

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: Our trip to Offwell Woods with Penny, the Forest Ranger.

Willow: Rock pooling on the beach and seeing the amazing lifeboats.

Beech: Making electrical circuits using playdough.

Oak: Creating nature islands from the playdough we made in school and writing messages in a bottle.

This week seems to have flown by!

Story and Rhyme Time was really well attended, and I had to stop myself from joining in with some familiar rhymes from my own childhood: '...when down came a blackbird and pecked off her nose!' On seeing a small, shocked face, Mrs Hunt quickly added, 'Don't worry; not really!'

Our **Ethos Group**, ably led by Mr Thomas, met to consider how our Collective Worship can be Inclusive, Invitational and inspirational. The children were full of ideas about their experiences and had very helpful insights into how we can include, invite and inspire them to fly into the future.

Sports Day

We set Sports Day (option 1) as the afternoon of Tuesday 19th July, with option 2 as the afternoon of Friday 22nd July. We are closely watching the forecast, as you can imagine, which still says, currently, that **Tuesday has an amber weather warning for extreme heat:**

[https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/forecast/gcj8zrxj8#?nearestTo=Offwell%20\(Devon\)&date=2022-07-19](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/forecast/gcj8zrxj8#?nearestTo=Offwell%20(Devon)&date=2022-07-19)

While we could find, on Monday, that the weather forecast changes for Tuesday (as it did for Willow's trip), I appreciate that this gives those who work a huge challenge when arranging time off, therefore, in consultation with staff, we will rearrange **Sports Day for Friday afternoon**. I do hope we have the opportunity to enjoy our first full Sports Day, all together again, at last – who knew sun would be the problem, this year?

This means that the final Celebration Collective Worship for the term will be in the morning at 9.30am. You will be advised if your child has won an award.

Top ways to stay safe in the heat:

- Look out for those who may struggle to keep themselves cool and hydrated. The very young and older people, those with underlying conditions and those who live alone are particularly at risk.
- Stay cool indoors: Close curtains on rooms that face the sun to keep indoor spaces cooler and remember it may be cooler outdoors than indoors.
- If going outdoors, apply sunscreen, wear a hat and share the shade.
- Drink plenty of water and take water with you when travelling.
- Never leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle, especially infants, young children or animals.
- Try to keep out of the sun between 11am to 3pm, when the UV rays are strongest.
- Avoid physical exertion in the hottest parts of the day.



Friday, 15th July 2022

Stars of the week:

Willow – All of them!

Beech – Nazar and Pavlo

Oak – Hattie, Isla, Crystal, Isabella and the House Captains

Next week:

Monday; Year 5/6 Rounders

Tuesday; Music in the Playground

Wednesday; Year 6 Leavers' Service

Friday; Sports Day, Celebration Collective Worship

House Points

Attenborough: 32 Anning: 27

Well done Attenborough!



An angelic Ella recently performed with her dance school at Ottery St Mary fete and West Hill fete. She also performed in Honiton as part of the Jubilee celebrations. What a great achievement, Ella!

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Attendance

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, I will be sending out letters this week to families where their child's attendance has dropped below the target of 95%. This is because this equals the equivalent of more than an hour a week and so can have an impact on learning.

We know that there has been a range of factors related to Covid, which have impacted on attendance in different ways. In some earlier cases, those who worked throughout the pandemic had been unable to spend time with loved ones. In more recent cases, there have been additional illnesses resulting from so long away from the usual sources of infection, therefore a much higher rate of sickness and colds has been evident. In recognition of this, I have been flexible where possible. I also know that some medical conditions will affect attendance and we will continue to be sensitive to this.

However, every school has a duty to ensure the highest possible attendance and parents have a legal duty too. Holidays during term time cannot be authorised next year unless your circumstances are exceptional, and there are certain terms when no leave can be authorised. Please get in touch if you have any ongoing concerns about your child's regular attendance, so that help can be discussed and continued absence at low rates does not incur further action. We need a fresh start back in September, so our children can continue to make the best progress possible.

Timing of the school day

Governors have been consulted about the timing of the school day. This is in response to Government encouragement to have all schools offering 6.5 hours a day. For our school, we need to add only five minutes to our current hours to meet this. Due to our buses following a strict timetable after school, the least disruptive change would be to add five minutes to our morning. Therefore, we propose a start time of 8.45am for September. Please let us know if this causes you any problems.

Note: a 'Late' is recorded in the register for any child after a set time (9 am). Gates will still open at 8.40am. We will still run Breakfast Club from 8am.

Survey

Our Governors have set out some questions to ask you, so that we can address any concerns you may have. This will come to you via email, so please look out for a link. If you have any safeguarding or other concerns, it is important that you tell us as soon as possible, so we can proactively safeguard all children from harm. We really value your thoughts and are always happy to meet you.



Awards

If your child is the holder of a termly or annual trophy, please could this be returned before next Friday? Thank you.

After School Provision

Parentpay will be updated during next week for attendance this ½ term so if you pay in this way, please visit the site later in the week to make payment.

A reminder there is NO WASP on the last day of term, Tuesday, 26th July although Early Morning Provision will still be available.



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Honiton Library Activities

Linda Isaacson came to church today to tell us all about the Library's Summer Reading Challenge:

Gadgeteers, Summer Reading Challenge 2022

Saturday 9th July - Saturday 10th September

Come into the library to join the challenge and receive your collector's folder and bookmark. Aim to read 6 books over the holidays and collect stickers along the way. When the challenge is complete, come into the library at any time to receive your medal and certificate and have your photo taken for our Wall of Fame in front of the Children's Library!

Trombone Success

Abi M, in Oak Class, has been learning the trombone with Mrs Denning in school and she found out yesterday that she passed her grade 2 on with Merit. Mrs Denning told her before she performed a solo on the Bandstand at Connaught Gardens, Sidmouth. Huge congratulations Abi!



Musical Instrument Performances

We have been enjoying the performances by the children who learn a musical instrument at school. They have played to other classes and in church yesterday.

If you are interested in your child learning a musical instrument and they will be going into Year 2 or above in September, please get in touch and we will put you in touch with one of our peripatetic music tutors.

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