villagers who kindly weeded our wellies!
- [The Dawn Chorus project](#), which will continue year on year.
- **Bikeability:** a lot of physical activity for Oak class.
- Sharing the Pantosaurus song in Willow class:  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>
- Our House Captains, with Mrs Holohan's help, planting pansies in our wellies, so we should have a colourful display to cheer us up on our return
- British children from a range of backgrounds share what life is like for them in today's Britain, as part of Black History Month  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/49883230>
- Beech, among other classes, going on Welly Walks into the wilds of Offwell Woods
- Supporting URAFIKI – As mentioned, last half term, Oscar and Ashley, who live in Yala, Kenya, continue to need our support and many of you have given generously through our non-uniform days.
- Information for parents of Primary aged children, to prevent and manage online issues:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/but-everyone-else-is-playing-it-how-do-i-decide-if-a-game-is-right-for-my-child>



**Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

## Week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> January:

Monday: Holiday

Tuesday: Non-pupil Day

Wednesday: WASP

Thursday: WASP

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 181220. The Powerpoint for the assembly is always put on the main Google Classroom with links to videos, etc

## Weekly House Points:

Drake: 42 Raleigh: 43

Well done Raleigh. Raleigh is also the ½ termly winners with 439 compared to Drake with 425.

Raleigh will be rewarded with a non-uniform day on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> January.

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Attached is the new Scomis Online Safety Newsletter which is very helpful and informative.

- Information on stopping the cycle of bullying.  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/54964969>
- The Dalmation PELICAN and re-birding: one of the planet's largest birds could be poised for a UK comeback...Click here!
- The BIGGEST Christmas Tree ever (thanks to Combe Garden centre, our local farmer and members of the PTFA!)
- The Kindness calendar 2020:

14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

15 Contact an elderly neighbour and brighten up their day

16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to

17 Practice gratitude. List the kind things others have done for you

18 Give away something that you have been holding on to

Plus, countless highlights from each class, every week. And finally, Ash starring – alongside contributions from each class - in The Offwell Online Nativity: **Christmas Performance!** This will be shared on Google Classroom...our online special!

## Christmas Story – The Bethlehemian Rhapsody

This is a fabulous retelling of the Christmas Story that I'm sure the children (and parents) will enjoy sent to us by Emma Milford  
<https://youtu.be/oUxxYHwQdWA>



We have also said goodbye and huge thank you to Mrs Hurst, during our online staff 'Do', with a bit of help from Raphael Nadal, her tennis hero! We will miss her, but we look forward to having her pop into her class bubble when she isn't busy with her non-school life, to support reading in Willow.

So, having said goodbye to this academic year and all our friends for a few weeks, we also need to look forward: Oak have already invested in new books, with huge thanks to the Offwell Flower and Produce Society. All the classes are also looking forward to the new and exciting learning journeys they will all be embarking upon in the New Year, but before that, of course, we can all spend a little time with our very nearest and dearest.



**Please see the letter regarding Christmas Covid information.**

## Fresha School Dinners

Most of the children in school had a Christmas dinner yesterday, which was very well received and tasted delicious! Although the 3 week menu is unchanged for next term, it is attached with this newsletter as you will need to know which week it is! We begin with week 1; with ham pizza as the main meal on our return in January.



## WASP Attendance & Parentpay

WASP attendance for this half term has been logged on Parentpay (if you pay by this method) so please do log on to process your payment if relevant.

## Class Photo – Proof Cards

We sent an email attaching the proof cards for the class photos taken last week. If you would like to order a copy and receive it before Christmas, please order straightaway. However, you will be able to place orders until the end of January.

You may have noticed we have some extra children in Oak Class! We have contacted Dan, who owns the drone and we will see what he can come up with. See if you can spot the anomalies! Clue – it's not just 2 children being duplicated!

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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. 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, 29<sup>th</sup> January – 6.30pm

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

## Devon School Games Festive Family Challenge

Please do have a look at the short video in the link below (1m 20 secs) for details about the "Festive Family Activity Challenge" running from **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December to 10am on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January**. It follows similar lines to the successful Walk, Jog, Run our first Virtual event of the Summer lockdown. The video stars a family from East Devon!

<https://www.activedevon.org/festive-family-activity-challenge/>

## Trophies and Awards

Thank you to everyone who attended the final service. Termly awards and trophies were given as follows:

### Termly House Point winners:

Ash: Poppy Willow: Tilly P  
Beech: Polly Oak: Jessica

### Caring Cup Winner:

Abigail M in Oak Class was the winner with nominations from the other classes for Lewis in Ash, Jessica & Zak in Willow and Ava in Beech.

A reminder that the children return to school after Christmas on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January. There will be a WASP session and Early Morning Provision from 8am.

Please, stay safe: we may have to make a few sacrifices this year, to ensure we can all celebrate properly next year, so we wish you the very best Christmas you can safely achieve, without fears or tears and may all your hopes and dreams come true next year.

Lorna Legg

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

## Cohen's sawfish nose!



## A Prayer

Dear Lord

We pray for your wisdom,  
courage and compassion,  
To help us know what to do,  
To give us the strength to do it,  
To always act in the best interests  
of others,  
After such a year, we thank you  
for the gift of renewal.  
Amen