

# 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:** Our visit from Cookie and Primrose, Lillian's lambs.

**Willow:** Beginning to learn about what London was like in the past (1666).

**Beech & Oak:** Enjoyed experiencing two different sorts of PE; invasion games and fitness based yoga.

Oak also enjoyed learning about the Earth and space.

## Parent Power!

We have much to thank you for this week:

**Star gazing** – a special thank you, from myself and Emily Jordan (Chair of the PTFA) to: Sophie Joy for her inspiration and organisation, and to the wonderful team of volunteers and contributors; to those who came with their incredible telescopes and who so generously gave of their time and knowledge, as mentioned by Sophie; and to all of you who attended, enjoyed, learned, and helped raise valuable funds. The sky is the limit for our growing PTFA!

**Hedge laying** - At the end of last half term, one of our wonderful parents has so skilfully laid the hedge at the back of Willow class that I have to mention it. Although I know they don't want too much attention, it is a work of real craft and can't really be seen unless you know it's there, so I wanted to highlight it. Not only does it allow lots of light in, it will also create a much better screen and habitat for wildlife. Thank you very much.

**Governing** – Thanks to Victoria Kyberd for her excellent overview of being a parent governor: we have already had a potential new member come forward, and we are delighted. It is an important role, but it does not have to take up too much time and gives you an oversight of what happens in school, behind the scenes. Now, we only need one more to have a full set...! (As mentioned, the biscuits are excellent.)

**Helping** – Covid made many things a health and safety nightmare, such as helping in school, so it is refreshing to have, once more, your invaluable support. Thanks to our new Meal Time Assistant, staff and children have extra support at lunchtimes. Thanks to the parents and members of our wider school community, who regularly help, with reading or gardening, for example, and to all of you, who add so much value to our children's lives in so many ways.

## Strike days

For many reasons, previously explained, providing clarity about the upcoming strike days has been complicated. I can now confirm that **school will be open on March 2nd**. Apologies for any complications. Just to remind you, two further strike days are due on the 15th and 16th March. The National Education Union (NEU) has been discussing whether to suspend further strikes, but their decision depends on any proposed talks, which are not yet agreed. We will obviously be open if the strikes are suspended, and will let you know of any need to close as soon as possible.

## One Year ago

Today marks the one-year anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine. Across the world, there have been candlelit vigils, protests to end the war and the Eiffel Tower was lit up in blue and yellow. We marked the occasion with a one minute silence in school this morning. Here is a beautiful creation by one of our children, proud of their Ukrainian heritage.



Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## Stars of the week:

Reception – Sophie

Willow – Nathan, Harry

Beech – Tilly J

Oak – All of them

## Next week:

**Monday;** WASP

**Tuesday;** WASP, Tag Rugby - Oak

**Wednesday;** WASP

**Thursday;** WASP, World Book Day, Yr 6 Booster

**Friday;** Celebration Collective Worship

## House Points

**Attenborough: 63 Anning: 53**

Well done Attenborough!

## Pancake Day

We have been impressed by the quality and range of pancake toppings the children described this year! Personally, I had poached egg, ham, rocket and hollandaise on mine... I know! Perhaps we could do a pancake recipe book ready for next year? Just to check, as Shrove Tuesday is about preparing to fast over Lent, what, if anything, have you given up for the forty days following?

But, what if we did more, instead of less?

<https://40acts.org.uk/>

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## Earthquake appeal

It seems unbelievable, but there has been a further earthquake, terrifying those who must have been trying to rescue people and come to terms with the devastation of last week. One of our parents with family in Turkey (thankfully safe), thanks anyone who has been able to contribute. It is important that contributions are made only via legitimate charities, like the Disasters and Emergency Commission (Search: [dec.org.uk](http://dec.org.uk) or [DEC appeal](#)) to ensure your

donations actually get to those most in need. Please do *not* send items like food, blankets or clothes; money allows people on the ground to get what they need.



## PTFA Stargazing!

The PTFA would like to thank everyone who attended our stargazing evening.

It was a magical event, and we had some wonderful views of the clear night skies through our telescopes.

The children enjoyed telescope and star crafts, star stories in the cosy corner, toasted marshmallows with hot chocolate and of course stargazing.



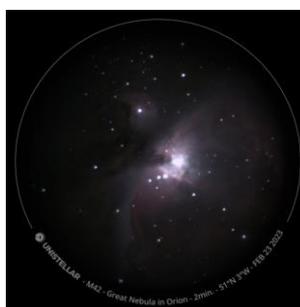
Special thanks to Carl, Jeremy, John, and Roy for



bringing their fantastic telescopes for us to use and also to Simon Ould from Space Odyssey for helping us to navigate the night skies and to understand that stargazing is looking back in time, it was an inspiring talk. Thanks also to Mrs Legg, Mrs Hunt

and the PTFA team for all their hard work.

Carl kindly sent us a picture of the amazing M42 nebula taken from his telescope last night. The light that formed this photograph left the Orion Nebula about 1,500 years ago, when The Roman Empire and Chinese Dynasties were the main world powers! For further



information: <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2017/messier-42-the-orion-nebula>)

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

## Attendance Charter

At our most recent governors' board meeting, governors agreed that the school should sign up to the Attendance Charter as recommended and produced by Devon Education. It is attached with this newsletter and you will find it on our website. You will see that as part of the Charter we are committed to achieving 97% attendance in Devon which is a very challenging target but together I am sure it is attainable. Last year's attendance figure was 93%, but I am sure we can improve now some of the nastier bugs have receded.

## Parents' Evenings

You should have been offered an appointment by email for next week's parents/carers evenings. It may be that your child's teacher has been in touch with you separately and you may have already met. Please let us know if you are unsure of your appointment details. If you would like to meet with Mrs Legg, please contact her directly or via [admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk)

## World Book Day – Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March

We are not asking the children to dress up this year but keep an eye out for information being sent out on Monday on how we are celebrating. A £1 book token will also be sent home with each child.

## Exeter Music Shop

One of our music teachers has advised us that sadly Exeter Music Shop is closing shortly. There are plenty of bargains to be had so if you are interested visit the shop as soon as possible.