

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: Art week for everyone!

Art Week has been a real journey of discovery. From art in our own school, to a local artist, to art redolent of the South of France, to a round-the-world mural artist, we have explored, learned and discovered beauty everywhere.

We have been able to continue our Mosaic, started last year, which commemorates our Houses: Attenborough and Anning, through art. The ammonites represent Mary Anning, a brave and resourceful local woman, who now has a statue in Lyme Regis you can visit over the summer, where you can discover more about fossils in the nearby Museum and find your own fossils on the beach. The sea represents David Attenborough, a wonderful advocate for nature, whose landmark series 'The Blue Planet' woke up so many to the impact of human activity on our environment.

Gillian Burbridge, fabric artist, came in and amazed us, not only with her gorgeous, deeply textured, jewel-like felted fabrics, but also with the depth of knowledge she shared with each class. We were fascinated by the different ways animal fur, fibres and hair work at a microscopic level, and how this allows wool, under certain conditions, to be felted and combined with other materials. Each child was able to create their own piece of fabric art, which I hope has been shared with you.

Vincent Van Gogh's famous Sunflowers painting was used as the inspiration for an activity undertaken by each class, where a vase of sunflowers was taken to each class in turn, for them to paint. This allows Miss Kirkland, our Leader of Art and organiser of Art Week, to see the progression of children's artistic abilities across the whole school. We hope to share these via the Flower Show in September. The children also looked at the work of Henri Matisse, and I am sure you will enjoy their colourful portraits, inspired by his collage works.



Our children have also been learning about bees – how important they are – and have cooperated to create posters, some of which will be entered into a competition to be judged by Devon Bee Keepers. One entrant from Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 has been chosen to put forward for the chance to win a ticket to the Honiton Show for themselves and a member of their family. The children were fascinated by the work of campaigning artist, Matthew Willey, who is travelling across the world, painting murals of bees on a myriad of surfaces, such as walls and trucks. He aims to paint 50,000 bees! You can see his work and why he does it here: <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/articles/artist-painting-thousands-honey-bees-murals-world>

Our thanks go to Miss Kirkland and Mrs Holohan, who helped staff to provide these exciting activities. Through them, we can see our children gaining valuable life skills: perception, creation, confidence, problem solving and a sense of achievement. The ability to create can have positive implications – so our children can **Live well** – opening up possible future career pathways, and supporting wellbeing for life.



Friday, 8th July 2022

Stars of the week:

Reception – Lola
Willow – Harry
Beech – Cohen, Amelia
Oak – All of them!

Next week:

Monday; HLC Games – some KS2
Tuesday; Willow Trip - Exmouth
Wednesday; Oak Swimming
Thursday; Story & Rhyme -Ash
Friday; Ash trip to woods



House Points

Attenborough: 89 Anning: 89
A draw, well done both teams!

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Reports and SATS

Year 6 (Key Stage 2) and Year 2 (Key Stage 1) children took the national curriculum tests in May. Year 1 children also took the Phonics Test and Year 4 sat the Multiplication Tables Check online. This was the first time in three years, after the tests were cancelled in 2020 and 2021, due to the Covid pandemic.

We are incredibly proud of what our pupils have achieved this year - even taking into account the disruption we have all faced for the past two years. Our oldest pupils, who have been with us the longest, have achieved well compared to National averages, being in line with National for Writing and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (better than before the pandemic), with high levels of Greater depth, and well above National for Reading and above for Maths. Results are not being shared via 'League Tables' this year, due to the context of the pandemic.

Results will be shared with children in Year 6 today, and then with parents and carers as usual. Parents and guardians will receive their child's score with information on whether or not they are reaching the expected standards.

These scores are useful for statistical purposes, but of far more use will be the recommendations from your child's class teacher about their skills, successes, next steps and specific needs, and what support over the summer will help them to do even better in September. This will be shared in your child's report, which will be sent out on Friday 22nd July.

KS1 children (Year 2), will receive their teacher's assessments, based on whether they are currently Below, At, or Above Age Related Expectations. For them and our Year 1 pupils, next year will, we hope, be their first 'normal' year of school, given three months' disruption to both Nursery and Reception, as well as illness and attendance issues this Spring. This is evident in our Phonics results, which indicate that a number of our children need (and get) regular, targeted support to ensure they can read confidently by the end of Year 2. We look forward to seeing the impact of our new reading scheme for our younger children. Your help, in reading with and to your child over the summer, will be really important for them – try Frog and Toad Books, or similar, where they can read initially one or two words (and/the/frog), while still being able to enjoy the story with you. Please see this guide on Phonics for parents of children in Reception next year: https://www.sounds-write.co.uk/sites/soundswrite/uploads/files/47-sounds_write_leaflet_for_yr_parents.pdf

While preparation for exams is helpful to older children, some question the impact on young children's wellbeing. Key Stage 1 tests are always held as informally as possible. However, next year, KS 1 tests will no longer be compulsory, allowing Headteachers to choose whether they want to test seven-year-olds or not. I would be very interested in your opinions on this. The governors and I will be sending out a questionnaire at the end of term and I ask that as many of you as possible share your thoughts: we need and value your feedback – it helps us to know what we do well (everybody likes to know their efforts are appreciated), as well as what we can do to improve. Like you, because we care, our aim is to always do the very best for your child.



School Meals

We are sending home a menu effective upon our return in September. A reminder that if your child is moving into Year 3, you will have to pay for their meal unless you receive free school meals for financial reasons. To check whether you are eligible and to claim visit: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals/>

If you are not eligible, the cost is £2.50 per day which can be paid through Parentpay. If your child will be having a meal, we will assume they will have the main choice unless you tell us any different. We have to order meals the week before so it is important we know in advance by at least one week. If your child is not always having the main choice, please go through the menu with your child which is on a 3 week rolling programme and mark on what choice your child is having and when they will be having a packed lunch. Thank you in advance!



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Music Lessons

If you are interested in your child learning an instrument in school with one of our peripatetic music teachers, please enquire and we will put you in touch with them. We can offer brass instrumental tuition as well as recorders, guitars and keyboard. Mrs Denning will be visiting Beech Class with some of the children who learn with her to play for them and Mrs Miller will be accompanying us to church next Thursday with some of her students to play during Collective Worship. We also have a 'Music in the Playground' session of brass players visiting school on Tuesday, 19th July organised by the Devon County Schools' Music Service. Hopefully, watching these performances will inspire some of our children to take up learning a new instrument in September which can be a delight for life. If you would like further information, please ask.

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

