

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 about the frog life cycle: from frogspawn to frog and back again

Willow: Learning about the different characteristics of animals.

Beech: Making Roman mosaics and Roman coins.

Oak: The residential trip!

On Tuesday morning, I spent about half an hour, alone, in a woodland, gazing up through the lattice of branches overhead, listening to a multitude of joyful birdsong, feeling completely at peace. So did Miss Phillips, Mr Bardot, Mrs Bryant and the majority of our Year 5 and 6 pupils. It's not my usual morning and I'm fairly sure it wasn't what Oak Class usually do (especially the total silence involved). Everyone seemed to feel the same sense of calm and peace, (even those who usually find it hard to sit still in class!) which seemed to last long after this moment in time. So much so that most of us didn't really want to stop (and some of us even fell fast asleep!).

This is what Wildside (led by Richard) provides, over and above the usual adventurous activities. While we also engaged in a packed timetable of exciting and challenging tasks, such as: zip-wire, blindfold walk, bat spotting, pizza making, team games, fire-making, den building, physical puzzles, archery and more, it is this time of stillness and complete relaxation that stays with me. In response, the children created beautiful drawings and writing which reflected a deep connection with nature that we might never have suspected, perhaps because we spend so little time actually watching and listening to nature. Perhaps we could all do with a bit more time and space for nature and ourselves. I hope the weather allows you to do so this weekend.



Industrial Action

Following the School Teachers' Review Body's Report on Pay, the Education Minister, Gillian Keegan, has been called upon to respond (by the end of June) to avoid further strike action by the joint leaders of the NEU. They said: "We hope that by then she will have discussed the STRB report and her reaction to it with teacher and headteacher unions, and discussed both workload and this year's pay, which remains unsettled. She can fund schools properly, start to address the decline in teacher pay and its consequences for the appalling state of teacher recruitment and retention. If she hasn't moved to settle the dispute, then that meeting will decide on further strike action in the week commencing July 3." All four main education unions will be balloting their members, so further industrial action may follow in the Autumn term.

So that you can have as much advance notice as possible to plan and avoid complications, **school will be closed on any future strike days**. We will let you know when we are aware of any dates.



Friday, 19th May 2023

Stars of the week:

Reception – Ophelia

Willow – Ella

Beech – Lily

Oak – All of them

Next week:

Monday; WASP

Tuesday; WASP

Wednesday; WASP,

Thursday; WASP, Some Yr 3/4 –

Youth Speak, Oak & Beech

swimming, Ash welly walk

Friday; Celebration Collective

Worship, Willow welly walk

House Points

Attenborough: 46 Anning: 46

Well done to both houses. A draw this week!



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Holidays in Term Time

As has been highlighted to you on many occasions, it is very important for your child to attend school as often as they possibly can (illness aside). To this end, I must advise you that in future, if you take your child out of school for a holiday, or other reason that is not 'exceptional', we will have to notify Devon County Council and a school absence penalty will be issued. Please see the link <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-attendance/absence-from-school-penalty-notices/>

Presently the fine is £60 per child per parent for the absence duration. This means that a family with 2 siblings taking unauthorised absence would be fined £240 if there are 2 parents.

Charges for After School Provision, Early Morning Provision & Foundation Stage Unit

At a recent governors' meeting it was agreed to increase the charges for WASP and the FSU with effect from 1st September 2023. WASP charges will effectively be £4 per hour;

£4 if collected before 4.15pm,

£7 if collected before 5pm & £9 if collected before 5.30pm

Early Morning provision will be charged at £3 regardless of what time they arrive (any time after 8am) until the start of school. This includes breakfast which will be offered if the child arrives before 8.30am.

Foundation Stage Unit charges will increase to £4.50 per hour if your child attends more than the free entitlement or start during the term they turn 3.

I am sure you agree, all of these services still offer great value for money and are very reasonable and we haven't increased any of the fees for many years!

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

GoTri – Saturday, 10th June Run and Swim

Honiton Leisure Centre has organised a starter event from British Triathlon to get youngsters to have a go at a very mini triathlon.

3pm – 8 to 9 years

Swim 50m and Run 600m

3.30pm – 10 to 11 years

Swim 150m and Run 1.2km

Visit www.ledleisure.co.uk to sign up and for more information.
Closing date is 21st May.

