

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: Learning how to wash the dolls' clothes.

Willow: Learning about Amelia Earhart and remembering our fantastic welly walk. A big thank you to Miss Phillips and Mrs Wallace for their help.

Beech: Watching the sea monkeys hatch and making clay starfish.

Oak: Writing about a scene from The Hobbit.

There has been a lot of news over the past week (in fact, the past year), most of which has been a bit grim, to say the least. As we enter Autumn, with colder, wetter days approaching, I felt the need for some good news stories. Happily, I found enough to fill pages, but I will stick to: four from school and two from the wider world, to help focus on all the **GOOD** things happening, still.

In School News:



Gardening Club Grows. Offwell's Gardening Club, led by four of our Year 6 pupils, is gathering momentum. They are writing to local garden centres (you might remember how generous Otter Nurseries were a few years ago) and they may soon set up a stall to sell some of the results of their labours. You could soon be the proud owner of a baby Semper Vivum (see left - it means ever-living)!

New House Captains go out to play! Our House captains have started the vital job of checking to see how we can refresh the school's outdoor environment. First they have completed an audit of any playground signs that are broken, then they will consult with each class to find out what they think. Finally, I will provide them with a budget to purchase new signs, so that our playgrounds can continue to provide a bright, attractive area for learning and play.

Offwell's PTFA drives forward. Sunday's events at The Village Hall were really well attended (over 25 cars took part in the Treasure Hunt) and it was very successful in terms of the PTFA's funds, for which we are extremely grateful. Marina Hodder, Chair of the PTFA said: "It really was a lovely busy day, lovely atmosphere and lots of fun!! Thank you". There will be a coffee morning coming up soon, to which you will all be invited, so watch this space.

Friday's Collective Worship and Celebration Assembly was special for two more reasons this week: we were delighted to welcome The **Reverend Sue Roberts** back to lead our worship, and we announced the long-awaited results of our **School Councillor Election**. Thanks to Miss Kirkland, who carried out this role with great integrity, as Leader of the School Council, managing to keep the results under wraps for days. Congratulations to:

Year 6 – Starr and Abigail
Year 4 – Amelia and Toby
Year 2 – Zak and Oliver F

Year 5 – Finley M and Elliot A
Year 3 – Taylor and Tilly
Year 1 – Ella and Poppy



Friday, 1st October 2021

Stars of the Week:

R – Ellsie Willow - Joseph
Beech – Elizabeth R, Elizabeth B &
Charlotte
Oak – Abigail M

Weekly House Points:

Attenborough: 43 Anning: 48
Well done Anning!



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...and in Devon news:

East Devon welcomes Afghan families seeking refuge. We will all have been moved by the terrible situation over the summer, which faced so many, especially those who helped the British military in Afghanistan. Now, some Afghan families are in temporary accommodation in East Devon, awaiting a new home somewhere in the county. We extend our best wishes and a warm welcome to them all.



...and in National News:



Anything is Possible! Ross Wilson and Jack Hunter-Spivey both travelled to Tokyo to represent Great Britain in Table tennis at this year's Paralympics games. Before they set off, their advice for anyone starting out, of whatever ability, was:

Ross: If you've got a dream or a goal and if you're a little bit scared to do it, I think the start is the hardest bit. Get involved, have a try and you know if might not be as hard as you think. It might be more fun than you think it's going to be.

Jack: The biggest advice I can give to people starting out would be to whole heartedly follow your dream no matter what. Now they have shown what great advice this is, by returning, with a Bronze Medal each! Jack said: "16 years of chasing a dream with everything stopping me...Anything is possible. I've just proved it. Never give up!"

Parent/Governors Evening

Thursday, 21st October – 7pm

A letter is being sent home today to families in school inviting all parents and carers to a drinks and nibbles evening to meet the governors. This is also a chance to find out a little bit more about what the Parent Governor role entails. It would be lovely to see as many people as possible.

Hoodies

We sent an email earlier in the week attaching a provisional order form for new hoodies in the hope we would be able to meet the minimum order requirements. I am pleased to say we will be able to go ahead with the order. If you have pre-ordered, please could you now visit Parentpay to pay for the hoodies or send in a cheque or cash for £13 per hoody. If you have not pre-ordered but would like one ordering for your child, please email Mrs Davey or complete the order form sent home earlier in the week and also attached to this email. Orders need to be received by next Friday, 8th October. **Please note – we are not able to order individual hoodies and there may be some months' delay before we can place another order - so get your order in!**

Lorna Legg

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

Fish & Chips

Just to remind you all that it is fish and chips this Saturday Oct 2nd frying in the car park from 6.00-7.30pm. Bar open, club and Jubilee room open; eat in or take away. Bar also open Friday Oct 1st from 6.00pm and a skittle match later. Bar open Sunday lunch time from 12 noon until about 4.00pm, and the really good news is that the play area is also now open, so something to entertain the children, do hope to see you all.
Ann Richards

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Please see Devon's current Covid Advice for Parents and Carers 1.10.21

Nationally and locally we are seeing a rise in coronavirus cases among the school-age population, but in almost all those cases the young person has shown no sign of having the virus, or only very mild symptoms, public health experts confirm.

Public Health Devon says they're aware that many parents are anxious about the case rates within schools. **Devon's Director of Public Health, Steve Brown, said today:**

"Although case rates generally in Devon are below national average, we are continuing to see a rise in coronavirus cases in school age children, and it is likely that this will continue. "The fact that most cases show no sign, or very little sign of having the virus, emphasises the importance of regular testing in order to identify people carrying and potentially spreading the virus."

Steve Brown has set out clear advice to parents:

- If your child has symptoms of coronavirus – cough, temperature, taste/smell - they should not go to school. **They should take a PCR test – not a lateral flow device test – and they should self-isolate pending the result of that test.** Lateral flow device tests are only for people who show no symptoms of having the virus.
- If your child is identified as a close contact, including if someone in your household tests positive, they should take a PCR test. However, unless they have symptoms of coronavirus, they are not required to stay off school while they wait for the test results.

(Please note: current advice is that a child presenting with symptoms should remain at home and book a test, even if they have had Covid within 90 days)

"We all know how much learning has been disrupted these last 18 months. What's important now, whilst we are all living with COVID, is that we try to keep COVID-19 case rates as low as possible, to enable as many children as possible to stay in school."

"Where we see large outbreaks in schools, we and those schools work closely together to agree any additional control measures to put in place to help control the spread of the virus.

"There is also a lot of seasonal illness among young people at the moment. **If your child has symptoms such as fever, diarrhoea and/or vomiting– even if they test negative with a PCR test for coronavirus – please keep your child off school or nursery to avoid spreading other infections.**"

Here is the link for the full article:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/director-of-public-health-sets-out-clear-advice-for-parents-of-school-age-children/>