

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: Making our own recycled paper and pretending to be recycling lorry workers, collecting and sorting items in our role play area.

Willow: Our welly walk on a beautiful day to the woods.

Beech: Writing newspaper reports as part of our topic.

Oak: The visit from Mr Downton from Exeter Cathedral Choir to lead our first workshop. The children thoroughly enjoyed the live accompaniment and learning some complex musical notation.



It was lovely to welcome Megan this week from Colyton Grammar School for work experience. Megan was a former pupil at Offwell and worked with all classes during the week. Thank you Megan for your help!

Thank you, neighbours! ☺

We thank those on Fern Lane who have prominently displayed the 'school' sign, alongside 'kill your speed' and 'twenty is plenty' signs also found in the village. We really appreciate this support. I hope it has the desired effect on the speed of cars travelling through Offwell and, perhaps, on the relevant authorities.... we recently had two Police Officers visit to provide a road safety assembly with the children and they clearly took note of the colourful signs produced by our pupils and displayed by the whole community.

On another matter, we also thank a kind family in the village for taking in the kitten found at school two weeks ago. The children of Willow class were keen to keep her, but holidays would have been very tricky! We are so pleased she has a loving home, not too far away.

Focus on Children's Mental Health

As highlighted in our last newsletter, this week has been focused, nationally, on Children's Mental Health. Miss Phillips shared ideas and resources last week and Devon County Council has shared some really helpful information, which I have shared in the attached document.

We were visited today by the Mental Health Support Team who will support pupils, parents/carers and staff and we look forward to sharing more information soon.



Friday, 10th February 2023

Stars of the week:

Reception – Jack

Willow – Lewis

Beech – Sofia

Oak – Genevieve, Fiona, Charlotte, Tamara, Toby and Amelia (our Yr 5 Youth Speak team members)

Week beginning 20th February:

Monday; WASP

Tuesday; WASP, Sports Club

Wednesday; WASP

Thursday; WASP, Booster Class

Friday; Celebration Collective
Worship, Art Club

House Points

Attenborough: 63 Anning: 57

Well done Attenborough!

This means that Attenborough are the half termly winners and will be rewarded with a non-uniform day on Friday, 24th February.

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The Earthquake in Turkey and Syria:

This devastating earthquake has reduced cities to rubble and affected the lives of 17 million people. The Disasters and Emergency Commission (DEC) coordinates the efforts of 15 UK Aid Charities. DEC charities and their local partners are among the first responders, working with locally-led relief efforts in Turkey (now known as Türkiye) and Syria.

Immediate priorities are search and rescue, medical treatment for the injured, shelter for those who have lost their homes, heaters for spaces and winter kits with blankets, and warm clothes, and ensuring people have food and clean water. People have been left without shelter in freezing winter conditions, with humanitarian needs expected to grow in the coming days. £30, for example, can provide blankets for a family, with any amount being gratefully received. Click on this link or search:

[Disasters and Emergency Commission](#)

Insight of a Parent Governor!

As I come to the end of the second term now as a Parent Governor, I thought I would share what had happened so far. The OFSTED feedback meeting in November was my first formal meeting as a governor, and how wonderful to hear such positive feedback from the Inspector! I've been working alongside Mr Thomas this term to understand the number of laptops and chrome books we have across the school, and a few of these devices do need a refresh when funds allow. As a governor I get visibility of the school funds at each meeting, and can see where all the funds are being spent by Mrs Legg and the team. Governors provide scrutiny and oversight into how different areas of the school are managed, in relation to government / OFSTED frameworks and best practice. My areas of focus are EYFS - Early Years Foundation Stage for children up to 5 years old - and also Science. I'm looking forward to understanding how Science is built into the curriculum throughout the school, and how the children are assessed across the terms.

It would be great to have another parent governor join me, and it's not a massive time or effort commitment at all. Meetings are once a half term, early evening for an hour or so, papers are sent out in advance so you can read and prepare any questions, and there are always biscuits!! Additionally there are school visits to see how children and teachers are progressing in my areas of focus, which is then presented back at governors meetings with details of upcoming developments and any areas of focus.

Training is provided by County, and they even run training virtually for those of us who can't easily get into Exeter during the week. If anyone thinks they might be interested I'd be happy to chat and share more information. Victoria Kyberd

Parent Meetings

Please see a separate letter inviting you to attend Parents' Evening on either Tuesday, 28th February or Wednesday, 1st March. It may be that your child's teacher has contacted you separately offering a different appointment. Please return the slip as soon as possible after half term or email your request at admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk

Online Safety

Please see the link below for Scomis' very useful Online Safety Newsletter
<https://s6.newzapp.co.uk/t/click/1586247227/29303629/16335104>

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PTFA Stargazing Event

The PTFA are holding a **stargazing event** on Thursday 23rd February from 5.45pm in the village hall/playing field.

If there are any parents with telescopes or a special interest in stargazing/astronomy please contact Sophie Joy (sophiejoy@gmail.com)

There will be an early session aimed at younger children from 5.45 pm and a second session for older children from 6.45pm but everyone is welcome to either session. Parents/guardians will be required to stay with their children and supervise at all times. Siblings are also welcome to join their families.

We will be learning about stars, seeing what we can see in the night sky and serving hot drinks, squash, hot chocolates and toasted marshmallows. **There will be a small charge for this event**, price to be confirmed.

So wrap up warm and join us for this fun event.

Please email interest and to reserve a space via the PTFA email or on Facebook.

ptfa@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk

Extraordinary General Meeting

A reminder that 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 venue has now moved to **OFFWELL VILLAGE HALL** on 23rd February at 7.30pm due to the stargazing event. All members, old and new, are welcome to attend. Please let Emily Jordan, the Chair, know if you are interested.

Youth Speaks

On Wednesday, two brilliant and brave Year 5 teams presented their talks: 'Do we throw too much away?' and 'What can we learn from the Dinosaurs?'. They competed admirably against some interesting subjects and dramatic performances and have kindly agreed to repeat their talks in our Celebration assembly this week.

I always learn something new from each talk! Did you know about Repair cafes, where you can go to get support to fix your broken items, rather than throwing them away, as well as a nice cup of tea? Have you ever heard of such creatures as Fishapods? Midway between fish and land animals, their rudimentary legs meant they were some of our earliest ancestors (and the ones who gave us necks!). Thanks to the parents and family members who attended to support their young speakers; we can only wonder at what they might achieve in the years ahead!

We break for half term at 3.15pm today and return to school on Monday, 20th February. I hope you all manage to have an enjoyable, relaxing and healthy break.

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



Willow Multi-skills

Some of our children in Willow Class took part in a local learning community multi-skills session at Honiton Leisure Centre on Tuesday. Well done Eli, Lewis, Freddie, Ellsie and Esme! The learnt some new skills including archery.



Tag Rugby

Some of Oak Class took part in an afterschool tag rugby tournament on Tuesday playing 6 games. Well done Elliot, Zach, Nazar, Amber, Maisie, Daisie and Fiona for displaying great team effort.