

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:

Whole School: Our cricket coaching day with Damian. We all learnt some great new skills.

I am sure that you and your family, like me and mine, felt blessed by such warm, constant sunshine over the half term. We explored new parts of Devon and appreciated the verdant beauty of our county, even hearing a cuckoo for the first time in a decade! It has been a joy, on returning to school, to see and hear the children recount tales of their own adventures. From beaches and swimming, to woodland or moorland walks, it is good to know that many children experience the great outdoors and are learning to appreciate nature with your guidance.

I am also sure, just as I did, and mine do, that most children still complain about long walks: 'My legs are tired, my shoes rub, I need the loo, the sun cream is sticky...'. It never seemed to stop my parents and I am really glad that it didn't; without their ability to withstand my complaints, I would never have explored the Lake District, Dartmoor, the Yorkshire Moors, or the Highlands of Scotland, as well as parts of the coastal path as an adult. Becoming an independent, confident and resilient adult is something we all want for our children. This is one reason we are initiating a mini-residential for our Year 4 pupils – more on this later.

Sometimes, it is hard to get our children to try or do new or difficult things, but, as parents, we know that what is good for our children is not always popular and, unless we introduce our children to a wide range of experiences, how can they become balanced, confident adults? They may take time to appreciate the value of fruit, vegetables and exercise, for example, but don't we all? Now, we have to be more aware of the dangers of exposure to the sun, and making sure our children are covered in sun cream is as much part of being a good parent as wearing a seat-belt, but, as you'll see below, this does not mean keeping your children inside...

Sun Safety

Please remember, as Willow Class recently learned, that the sun can be good for you, as well as bad for you: it is about getting the balance right, as in all things. We discovered that the sun creates vitamin D in our skin, which helps us to grow strong bones and teeth and develop a good immune system; it also makes plants grow, without which we would be unable to enjoy the scent of flowers, the taste of fruit, or even to breathe, because they provide oxygen and consume Carbon dioxide to balance our atmosphere.

On the other hand, we learnt, The sun can also cause sun stroke, sun burn and skin cancer, if we don't take the proper precautions! In case you hadn't heard, these are: slip on a hat, slop on the sunscreen and slurp water in the shade.

Let's hope we get the chance to try this out again, soon!



Friday, 9th June 2023

Stars of the week:

Reception – Hugo

Willow – Hetty

Beech – Jessica R

Oak – Maisie and Fiona

Next week:

Monday; WASP

Tuesday; WASP, Handball – Yr 5

Wednesday; WASP, Fire Safety Talks – Beech & Oak

Thursday; WASP, Story & Rhyme – Ash, Swimming – Oak & Beech

Friday; Celebration Collective

House Points

Attenborough: 31 Anning: 36

Well done Anning!

KS2 500 Word Competition

A reminder of our school 500 word competition which is open to everyone in Beech and Oak Classes. It's not too late to get your entry in. There is a £50 prize for the winner!

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Mental Health in school

Please come, if you can, to a short talk, followed by a Q and A session, from the Mental Health Support Team about the work they can do for our pupils, families and staff. You are invited to our twilight session next **Wednesday on June 14th, from 3.30 to 4pm in Oak Class**. If you are unable to attend, and would like to ask any questions, please email them to admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk and we will pass them on, and either share the answers with you or may be able to provide contact details so you can communicate directly with the support worker we will have allocated to our school over the next year.

Whole School Art Week

June 26th – 30th is our opportunity to develop our children's appreciation and achievement in art. Our Art Leader, Miss Kirkland, has organised art activities for different ages and stages. Groups from each class will work with me to complete our Anning and Attenborough (ammonite) mosaic; Key Stage 2 classes will have access to a portable Art cabin, provided by the Thelma Hulbert Gallery, which offers new media and techniques on site; and there will be an artist in residence on Monday, providing activities appropriate for each age. There will be further information to follow, with a small donation requested, to cover costs and materials.

Art Competition!

Two of our pupils, Tilly & Chloe, who entered the recent Combe Garden Centre Art Competition, were selected for the quality of their work and awarded an unprecedented runners-up prize of £50 each! They may have already started their first steps in a lucrative career in art!

Year 4 Mini-residential – July 14th

Many schools now have a Year 4 residential, as it provides a good opportunity to build self-confidence, self-reliance and positive relationships. It seems to help pupils to better manage the challenges they face in Year 5 and 6, as well as prepare them for the longer residential in Oak Class, which is part of their educational entitlement.

Information about our mini-residential, involving activities in at the woods, at the village hall and field, and an overnight stay for Year 4 in school, will be heading home next week. The itinerary for the Friday, while avoiding anything classed as too adventurous, is full of fun and action and Year 3 are included up to the end of the day, including an evening meal, after which they will be collected. There will be a drop-in session available for any parents who would like to know more about what the staff have planned on **Tuesday 13th June at 3.30pm**. Do feel free to email if you are unable to attend but would like any specific queries answered.

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

Golden retriever puppies

Mrs Davey has some 7 week old Kennel Club registered golden retriever puppies looking for a new home. Please contact her in the office if you are interested and for more information.

Benefits for Grandparents

If a grandparent looks after your children so that you can work, they may be eligible for National Insurance credits. See the link below.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/eys/benefit-for-grandparents/>

Summer Reading Challenge

It's that time of year when children aged 4-11 can sign up to the reading challenge, set themselves a reading goal and collect rewards. See below and attached letter for further information.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Story & Rhyme

The next Story and Rhyme session in Ash Class is next Thursday, 15th June at 2.40pm. Everyone with pre-school children, or a child in Ash Class, is welcome to attend. Please pass this message to friends, neighbours, etc who may be interested.