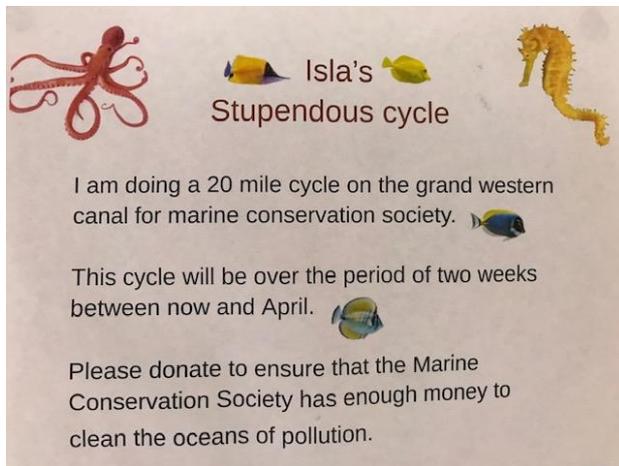


18th February 2022

Dear Families and Friends,

As you will know, along with many other local schools, we had to take the decision to close, due to a warning of severe weather. We hope that you have been able to stay safe and we look forward to welcoming you back after half-term. Teachers have posted work onto Google Classroom, which children can access to keep them busy. Our Stars of The Week will be saved for the week we return.

Our Year 6 students continue to amaze us with their commitment and compassion for others. This week, Isla is asking for donations for The Marine Conservation Society, and Faber, Clem, Abi M and Hattie are mentioned in The Midweek Herald for their efforts! We are so proud of you all.



Isla's Stupendous cycle

I am doing a 20 mile cycle on the grand western canal for marine conservation society.

This cycle will be over the period of two weeks between now and April.

Please donate to ensure that the Marine Conservation Society has enough money to clean the oceans of pollution.



OUTSTANDING NEWS midweekherald.co.uk **3** Wednesday February 2, 2022

Youngsters in running for volunteering awards

Running, cycling and even having their hair cut off were among charity fundraisers staged by youngsters at an East Devon primary school.

Five students from Year 6 at Offwell Primary School are taking part in the Torbay Civic Awards this year, which recognise the volunteering efforts of young people.

Among them is Faber, a keen runner, who chose to support Devon Air Ambulance by completing a 5km run across Dartmoor.

"I know the Devon Air Ambulance saves lots of lives and, particularly if you are running in areas like Dartmoor, they can be the quickest means of rescue if you trip and fall," he said.

Faber completed his run in just over 30 minutes and has so far collected £210 which he has handed into the DAA shop in Houlton.

Clem is cycling for cats, intending to cycle more than 300km by the end of May in aid of the Cats Protection League.

"I love cats and I hope that every pound I raise will help many other cats find new homes and get another chance in life and be as loved as our cat, Mittens," he said.

Hattie raised £240 by agreeing to have her very long hair all cut off.

The money raised was donated to The Little Princess Trust, which makes wigs for children who lose their hair when undergoing chemotherapy.

And Abigail collected empty crisp packets which were sent off to The Iron Man, an organisation that converts the packaging to blankets for homeless people.

The Torbay Civic Awards were founded in 2006 by ex-teacher

ADAM MANNING
adam.manning@herald.co.uk

teacher Karen Thomson.

Each child completes a range of community and citizenship activities in school and at home: takes part in active hobbies and outdoor adventures and, most importantly, adopts a cause or charity of their choice.

Lorna Legg, headteacher at Offwell, said: "I'm proud of all the children's achievements in rising to the challenge of the Torbay & Devon Civic Award and for being prepared to devote their personal time in support of charitable organisations.

"I am impressed by the growing organisational skills of our children, and the effort, enterprise and compassion they show in committing to this initiative."

Owned by and for the people of Devon

Faber ran 5km across Dartmoor to raise money for Devon Air Ambulance

Picture: OFFWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Covid Update:

Regardless of any wider changes, we will take advice from SAGE (The Government's scientific advisory body) and look at our own school situation, concerning any ongoing protections that may need to be in place in school after half term.

This week should provide a good break and prevent further spread of Covid, especially if families **take care to test regularly and avoid close contact** with people who may not be taking the same precautions. If we have no further reports of Covid in the school population, we hope to return to relatively normal routines, although we ask that you remain vigilant and considerate of others at school.

If you, your child, or a family member have *any* symptoms of Covid, however, you should isolate, arrange for a PCR test and let us know the result, please. If you or a family member tests positive using a LFT, please report it and tell us, so we can protect others.

Covid is thankfully experienced by most, if vaccinated, as a relatively mild illness, but it is not the same as a cold or flu, and can have lasting effects on various parts of the body in those affected.

Immunisation for 5 to 11 year olds

All 5-11 year olds are now eligible for Covid vaccination. Since December, this was available to recognised clinical risk groups or where they have continuing, unavoidable close contact with individuals of any age who are immunosuppressed. Paediatricians and GPs will make contact with you directly to arrange for vaccinations, if your child is eligible.

Parents of children over 5, who are not vulnerable, can also opt to have their child immunised, to protect them from the impact of future infection, although vulnerable groups will naturally take priority.

Learning:

Our **Learn Well** display is up in the entrance corridor. It sets out to answer the questions: 'How do we Learn?' and 'Why do we Learn?', as shared last week.

Together For Devon - Lets get chatting 'padlet' has learning resources for parents of 3-5 yr olds in one place, including Hungry Little Minds, Tiny happy people

etc: <https://padlet.com/TogetherForDevonAntenatalto5/3to5>



[Let's Get Chatting for 3 to 5 year olds - Padlet](https://padlet.com/TogetherForDevonAntenatalto5/3to5)

Supporting Devon parents with key messages about speech, language and communication for their 3-5 year old child

padlet.com

A vital aspect of **learning well** is to develop fluent recall of key facts - e.g: Number Bonds, times tables, phonemes or high frequency words - so that your child has ready access to them when needed. This gives them the capacity to draw on this information, if it is held in long term memory, so they can hold several facts in their working memory and use them to, say, read *and* understand a story, or work out how much they will have left over from a pound if they buy six sweets worth 20p each.

If you would like your child to become fluent in recognising common words, or learn number bonds off by heart, you should find these links useful:

<https://wordwall.net/en-gb/community/first-5-high-frequency-words-pairs-game>

<https://wordwall.net/en-gb/community/number-bonds>

[Number bonds - Teaching resources](#)

Number Bonds to 10 - number bonds to 20 - Number bonds to 10 match up KS1 -
Number bonds to 10 - number bonds to 20 - number bonds to 100 - number bonds

wordwall.net



Stay safe and see you on Monday 28th February.

Lorna Legg