

# 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:** Planting our broad bean seeds and spotting that our potatoes have started to grow up out of the soil.

**Willow:** Making St Edward's crown in preparation for the King's coronation.

**Beech:** Exploring the different Roman artefacts on our Roman Welly Walk. We cooked on an open fire and made dens.

**Oak:** Learning about food chains and food webs.

I do hope you have all been able to enjoy the holidays and have had the opportunity to spend time with family and friends over Easter. Welcome back to what promises to be a busy, active and exciting Summer Term! A big welcome to Chloe, Jessie, Alfie, Albert, Dollie and Darcey who have joined us this term. Already, we have heard about many different activities of various families over the holidays, some of which will be celebrated in our Celebration Assembly today, or shared in this newsletter, and there are many more events to look forward to, as set out in your child's class newsletter.

## Coronation Celebrations

The **Honiton Coronation Committee** is coordinating celebrations taking place in the town for 6/7<sup>th</sup> May. Honiton Learning Community schools have the opportunity to contribute art work to help decorate the town, the **Beehive and All Hallows**, where the main celebration will be taking place on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**.

The children have been busy already, creating A4 size postage stamps, displaying portraits of the King, which will be on display in The Beehive; and Crowns for the children to bring to All Hallows if they are attending, to take place in a parade. The Red, White and Blue bunting will be there in abundance and you are all welcome to come and enjoy the celebration.

## Offwell Celebrations

The Coronation Celebrations will soon be here, please join us at the club, see attached poster. We are having a bucking bronco for the 'big kids' and a bouncy castle for 'the little ones'. There will be no charge to go on one or both of these, it is a thank you from the club for all your support, although non members can give a donation if they wish. There will be an excellent Bar b que by Dan and his helpers with hot Dogs at £1.50 and Burgers at £2.00, good prices I am sure you will agree, the bar will be open from 5.00pm, do hope you can all pop in even if just for a short while. The bar will also be open on the Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> from noon until everyone goes home, up to 11.00pm, this will be open for anyone that would like to pop in for a drink, everyone welcome for the weekend.

Offwell Sports and Social Club.



**Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023**

## Stars of the week:

Reception – Hugo

Willow – Skylar and Alfie

Beech – Jessie

Oak – Chloe

## Next week:

**Monday;** WASP

**Tuesday;** WASP, Ash welly walk

**Wednesday;** WASP,

**Thursday;** WASP, Beech & Oak swimming, Story & Rhyme (Ash), Yr 6 Booster

**Friday;** Celebration Collective Worship

## House Points

**Attenborough: 29 Anning: 32**

Well done Anning !

## Story & Rhyme

The next Story and Rhyme session is in Ash Class next Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April at 2.40pm. All parents/carers of children in Ash Class are welcome to attend and younger children too. This is an open invitation to anyone with young children, so please let friends, neighbours, etc know.

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## Polly's Latest Adventure!

From the 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April, Polly Sutton took part in a new cycling adventure, taking five days to travel by tandem, with her dad, Ben Sutton, all the way from Swansea to Plymouth in The Hangar 2 Hangar Charity Cycle Ride. This is another example of Polly's engagement with important issues, having already supported a young environmental activist cycling from Plymouth to Glasgow. It is all marvellous evidence for her Torbay & Devon Award, which all Year 6 pupils are encouraged to undertake. As a keen climber, Polly chose to raise money for Climbers Against Cancer, a group Polly only became aware of after asking about a T-shirt her dad was wearing!

Ben said: 'It was certainly pretty hard at times, with wind and rain and sore bottoms and sore legs, but Polly was pretty much smiling the whole time...'



Polly said 'I really enjoyed crossing the Severn Bridge, but the last day, from Exeter to Plymouth was very wet and windy!'

Despite the challenges, Ben said that fifteen minutes after finishing Polly was 'bouncing around asking to go climbing'.

We are all very proud of Polly's compassion for others, her courage and resilience – her smile says it all!

## Mental Health Support Team

With every passing year we learn more about the fundamental need for good mental and physical wellbeing. We are delighted to be working with a new team who will provide advice, courses and mental health support to our school pupils, staff and parents and carers. Further details will follow.

## Industrial Action

The National Education Union (NEU), NASUWT, Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) and National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) have rejected the government's pay offer. Therefore, the NEU has announced planned **strike action for Thursday 27 April (next week) and Tuesday 2 May (first day of the week after)**.

