

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 trip to see the Snail and the Whale which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and the children behaved beautifully.

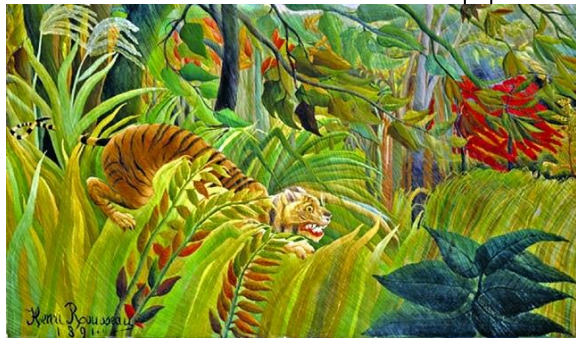
Willow: The World of Country Life visit.

Beech & Oak: Art Week including having the artist in to do the stencilling, Creative Cabin to do the cyanotype photography and making the keyrings.

Art Week

Once again, our Art Week, led by Miss Kirkland, has been a great success. The children took part in a range of activities to expand their understanding and experience of art.

Ash class attended the Northcott Theatre to watch 'The Snail and The Whale' (a wonderful story of cooperation and discovery). They shared how the whale was created on stage from pieces of the set, even different pieces of furniture. In school, the children have explored the different settings of the story, drawing and learning about volcanoes and making flowers from tropical plants. We also looked at the work of the artist Henri Rousseau, whose painting of a tiger, surprised in a storm was set in an exotic world of foliage and flowers that he had never seen, but loved to imagine.



A visiting local artist, Jan Shayler, showed children from each class how to mix



colours and use sponges and stencils to represent leaf shapes and shades throughout the year. She also shared her own painting techniques, to inspire the children to experiment further with layers of acrylic. Later in the week, the

Thelma Hulbert Gallery brought their Creative Cabin to school, so that children from Beech and Oak could experiment with cyanotypes – a kind of early photograph – using natural shapes. While these work best in bright sunlight (which had briefly vanished) the pupils were fascinated to discover the different effects that light can produce on photo-reactive paper, even without a camera. Results from every class were stunning and the children glowed with pride as they shared their work. It shows how art can inspire children, not only to produce beautiful paintings, but to discover new abilities, become more aware of the wonders of nature through observation, and grow in self-confidence.



Friday, 30th June 2023

Stars of the week:

Reception – Skylar C
Willow – Alfie
Beech – Ayla
Oak – Elizabeth

Next week:

Monday; WASP

Tuesday; WASP, Oak First Aid Training

Wednesday; Industrial Action – school closed to children

Thursday; WASP, Oak & Beech swimming

Friday; Industrial Action – school closed to children

House Points

Attenborough: 59 Anning: 49
Well done Attenborough!

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Teaching Assistant & After School Provision Positions

From September, we will have vacancies for a TA position in school working mainly in Willow Class. This requirement is full time from 8.30am until 3.15pm and the person would be expected to cover lunch duties and, of course, have a half hour lunch break themselves. We also require someone to work at our After School Provision. This would be from 3.15pm until 5.30pm on Mondays to Thursdays. Please let us know if you are interested in applying for either post and we will let you have an application form. These positions could easily be combined or covered by more than one person. Please also contact us if you would like further information.

Music Showcase

Continuing on the theme of the arts and how important they can be for children, our two peripatetic music teachers (Emily and Gail) have enabled several of our musicians to take part in a grand performance on Thursday in church, for the whole school and their parents to enjoy. We all know how nervous they must have felt in advance, but they managed their emotions so that they were able to do their best. Again, the ability to try, even if it is difficult, learning to deal with and learn from any mistakes, are some of the key personal skills we need to help our children to develop.

If your child has been inspired to take up a musical instrument, after watching their classmates perform, please encourage them and let us know.

Emily and Gail, between them, can offer the following instrumental tuition in school: Ukulele, recorder, guitar, violin and keyboard from year 2 and trombone, cornet and trumpet from year 3. The cost is £11 for a 20 minute lesson and there would be 10 lessons every term making a termly cost of £110. Please email admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk if you are interested and we will pass your details on to our music teachers who will arrange the lessons and payment. We are happy to support every child to access music lessons, so please get in touch if your child might qualify for additional support.

E-Safety

It has come to the attention of members of the school community that some of our children are on WhatsApp. Regardless of any other concerns, legally, WhatsApp, like many social media sites, is only open to people of 16 and above, for good reason. No matter what parental controls may be in place, from experience, we are aware that these cannot always protect children from the easy access that social media gives to any member of the public.

Please make sure that your child is not on WhatsApp, or on any social media site, until they reach the minimum age for the site. This way, no child will feel they are missing out (if all their friends are available in the real world) and no child will be vulnerable to online exploitation.

Industrial Action

As advised previously, school will be closed next Wednesday, 5th July and Friday, 7th July due to possible industrial action. Children who receive free school meals for economic reasons will be provided with a packed lunch which will be sent home with them the day before. If your child is eligible, please let us know if your child **DOES NOT** require a packed lunch.

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

Thank you

Having observed the traffic and parking outside school, aside from a few exceptions, I can see that most parents and carers are considerate of both pedestrians and other traffic, as they drive through the village. I also want to say thank you to the majority, who have clearly understood the reason for a one-way system through the village (arriving via the Recycling Centre road, leaving through the village; the reverse on the way home), as this helps to protect any children who walk to and from school and prevents the lanes from getting jammed up – hopefully helping everyone to get to school, work and home safely and calmly. **Please let me know of any issues, either as a pedestrian or driver, so I can address these directly with those responsible.**

'Supporting a Successful Transition to secondary' is a session for parents of soon to be Year 7s, offered by our Mental Health Support Team. The session will help parents and carers to:

- Discuss common concerns about transitioning to secondary school.
- Explore signs and reasons for worries about change.
- Gain a greater understanding of the impact of supportive language and empathy.
- Provide you with practical, helpful tips to support your child to make the most of this next stage in their developmental journey.

If you would be interested in attending this one-hour workshop in the next three weeks, please contact me via admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk as soon as possible, stating which days and times are best for you and I will happily liaise with the team.