

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 how farmers harvest food with the help of Tractor Ted.

Willow: Listening and appraising the song The Fresh Prince of Belair in music.

Beech: Creating wanted posters for predatory insects as part of our topic.

Oak: The children enjoyed using wax crayons as art media in the style of Kandinsky.

A Warm Welcome!

Offwell School is delighted, as part of the local community, to welcome our new vicar: Reverend Jeremy Putnam. On Monday evening, the church was packed with people from the three parishes that Rev. Jeremy will minister to - Offwell, Farway and Widworthy - who took part in a lovely service, led by The Bishop of Exeter. He gave a rousing, entertaining sermon, which included a plea from the pulpit for teamwork, so we can thrive together. Among others, I was able to welcome Rev. Jeremy on behalf of our school, using some of the words of the Church of England's vision: we look forward to working in partnership with him, to serve our community, transform lives, and address issues, both local and global, so we can all flourish.

Rev. Jeremy has already joined in with our Collective Worship and we look forward to celebrating with him as often as possible. He was clearly acting on the idea of teamwork, as he was kind enough to give a free plug to our PTFA Car Treasure Hunt on Sunday in his opening address (thank you). Therefore, by return, please remember the Harvest Service is also on Sunday 2nd October, where some of the kind contributions we have collected can be shared.

We also welcome a new parent governor...and we thank her for her support of our school and look forward to working together. We still have two vacancies, so even though the deadline has passed, we need your voice to help inform our school's next steps, so please ask if you are interested.

Twenty is Plenty!

Our village is blessed with the sounds of life: young families walking to school, children laughing in the playground, flocks of sheep moving from one field to the next, and neighbours greeting one another as they go about their daily activities. Unfortunately, Offwell is not endowed with pavements or easy places for cars to pass pushchairs, or prevent young children from straying into the road.

Having tried, and failed, alongside other local people, to get the Highways Agency to agree to a Twenty is Plenty sign on each entrance to the village, members of our community have come up with an ingenious way to remind all who drive through the village to slow down...our children will be making their own signs to make drivers STOP and THINK, as well as remind children to STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN, before crossing.

The lane beside the Business Park gives direct access to the village hall car park, so is the safest choice, but we appreciate this can become congested at the busiest times. To avoid families with young children walking to school, please use this lane, but you could return through the village if it seems less busy (sticking to 20!). On collection, please consider entering through the village and leaving via the Business Park lane, so that most cars are not passing families who walk through the village.

<https://capt.org.uk/pedestrian-safety/> Advice to parents and carers when walking with a child near any road.



Friday, 30th September 2022

Stars of the week:

Reception – Skylar C

Willow – Sofiiia

Beech – Tilly J

Oak – Daisy & Tamara

Next week:

Monday; WASP, Construction Club

Tuesday; WASP, Beech Gym Festival, Art Club

Wednesday; WASP

Thursday; WASP

Friday: Games Club

House Points

Attenborough: 72 Anning: 88

Well done Anning

Sidmouth's Science Festival – 7 - 16th October

Each year group has contributed to a display that will form part of this annual event. This year, on Super Science Saturday (8th October) there will be GIANT ROBOTS WALKING ABOUT... in Sidmouth... Enough said!

www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org

Please don't forget to join the Car Treasure Hunt this Sunday from 1.30pm! Family fun with a cream tea at the end ☺

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Parents Evenings are coming up – week of October 10th - letters are on their way. Please return by Wednesday, 4th October so appointments can be made, or alternatively, send an email to admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk giving the days/times you would prefer.

It is vital to your child's educational success that they get a similar approach at home and school, so that learning is always being reinforced. Part of this is knowing your child's strengths and areas for development, with clear next steps and how you can help. Your child's teacher will share their knowledge of your child's academic and social strengths, with advice and support for ways you can help. You can also help us, by letting us know what they enjoy and how they might struggle, and please, please ask your child's teacher, if you are unsure about anything.

Any Parent or Carer of a child with Special Educational Needs (SEND) will have an extra time slot to discuss and review their child's My Plan with their child's class teacher. They are the best person to share your child's progress and any interventions or support; they are also there to hear from you regarding any questions or updates you may have. I am also available to any parents who wish to discuss their child's SEND needs in greater depth. Please let me know in advance, so I can allocate a time close to your other slot.

We aim to provide **Parent Workshops** in subjects that would be useful to you, so we will be offering a **Phonics Session** just before half term (20th October) and will ask you to let us know the best time. We'd also like to know if you have any other areas that you would appreciate help with, so you can help your child, for example: Maths methods, or areas of Special Needs (SEND).

Clubs have started this week, with something available to all Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils. Other clubs are planned for next term, and Campanology Club, we hope, will begin after half term. More news on this to follow.

Flu and Covid Jabs

Everyone who is eligible for a free flu vaccine and COVID-19 booster is being urged to take up the offer as soon as they are invited to do so. This is because cases of coronavirus are already beginning to rise across the UK, and in Devon, and natural immunity against flu is relatively low, because despite it being present last winter, coronavirus restrictions helped protect people from catching it.

People who are older or who have other health conditions that make them vulnerable, are at greatest risk this winter. And study results from early in the pandemic show that people who catch both flu and COVID-19 at the same time are twice as likely to suffer serious illness.

Steve Brown, Devon's Director of Public Health, said: "This is a clarion call for everyone in Devon, who is eligible for the free flu vaccine and the coronavirus booster, to come forward as soon as they are invited to do so. Taking up both the



COVID-19 booster and flu jab is an essential form of protection against these respiratory viruses. Vaccines are the best way for us to protect ourselves from serious illness this winter, and I urge everyone who is eligible, not to be complacent, and to take up the vaccines when invited to do so."

Every primary school aged child will be offered a flu immunisation at school and ours is presently scheduled for Friday, 18th November. You will receive further information in due course.

Fish & Chips

Just to remind you that this Saturday October 1st is fish and chip night, frying in the car park from 6.00-7.30pm, bar open at 6.00pm, eat in or take away. Best fish and chips around. Come and see our new play park and our new veranda, all for your enjoyment, look forward to seeing you.

Offwell Sports & Social Club Quiz Night

Saturday, 8th October
6.30pm in the Jubilee Room
Teams of up to 6 players, £2 per head. Bar will be open from 6pm.
To book your table/team contact Jane or Davian 01404 830038

Term Dates

Please see the additional sheet showing this year's term dates and those for 2023/24. Please be aware of these when booking holidays! You will soon receive a letter from the Local Authority outlining the need for full attendance this year, and the guidance around permitted absences.

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