

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: Using our gross motor skills to create scenery for the story of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'.

Willow: Taking part in their early morning exercises.

Beech and Oak: Enjoying the autumn colours in Offwell Woods and spending time with our friends.

Despite the blankets of grey cloud, this week has been brightened, for me,



by watching some of our Nursery children re-enact the story of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' with Miss Hansford. They led each other through the grass, mud, river, woods and storm to the cave of the bear, before running back home! They demonstrated total

concentration, fantastic imagination, memory and communication skills. While we may think that children should constantly move on, in fact, the need that most children display, in wanting to repeat and retell stories again and again, is an important part of learning; it strengthens their ability to talk in sentences, understand descriptive vocabulary in context, build working memory and learn to love stories and reading, so they can read to learn, for life.

I have also been delighted by seeing our Art Club in action, with some of our Year 6 pupils supporting their keen younger schoolmates with great skill and patience. They have organised this themselves, with support from both Miss Kirkland and Miss Phillips, and the club have created their own sketch book, which they are filling up, week by week, with creative tasks designed by the club leaders. This contributes to the older pupils' leadership and organisational skills, and naturally builds their confidence. It is also clear that each club member is genuinely enjoying the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge in art, such as: colour mixing, and some of the media and techniques employed by different artists, including Matisse.



Friday, 21st October 2022

Stars of the week:

Reception – Ellie
Willow –
Beech – Taylor
Oak – Elliot and Toby

Next week (after half term):

Monday; WASP
Tuesday; WASP
Wednesday; WASP
Thursday; WASP
Friday;

House Points

Attenborough: 52 Anning: 40
Well done Attenborough.
Anning have gained the most points for this half term so they get a non-uniform day on Friday 4 November.



Lantern Parade and Competition

Join us for Offwell School Lantern Parade and Competition - Sat 29th October 2022 - meet at the school at 6.30pm and parade starts at 6.45pm

Create your own lantern, any design, any materials, any size!
Entry and a tea light £1. Prizes awarded and a treat for every child who enters.

We will walk from the school to the firework display on the playing field where the judging will take place.

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Naturally, human beings are learners; it is how we have evolved to this point and how, I hope, we will evolve beyond this. Education should help every child to find their unique talents, be creative and enjoy stories, so they appreciate the wonder of our world; we also need to help them learn about and have an influence on the world they will inherit. We need our combined talents, whatever they may be, to create a better future, and we must listen to the next generation. On the really big issues of the day, there are voices who represent them:

Malorie Blackman, former Children's Laureate and author, on Radio 4, 20.10.22, said:

"It's so important that we just tell the truth about history, rather than just cherry-picking the good bits."

Greta Thunberg, child activist, in a television interview this week, said:

"When it comes to the climate emergency, winning slowly is the same thing as losing."

Seasonal illness

We have had quite a selection of coughs, sniffs, sore throats and tummy bugs, as well as some more unusual complaints, such as suspected Scarlet Fever. In this, we are not alone. We continue to ensure good hygiene routines in school, but the return of social activity means a return of many of the bugs and infections we had almost forgotten about during the pandemic, and against which we have little immunity. Seasonal flu vaccination remains one of the most important public health interventions to protect individuals and prevent the spread of infection to those most at risk in society from hospitalisation associated with flu at a time when the NHS and social care will be managing winter pressures, potentially including further outbreaks of COVID-19. For this reason, it is essential we deliver the vaccine to as many children as possible (see email or below)

Flu vaccinations

There is the opportunity to protect every child (Reception to Year 9) from influenza On **Friday 18th November 2022**, the immunisation team will be visiting our school. **You must consent to, or to decline the flu vaccination for your child via this link** – this is entirely separate from school, so we cannot do this for you – please note that **this link will close at midnight on: 6th November 2022** It is free and involves a quick spray of liquid up the nose (no jabs!). We recommend you discuss it with your child shortly prior to the date of vaccination. Further information about vaccination, including frequently asked questions and access to NHS England information, are available from the link, below:

<https://schoolimms.hcrgcaregroup.com/flu/2022/devon>

In Remembrance

Please remember to bring your pennies for a poppy next half term. We will be taking part in the Remembrance Service outside St.Mary's Church on Friday 11th at 11am and will talk to the children about the reason for this, next half term.

If you would like any of our merchandise we would like to suggest a minimum donation for each item to cover manufacture, shipping etc. Thank You	
All Pin Badges	£3
Che Badges	£5
Wooden Crosses	£2
Slap Rulers	£1-50
Rubber Wrist Bands	£1
RBL Lanyards	£3
Shopping Trolley Tokens	£2
Zipper Tags	50p
Reflective Clip On Poppies	50p
Key Rings	£1
RBL Pens	£1
Historical Poppy Pin Sets	£7

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Bell Ringing

A letter, with a permission slip was due to come home today for Year 6 pupils, to give information about a bell-ringing club. While bell-ringing is an active, musical and sociable activity, which many will pursue for life, it also has its risks, such as tripping on the steps, or the possibility of injury from a stray bell-rope. We want this to be a safe and enjoyable experience, so are gathering as much information as possible from the Devon Guild of Bell-ringers, who manage many such groups, before we proceed any further. We hope to get it up and running next half term.

Applying for a school place

For parents of children in Year 6, it is important to apply for your child's secondary school place by the end of October. Please follow this link for further information on this, plus many other really helpful sites, including the Local Authority's Local Offer for children with Special Needs (SEND).

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/>



[School admissions – Education and Families](#)

Schools Find a school, admissions, term dates, transport, school meals, support for schools; Child protection What to do if you are worried about a child; Early years and childcare Children's centres, childcare, early years education funding for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds, information for providers; Family support The Family Information Service, Family Group Conference Plus, Drug and alcohol ...

www.devon.gov.uk

I hope you have a wonderful half-term and we look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 31 October 2022.

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