

Offwell C of E Primary School

Our Core Values: Honesty, Loyalty, Caring, Sharing and Forgiveness.



Dear Friends and Families of Offwell,

Highlights of the Week:

Ash: Drawing pictures and writing notes with our special snowflake pens, in our Frozen palace, before posting them to Elsa and Anna....and getting replies back from them!

Willow: Mixing various things with water to find out what happens and tasting disgusting food (like celery)!

Beech: Finding out the results of our experiments and doing our plaque reveal.

Oak: Our work on 'Holes' by Louis Sachar and our links with Mexico.



This week, I would like to share some of our children's steps at each stage on a particular learning journey in Maths, beginning with the brilliant mathematicians in Ash class. Our Reception children are able to count two sets of toy animals accurately, then count both sets to find out how many there are altogether, and write each number sentence clearly, using the plus and equals signs! If they haven't already, I know they would love to show you.

Willow class children have been learning about multiplication (ask to see their cool cross sign!) as repeated addition of sets of the same size e.g: $2 + 2 + 2 = 2 \times 3$, so they understand what multiplication means. They will find the link between multiplication and division ($2 \times 3 = 6$, so how many 2s in 6?) and look for patterns and sequences. Learning the 2, 5 and 10 times tables off by heart (they need to know the whole fact e.g: 2×7 , or 6×5 , with instant recall) will really help your child onto the next stage in their journey.

In Beech, Year 3 and 4 pupils are tackling multiplication using a range of methods at each stage: as well as reinforcing their times tables knowledge, they are learning what happens when you multiply by multiples of ten (e.g: $3 \times 10 = 30$, $30 \times 10 = 300$ etc). To tackle larger numbers, they have used the grid method to partition two digit times two digit numbers, so they can keep track of each part of the calculation, before applying this understanding to the long, then short methods of multiplication.

Our students in Oak will have been recapping on earlier stages of learning and are currently multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100 and 1000, as well as some pupils branching out into ratio - I'm sure they'd love to explain! Here is a report by Hattie, on the Maths Enrichment at HCC:

"For the past two weeks, Isla, Abi M, Chloe, Hattie, Ben, Clem and Noah have been representing our school by going to Honiton Community College. We have gained lots of knowledge about maths and will be going again next week and for three weeks in March. We all give special thanks to our parents for taking us to this lovely opportunity."

When you think back to those first steps on this journey: at home, and counting and mark-making in Nursery, to their growing abilities at each stage, it is a wonderful testament to the support they have had throughout their lives so far.



Friday, 21st January 2022

Stars of the Week

Ash- Iola

Willow – Lacey

Beech – Genevieve & Marley

Oak – Lucas, Elliott H & Beth

House Points

Attenborough: 154 **Anning:** 133

Well done Attenborough!



The Torbay and Devon Award

Speaking of journeys, Faber's 5km run over Dartmoor was a great success, and he has managed to raise over £200 for his chosen charity: Devon Air Ambulance. Fantastic, Faber!

Next, Clem is going to be biking 200km between now and May for Cats' Protection – Cycling for the Cats! - We wish him well.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cl emsmegamiles

Thai Street Food -Saturday Jan 22nd

at the club, being prepared and cooked in the Jubilee room, either take away or eat in, bar open. Please look at the menu and order in advance by phone on Friday or Saturday. We look forward to seeing you all again this year. Please be Covid aware.

Ann Richards, Secretary Offwell Sports and Social Club.

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Covid Update

Director of Public Health Devon advises caution in response to PM's statement

The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has outlined his [intention for the country to return to 'Plan A'](#), in moves to keep coronavirus rates as low as possible.

[In a statement to the House of Commons](#), he said:

"Today's latest ONS data shows clearly that infection levels are falling in England. And while there are some places where **cases are likely to continue rising, including in primary schools**, our scientists believe it is likely that the Omicron wave has now peaked nationally."

[Responding to the statement](#), Steve Brown, Devon's Director of Public Health, said:

"While we have seen a reduction in the overall number of people reporting a positive test in the past week, numbers are now stabilising, and we are seeing increased rates in younger children.

Case rates are still high and it is important that people understand that this announcement is not one of 'freedom day', but a reverting back to plan A.

Devon's uptake of the vaccination is good, with more than 85 per cent of eligible people overall now having had their booster. However, take-up of the booster is lower in some younger age groups, and it's imperative that they and everyone who is eligible for their booster jab, comes forward as soon as they can. Omicron is by no means a mild virus, and the symptoms to those who are unvaccinated or who have underlying health concerns can be extremely serious if not life threatening.

So while the Prime Minister is indicating light towards the end of the tunnel, my advice is that we are not yet out of the woods. We must stay vigilant and alert to risk that is still around us.

Being fully vaccinated, and boosted, gives us best protection from this virus. It's not too late to start vaccinations, and there are now plenty of opportunities in Devon to get your booster jabs at walk-in and vaccination centres.

Wearing face coverings is still an effective and sensible precaution to continue in indoor and crowded spaces, especially with people you don't know.

Regular lateral flow device testing for people with no symptoms is still the best way to identify those carrying the virus. As is taking a PCR test by people showing symptoms.

Keeping indoor spaces ventilated is a sensible precaution to reduce risk. And staying at home and avoiding others if you have symptoms of the virus or test positive for it, is still the most responsible way to avoid spreading it to others. ***Please be cautious, let's use our common sense, and continue to follow good basic public health advice.***

Please note, therefore, that we will retain our current measures, as set out in our latest risk assessment, for a further week, until the end of January, when we will review cases. We ask any adults visiting our school site to continue to wear a mask. This is to protect those who remain unvaccinated and prevent the disruption and illness that the virus could still currently cause. Thank you.

For the latest information on cases, nationally and locally, see/search this link: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>



The Little Book of Fairness

Introducing the concept of Fairtrade and Climate Change in a fun way, this booklet is perfect for use in the classroom, or for guided learning at home and with lots of activities to try. Shared Interest is an ethical investment organisation which aims to alleviate poverty by helping people in remote and disadvantaged communities, to trade and earn a living. **Thank you to Bishop Oliver, our Vice Chair of Governors, for sharing this.**

<https://www.shared-interest.com/gb/little-book-of-fairness>

Church Quiz Night

Quiz Night to raise funds for St Mary's Church, Offwell. Friday 11th February in the Village Hall. 6.30 for a 7 p.m. start. There will be a bar. Teams of 4 - 6 people (we can always find some new friends for you if you can't make up a team). £6 per head to include a Ploughman's Supper. Plenty of free parking and disabled facilities. Contact Marion on 01404 8310055 Phyllis on 01404 831520 Jonathan 01404 831450

Lorna Legg

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