

# 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** - Our highlight this week is feeling the frosty grass in the meadow, beneath our feet and hearing it crunch. We also rescued woolly mammoths from ice blocks and worked out why the ice started to melt.

**Willow** – Experimenting with all the ‘mess’ as part of our Muck, Mess and Mixture topic this term.

**Beech** – Learning about dental care and setting up our experiment about teeth cleaning.

**Oak** – Our Mexican hat dance in PE.

## Positive News:

Good news has been rare lately, so perhaps we need to look out for our own. Here is a list of some of the simple things I am thankful for:

The Sun has returned, after what seems weeks of gloomy, glowering grey cloud; its smile lifts our spirits and makes us feel fully alive again ☺

Playtimes - On playground duty this week, I have seen so many happy, smiling children – such joy gained from simply running about, chasing shadows, is a delight and a blessing.

Birdsong, lighter evenings, daffodils and snowdrops poking through the frosty soil: all these are free gifts; things we can cherish and be thankful for.

## Our Vision:

We have been very happy to welcome several new families, so, just in case you missed it last year, here is a summary of our vision for every child:

**Be Well – All our children feel safe and cared for: they understand and value physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing for themselves and others.**

**Learn Well – All our children enjoy learning: they know their strengths and how to develop the knowledge and skills they need to achieve their full academic potential at each stage.**

**Live Well – All our children demonstrate our values in action: they engage in opportunities to make their home, class, school, community and environment better for all.**

Naturally, given the past two years, we have had a strong focus on the **Be Well** aspect of our vision, because our wellbeing underpins everyone’s ability to learn and thrive. We will continue to ensure that this is characteristic of our approach to each other.

This term, in the New Year, I would like to refresh our focus on how we **Learn Well**, which is central to our children’s success, and the core of our vision. Last week, I shared some information about learning, in the form of a diagram, which tries to set out how the process works and what it is. See if you and your child can work it out together. It will be displayed in school for our children to think about.

## Live Well - Devon and Torbay Award

We’re wishing Faber the best of luck for his 5k run across Dartmoor on Saturday, 15th for Devon Air Ambulance. You can sponsor him at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/faber-green-5k](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/faber-green-5k) Our year 6 take part in the Devon & Torbay Awards each year.



Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Stars of the Week

**Ash** – Ellsie

**Willow** – Sofia

**Beech** – Drew

**Oak** – Jacob, Andy and Amber

## House Points

**Attenborough:** 46

**Anning:** 30

Well done Attenborough!

## School Beanie!

Hopefully it goes without saying that the children should come to equipped for cold weather with suitable coats. We have woolly hats with the school logo for sale at £3 each. Please ask if you would like to buy one. They are one size and suitable for all year groups.



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## Parking and Road Safety:

Please take care when driving past school and do not park outside the school gates between 8.30am and 3.30pm.

This is to protect pedestrians entering or leaving school and avoid an accident. On this point, it is your responsibility to keep your child under close supervision both to and from school. Several children have been seen running ahead of their parents or carers, some of whom have been narrowly missed by passing or parking cars. So we can continue to work together, to keep our children safe and sound, please share this message with your child. We will reinforce this with our classes.



## Late entry:

We know the challenges of getting multiple children and their luggage to school: the racing heart, reluctant feet and superhuman powers of resistance even a small child can employ to avoid being strapped in. If mornings are regularly a rush and you worry about the impact this has on your child (we all know the feeling of going into room where everyone is already settled), please call and discuss this with your child's class teacher or me, and we will do all we can to support you. **Please note that we open the gates from 8.40am and that all children should be in class, ready to learn, by 8.50am. Teachers have to mark any child, who comes into class after 9am, as late in the register.**

## Covid:

Following the ongoing review of our risk assessment, as explained in my email on Thursday, I ask that we all take the following *temporary measures* to reduce unnecessary mixing and meeting:

- Our Collective Worship will move online, including our Celebration this Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January. Parents or carers of those children receiving a Star of the Week Award will be informed how to log on to Google Meet.
- Teachers will review and adjust some activities, so that resources and children do not move between classes unnecessarily. Children will be reminded of sensible precautions like hand washing and safe space.
- Children in Breakfast and After School Club will be asked to sit with their class, or Key Stage, unless outside. Some clubs, such as choir, will be temporarily suspended.
- If you are coming into school for a pre-arranged meeting, please take a LFT the morning before. You may be offered - and you are free to request - an online meeting or phone call instead. All parents, carers and visitors need to wear a mask onto the premises as usual, and continue to respect safe distancing at the gates and beyond.
- Carefully consider your child's activities in the next few weeks and take reasonable precautions to reduce their mixing and meeting outside school as much as possible. E.g: If your child uses the play park, avoid crowded times and places and use hand sanitiser before and after.

These changes aim to prevent further spread and disruption to all our lives. We will review them weekly and hope they will not need to be in place for long. Please remember, you must report a positive LFT via the Government site: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> **Please send us a copy of the confirmation text or email for our records.** You will need this evidence for an isolation note, and if you have to claim financial support payments.



## School Census Day – Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> January

It is School Census Day next Thursday and the funding we receive for the year for Universal Infant Free School Meals is dependent on how many Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children have a hot school meal on that day. If your child is in these year groups and does not normally have a hot school meal, please could you try and encourage them to try one on that day. It is a roast dinner with turkey as the meat followed by jelly and fruit. A vegetarian option is available or jacket potato and a filling of your choice; tuna, cheese or beans. Please let Mrs Davey know on Monday if your child would like a meal on that day if they usually have a packed lunch on Thursdays.

Lorna Legg

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