

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:

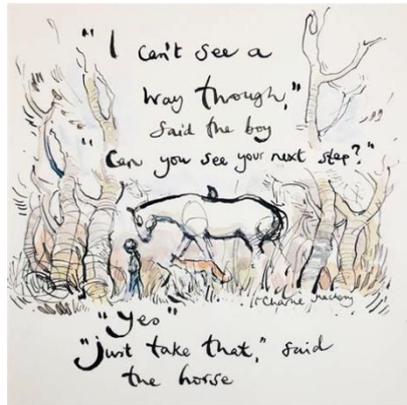
Ash: Starting to learn about recycling and spotting the recycling symbol in books, on photos and on objects around the school, including the playground bench!

Willow: Using our Chromebooks to use Scratch Junior!

Beech & Oak: Using the gymnastic apparatus.

Children's Mental Health Week is next week, **6 - 12 February**. The week is run by children's mental health charity Place2Be to raise awareness of the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme is *Let's Connect*.

The connections between us make life work well and feel worthwhile, and they grow with good, honest communication. **Always let your child know that they should talk to an adult they trust if they are worried.** It could be you, someone in your family, a teacher or someone else in school. If you're worried about your child's mental health you can talk to your GP, school nurse (see below) or anyone in school.



Miss Phillips, our Health lead (our resident PE, PSHE and Mental Health expert), has shared a brilliant leaflet (attached to this email), with six easy top tips to help parents and children make even better connections. You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice on the website: <https://www.place2be.org.uk/help> (Images from Charlie Mackesy's beautiful book: 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse')

Devon County News

The [number of households in Devon unable to access or afford](#) the food that they need to ensure that they and their families stay healthy has increased by 70% in 18 months. And more than a third of households say that they plan to switch off their heating altogether this winter to help make ends meet.

Devon County is working with local partners, including local councils, the NHS and the voluntary and community sector, on ways to support communities, and there are a variety of schemes on offer depending on your circumstances. These include the [Household Support Fund](#), [Free School Meals](#) and [Free School Meals Holiday Voucher scheme](#), [The Holiday Activity and Food Programme](#) and [Citizens Advice Devon](#).

If your family is struggling to afford to eat healthily and keep warm this winter, please remember that support is available. For more information, visit Devon's [Cost of Living webpages](#).



Friday, 3rd February 2023

Stars of the week:

Reception – Tilly

Willow – Theo

Beech – Taylor

Oak – Marley

Next week:

Monday; WASP, Bell Ringing (Yr 6)

Tuesday; WASP, Yr 5/6 Tag Rugby

Wednesday; WASP, Youth Speak (Yr 5)

Thursday; WASP, Story & Rhyme, Booster (Yr 6)

Friday; Art Club, Exeter Cathedral Choroester Workshop

House Points

Attenborough: 71 Anning: 86
Well done Anning!

Story and Rhyme

The next session is on Thursday, 9th February from 2.40pm in Ash Class. Anyone with a pre-school sibling is welcome to join us. Please let any friends or neighbours know who may be interested.



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PTFA

The PTFA is holding an Extraordinary General Meeting to elect a new treasurer to work alongside Mrs Nicola Brake, our current treasurer, until she steps down at the end of the academic year. The meeting is at the White Hart Inn, Wilmington on 23rd February at 7.30pm. All members, old and new, are welcome to attend. Please let Emily Jordan, the Chair, know if you are interested.

Devon's Public Health Nursing service gets a glowing report

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) published a report this week that highlights 'outstanding practice' in Devon's Public Health Nursing service. Picked out for particular praise is the service's work in partnership with schools to improve support for children with special educational needs and disabilities, (SEND). **You can call our wonderful School Nurses for advice, or to self-refer, on: 0333 234 1903**

Green Fingers? One of our parents – who is doing wonders in support of Gardening Club (thank you!) - has already kindly spruced up our wellies, and we are happy to have had further donations of some very jolly wellies - thanks for all, so far! Another thoughtful parent has noticed that our garden area and willow structure are in need of attention. They have generously offered to form part of a working party with any other parents, who might be able and willing to give an hour or two to clipping, trimming and weeding on a nice day (hopefully) near/over Easter. If that sounds like something you might do, we would be very happy to hear from you. ☺



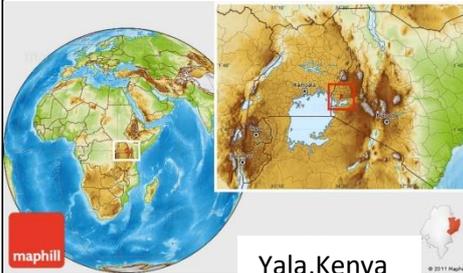
Governors - Your School Needs You!

We still have **two vacancies on our Governing Board for parents**. You are vital to ensuring the good running of our school and we would welcome the support of any parent. Our most recent

parent governor, Mrs Victoria Kyberd, will be happy to share her experience so far, to encourage you to take part; it may not be as difficult or time consuming as you might imagine. We simply need your voice!

Industrial Action. Thank you for your patience and understanding regarding the national strike action on Wednesday. Having discussed this with Governors, it is clear that having sufficient notice is important with regard to arranging childcare on days when school is closed, but this can be hard to achieve when any union member can rightly wait until the day to decide. Since waiting until the day itself causes far more difficulty for you and your children, our current position is that **there is a high possibility we would be closed on the three remaining days proposed: 2nd March, 15th and 16th March**. If anything changes, I will, of course, let you know. We will provide learning

activities as before. Families in receipt of Free School Meals will be entitled to a packed lunch, which would be provided for collection or the day before. I will send further reminders about this in the weeks leading up to the next industrial action. Please let me know of any concerns.



Yala, Kenya

Oscah



Friendship across the world

In the district of Yala, Kenya, our chosen charity, **Urafiki** (which means friendship in Kiswahili), gives support to children and people in need. Our school sponsors two children: Ashley and Oscah, to ensure they can attend school. *"Holding hands together we can create a better world for all our children, if given a chance everyone can succeed in life."* Nancy Ajanga, Programme Director. Our School Council will be coming up with ideas for activities to raise money and will be happy to receive any suggestions. Please give generously, if you can. If you simply wish to contribute to the charity, you may do so via the office, or their website: <https://www.urafiki.org.uk/>



Ashley

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