

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: Finding signs of autumn on the field and picking the apples in the meadow.

Willow: Learning about Rosa Parkes and drawing around each other in PSHE and sharing how exercise is good for you.

Beech: Learning how submarines work from our experiment.

Oak: Meeting the chameleons! Thank you so much to Tally and her family.

Autumn is definitely with us! October can bring sudden squalls and mellow mists, which remind us of the value of home and warm fires. In my mother's country, however (Jamaica), October often brings huge, destructive hurricanes, which mean the possibility that your home can be gone in an instant. This is the same for people in several parts of the world; it must make you see life from a totally different perspective.

This is one of the things education can do really well: give children the ability to see things from the point of view of another person. This is a fundamental stage in emotional and mental development, called Theory of Mind, which develops gradually between 3 and 10 years old. [Theory of Mind Video](#) This awareness: of other people who have their own thoughts and feelings as we would do, as if we were in their shoes, is essential for the development of empathy and compassion, to learn how to communicate effectively and build meaningful relationships.

October is also Black history month – an opportunity to uncover and share the enormous contribution of black and brown people to our nation's history. However, while it is a positive move that there is a month set aside to do this, we are committed to celebrating the diversity that makes us unique, every day. Staff will be planning and teaching their usual lessons, and will use resources that help explore life through the eyes of a range of people: some from different places and times, some from here and now.

This is one story: of a girl who had been told that her childhood dream – to be a Head Teacher - could never come true, simply because of the colour of her skin. But Betty hung onto her dream, bravely, and ultimately her self-belief paid off: she became the Head Teacher she had always hoped she would be, and was the first black Head



Teacher in Wales. Her story can inspire us all, but it also serves to show how important it is for all our children to see themselves represented in society. A UK-wide survey of statues, carried out in 2018, [found that just one in five statues in Britain were of women](#), with most of them being fictional characters or unnamed figures. Now Betty's statue stands proudly, helping to represent the contribution of women and people of colour throughout the UK.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/UK-wales-58721710.amp>



Friday, 7th October 2021

Stars of the Week:

Ash – Nathan

Willow – Ella

Beech – Toby

Oak - Tally

Weekly House Points:

Attenborough: 68 Anning: 50

Well done Attenborough!



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Did you see The London Marathon on Sunday? If so, you could have seen Mrs Davey, crossing the finish line after 3 hours and 40 minutes (plus a second) of running! In fact, her train ride home took longer (5 hours) than it did for her to run the 26.2 miles of the course, all round central London. We are so proud of her achievement. Despite a few aches, she still held running club on Tuesday; inspiring the next generation of runners.

Car Park and Play Park Plea! Please make sure your child is supervised. People have told us of their worry that a child could be harmed, due to several children, who seem to be allowed to run unsupervised on the Village Hall Car Park. Cars belonging to both general members of the public and parents collecting from school are constantly entering, leaving, reversing and parking at the start and end of the day. Both myself and the Village Hall Committee ask all parents and carers to closely supervise their children, to prevent anyone being harmed.

We are also concerned that there is additional risk if parents do not supervise their children fully when using the field and the new play equipment. As the sign makes clear: parents must see and control their children at all times. We cannot be responsible for the behaviour of your child while they are in your care, but we, like you, want to avoid any accidents or upset. Please set your child clear safety boundaries for the use of the field and play equipment.

Harvest seems to have come early this year, with the church Harvest Festival being held last Sunday in St Mary's Church. Willow contributed some lovely paintings and I know other classes will be celebrating Harvest in different ways as we come towards half term (22nd October). The Ethos Team will be planning events to help towards supporting Oscar and Ashley, who we sponsor through Urafiki, our school charity which helps children attend school in Kenya. We have managed to maintain our contributions each year, despite Covid, We know the community will have faced so many challenges, so we want to show our solidarity with them and their children.



Coffee Morning, 9-10am on Wednesday 13th October, Offwell Village Hall

Everyone is invited. A brilliant way to meet new parents and find out more about the PTFA members and how you can support your children. Do come along.

Hoody Order

All orders have now been received and the bulk order will be placed on Monday. Please could you now pay for the hoody either using Parentpay or sending in a cheque or cash to the office.

Lorna Legg

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

