

Offwell C of E Primary School

Our Core Values: Honesty, Loyalty, Caring, Sharing and Forgiveness.



Dear Friends and Families of Offwell,

A Life Well Lived

Today, we remember with respect and affection, the life of Queen Elizabeth II. She is the longest serving British monarch, was Head of State for fifteen countries and has been a figure of stability and service for as long as most of us can remember. Having recently celebrated her seventy years as queen - the Platinum Jubilee - with the children, it is right to reflect on her leadership and dedication and see the period of her reign as history in the making. Over the next few weeks, as part of Collective Worship, we will think about a life well-lived and what that means to us, as well as look forward to the future with King Charles III.



I hope you have all had a chance to enjoy the sunniest summer for a very long time. The change to Autumn has been sudden and wet, but it feels oddly reassuring to see mist and rain again. I extend a warm welcome to all: returning to a new year group, or a new class, or a completely new school - our new school year sees new children in all but one class.

We are delighted to welcome new families to Offwell. Our vision - for all children to: **Be Well**; **Learn Well**; **Live Well** - means we consciously aim to build good relationships, as we know they are central to teaching, learning and general wellbeing in life. This includes you: parents, carers and extended families, so please come in or get in touch if you have anything to ask or share.

Ash class has said 'Hello' to our new Nursery children, and the Reception children look so smart in their uniforms. They are learning about themselves and who we are, through their topic, Marvellous Me! They will have daily support to build social skills, practise motor skills, learn number sense and develop their language skills, using our new Phonics scheme – Sounds-Write. Parents and carers, you are actively encouraged to help and sessions will be offered to help you support your child.

In Willow, the new Year 1 children have settled well, guided by the (now) Year 2 children, who suddenly seem very grown up, even though their topic is 'Childhood'. They will be learning how toys from the past worked, how they differ from toys today and why they have changed. They will also have a visit from the Sidmouth Toy Museum, to share some of their wonderful resources. They will also be working on their number knowledge, plus building their reading, spelling and writing, using Sounds-Write.

Beech children, now in Year 3 and 4, began their new school year with an unexpected delight: dissecting owl pellets! Their topic, Predators, has already got them fascinated, and the pellets provided ample evidence of the tiny, timid prey that an owl hunts for each night – the food chain in action. They have also been learning to set out their maths calculations clearly, developing their reading, spelling and writing skills and setting up their class rules, routines and responsibilities, ready for the new year ahead.



9th September 2022

Stars of the week:

Reception – All of them!

Willow – Toby

Beech – Jessica L & Izabelle

Oak – All of them!

In Oak, our new Year 5 and 6 students are learning how European art has developed across the 19th and 20th centuries. They will then focus on specific artists to discover more about their influences and techniques. In Maths, they are developing rapid recall of multiplication facts and how to set out efficient longer multiplication calculations. For Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) this half term, they are exploring sleep – what it is, why we need it and how much we should have – more on this later. Time for us all to adjust to an earlier bedtime, as the evenings draw in.

In these areas, as in every way, your support makes all the difference: asking your child about their topic; reading a favourite book with your child; a few minutes each day of number or times tables practice; and ensuring a consistent bedtime – all will have a positive impact on your child's success in school.

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Sleep

As mentioned, Oak class are learning about sleep, which can be overlooked, but contributes to our health, both physical and mental, in almost every way:

- Emotional state and mood – sense of wellbeing and general resilience
- Alertness and attention – ability to concentrate and take in new information
- Recall of facts and vocabulary – ability to build and use long-term memory
- Overall academic performance – due to all of the above!
- Growth – especially during childhood and puberty
- General health – issues with immunity, blood pressure, obesity and later, heart disease, are increasingly linked to poor sleep patterns in childhood.

A consistent bedtime routine, which allows your child the right conditions to get to sleep and enough time for good quality sleep, is vital. Don't just take my word for it though, please check out these websites to find out more:

<https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/information-support/children/>
<https://www.sleepfoundation.org/children-and-sleep>

Contact Details

A reminder that you need to contact the office if you change any of your contact details including your mobile number, address or email address. If you are unsure of whether you have advised us of possible changes, please check.

Allergies

At the start of the school year and for the benefit of our new families, I need to remind everyone that we have some children with significant allergies, as well as to dairy and gluten, but also a particularly strong reaction to egg, so if you are making a packed lunch, or snack for your child, please be aware of this, especially in Oak Class. If you are considering bringing in food to share (e.g. for birthdays), please check with your child's class teacher first. If your child has an allergy, please let us know. Our School Lunch provider caters for a range of needs and can be very flexible.

Asthma and Lung UK, a charity, has produced a set of information for parents to help manage your child's asthma and share information with school. Please ask if you would like a copy of their School Asthma card, action plan and recovery plan. Let us know if your child has new medication, or no longer needs an inhaler, so we can meet their current needs.

PTFA

The Parent, Teacher and Friends Association has been a huge support over the years, running very enjoyable (and very competitive) online quizzes throughout the pandemic. This year, they are starting off with an exciting and unusual event, which will be a great opportunity for Offwell's families and friends to get together and put the 'fun' into fundraising!

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



Governors

We are recruiting! Please see the separate letter. We have vacancies for 3 parents. You may come with particular experiences in areas such as education, health, social services, finance, business etc., or you may simply have a sense of social responsibility and want to play your part in the running of our school. No particular qualifications are required, aside from the aspiration to help children to **Be Well**; **Learn Well**; **Live Well** at Offwell.

Village Events

Saturday 10th September.
Offwell Produce and Flower Show. Entries between 8.30 and 11 a.m. Viewing from 2.30. Prize Giving at 3.00 pm. Refreshments and raffle.

Saturday 10th September. Historic Churches Open Day at St Mary's Church 10.00am until 1.00 pm. Tours of the tower; learn about bell ringing. Refreshments available

Monday 26th September at 7.00 pm in St Marys Church. Licensing Service for our new vicar, Reverend Jeremy Putnam and to welcome him and his wife to the Parish. Light refreshments will be served after the service. All welcome

Friday 30th September.
Harvest Supper in the Village Hall. Bar opens at 6 pm. Supper served at 7.00 pm. Entertainment, a raffle and a hot supper. £10 per head for adults, £5 for children under 12, Please book your tickets in advance for catering purposes via 01404 831450, 831520 or 831478