

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 Easter egg hunt and performing our song 'The Castle on the Hill'.

Willow: The multi-skills session in Honiton organised by Honiton Learning Community and led by Honiton Community College.

Beech & Oak: Our joint welly walk to Offwell Woods looking at and trying to recognise all the signs of spring flora and fauna even though we all got very soggy!



This week, at the end of the Spring Term - as each bud unfurls, bursting into a green haze that heralds the true start of a new year - it is clear that lots of little things can add up to something amazing.

Sponsored Walk for Red Nose Day – on Monday we received another twenty pounds, which means, between us, we have raised **£1,000!** That's amazing everyone!!! Each of you has taken part, doing your bit to help others.

Torbay & Devon Award

Our Year 6 pupils have been part of the Torbay and Devon Award scheme since 2019. It has been a particularly valuable part of their education, involving the development of personal qualities, such as courage, organisation, resilience, and compassion, through undertaking tasks such as learning something new, carrying out charitable works and sharing their unique talents. One new aspect this year has been the children making a Pledge to the Planet. Following the success of their singing in Exeter Cathedral we are aiming to sing a song based on the need to protect our planet, as our pledge.

This is an award that grows over the year, with our pupils able to engage in the different tasks at a manageable rate, monitored and supported by staff and parents/carers. The children are currently gathering evidence of their activities in a folder, which will then be presented to invited judges to consider for the award. At the end of this process there is a Presentation Evening. For families of pupils taking part, at Offwell School and others in mid and East Devon, this will be on **Monday 3 July at Uffculme School 5.30 - 6.30pm**. Further details to follow.

As part of her charitable efforts for the T&DCA Polly Sutton is undertaking a long cycle ride on a tandem, with her father on the other saddle, aiming to raise funds for, Climbers Against Cancer. They are cycling 377km from Swansea to Plymouth between 8 and 12 April 2023. If you would like to support her effort this is the link to the JustGiving page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/hangar2hangar-charity-cycle>



31st March 2023

Housepoints

Attenborough 68, Anning 57

Well done to Attenborough for being the weekly winners.

However, the half termly winners are **Anning!** There were just 3 points in it; Anning 396, Attenborough 393. Anning will be rewarded with a non-uniform day on Friday, 21st April.

Termly Award Winners:

Housepoints:

Oak – Amber
Beech – Tilly P
Willow – Poppy
Ash – Ares

Caring Cup:

Nominations for each class:

Oak – Isabella
Beech – Lily
Willow – Ella
Ash – Sophie

The overall winner was chosen as Lily – well done to her for being so caring!

Congratulations to all our housepoint winners and the other nominees for the Caring Cup.

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School Disco: Thanks to everyone who was part of planning, managing or supporting this event in any way. It was great fun for everyone, thanks to the good behaviour and general enthusiasm shown by those on the dance floor – children and adults alike. Almost all the school came and nearly everyone present took part in The Macarena (was it always so long?!). As a result, the disco proved to be a good fund-raiser, but what was priceless was seeing the faces of the children on entering what was, in most cases, their first disco!

Homework and home learning

Little and often helps embed learning, without making it a chore. It is important that children have daily opportunities to repeat learning at home: talking about interests; having stories read to them; reading as much as they can; revisit facts and skills from class (e.g: phonics, number, or research); and get lots of encouragement to develop the study skills they will need for the future. Naturally, children thrive on time, attention and plenty of support and encouragement. Children who are well supported at home do better in school. However, we also know that families have many demands on their time together and that it can be a hard balance to achieve.

This week, staff have started to look at our policy for Homework and Home Learning. This is important, as it affects you and your children fundamentally. Therefore, you are invited to look through the policy, available on our website, or via this link: <https://www.offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk/parents/policies/> There is also evidence that Homework can help your child: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework>. Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions.

The Great British Spring Clean

Between 17th March and 2nd April, there is an event that I'd never heard of before, but which we could all try to do all year round: The Great British Spring Clean. I am sure that you, like me, have been appalled when spotting litter on the beach, on a walk, or driving along any of our major roads, at the amount of plastic and other waste. This points to the fact that some people are prepared to drop litter, or don't bother to dispose of it safely in bins or recycling facilities.

I do not suggest roadside litter-picking, as traffic is an even greater danger, but we can all do our bit by never dropping litter ourselves (reduce, reuse and recycle!); by taking a bag and gloves specifically for rubbish whenever we walk the dog, go to the woods, or visit the beach; or if you feel safe to do so, politely challenge those who leave their litter, by simply pointing out the bin. That way, we are turning the tide, bit by bit, little by little, instead of simply watching it rise, or worse, contributing to it.
<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>

Easter Egg Display

There is a display of decorated Easter eggs in St. Mary's Church over the Easter period. All children have made some contribution. Please do visit and have a look.



Family Services for Palm Sunday with Palm Sundaes!! 😊

Do you like jelly? strawberries? Crushed up choc chip biscuits? cream with yummy sprinkles on top? Well if you do then you'll love our Palm Sundaes! This coming Sunday at St Mary's Offwell (10.30am) and St Cuthbert's Widworthy (9.30am) we are celebrating Palm Sunday! With Palm Sundaes! During our service we'll be making up yummy scrummy palm sundaes with all the right ingredients to help us think about that special day when Jesus rode in to Jerusalem on a donkey and the crowds greeted him with cheers and palm branches, sorry, branches! Food allergies permitting, any of the children attending our service will help to make up our Palm Sundaes and take them away. I'm hoping someone might make one for me too.
Reverend Jeremy

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Advance notice of an Offwell School 500 word story competition for KS2 (Oak and Beech)

Your child will bring home a sheet of information on the Offwell School 500 word story competition. We are basing our competition on the BBC 500 words which started in 2011. Please encourage your child to have a go – there are no rules and spelling/punctuation does not matter!

WASP, Early Morning Club & KS2 School Lunches

Attendance at After School Club and Early Morning Club has been input into Parentpay if you pay in this way. If your child has been attending this half term, please visit to make payment. Likewise, all lunches taken have been entered and now require payment.

Scomis Online Safety Information

Please see the link for this very useful flyer.

<https://newzapp-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/customers/18375/documents/OLSNewsletterparentsMar2023-21c581c4.pdf>

Smart Watches

I asked, before and after Christmas, for smart watches NOT to be worn in school. Due to a report that a child used their smart watch to take a photograph of another pupil, I now need to let you know that any watch that appears to be a smart watch will be removed until the end of the day then returned to you. While I know many children say that their watch only counts their steps, we are unable to verify this and would also say that they have plenty of exercise during the school day! It is also difficult to tell the capabilities of a digital watch and so for this reason, we are happy for children to wear an analogue watch (traditional hands) only. This will help them learn to tell the time whereas a digital watch does not. I'm sorry to take this line, but they are quite a distraction and we cannot inspect, in detail, every watch a child has or risk the unintended ramifications of children using complex technology without the protection of our school Chromebooks.

Swimming – Oak & Beech

Oak and Beech Classes will be swimming once a week when we return to school after the Easter break. You will receive a letter asking for your permission and requesting a voluntary donation for the 10 sessions during the first week back but the item is already open to accept payments on Parentpay.

Residential Trip – Oak

A reminder that you can make payment whenever you wish through Parentpay. A parent meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, 2nd May at 3.30pm in Oak Class. Richard will attend to help answer any of your questions.

Easter Break

We break today and children return on Tuesday, 18th April. I hope you have an enjoyable and restful break.

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

Holiday Activities

Please see attached for ideas for holiday activities

