

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: Making our Catherine Wheels!

Willow: Learning about Guy Fawkes and taking part with the activities.

Beech & Oak: The visit from Space Odyssey with the space dome was amazing. All the children (and adults) thoroughly enjoyed this and learnt a great deal.



We return after a wet and windy half term holiday, rested and ready for a new half term of learning. I hope you have been able to keep warm and dry inside, perhaps with a book, a game, or perhaps a pumpkin to transform into a lantern, or a pie. Gardeners, (we'll hear from you later) I hope you remembered to keep the seeds, so you can plant your own pumpkins next spring!

At least this season brings with it those sudden spells of sunshine between showers, and it can be a season of light and drama: this week is Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, which Ash class will be learning about, and, of course, we have our own festival of fire: Bonfire Night. Please, stay at a safe distance if you are watching fireworks tonight.



I hope you all enjoyed the **Lantern and Fireworks event** over the weekend, at the Village Hall. Many thanks to the Village Hall Committee and PTFA for their enthusiasm and organisation. Marina Hodder, Chair of our PTFA, invites you to attend their Annual General Meeting next week

and has written a helpful guide to:

What is the PTFA, why do we need to have one and how can you help in the future?

"With the PTFA AGM coming up on **Tuesday 9th November** either in school, or via zoom at 7.30pm, I thought I should explain what we do!!

The PTFA stands for Parents, Teachers and Friends Association. We meet 6 times a year to plan and arrange various events to raise money for the children of our school to benefit from extra activities, resources or experiences.

Over the years the PTFA have funded projects to enhance the play areas, provide library subscriptions, fund transport for trips, have drama groups and performances, provide a pop up planetarium experience and so on.



Friday, 5th November 2021

Stars of the Week:

Ash – Esme

Willow – Brendon

Beech – Tamara

Oak - Hattie

Weekly House Points:

Attenborough: 83 Anning: 77

Gardening Club

Our intrepid Gardeners have been active already! As well as raising many baby Sempervivums to sell, raising nearly £40 (half of which will go towards our school charity: Ufifiki), they have also written to local Garden Centres and have been rewarded with a very generous £50 voucher from Coombe Garden Centre!

They also have a request:

"Do you have a small greenhouse (which could go against a wall) that could be donated to Gardening Club? It will keep our garden preserved throughout the winter and will encourage us to grow our own plants. It would be a massive help, so if you have something that might be suitable, please contact Mrs Davey. Thank you." Hattie, Isla, Abi and Chloe.



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Our events vary as it's up to the members of the PTFA to collectively decide on which events to do..... recently we've worked on finding profitable but fun things to do, such as a Ceilidh, a car treasure hunt, wreath making workshops, Afternoon tea and Christmas fairs with a visit from Father Christmas. Personally, I believe it is essential for the PTFA to continue so that our children continue to benefit from having an enhanced experience of school life and with government funding being very low per child in this area, it's necessary (please chat to Mrs Legg if you would like more information on government funding and why it's low in Devon).

So, what can you do to help? At the moment, many of our PTFA members have older children in the school and we are looking to the parents with younger children to join us so that we can keep the committee running. It was lovely to see some new faces at the coffee morning, and we look forward to seeing you at the AGM. Please consider joining our group so that the committee can continue for years to come. Thank you"

Thank you, Marina and all the PTFA, who do so much for our children every year.

E-Safety: Most knowledge and most people are good, but the internet allows easy access to our children for those few that are not, so it is our role to protect them; prevent them from doing themselves or others harm and teach them how to use the internet well. Parents and carers need to set age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices and use internet filters to block malicious websites. These are usually free, but often need to be turned on. If you are unsure about how, here are some resources to help you, to help your child (NB: these live links will only work if you are on a device):

- [support for parents and carers to keep children safe online](#), which outlines resources to help keep children safe from different risks online and where to go to find support and advice
- guidance on [staying safe online](#) which includes information on security and privacy settings
- [Thinkuknow](#) provides advice from the National Crime Agency (NCA) on staying safe online
- [Parent info](#) is a collaboration between Parentzone and the NCA providing support and guidance for parents from leading experts and organisations
- [Childnet](#) offers a toolkit to support parents and carers of children of any age to start discussions about their online life, to set boundaries around online behaviour and technology use, and to find out where to get more help and support



Carols in Church

This year, we have decided that our Christmas Production will take the format of carol singing in St Mary's Church. This will be on Tuesday, 14th December at 2pm with another performance at 6pm. All parents will be welcome to attend.

Lorna Legg

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

Church news: The Remembrance Service will be held on 11th November as usual, outside by the War Memorial if possible, but inside the church if the weather is inclement.

Church Open Morning, Saturday 11th September, 10.30 to 12.30. One of our Governors, John Tristram, will be in charge of the bells. There will be a Children's Trail and tea, coffee and cakes will be served. Tower Trips will be available – a view not to be missed!

Parents' Evenings

We look forward to seeing you next week, for Parent and Carer Meetings (via Zoom or in person): to share how your child is doing in school; to help you in supporting their learning; and to hear from you.

Parents/carers of children in Oak, Beech and Willow Classes should have received appointment dates and times. Teachers will arrange the Zoom meetings which will be emailed to you on Monday. Ash Class' appointments will be shared another week.

Flu Immunisations

The date for the immunisations in school has been put back until 16th December as the team have been asked to concentrate on delivering Covid vaccines. It was brought to our attention that the link for consent was closed early and some parents/carers were unable to access it. After contacting the team, they re-issued a link this morning which should remain open until 10th December. However, having tried it, it still doesn't work. Once this has been rectified, we will send you the link again. If you did manage to give your consent using the previous link, this consent will still stand unless you change your mind.