

# 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:** Counting out pennies to pay for hot chocolates from our take away stall and testing out fabrics to discover which made the warmest winter gloves.

**Willow:** Learning the alphabet order; especially watching the Hey Duggee Alphabet song.

**Beech:** Circuit training in PE and practising scoring goals in football.

**Oak:** Playing our Mayan ball game – Pok-Ta-Pok – where the losers get sacrificed to the gods!



This week, children across our school have been busy learning all kinds of things, but I am going to focus on Holocaust Day. This was an opportunity for Oak Class to reflect on how inhuman some humans can be to other humans and realise why empathy and equality are so important for a better future for all. 'People make choices and choices make history' is the memorable phrase used in the introductory video on the Facing History site:

<https://www.facinghistory.org/why-facing-history>

The extract, below, is from a letter written by a Headteacher to all teachers, after what he had seen:

*"Dear Teacher:*

*I am a survivor of a concentration camp. My eyes saw what no (hu)man should witness...*

*My request is: Help your students become human.*

*Your efforts must never produce learned monsters, skilled psychopaths, educated Eichmanns. Reading, writing, arithmetic are important only if they serve to make our children more human."*

Many people believe that the best way to achieve a better future is through an education that values not only human achievements, but also the spirit that ignites and unites us all.

Our new display on learning is gradually taking shape, so when it is possible for you to come into school more freely, I hope it will give you some ideas to discuss with your child. It might also make you think about learning yourself. Perhaps you have reflections on how you learned best that could help your child; or maybe you have always wanted to do some further study; or finally tackle some areas of your education that you never really understood.



Repair Shop presenter, Jay Blades, is featuring in a BBC documentary which follows his journey, as he learns to read at 51. I was so impressed by his bravery. He has struggled to cover this up all his life, but now wants to overcome his fear, so he can read to his daughter. He shares each step towards success, with the support of a reading coach. If you have decided this year that you are going to take your learning on to the next level, you could contact Read Easy for coaching: <https://readeasy.org.uk/>, or, to study further: <https://www.open.ac.uk/>



Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Stars of the Week

**Ash-** Hetty

**Willow** – Harry

**Beech** – Marley

**Oak** – Abigail & Finley M

## House Points

**Attenborough:** 48 **Anning:** 43

Well done Attenborough!



## Big Garden Bird Watch

This does not just mean watching the biggest birds in your garden, or that you have to have a big garden, but it is the biggest survey of birds undertaken. Take part! [Big Garden Birdwatch](#) | [The RSPB](#)

This is a Goldfinch:

<https://www.birdspot.co.uk/britis-garden-birds>

# Offwell C of E Primary School

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



## Playing in the Park

To have a wonderful play park so close to school is clearly a great asset to our children. However, if the weather and ground conditions are unsuitable before school, please consider our carpets! I ask this, because several children are regularly coming to school wet and muddy, having played in the park before school.

In addition, on several occasions, events that have occurred at the play park the day before have been reported to us. It is almost impossible for us to work out what has happened, but the fallout can have a negative effect on relationships in class for days afterwards. So, if you notice that your child has fallen out with another, please intervene to peacefully resolve any problems with them and their parents at the time, to avoid any issues arising later. If this proves impossible, feel let us know, so we can be prepared.

## Smart Watches and similar devices:

Some of our children have been lucky enough to be given devices on which they can access messages and more. The full capabilities of different types of device can be difficult for us to identify, but we know that some have the ability to send and receive messages, record and take images, as well as access the internet and use GPS. These abilities are amazing, and will be of great benefit in some contexts, but they pose significant problems for use in school for several reasons.

We cannot be held responsible for the loss or damage of items brought into school. There have been examples of misuse in other schools, affecting either the user, or others. Any mobile device with internet access requires supervision for primary aged children and we already provide internet access via Chromebooks and devices which have suitable protections for use in school. As a result, to avoid any future confusion, we ask that children do not wear them to school. Digital or analogue watches which just tell the time or date are always welcome. I hope you appreciate why we have taken this decision, but if you have any questions, please get in touch.

## Covid Update

In line with the NHS, most transport and shops, while we are still experiencing the effects of Covid in our population, I ask that you continue to use face masks on school premises and in any crowded areas, with people beyond your household.

So far, all our cases have originated from beyond school, so we will continue to use ventilation and hygiene, as well as masks and spacing when possible, to prevent the spread of Covid within school. If you receive a 'Warn and Inform' Letter, due to a case in your child's class, please make sure you are testing daily and act accordingly, to make sure we can continue to protect those who may be vulnerable and prevent disruption to your home or school.

Lorna Legg

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

## Headlice

We have had a couple of cases of head lice reported in Oak and Ash classes this week. Please could you check your child/children's heads (even if not in Oak or Ash) over the weekend and treat if necessary before they return to school? Thank you.

## Honiton Rugby Club

Please see attached flyer. They are looking for girls and boys in years 2 and 3 to join them.