

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: Exploring ice and trying to help the penguins and polar bears find the fish frozen in the ice so that they could eat them.

Willow: Beginning our creative story writing.

Beech: Learning our throwing events in athletics including; hammer, discus, javelin and shot put.

Oak: Taking part in the Carbon Monoxide workshop and creating our own actions for 'can't see it, hear it, smell it, taste it or touch it'.



This week brought the Summer Solstice, which means, in Latin, 'the sun stands still', due to it being the longest day of the year. You can imagine that it must have seemed, to our ancestors, as if the sun would never set. They could not have fully comprehended (to be fair, it

is mind-blowing) the way our planet revolves around our sun; that the sun is always still and it is us who move (at more than 1,000 miles per hour*) around the sun. The reason for this longest day is that our planet is currently tilted towards the sun (from our perspective) more than at any other point in our year-long orbit. *<https://www.livescience.com/how-fast-does-earth-move.html>

To most of us, it may simply mean we are rapidly approaching the summer holidays. While this is, of course, a cause for celebration for every child in the land, we, as teachers, are already thinking 'How will we fit everything in to the next four weeks?' We have planned for a range of activities to take place over the next few weeks, including: Arts Week (next week), Y4 Mini-residential, Sports Day, Reports, and finally, we will say a fond farewell to our Year 6... All in good time.

However well planned, events are always subject to things beyond our control and I currently have a change to our upcoming dates to share with you:

The National Education Union (NEU) has confirmed that industrial action will take place this term. Two strike days – Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th of July – have been agreed.

Our school has a large number of NEU staff, who do not need to say if they will strike until the morning of a strike day. This means, as previously stated, that **school will be closed on these two days**, to give maximum warning for parents and carers to make alternative arrangements.

Honiton Community College will also be closed to most year groups, so they have taken the decision to move **Transition to the week of 10th July**. The children will attend HCC for three days that week: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Parents/carers should have already received information.

This means a **change to our Sports Day** dates:

We will hold Sports Day on the afternoon of Wednesday, 12th July (this was our original reserve day). There will be a new reserve day of Tuesday, 18th July.



Friday, 23rd June 2023

Stars of the week:

Reception – Tilly

Willow – Sofii

Beech – Remy

Oak – Zach/Elliot, Nazar and Genevieve

Next week: Art Week

Monday; WASP, artist visit – whole school

Tuesday; WASP, Snail & the Whale – Ash, Open the Book

Wednesday; WASP, class photos

Thursday; WASP, Yr 6 Booster, Peripatetic music showcase, Swimming (Oak & Beech)

Friday; Celebration Collective, Willow trip – World of Country Life

House Points

Attenborough: 29 Anning: 41
Well done Anning!

Class Photos

Class photos are taking place on Wednesday, 21st June. Please ensure your child is dressed in clean school uniform. If you do not want your child to have their photograph taken as part of their class group, please advise us.

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We apologise for any inconvenience these changes may cause. The decision to take industrial action is never taken lightly. Teachers lose pay when they strike, which makes this a difficult choice, especially in the current economic circumstances. The reason the NEU is taking action is because teachers' pay has been eroded by an average of 13% over the past decade. (Institute for fiscal-studies report)

This means:

- that the pay of teachers has not risen in line with rising price costs for over ten years.
- It discourages well qualified people from entering the profession, causing a recruitment crisis.
- More teachers are leaving, so there is a difficulty retaining experience within the profession.

The NEU, alongside the other main education unions (ASCL, NAHT and NASUWT) has asked that teachers pay does not come out of existing funding, which should be allocated to improving education for children.

“The NEU also repeated calls for the leaked School Teachers’ Review Body (STRB) report to be published, which was said last month to have **advised a 6.5 per cent pay rise** for teachers next year...

The **TES revealed** that the education secretary had rejected union calls to restart pay talks and immediately publish the independent pay review body’s recommendations on teacher pay.” (11th June). [Teachers to strike next month tes.com](https://www.tes.com)

Windrush Day 22.6.23

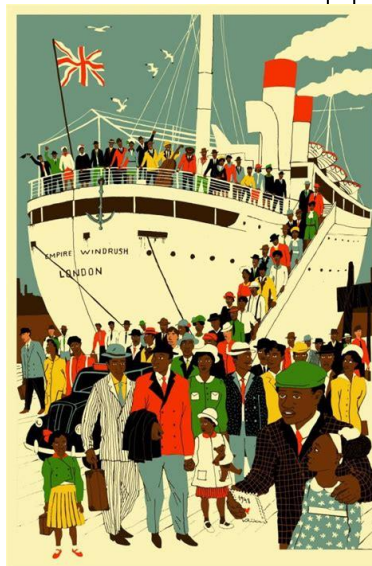
To recognise the 75th anniversary of the first Windrush arrivals, Oak class watched a Newsround video and discussed how people travelling over must have been feeling and how they felt once they arrived. They then watched a few people being interviewed, expressing how they felt about what they had left behind and what they experienced when once they arrived. The class then used an atlas and a photocopied map to plot the journey of the Empire Windrush from Jamaica, via Cuba, Mexico and Bermuda to Tilbury Docks, England.

In Beech Class, the children were offered a range of activities including; writing a song, making a poster or doing a drawing. They then shared what they had done with the class to celebrate and reflect on Windrush Day.

Willow Class looked at the evidence in a suitcase to learn about where the people came from. They talked about what it feels like to move to a new country and how we treat people equally regardless of people’s differences.

The theme in Collective Worship this week was ‘how we value our differences’.

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



Ice Lolly Friday

A reminder that, weather permitting, the PTFA will be selling ice lollies every Friday after school at the village field for 50p.

PTFA Summer Party

A reminder Of the PTFA family summer party on 8th July – 3pm to 10pm at Offwell Village Hall. Tickets £10 per adult and £5 per child. Tickets available from the school office or ptfa@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk or catch a member of the PTFA on Fridays. Everyone is welcome.

Headlice

Parents are still reporting children with headlice. Please check your children’s heads over the weekend and treat as necessary before they return to school. Please see this as an ongoing problem and check regularly.