

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: Learning about construction vehicles and sorting different types of materials for our building site.

Willow: Our castle tour. This was amazing; we paid for a ticket and saw the moat, all the different parts of the castle and learned all about the people who worked there.

Beech: Making faces in orienteering in PE!

Oak: Netball shooting practice in PE!



With our ongoing focus on **learning**, even as we navigate the residual complexities of Covid and international conflict (see last week's newsletter for support with this), it is important to remember how much we can learn from playing and how helpful it can be to our wellbeing – perhaps, especially, when times are tough.

As toddlers, children first understand that they have to share (one of our values: the focus for our Collective Worship this week, led by Ash Class) when another child wants to play with the same toy. Snatching the toy usually results in tears and then we have to say that most difficult word: sorry. So, slowly, most of us learn the important lesson that taking turns and good manners help us all to get along. Later, playing rules-based team games help us to follow instructions, wait our turn and manage our emotions when things don't go our way... (certain world leaders clearly need more of this).



Play also accelerates language development: '...by playing together children learn how to pay attention and listen to the people in their lives. Through play, they learn important pre-reading skills, including the way that stories work – with beginnings, middles, and ends.'

<http://Research-to-policy - How play-supports-early-brain-development>

The fascinating fact is that play helps our brains to develop; without social interaction children's brains do not grow so quickly or so well (see our entrance display for more details). So, the next time you are contemplating whether or not to play a game with your child, because they (or you!) hate losing, remember how vital it is to their development, and perhaps how vital it is for the future, that our children learn to wait, manage their emotions, share, take turns and use their words.

Play Activities to develop early social skills:

<https://www.positiveaction.net/blog/social-skills-activities-and-games-for-kids>

Play activities for developing early knowledge of number:

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/supporting-numeracy/introduction-to-supporting-numeracy/>



Friday, 11th March 2022

Stars of the Week

Ash- Ellsie

Willow – Oliver F & Toby M

Beech – Toby W & Thomas

Oak – Faber

House Points

Attenborough: 56 Anning: 56
Well done both teams – a draw!

Comic Relief – Red Nose Day - March 18th

The School Council have decided that a special non-uniform day should be held for Red Nose Day, when you are challenged to wear as much red as you can (to go with your nose!). Red Noses will be sold each day of next week at a cost of £1.50. At least 75p from each nose will go to the causes that Comic Relief supports. They are 'green' red noses, made from bagasse, a biodegradable by-product of sugar cane!

Collective Worship

Next week we are hoping to go back to holding our Celebration Collective Worship in church. This will be at 2.30pm and we will advise you if you are invited to attend (if your child is star of the week).

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Tuesday 8th March was **International Women's Day**. However, every day is a good day to:

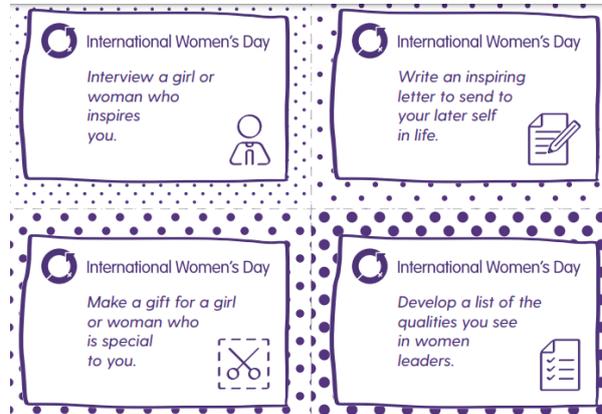
- Celebrate women's achievements.
- Raise awareness of bias.
- Take action for equality.

Imagine an equal world.

A world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can create this world.

Here is a sample of some of the resources available on the website:

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>



Support for Ukraine: Well done to Robin and Rowan, who were *really* busy at the weekend, sorting through items donated for Ukraine, showing great compassion for others, for five hours! As their Mum says:



'I am feeling really proud of how helpful and kind they were today ... I am grateful they are learning the importance of compassion and kindness from school as well'

We are very proud of you too, boys.

Currently, the main charities ask that people make financial donations, due to the huge amounts of items which have been so kindly donated recently. As Rowan and Robin would tell you, it takes a lot of time and people to sort through things, to make sure they are good enough and meet the needs of people in very difficult situations. I am sure this advice will change over time, but for now, please

send donations to: <https://act.refugeecouncil.org.uk/donation/donate-help-refugees-rebuild-their-lives>

COVID-19 vaccine - Children aged 5 to 11 years who are in a clinical risk group or who live with someone who is immunosuppressed can now get their first vaccination. Vaccinations help to increase protection against COVID-19, which is particularly important for those with underlying health conditions. Further information is available in the [guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years](#) published by UKHSA. They have published some [frequently asked questions](#) on the vaccination programme including information on eligibility, accessibility and advice for parents of children at high risk from COVID-19. Following [advice](#) from the JCVI, healthy 5 to 11 year old children will also be offered two 10 microgram doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The NHS will prepare to extend this non-urgent offer to all children during April.

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



Our Chair of Governors, Ian Wallace, celebrated a major achievement recently. As part of the leadership team of the IT department at Exeter College, he collected the Queen's Anniversary Prize for their work with digital technology, including the introduction of T levels and eSports as well as the vital work Mr Wallace was involved with: writing new programs. The evening was amazing, he said, and it was hosted in the Guildhall in London, where the team sat next to Oxford University professors, who were receiving a Prize for their work with the COVID vaccine!

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

<https://www.queensanniversaryprizes.org.uk/winners/national-impact-in-digital-educational-technology/>

Appeal for Top Soil or Turf

Does anyone have access to any free/cheap top soil or turf? Our trim trail has been repaired and enhanced for safety purposes with non-slip strips added and we now need a new grass surface to go underneath. Turf would be better as if we use top soil and grass seed, this would prevent the children using it for a while.

Nuts

A reminder that your child/children should not be bringing in nuts to school to eat at lunchtime/breaks. We have a child who has a severe allergy to nuts and others with less severe allergies.