

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: There have been so many this week for the whole school including our carol concerts, Christmas parties, Christmas dinner, cookery and craft work.



We hope you have a wonderful, peaceful, happy and healthy Christmas. The children of Oak, Beech and Willow Class will be bringing home a Christingle kit, kindly made by a host of volunteers from St Paul's Church, in Honiton and brought to us by The Reverend Sue Roberts. The service is on Sunday 19th December at 5.30pm, so if you are able to create your own Christingle, you are invited to take part in the children's Christmas service, which is always special.

Now is a good time to look back and take stock, with an extract from the newsletters of the Twelve Weeks of Autumn Term (I know, it's nowhere near as catchy as the original...):

In the first week of Autumn, we reminded you of the 'Day in My Class' Social Stories, created by each class teacher to help the children return with confidence in September. We noticed how happy and secure they seemed - despite anything else that was going on, school felt normal and it was good to be back.

In second week of Autumn, I shared the work that each Subject Leader has undertaken: to gather a collection of **Progression Maps** for each subject. This work means we are developing a clear ladder of learning for each subject, to help us plan and assess where each child is on their learning journey.

In the third Autumn newsletter, each class thought of ways that they could reduce our use of fossil fuels, through switching off lights when we don't need them, wearing another layer so we can turn down the heating and reducing waste as much as possible, so that new plastic is no longer needed.

In the fourth week of Autumn, Offwell's Gardening Club wrote to local garden centres for some help (and were richly rewarded!). They also set up a stall to sell some of the results of their labours and raised funds which went towards Urifiki, as well as back into new seeds and tools.

On the fifth week of Autumn, it was Black history month – an opportunity to uncover and share the great contribution of people from around the world, who have been part of our nation's history for centuries. I shared the story of a little girl who dreamed of becoming a Head Teacher and became the first Black Head Teacher in Wales!

In the sixth week of Autumn, we remembered the sacrifices others have made for us, and were delighted to be able to bring a little colour to the residents of Netherhayes, a Residential Home in Seaton, thanks to a kind parent who organised a pebble for each child to paint with a poppy, to share our support for remembrance Day in a positive way.

In the seventh week of Autumn, we celebrated our children's commitment and citizenship, welcoming new E-Team members and the start of The Devon & Torbay Award, where Year 6 pupils build a portfolio of their activities linked to charity work, hobbies and challenges they have faced.



Friday, 17th December 2021

Termly Award Winners:

Housepoints:

Oak – Hattie
Beech - Matilda
Willow – Romily
Ash – Hetty

Caring Cup:

Nominations for each class:

Oak – Noah
Beech – Elizabeth R
Willow – Zak
Ash – Lola

The overall winner was chosen as Noah – well done to him for being so caring!

Congratulations to all our housepoint winners and the other nominees for the Caring Cup.

Weekly House Points:

Attenborough: 53 Anning: 45
This means that Attenborough has scored 487 for this half term with Anning scoring 397. Well done Attenborough – you will be rewarded with a non-uniform day on Friday, 7th January.



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On the eighth week of Autumn, I shared help for **E-Safety**: to teach our children how to use the internet well and prevent them from doing themselves or others harm, which I'll share again:

- [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

In the ninth week of Autumn, we had some poetry:

Because I am The Moon...

I am the colour of clouds, frost and pearl, making cold-coloured beauty.

My Mountains try to clasp the stars with icy, long fingers.

My secrets can be found at the foundation of my deepest, dark fractures.

I wish I was not so desolate, I wish I had a companion.

I'm sad because I have no life, no destiny.

I dream of a time when life teems on my brittle surface.

My seas of dust hide mysteries of the long gone past.

Because I am The Moon.

By Isla



You and your body



Home and families



Your feelings

On the tenth week of Autumn, there were bits on several things: Children in Need, the power of kindness, building your memory, and the way we are developing Maths this year...

The eleventh week of Autumn, our Year 6 pupils learned how to help younger children to play, develop team and social skills and keep active in a training session with East Devon's PE Lead – they continue to do a fantastic job.

Now I could carry on, but the twelfth week was the start of December, and that's not so long ago, so please feel free to check back on our website for any information you might have missed.

Interim Reports

Parents/Carers of the children in Oak and Beech classes should have received Interim Reports by email. We hope you will find these useful and informative. If you haven't received one for your child, please email admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk

Finally, a huge thank you to: our PTFA for their wonderful Christmas fun on Friday, and for adding the Christmas Crackers to our children's Christmas Lunch, to everyone who has been kind enough to think of us and send gifts at this busy time of year, and to all the children who sang so beautifully on Wednesday.

Have a wonderful Christmas. The children return on Thursday, 6th January. I will be in touch in the New Year, but until then, keep protecting each other and stay safe and well.

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

childline

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Childline: When you call on **0800 1111** you'll get through to a counsellor, they're there to listen and support you with anything you'd like to talk about. Or you can have a [1-2-1 counsellor chat](#) online. **Childline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.** So you can talk any time.

Parent Helpline: Formerly known as Parentline Plus, now **Family Lives UK**, offers help, advice and helpful tips on all areas of parenting: surviving Christmas stress, how to share parenting over Christmas, what to do if you're feeling overwhelmed, talking about difficult subjects...The list is set out under the Advice tab on their website, and they can offer online support, live chat, or a confidential telephone service between 9am and 9pm every weekday, or 10am till 3pm at weekends.

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

