

# 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 to celebrate Diwali.

**Willow:** Making funny face portraits.

**Beech:** Creating the fossils with bread and jelly sweets and writing letters to Dr K Fisher.

**Oak:** Using oil to work in the style of Kandinski.



This Friday, we joined with the village community and Reverend Jeremy to mark the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, of the 11<sup>th</sup> day, of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, to stand in silence for 1 minute, in a mark of respect and remembrance for those who fell during World War 1 and since.

In 2019, which seems so long ago now, I shared something like the following, which sadly still rings true today, given the wars that rage on all except two continents.



Today, take a moment.,  
Remember those across the world  
who have given their lives  
So that others might live.  
Soldiers, doctors, nurses, volunteers  
on both sides,  
Who have felt the pain only war can  
give.

This does not have to be our fate.  
What we do now creates the future:

Learn to understand, not fear; learn to listen, not shout,  
To protect people, families, homes and nature,  
Forgive, but do not forget; open hearts and minds, do not shut others out.

It was lovely to share, in the church, a handshake and wishes of peace to each other. Thanks to Reverend Jeremy for today's service and the following prayer:  
Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

## Devon County Council's Annual Christmas Card Competition.

Every year a picture drawn or painted by a student is used by the Leader of the Council (Cllr John Hart) as his printed Christmas card. The runner up pictures will be used as online/electronic Christmas cards sent out by the Director of Children and Young People's Futures (Melissa Caslake) and the Heads of Education and Learning (Matthew Shanks and Rachel Shaw). The winner will get printed copies of their design on a Christmas card for their own use. The deadline to submit your Christmas Cards is **Tuesday 22 November 2022**.

**School info:** Should you wish to participate in this competition, please reply to the school priority email address ([educate.schoolspriorityalerts-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:educate.schoolspriorityalerts-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)) and we can provide you with more details. Please can you send a scanned copy of your entry(ies) to Martha Keats ([martha.keats@devon.gov.uk](mailto:martha.keats@devon.gov.uk)).



Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## Stars of the week:

Reception – Ophelia

Willow – Nathan

Beech – Zak

Oak – Oliver

## Next week:

**Monday;** Reception vision screening, WASP

**Tuesday;** WASP

**Wednesday;** WASP

**Thursday;** WASP

**Friday;** Flu vaccinations, Children in Need (wear spotty)

## House Points

**Attenborough: 56 Anning: 45**

Well done Attenborough!

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## PTFA Events

Friday 9th December from 3.15pm - Offwell School Annual Christmas Fayre in the village hall.

Sunday 11th December - Wreath Making workshops. Further information to follow and please contact the PTFA via email [ptfa@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk) if you are interested in attending.



## Five ways to protect under 5s this winter (UKHSA)

This winter is the first for two years without any COVID-19 restrictions so you and your children might be more likely to pick up bugs and illnesses, such as flu and bronchiolitis – we have certainly noticed this in school!

[The UK Health Security Agency has shared some great advice for families with children under five years old to help reduce the risk of infection.](#)

With flu cases on the rise, this is a particularly important time to [ensure your child gets the flu vaccine.](#)

Children who turned two or three before 31 August 2022 can have a quick, painless nasal spray vaccine to help protect them against flu and you can book it now at your GP surgery.

*All school aged children are able to have the flu vaccine at school:* These will take place for all children whose parents/carers have consented for them to have the vaccine at school. If you missed the deadline, your child(ren) will not be vaccinated at school, however you will have the opportunity to book them into a community catch up clinic. This also applies if your child is absent or refuses the vaccination at school.

## One way to protect school funding

Any family will feel the squeeze, if pay goes down and prices go up. Schools are the same. In addition, any pay 'rise' awarded by the government, is expected to come out of our existing school budget, despite the rising costs of everything else. To protect school funding, would you please consider **signing this petition to increase funding for schools to ensure that they do not enter deficit?** <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/627130>

*It was started by Steve Hitchcock, a local Headteacher,* was asked to appear on BBC Spotlight, and now he wants to take this from the media, to the politicians. You can read more about this, here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-63312321>

- Devon is one of the lowest ranked counties in terms of funding.
- Teachers' pay has been cut, when compared to inflation, by 24% in the past twelve years.
- There is a recruitment and retention crisis in the teaching profession.

School funding and pay were raised with government before the current crisis, but have continued to be eroded year on year. Having a costed plan for pay rises to be funded by central government and return the real value of teaching pay to where it was in 2010, are the minimum to ensure schools survive in their current form. Investment in education is investment in the future.

**Please sign and share now!** <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/627130>

**Anti-Bullying Week** takes place this year from **14th to 18th November**. This year, the theme for the week is 'reach out' – encouraging everyone to come together and reach out to others to stop bullying.

In order to encourage pupils to reach out and unite against bullying, it's crucial that the school environment is safe and supportive for pupils. If a child feels safe and supported at school, it makes it easier for them to ask for help if they need it, and creates a sense of community among pupils and staff.

In this toolkit, we're sharing resources for Anti-bullying Week. There are resources for pupils, which will get them thinking about how to support one another, and resources for staff about how to create a safe school environment free of bullying.

[Anti-Bullying Week 2022 toolkit : Mentally Healthy Schools](#)

Conkers are NOT banned!

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## **Ethos Group**

The Ethos Group held its first meeting of the year earlier in the week. Mr Thomas met with Charlotte, Serge and Polly. Two children from year 4 will be asked to join them in due course. We now need a parent/carer to join the Group. Experience or qualifications are not required but just a desire to support school in developing various aspects of the school's spiritual development.



## **Children in Need – Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November**

The School Council met earlier in the week and agreed that it will be a non-uniform (spotty) day on Friday. If the children have something spotty, they could wear this even if it is just a pair of socks! All money raised will be passed to Children in Need. Children are also invited to bring in some extra money to take part in guessing the number of sweets in a jar. The person guessing the closest number will win the sweets. Each guess will cost 50p.

## **Advance Notice – Christmas!**

**Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December – Ash Class Nativity** – 9.30am – Offwell Village Hall

**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December** – Whole school Christmas dinner – Offwell Village Hall

**Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Productions – All children (not nursery) to be involved

**Rock Around the Flock** – Offwell Village Hall – one performance in afternoon and one in evening.

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

## **Reception Vision Screening**

Parents/Carers of reception children will have taken home a letter regarding Vision Screening which is due to take place on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> November. If you **DON'T** want your child checked, you will need to return the opt out slip.