

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Parents and Friends,

23rd April 2021

Highlights

Ash – Seeing the 3 week old ducklings brought in by Lacey's mum.

Willow – Planting sweet peas and learning about flowers in the meadow.

Beech – Exploring the appearance and property of different rocks in science.

Oak – Role play acting as blood cells in the journey around the body for our heart topic in science.

Welcome to Skylar and Ellie, in their first week in school and to our new Exeter University Trainee Teacher, Mr Jack Musgrave - in Beech class.

I hope you have been able to get out and enjoy some sun and explore new horizons safely. We went for a wonderful walk to the top of Golden Cap and were amazed to find we had it all to ourselves. Then, we realised why, everyone else had seen the news of the enormous cliff fall at Seatown.



It was the largest cliff fall in the UK for 60 years!
The lesson is: keep an eye on the news Mrs Legg, and please keep a sensible distance from the top or base of any cliffs everyone, so you can enjoy our wonderful, World Heritage coastline safely.

Here, safely tucked away in

Offwell, we can look forward to exciting new learning and outdoor activities over the summer term, as the weather continues to improve and the woods transform into their summer finery. Here is a little reminder of last term, for those who missed this article in The Midweek Herald (thanks to Mrs Holohan).

<https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/offwell-school-in-offwell-woods-7855024>



Offwell School back after lockdown | Midweek Herald

“Even though our school has been open for keyworkers throughout lockdown, the school is once again truly alive. Walking round the school there is a real pleasure in seeing children back in their ...

www.midweekherald.co.uk



Covid Measures Social distancing in general will be reviewed by the government from May 17th, so until then, distancing at gates between families, use of face coverings and limits on meeting indoors will remain unless/until date/data changes (See note re: Online Parent Meetings).

To protect ourselves and each other, the guidance for anyone who develops a new and continuous cough or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, remains in place for now:

- Stay home or go home to isolate - the isolation period includes the day the symptoms started and the next 10 full days.
- Follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)
- Make sure you [arrange to have a test](#) as soon as possible
- Other members of the household - including any siblings and members of your support or childcare bubble if you have one - should also self-isolate for 10 days.

Let's hope we can protect each other so we get to enjoy this term together, achieve our personal goals and end our school year feeling really positive.

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Parent meetings - date and arrangements online

Information about Parents' Evenings has been shared, and will be held online for now, which generally worked well last time. We will share information about your child's progress and next steps, and we will also be interested in your thoughts about your child's learning, as you have been more of an active participant in your child's education over the past year than ever! In fact, parental support accounts for a massive part of any child's achievements, so we celebrate this and hope to support your continued role in your child's future success.

Our school improvement plan is based around our vision for all children, to enable them to: Be Well; Learn Well and Live Well. Staff have considered our School Improvement Plan from before Lockdown, in the light of the impact of the Global Pandemic and how we can take our next steps into a better future. A big part of achieving our aims for our children is to ensure we work in close partnership with you. I would like to know your ideas about what matters to you, given the insights you will have from the unprecedented involvement you have had with your child's learning this year. I will try to share information which I hope will be helpful (as always!) but please let me know if there are other subjects you would like information about, or ways we can share information more effectively, such as Zoom Workshops. Feel free to email with any thoughts.

Helping us to help your child:

Research and experience shows us that the children who achieve their best, do so from a combination of school and home support. It makes sense, therefore, as you have been educating at home, to strengthen this partnership and support you in maintaining even a small amount of additional, regular support at home, which will make all the difference to your child's future.

Tiny Happy people – advice and activities for children up to age 5 –

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

Hungry Little Minds Campaign- resources and top tips aimed at parents/carers –

<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

Words for Life from the National Literacy Trust- aimed at parents/carers of children aged 0-11yrs – <http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/>

What can I do to help my child's speech at home?

Advice and activities for developing speech and language at home –

<https://speechandlanguage.info/parents>

Bags of Help

Our collection bin for Bags of Help has moved! It is now sited in the car park near the village hall. This means it is easier for the whole community to use and raise money! A reminder that all clothing is welcome as well as paired shoes, hats, handbags, accessories, costume jewellery, soft toys and mobile phones. Please do not put in ripped, torn or stained clothing, duvets, pillows, curtains or wet items. Thank you.



Well done to Ayla, budding clothes designer, using her birthday present. Excellent skills, Ayla!

House Points

We have started counting our house points again. This week's totals are:

Raleigh: 164 Drake: 126

Well done Raleigh!

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Thinking ahead to Secondary: The closing date for applications for secondary schools is the 31st October each year, but it is good to begin to consider your preferences early. Some schools may have admission criteria if they are over-subscribed and you are not in their catchment area and selective schools, such as Colyton, require preparation from the start of Year 5. In the interests of balance, for pupils and parents, here are links to information from local secondary schools, so you and your child can begin to think about options:

Honiton Community College is our nearest secondary school to Offwell and we have good links through the Local Learning Community and sports events.
<https://www.honitoncollege.com/primary-school-parents>

The Kings School, Ottery St Mary, is probably the next closest school out of Honiton, being 5 miles, or 10 minutes away:
<https://www.thekings.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+6+Induction&pid=86>

Axe Valley Academy is in Axminster, 10 miles away from Honiton, taking about 15 minutes via the A35. <https://axevalley.devon.sch.uk/parent/year-6-3/>

Sidmouth College, in the opposite direction, is about 10 miles, or 28 minutes away.
<https://www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/parents-home.html>

Woodroffe School is in Lyme Regis, 12 miles away, also along the A35:
<https://www.woodroffe.dorset.sch.uk/parents/year-6-transition-info/>

Colyton Grammar School is under 10 miles from Honiton, with a national reputation. In the past few years some of our children have successfully applied to this local secondary school, which selects children on the basis of the 11 plus test, held in September of Year 6. Anyone can apply, but preparation is best started at the start of Year 5, which can catch you out if you're not aware. The school's website has preparation tips and free practice papers, if you are interested: <https://www.11plusguide.com/grammar-school-test-areas/devon-grammar-schools/colyton-grammar-school/>

Remember: not everyone gets their first choice of secondary school, but it is the enthusiasm you put into learning and how you behave each day which will make you successful, wherever you study.

Lorna Legg

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

WASP Payments & Lunches

Thank you to all those who have already paid! All attendance has been marked for last term for afterschool and breakfast club on Parentpay. Please visit Parentpay and pay off the balance if this is relevant to you. Please could you also pay for this half term in advance, if you know the sessions your child/children will be attending. If you pay and they do not attend, this will leave a credit balance for next time! Likewise, lunches for KS2 children has also been added to Parentpay. If you have any queries, or cannot log on, please speak to Mrs Davey. Thank you.