

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: Acting out the story of the Rainbow Fish!

Willow: Learning about the explorer Christopher Columbus.

Beech: Identifying the seas and oceans of the world.

Oak: Going back to church and being able to sing together again.

Catching up is an interesting term. It implies a race, where we all have to pass a finish line, with winners and losers. However, if you consider education as a life-long journey, then there is no sense of panic or loss if your journey is different from any other; we can suddenly see, as long as we have goals in sight and a clear map to guide us, that every day can teach us something new, as we learn to become curious, open-minded and independent explorers of our world.

To support us in guiding our children on their learning journeys, we are gathering a collection of **Progression Maps** for each subject, which will become available to you over the next term. They will enable us to identify next steps for each child and we hope they will help guide you in sharing that journey with your children.

Writing is our core curriculum focus this year. We aim for each child to be able to show excellent progress from their starting point. Please encourage your younger children to use their growing fine motor skills by colouring, making patterns, and starting to make letter-like marks, which they may want to 'read' back to you. They may, unawares, develop their phonic skills in writing their name, sounding out words for birthday cards and shopping lists, or enjoy finding the sounds they have learned in words. Older children can be encouraged, as above, to write for a range of purposes, but may also develop their creativity through story-writing, diaries and letters to friends or relatives.

In the first instance, respond positively to the content of their writing and only correct when necessary, as those early experiments in writing are unlikely to be totally correct, and we want our children to enjoy writing and see themselves as writers, so they will keep trying. Try to provide ways to help your child correct themselves, by offering to collect 'tricky' words with them, showing them how to use a dictionary or spellchecker and giving them your own tried and trusted methods of remembering spellings, such as: 'i before e' except after c (e.g: believe, receive), or creating a poster which highlights the key letters in a word.



Friday, 17th September 2021

Stars of the Week:

Ash – All of them!

Willow – Sofia & Remy

Beech – Serge

Oak – Abbie M, Hattie, Chloe & Isla

Weekly House Points:

Attenborough: 44 Anning: 68



Please see attached poster containing details of the Treasure Hunt on 26th September.

Lunch Cover

We have a vacancy for a person to carry out lunchtime cover from Monday to Friday – 12 noon to 1pm. It would also be helpful if this person is able to collect our meals from Littletown Primary School on a Thursday at about 11.30am and bring them to us. If you have a free window and would like to earn a bit of extra money, please get in touch.

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Reading remains a core skill in all aspects of learning, whether online, or in a book. In every class we are setting aside extra daily time dedicated to the skills involved in reading, and we ask that you follow the expectations for daily reading at home, as set out by each class, so that your child can progressively develop this wonderful skill.

We know that children who are supported to read at home are more likely to become confident readers; successful readers are also successful learners, because they are able to access the full curriculum in school. Beyond this, reading is a source of knowledge, entertainment and sheer joy for life.

So, please, do whatever you can to help your child to become a reader...

Please ask if there is any way we can support you or your child. Thank you for continuing to work with us to do the very best possible for the children of Offwell School.

House Captains

The children in Oak Class have applied for these positions and the following children have been appointed:

Attenborough (Blue): Ben and Chloe

Anning (Red): Clem and Noah

Congratulations to these children. They will be introducing themselves to the children in the other classes.

School Council

Each year group will have two representatives on School Council and we are asking for the children to put themselves forward if they would like to be considered. Nominations should be passed to the class teacher by next Friday, 25th September and votes will be taken the following week. The children will need to explain why they would make a good councillor and why children should vote for them!

Clubs

We are very excited to start thinking about holding some clubs again. We will only be holding outside clubs for the time being and we are planning Gardening and Running Clubs for children in Beech and Oak Classes. Further details will be given next week.

E-team will resume with members being those who were members before.

Lorna Legg

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

Child Care – Friday

As you will be aware, although we offer After School Provision from Monday to Thursday, we are not able to offer it on Fridays. We wonder if there are any parents/carers who would be able to help out other parents by looking after another child for an hour or two on Fridays. Are any of you childminders? If you think you can help, please get in touch.

Offwell Flower Show

If you had chance to visit last Saturday's Flower Show, you will have seen the lovely displays from all our classes. Individual winners were awarded as:

Oak – 1st Hattie

2nd – Isla

3rd – Maisie

Beech – 1st - Tamara

2nd – Genevieve

3rd – Elizabeth B

Willow – entered as a whole class

Ash – 1st – Freddie

2nd – Hetty

3rd – Nathan

Congratulations to you all!

Offwell Play Park

Work is starting on the play park over the next couple of days and there is likely to be equipment left on site. Please could you ensure your children do not touch it, play with it, or go anywhere near it! Details of the grand opening will be given to you soon!

Thai Night

Saturday Sept 18th 5.30-8.00pm, everything freshly cooked in the car park, eat in the club or have a take away. Food is lovely. To see menu - Facebook Offwell Sports and Social Club. The bar will be open, let's hope for fine weather. We did very well last month even though it was torrential rain, please give it a try, look forward to seeing you all, thanks.

Ann Richards, Secretary OSSC