

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Friends and Families of Offwell,

A huge welcome to Andrew in Oak Class, Elizabeth in Beech Class and the rest of the family to Offwell School!



Highlight of the Week:

Ash: Listening to a whale song and watching a whale spouting water!

Willow: Willow's Topic is 'The scented garden'. The children were asked to imagine a new, weird and wonderful plant discovery. They had some fantastic ideas from the snowdrop carrot plant, the chatterbox

flower to the cacti chocolate lion flower.

The children also enjoyed making a giant's breakfast, measuring with weight and volume in Maths to make Scotch Pancakes.

Beech: Learning more about volcanoes and earthquakes in our English and Geography lessons.

Oak: Enjoying our rounders' sessions in PE.

This week, our older children have had a busy time learning about the importance of self-respect and positive habits for life, and considering big ideas like relationships, equality and diversity. On Monday, Y4 and 5 were involved in the first part of a research project with Exeter University called 'Stand Together', as shared in previous newsletters, which we hope will help us learn more about building positive relationships and challenging bullying of any kind.

Meanwhile, Year 6 have had the chance to have a lasting impact on the history of our school. They have researched possible alternative role models for new School House names. There were plenty of good reasons to renew the current House names, as they pointed out: Drake and Raleigh were both from more than 400 years ago and while they remain part of history – Drake circumnavigated the world (1577-1580), while Raleigh is known for bringing back the potato and tobacco from America (1595) - they were also responsible for destroying the lives of many through slavery, invasion (and cigarettes!). Our students felt it was time to look for new role models who have done amazing things for humanity, as well as having stronger links to our school values. (The Sunday Times, coincidentally, ran an article on this on May 9th 2021, p4)

Last term, when we first discussed this, some of the children suggested David Attenborough as a suitable alternative for one of the houses. I think we can all see why he would be an excellent role model, who has educated millions, shares our love of nature and inspires us to protect it. Therefore, I propose adopting Attenborough as one of our new House names. (I think he might like to know, so our next step should be to write to him!). This week, Year 6 have chosen and researched five, inspirational female role models to present to the rest of the school, as possible alternatives for a vote on a second House name. I will let you know what they decide next week! This is part of our ongoing aim to instil good values, promote equality, and offer a diverse range of role models all our children can look up to.



Friday, 14th May 2021

Stars of the Week:

R – Lacey Yr 1 – Aria
Yr 2 – Ayla Yr 3 – Elizabeth
Yr 4 – Oliver Yr 5 – Andrew
Yr 6 – Lily-Ann

Weekly House Points:

Drake: 47 Raleigh: 41
Well done Drake



Our fantastic PTFA will be holding a Grand Summer Raffle, to be drawn at the start of September. It is planned to sell tickets both through school and via the Charter Day Fair in Honiton, at the end of July. We have had some excellent prizes in the past, kindly donated by local businesses. Anyone knowing of any businesses, or generous benefactors who might kindly donate prizes, please contact Tracy Potter, our PTFA Chair, via the PTFA email: ptfa@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk

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The Big Ask! <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

Rachel DeSouza, The Children's Commissioner for England, has the job of listening to children, speaking up for children, and standing up for the rights and needs of children. She would like to know what children think about life and how the people in charge can help children after Covid. Please visit the website or search The Big Ask to fill out the survey. It has easy-read versions and should only take about 5 – 10 minutes.

May 17th Proposals for the next stage of relaxing the Covid restrictions (Stage 3 of The Road Map) have been shared. While there are many welcome changes in wider society, there are very few changes in schools yet, due to being a location where so many families come together.

Therefore, in line with other local schools, we continue to expect adults to wear masks or visors on premises and to remain distanced whenever possible. Children will keep to Bubble Class groups, with staggered entry and exit times, until further notice. Sanitising and hand washing continue.

However, we are planning ahead. We have agreed provisional dates in July for Sports Day and an adventurous day trip for Oak Class (the second week of July in both cases), details of which we will share before half term. Please be aware that events may need to change if circumstances do, and I will always try to keep you updated.

We all want to be able to go back to normal, but it won't be surprising if, in reversing, we feel a bit wobbly for a while! Please be reassured that I will not suddenly abandon every protection without good reason, given the issues we are aware of in the wider world. Please share your thoughts or concerns and hopefully we can navigate this next part of our journey safely together. Thank you for your patience and support.

NB: Attendance and Holidays We all know that attendance is vital, especially given the amount of school children have already missed. I understand there may be some exceptional circumstances, but Devon has asked us to share this sensible message: 'As restrictions begin to lift, we know some families may be looking to take holidays during term time. As usual, parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school on holiday.'

Adult Education

Most of us have found the past year challenging. Part of that may have been teaching your child things you last learned decades ago! You might have thought it would be helpful to brush up on your reading, writing or maths, so you can do more to help your child, or even take the next steps in your own education. Here are some links to explore, but please get in touch if you cannot find what you want:

General information: <https://www.gov.uk/improve-english-maths-it-skills>

Reading and Writing for Adults: <https://www.skillshare.com/browse/reading>

Maths for Adults: This FREE online course is for anyone wanting to improve their maths. This can range from entry level all the way up to Level 2 qualifications. You can enrol at any time throughout the year and our tutors will tailor your learning exactly around your needs and work at your own pace.

<https://www.learndevon.co.uk/course-details/course/MAA417/>



Parent Governor

You may recall that we sent letters inviting nominations for a new parent governor as Rebecca Stevens' term of office finishes tomorrow. The closing date was 12 noon today and unfortunately, we have had no nominations! We are sending another email invitation today which includes some words from Rebecca about how she found the role. Please keep an eye out for this email and consider putting yourself forward. If you would like to speak to someone then contact either myself, Mrs Davey or our Chair of Governors, Ian Wallace, by email

ian.charles.wallace@gmail.com

Rebecca has many skills and has been an incredible support to our school over the past year and well before that. I would like to express how grateful we are for all she has done. In addition, she has offered her ongoing support, which would be invaluable to anyone considering starting as a new governor.

Photos Next Week

On Tuesday, the children are having photos taken within their class groups so please could you ensure your child is wearing smart school uniform on that day. Please let us know immediately if you wish your child to be withdrawn. Nursery children are invited to come to school at 1pm if Tuesday afternoon is not their usual session and you would like them to be included.

Lorna Legg

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