

# 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:** Picking and eating apples from the tree in the Meadow.

**Willow:** Drawing robots for the Science Festival.

**Beech:** Our first tag rugby session on the field.

**Oak:** We started building a scrap book from scratch as part of becoming artists.

It always seems to come as a shock, but maybe even more so this year, when children who were in Year 2 when I first came as Headteacher, are now in Year 6. I suppose the reason that time seems to have shot by is obvious – along with the rest of the world, we spent two years in a state of alarm and uncertainty. Having gone through so much, and thinking we had reached the top of that particular mountain, we find we have to climb on even further and that most of us have to get by on even less than before.

During the pandemic, a generous friend to the families of Offwell donated funds to help families who were struggling at that time, to which we still have access.

Now, in some ways, the impact seems even more real. If your family is facing financial hardship, please do not struggle on alone. We can listen (in confidence), offer advice, and can either help, or help you to access support. Get in touch; we are still in this together.

In school, we can look forwards, with optimism, to another excellent year - last year, our Year 6 achieved better results than before the pandemic: in line with, or above National expectations. We have invested in a new Phonics Programme and new reading schemes to support our children throughout school and we are rediscovering the joys of school clubs, trips and visitors, with some inspirational ideas and events coming up. The future is everything we do from now on, so, let's work together to make it wonderful.

## Secondary School

**Exciting times are ahead for our Year 6 children**, who, alongside parents and carers, will be exploring where they will go for the next phase of their education. **Secondary places need to be requested by the end of October** ready for the end of Year 6. Applications for Colyton need to be requested earlier so the Year 5 children and parents need to start thinking about it during this academic year. Visit Colyton's website for more information.

Generally, exploring the website and checking on admissions guidance is a good first step, so that you know, if you are outside their catchment, what the admissions criteria are. Then, you can always call the school to arrange a visit, or find out when they are open to visits.

**HCC** is offering an Open Day / Evening on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The new Headteacher, Mr Kirkbride, is happy to meet with parents who would like to hear about what Honiton Community College will offer their children in the future. He is confident that they can deliver an exciting and successful future for all of the young people of Honiton.

## Clubs

Having returned to what we had hoped will be a relatively normal school year (leaving aside the recent news), staff have been asking children what their interests are, so we can reorganise the clubs we have enjoyed in previous years. We will share our offer in next week's newsletter.

## PE Hoodies

Several parents have asked for extra PE hoodies so another order will be sent off soon. Please have a look at the attached order form and send it in as soon as possible, by Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September if you would like to order one.



Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## Stars of the week:

Reception – Kai

Willow – Esme

Beech – Remy

Oak – Serge

## Next week:

**Monday; Bank Holiday – No school**

**Tuesday;** KS2 Cross Country (some children), WASP

**Wednesday;** WASP

**Thursday;** Story & Rhyme, WASP, Governing Board Meeting, Honiton Community College Year 6 Open Evening.

## House Points

**Attenborough: 81 Anning: 98**

Well done Anning. A good start!



## PTFA

Please see the attached flyer. The next event is a coffee morning on 26th September at 9am in the Village Hall to welcome new parents/carers and catch up with existing parents after the summer.

Raffle – These will be sent home soon. Please sell what you can and return any unsold tickets.

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## Phonics – Sounds-Write Scheme - Help your child learn to read and write

'Help your child to read and write' is an online course in two parts - and the first part is free! It's aimed specifically at parents and carers who are interested in putting their children on the first steps to literacy. Part 1 covers the first seven units of the Initial Code, and Part 2 covers units 8 to 11 inclusive. You can find the course by clicking on: <https://www.udemy.com/course/help-your-child-to-read-and-write/>

Please ask your child's teacher if you would like to know more. We know how important your support is in starting your child's reading off in the right way. However, if in doubt, read to them and, most of all, enjoy it! 😊

## Coming to school

Thank you all for your prompt arrival, despite the new, earlier time. This has been a real positive in terms of getting children learning as soon as possible, and is possibly helpful for those needing to get to work. However, a change in routine can be challenging, so if your child is experiencing any issues on returning to school, please let us know – we can and will help.

And leaving... We have gained many new families this year – who have settled so well already – even since our last newsletter, but we also have some families moving to closer schools. We know they go on with the excellent foundations they have gained at Offwell and we wish them all the best for the future.

## Information for new parents of children in Reception

[Information for parents: reception baseline assessment](#) has been made available to answer questions from parents. From this link you can access a booklet which sets out details of the assessments that are carried out over the first six weeks in Reception, with how, why and what happens, to reassure you.

## Torbay and Devon Civic Award

Our Year 6 children will already be familiar with the Award from last year, but this time it is their turn! There are many benefits: learning to work collaboratively and independently; skills of managing and organising events; building self-esteem; learning compassion; taking responsibility for positive change and building confidence in presentation skills. Working on the areas required in the Award has proven to be good preparation for secondary school.

Please take a look at the Civic Award website, [www.torbayanddevoncivicaward.co.uk](http://www.torbayanddevoncivicaward.co.uk) You will be able to see a picture of our successful candidates from last year and watch a video directed by and starring Clem – his sister Polly is already keen to exceed his efforts!

Mrs Holohan in Oak Class will be coordinating the Award and is happy to be available for advice, support and encouragement. A letter will be sent home in the early part of next week.

## Design a Robot Competition

Some of the children have been designing a robot in school for Sidmouth Science Festival. This is something the children may also want to do at home. Please see the attached information.

## Story and Rhyme

The next Story and Rhyme session in Ash Class is next Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 2.40pm. Everyone with children in Ash Class or pre school children is welcome to attend. Please pass this information to friends, neighbours, etc who may be interested.

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

## Offwell Flower Festival

The children all contributed to a display at last Saturday's Flower Show and the entries were judged by officials of the Show. The following children were awarded first, second or third in their year groups:

Year 6 (now at secondary school) – Isla (1<sup>st</sup>) Chloe (2<sup>nd</sup>) Starr (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Year 6 – Beth, Maisie, Daise

Year 5 – Elizabeth B, Tamara-May, Fiona

Year 4 – Ayla, Tilly P, Ethan

Year 3 – Aria, Lily, Tilly J

Year 2 – Poppy, Theo, Joseph

Year 1 – Hetty, Lola, Esme

Reception – Ellie, Skylar-Rae, Skylar J

These children will be awarded a certificate in Collective Worship and will also receive a small cash prize!

A huge well done to all the children. The entries were of a very high standard and the children should be very proud.

## Parent Governor Positions

As we are losing a school day next week, we will delay the closing date for the receipt of nominations for the 3 positions of Parent Governors at the school. We are also hoping to give you a chance to meet some of our present governors and find out a little more of what the role entails. Further information will follow. The closing date is now Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> September. We want to hear your voices and ideas. Please give it a go.

## Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September

As you will all probably be aware, Monday is now a bank holiday as it will be the Queen's funeral. There will, therefore, be no school on Monday. If your child usually attends a session on Monday in our nursery, we can offer a session to make up for this. Please contact Mrs Hunt or Mrs Davey to arrange. (Obviously, if your child already does 30 hours, this will not be possible!)