

# 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:** Watching the water beads swell up and then catching them in the nets.



**Willow:** Capturing and releasing snails to find out where and how far they travel. A big Thank you to the Jessica's Mum and Taylor's Mum for made the investigation possible for all the class.

**Beech:** Learning and writing about King Alfred in English.



**Oak:** Hopefully the highlight will be taking part in the trip to Wildside but the children will arrive back after this newsletter has been written!

Another amazing highlight was the Zoom call with two para Olympic athletes – Jade Jones Hall and Callum Hall.

There have been some amazing sporting events recently. Football and tennis have both provided some welcome distraction and drama, and Oak class were excited to be able to speak to Olympic athletes online on Monday (one thing from Covid we'll keep!).

## Sports Day

We hope, weather permitting, to enable our children to take part in their own sporting events, so they can feel the thrill of endeavour and achievement for themselves, their friends and their teams. Our sports day last year had to be cancelled, so having any event at all is great for the children.

This year will be different, of course, and you can imagine it has been hard to plan ahead, but we hope we now have a reasonable compromise. On **Friday 16<sup>th</sup>**, on the Village Hall Field, we have planned a **separate sports event for each class, allowing one adult per family to attend. The times for each class are as follows:**

**Oak:** 9.30 – 10 am

**Willow** - 10:30-11:00 am

**Beech** - 1:30-2:00 pm

**Ash:** 2.30 – 3pm (please take your child from the school gate at 3.15 as usual)

**PLEASE NOTE: Current restrictions still apply on this date. We have set attendance limits and times** to keep numbers low and avoid overlapping groups where we can, but as the nominated adult, you can, of course, attend each class event where you have a child. I ask, out of respect to others, if you could remain distanced from anyone outside your household and please wear a mask if you might come into close contact. **If the weather is poor, we will have to cancel**, but will aim to hold a sports event, for children only, so we can make the most of the next available dry day with maximum flexibility. Many schools have already had to choose this option, so cross your fingers for some sun!



Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## Stars of the Week:

R – Lewis                      Yr 1 – Rhys  
Yr 2 – Ethan      Yr 3 – Elizabeth B  
Yr 4 – Will                      Yr 5 – Toby  
Yr 6 – Jamie

## Weekly House Points:

Attenborough: 21 Anning: 17

## Annual Reports

Your child/children's annual report will be emailed, during next week, to the email addresses of parents/carers we currently have on file. If you particularly want a paper copy, please let us know.

## Shoe boxes

Mr Thomas would like to use **shoeboxes** on transition day with the children who will be in his class in September. If you have an unwanted empty shoebox, please could you send it in. Thank you.

## Autumn Meals

Thank you to everyone who has returned a menu choice. A reminder, if you haven't, to return it as soon as possible if your child will be having school dinners and they want to choose something other than the main meal at all or they will only be having hot meals on certain days.

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## Covid Information

We will all have heard the Government's message about July 19<sup>th</sup> in different states of mind - some with delight and relief, some with concern and anxiety – but whatever your feelings about the situation, the facts are what they are and **we will remain as we are until the end of term**, for the following reasons:

- Rates of infection are rising nationally (infections in UK are higher than in the rest of Europe combined, at this time) and locally (East Devon's reproduction rate is currently 1.4)
- The spread of infection is largely among children, the young and unvaccinated adults
- The impact on health statistics is delayed for around 4 weeks after infection.

What is the potential impact?

- This new wave of infection provides the opportunity for further variants to emerge
- it will mean more people off sick, or isolating (currently or in the future)
- Long Covid, and other long term effects of infection, are still being researched

What we can do:

- Maintain hand washing, masks and distancing work to lower infection, reduce impact on the NHS an aim to prevent later lockdown,
- Get vaccinated. Vaccination of 80% of the population (achievable over the next few weeks), plus boosters, could control infection in the longer term.

I feel, after a year and a half where we have all worked hard to both protect and educate our children, it is important that we do not hide from difficult facts, or take unnecessary risks at this stage. Therefore, **I ask you to patiently abide by our request to maintain distanced and wear a mask on school premises, until the end of term**. This shared understanding then allows us to hold end of year events with a sense of security, while ensuring we can all work, rest and play over the summer, hopefully in the best of health.

The Independent SAGE group has a weekly online briefing, which is very informative. Sir David King, former chief Scientific Adviser to the UK government, chairs the group and oversees its reports.

<https://www.independentsage.org/>

For local information, you can look here:

<https://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/covid-19/dashboard/local/>

Lorna Legg

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

## Events for our last week of the school year:

**Transition** - to allow our children the best chance to feel confident and secure about next year, we will have a **Class 'Swap' on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July**, where the children will meet their new classmates or teachers. We will arrange seating so that groups in different classes avoid unnecessary mixing, but feel that it is important for each child to have a sense of what next year will be like, now we can do this. **Staff and Classes will have a very similar structure to this year.**

For children transferring to HCC, I hope that the visit and chat with Mr Leach was reassuring. I am sure you will enjoy the Summer Activities Club there, too, those who can make it. The first day of term is set aside just for you!

## Ash Parent and Carer Meeting

Mrs Hunt will share a Zoom meeting link via email for any parents/carers of children due to be in Ash next September. It is for current parents or carers of children going into Reception, or continuing in Nursery, as well as new families of children in Nursery, since there will be some familiar routines for some, but also an important introduction to the new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum expectations. Questions are welcome. The meeting is on **Wednesday 21st at 5.30– 6pm.**

## Year Six Leavers' Event

On **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 2pm in the Village Hall** all parents and carers of our Year 6 children are invited to a celebration of their time at Offwell, give them a good send off to their exciting new schools and shed a tear or two. We will miss you!