Anyone who is part of the union is entitled to strike, so school could be closed, or partially closed, on either day, as we are dependent on having enough staff to provide a reasonable level of supervision and education. We may need to allocate staff, if limited, to certain groups. If your child's class is closed, suitable learning activities will be available on Google Classroom or Tapestry. If your child's class is open, they should attend as usual, although activities may be limited by availability of other staff. Our current understanding is that we will be open and normal school lunch arrangements will apply. **We will inform you if school or any classes need to close as soon as possible. Likewise we will advise you if lunchtime arrangements need to change. Please check your texts/emails for updates.**

**Dates for your diary** (also see news items below):

**27.4.23:** Thursday. First swimming for Key Stage 2 classes/ Possible strike action day.

**30.4.23:** Sunday 9.30am Kid's Fun Run

**1.5.23:** Monday. Bank Holiday

**2.5.23:** Oak Residential Parents' Meeting – 3.30pm / Possible strike action day

**3.5.23:** PTFA Coronation Craft Special

**8.5.23:** Monday. Bank Holiday

**9.5.23 - 12.5.23:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: SATs for all Year 6

**15.5.23 – 17.5.23:** Monday, Tuesday, returning Wednesday: Oak Class Residential.

**26.5.23:** Friday (end of!), Half-Term begins.

**5.6.23:** Monday. Return to School.

## Thank you

A huge thank you to Martin and Jo, parents of Izabelle and Jessica, for taming the willow structure in our Meadow. They had a huge challenge on their hands but the result is amazing.

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## Community Consultation on the Mobile Library Service

Devon County Council is proposing to stop running the mobile library service. All their vehicles have become increasingly unreliable and expensive to maintain and fewer people now use the mobile library service, but the Council has made it clear that they will not be making any decision about the proposal until they have had chance to consider all of the responses to their consultation.

They have launched a consultation with library customers to get a better understanding about how people will use the library service in future, asking whether you have considered other ways to access library services, such as the Good Neighbours service, Home Library Service, or via the 50 library buildings across Devon. Or, whether you are familiar with the range of digital books and other materials that are available to all library members.

The consultation is online from Friday 31st March [//devon.cc/mobilelibraries](https://devon.cc/mobilelibraries), and you will be able to read more about it on the [Council's website](#).

Alternatively, there will be copies of the consultation on each of our four mobile library routes, and in your nearest library. If you have any questions about the consultation, please visit the Have Your Say webpage or contact Devon County Council via [communitiesconsultation@devon.gov.uk](mailto:communitiesconsultation@devon.gov.uk) or telephone 0345 155 1001.

## East Devon tag Rugby Megafest!

Our Year 3 and 4 Tag Rugby Team came second in the Honiton round last term, which meant they were entered into East Devon's Megafest on Wednesday (19<sup>th</sup> April). I am delighted to report that they came third, which is a fantastic achievement! In addition, for his excellent team skills, Ethan Spiller was voted player of the tournament by his team-mates: **well done, Ethan**



## The Wild Escape

Celebrate Earth Day as part of the national Wild Escape campaign involving over 500 museums.

### Saturday 22 April, 4-7pm

Family-friendly event starting with a procession of a giant Hippo sculpture created by local schoolchildren to THG. Join us for fun art & craft activities, wood-fired pizzas, music, face painting, cakes and bar.

Free event, pay bar and food. [More](#)  
Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Dowell Street, Honiton EX14 1LX  
[thelmahulbert.com](http://thelmahulbert.com)

## The children's Fossil Competition 2023

Please see attached poster and visit the website

[www.theetechescollection.org/fossilcomp](http://www.theetechescollection.org/fossilcomp)

for this exciting competition.

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



## Save the Date - PTFA Coronation Craft Special on Wednesday 3rd May from 3.15pm onwards in the village hall

Please join us for a coronation craft event, there will be crafting, tea's, coffee, cakes etc with a chance to create your own coronation mug\* plus some lovely fun craft activities.

We will also be doing some takeaway craft kits if you

can't attend so please email or talk to us if you'd like to buy one [ptfa@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Prices and further information to follow and we would love to see you there!

\* please note - coronation mug designs will be done at the PTFA craft event, sent away and you pay on order for the mug

## Kids' Fun Run – East Devon Round – Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> April – 9.30am – Offwell Village Hall

Please see attached for further information. The PTFA is hosting a 'Big Breakfast' in the hall at the same time – everyone welcome!