

Offwell C of E Primary School

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



Dear Friends and Families of Offwell,

18th June 2021

Highlight of the Week:

Ash: Using our number skills to buy and sell treats in our ice-cream shop.

Willow: We have been practising for sports day, creating minibeasts from leaves, weeds and twigs as well as tree shaking for minibeasts.

Beech: Making presentations on the life of the Anglo Saxons.

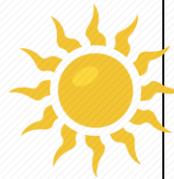
Oak: Making the most of our turn to play in the meadow this week in the lovely weather.

Dear Families and Friends,



Following the Government announcement that the existing restrictions remain in place until our last week:

'It is expected that England will move to Step 4 on 19 July 2021, although the data will be reviewed after 2 weeks in case the risks have reduced. The government will continue to monitor the data and the move to Step 4 will be confirmed one week in advance... the current system of controls should continue to be implemented in education and childcare settings.' DfE 15.6.21
I have moved our date for Sports Day back to the week beginning 19th July, last week of term, to see what information is shared the week before. If necessary - weather and Covid permitting - we would limit attendance to one adult per child, sitting in class bubbles on the field, as there are limits on groups outdoors - socially distanced - to a maximum of 30 people.



I have also moved our internal transition day to the same week, to see if restrictions loosen sufficiently for us to allow year groups from different bubbles to share a classroom. As you can imagine, this is another organisational side-effect of Covid numbers rising. Although it would be unfortunate, we fully accept this is for the best of reasons. We should, whatever happens, be able to hold a Sports Day for our children to enjoy in the last week, even if we cannot welcome parents. This is an improvement on last year, at least.

A day in the last week has also been set aside for our oldest children, Year 6, to recognise and celebrate their time at Offwell before graduating to the next stage in their lives. This should still be possible, even if we can only invite parents/carers of our Year 6 children.

So, Covid restrictions continue, due to the current rise in cases. Devon is no exception. Therefore, **please remember the following actions** remain in place, to keep us all safe:

- **Any adult or child with symptoms** – persistent cough, change in taste/smell, or a high temperature – **must isolate and get a test** (PCR, not Lateral Flow)
- **All household members must also isolate** until a negative test result has been received or, if positive, 10 days from onset of symptoms have passed.



Stars of the Week:

R – Joseph

Yr 1/Yr 2 – All Willow

Yr 3 – Tamara

Yr 4 – Amber Yr 5 – Isaac

Yr 6 – Sophie

Weekly House Points:

Attenborough: 56 Anning: 76

Well done Anning!

Be Sun Safe

We have had some lovely sunny weather lately and it has been great to get outdoors and not get wet! However, with this comes the usual health warning! Please apply sunscreen to your child before they come to school. Older children can bring cream to school if they are able to apply it themselves. Please provide your child with a sunhat. Green Legionnaire style ones are available to purchase from school for £3. Open toes sandals are permitted but children must wear socks. Apologies in advance as this message is sure to make the weather change again! Therefore, at the same time, please ensure your child brings a coat to school if there is any doubt about the weather!



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Assessments this week have gone well, with our children demonstrating why we are so proud of them. Despite all the changes they have experienced, there are still results we want to celebrate. We will share their successes and next steps in your child's report, (16.7.21), using a similar format to the table we shared for Parents' Evening, so that, alongside all the other, more personal information about your child's strengths and areas of learning, you can see clearly their progress in each core subject and know what you can do to help them onto the next stage of their learning journey.

Let's talk about Online Safety

We all know how helpful online learning has been for our children this past year. We need to be able to use this valuable resource safely, so there are several checks in place to prevent harm in school. However, filters are not automatically set up on devices at home. While you may be in the same house, can you be certain that you are fully aware of what your child is doing, saying or seeing while they are online? Without adult supervision, and with the ability to talk to anyone, or see almost anything, anywhere in the world, what might a child do, say or see that might be harmful?

Recently, I heard children's online life described as if we had put them all on an island, with no adult supervision and expected it all to be fine. If you've never read 'The Lord of the Flies' – you really should - it involves some children ship-wrecked, in total isolation, with some truly terrible consequences. However, the current situation is, if anything, worse. Yes, some children, unsupervised, can certainly do each other harm. There is also the damage children can do to their own future prospects, by saying or posting something they will live to regret. But how many people potentially have world-wide, 24-hour access to our devices?

As a parent you would never allow your child to roam the streets of a large city alone. Yet, we know some of our children play games totally unsuited to their age which replicate this. Children under 13 are not always able to fully differentiate between reality and the very convincing fantasy games they sometimes play and will begin to use phrases they do not understand, but which are concerning. It is right, as a parent, to set safe boundaries and time limits, teach good behaviour and have informed conversations with your child about their online life, as about all areas of their lives. There is help available and we take our responsibility to educate our children and give as much support as possible, but we need your help to control online behaviour at home - preventing it from having a negative impact in school. Please contact us if you are concerned, and please use the following sites:

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

Lorna Legg

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

Next Week is our Project Week

We plan to brighten and decorate our classrooms and part of the school, with art work in each class and a joint mosaic linked to our new House Leaders: **Anning and Attenborough**. We are so grateful to **Devon Tiles Ltd**, from Ottery, who have given us so many beautiful tiles for our mosaic! It is planned to liven up our entrance area, which has been so useful over the past fifteen months as an extra entrance/exit, but which can seem a little...featureless.

RHSE (Relationships, Health & Sex Education) – This half term we will be teaching the children about healthy relationships. Some of the content has changed, so Miss Phillips and I will hold a **Parent Meeting** - online - on **Tuesday 22nd at 4.30 – 5pm**, to share the new RHSE (Relationships, Health & Sex Education) information with you and answer any questions. Please join us via Zoom. Details will be emailed.

