

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 the Green Cross Code from Balamory and starting to build our own colourful town from cereal boxes.

Willow: Describing the bearded dragon that came to visit. Thank you to Brendon's mum.

Beech: Miss Searle starting and we enjoyed sharing the core value of 'honesty' in assembly.

Oak: Continuing our learning of polar explorers.

Learning is always central to our days, and last week I was able to look in on every class:

I had the joy of visiting Ash Class, who were writing clear, helpful sentences for Nursery children, so they can build strong brick walls (to keep that big, bad wolf out!). They were carefully sounding out the sounds in turn, to spell each word and forming their letters with concentration.

Also this week, to my delight, I was invited into Willow class, where I heard children reading their sentences about dragons, which all started with a capital letter, ended with a full stop and made sense (with thanks to a Willow pupil, who brought in their Komodo Dragon, Storm, to inspire their writing).



In Beech, the class were preparing to write an informative leaflet on walking. Having watched a film about walking in The Brecon Beacons,

they were able to read loads of fun facts and useful tips for any walker and identified the features of a really engaging text, such as fronted adverbials – please ask them about them (and then feel free to ask us!), before writing their own.

Meanwhile, in Oak, the children are finding out about Shackleton and Amundsen, so they can imagine themselves, as writers of diary entries, freezing in a tent, setting out a vivid recount of their Arctic exploration. They are chilling!

They were all so very proud of themselves for all their learning and endeavours, and I want them to know that we are very proud of them, too!

Welcome to our latest Exeter University trainee teacher, Miss Searle, who will be teaching alongside Miss Kirkland in Beech Class. We look forward to getting to know her and wish her the very best for her time with us. We have said fond goodbyes to our two trainee teachers in Willow, at the end of last week. They have given so much creativity and care to the children in their class during their first practice. Miss Hurst and Miss Hellier shared what a welcoming and warm school we are and Miss Searle has already commented on how well behaved our children are. This is great to hear and we really value the contributions of our trainees, who always bring new ideas and enthusiasm, while making us consider how best we can demonstrate the full range of strategies, making it a truly reciprocal learning relationship.



Friday, 25th March 2022

Stars of the Week

Ash- lola

Willow – Theo

Beech – Oliver & Serge

Oak – Starr

House Points

Attenborough: 52 Anning: 48

Well done Attenborough!

Class Photographs

Your recent Group photograph is now ready to view and purchase at <https://http.st/offwellprimary> There will be a free "deliver to school" option open for just a few days, otherwise home delivery is available for £5 postage and packing.

If you need assistance please call 01736 751555 (option 3) or click on contact us on the home page.

Many thanks, Tempest Photography

Parents' Meetings

We have set aside dates for Parents' Evenings for Oak, Beech and Willow Classes during the week beginning 4th April and invitations for you to give us a day and time will be sent out early next week so please keep an eye out for it.

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Next week sees the start of **World Autism Acceptance week** (28 March -3rd April). One of our parents has written about this, to share the information they have found and I am very pleased to share it with you:

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world. One in 100 people are on the autism spectrum and there are around 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK (source: National Autistic Society). It's a spectrum condition which means that it varies differently for each person and girls can present differently to boys, however there are a few common difficulties that autistics may share-

- Social communication and interaction challenges
- Repetitive and restrictive behaviour
- Over or under sensitivity to senses - light, sound, taste and touch
- Highly focused interests or hobbies
- Extreme Anxiety
- Meltdowns or shutdowns

Most of these will become barriers to learning, currently the statistics are that only 21.7% of employed adults are autistic (source: Ambitious about Autism).

Autism can be a hidden disability, you may not realise that a friend at school or work is struggling with a situation, sometimes they may do things that you might not want to or expect. This is particularly hard for some of us to understand. We can try to be flexible, give them time and understanding and accept them for who they are.

We can really listen to them so that they feel supported and inclusive. Here, some autistic children and young people explain what it feels like and what we can do to help them.

- "Speak slower, have pictures to help me"
- "Don't try to change autistic people, accept their differences"
- "The hardest thing about living with autism is that most people remember me by my meltdowns rather than what I'm good at. It upsets me because I'm more than a person with problems and I wish people will just see that"
- "Be a friend, include me in what you do don't exclude me it's not always true that I want to be on my own"
- "Help me to use my words but if I can't, don't pressurise me because sometimes I just can't"

Despite the challenges, some autistic people have used their strengths to enable them to find success in their respective fields. Certainly with the right support they inspire us all to show that anything is possible.

- Chris Packham, tv presenter, naturalist and writer
- Greta Thunberg - Environmental Activist
- Dr Temple Grandin, Scientist, Animal Behaviourist and author
- Satoshi Tajiri - Creator of Pokémon

Further information on Autism and World Autism Acceptance week can be found on the National Autistic Society website www.autism.org.uk

Thai Food

Thai food this Saturday March 26, cooking from 5.30-8.00pm. Bar open 5.30pm. Eat your food in or takeaway, come and see our lovely new veranda. Open Friday night bar at 6.00pm and bar again on Sunday 12 noon until late afternoon.

Offwell Sports and Social Club

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