

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: Pretending to be swinging monkeys in the rain forest!

Willow: Tasting fruit in preparation for making fruit salad.

Beech: Practising for Sports Day.

Oak: Our first aid training which we found interesting and informative. We especially enjoyed the practical bandaging and learning how to make a sling.

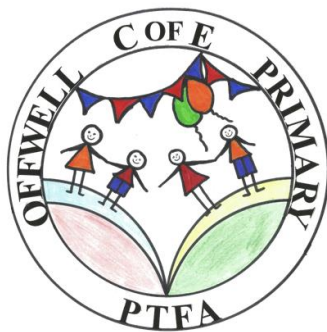
Today, I hope all of you (who can) will enjoy celebrating **World Chocolate Day!**

Chocolate is made out of the fruit of a cacao tree (*Theobroma cacao*). The fruit is about the same shape and size as a rugby ball, and the chocolate is made from the seeds (or 'beans') inside. When it is raw, chocolate tastes bitter and dry, but chocolate that's been fermented, dried, and roasted, and had a bit of sugar and cream added to it, tastes divine!



The fact it is made from a fruit does not mean it is completely healthy, however, due to all that sugar and cream, but a *small* amount of dark chocolate every day is supposed to be good for you in many ways. So, as with all things, it is about getting the balance right.

People around the planet enjoy chocolate and World Chocolate Day is a good reason to share a treat with your loved ones and the rest of the world. More than half of all the chocolate we consume today comes from West African countries, primarily Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. In the past, enslaved people were made to produce chocolate and currently there are real concerns about the use of child labour, so please, buy Fair trade or brands labelled slavery-free, so you can enjoy your chocolate with a clear conscience.



This Saturday - Summer Party

3pm to 10pm at Offwell Village Hall. If you haven't bought tickets, you can just turn up on the day. Entry is £10 for an adult and £5 for a child.

I hope that you will all be able to enjoy some family fun for a good cause this Saturday – your child's school - when the PTFA have organised a splendid array of traditional summer stalls, games and activities!. We thank the PTFA for all their

fundraising events this year, which have been both varied and memorable, from making Christmas Wreaths to Star Gazing Live, we have fully enjoyed them and genuinely appreciate the additional funding that their support brings into our school each year: Thank You very much Offwell PTFA!



Friday, 6th July 2023

Next week:

Monday; WASP

Tuesday; WASP, Whole School Transition Day

Wednesday; WASP, Oak & Beech Fire Talks, Sports Day

Thursday; WASP, Story and Rhyme – Ash Class, Oak & Beech swimming

Friday; Celebration Collective, Beech Residential

House Points

Attenborough: 56 Anning: 63
Well done Anning!

Reports

Reports are due to be sent home next week. These will be sent home by email and, if parents are separated, we will send to both parents if we have the email address for both. If you would like a paper copy of your child's report, please email admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk

If your child has undertaken any external assessments, you will receive a paper copy. This includes Early Years' Foundation Stage, Phonics (Year 1 & some Year 2), KS1 SATs (Year 2), KS2 SATs (Year 6). The Year 4 Multiplication check has been completed online and we do not receive individual results. If you would like to discuss your child's annual report further, please get in touch with your child's teacher.

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Transitions next week

Change can be a challenge for us all, but as adults, *largely*, we have learnt to override the part of our brain that wants to run, hide or fight our way out of a difficult situation, so that we can take advantage of the opportunities that change brings throughout life. In fact, we learning *is* change, because we have to alter our existing ideas to incorporate new facts.

Next week is our transition Week (rearranged from this week), with pupils experiencing a change in bite-size chunks, as they spend time in their new class on Monday morning, Tuesday morning and afternoon and Thursday morning. This coincides with the revised timetable for our Y6-7 transition days.

Children experiencing any change will feel a range of emotions and it can help to listen to their fears, but it is important to frame this transition as an exciting part of growing up that we all share. We are very proud of our Year 6 pupils and we cannot wait to find out how they get on. Please see our earlier email regarding support for parents to help their child with the transition to secondary. For pupils going on to either Beech or Oak Class, teachers have created a social 'story', which sets out, in words and pictures, where to go, what to do and who to ask if unsure. You should have received this by email already.



Torbay and Devon Civic Award Presentation

Our Year 6 children who have completed their Torbay and Devon Civic Award attended a presentation at Uffculme Secondary School earlier in the week. See <https://www.torbayanddevoncivicaward.co.uk/offwell-c-of-e-primary-school-students-awarded-the-torbay-devon-civic-award-2023/> for photos of the evening. Congratulations and well done to you all! You are great ambassadors for the school and have made us very proud!

Sports' Day

Since our transition week has had to change, so has our Sports' Day, as explained. We aim to hold Sports' Day on Wednesday 12th, with our reserve (in case of dire weather warnings) being Tuesday 18th. As usual, the children will begin to gather at will begin at 1pm on the Village Hall Field. Parents and Carers are welcome to join us and are advised to bring a picnic, rugs, chairs, umbrellas – anything that will keep you comfortable – as long as you promise to take it all away at the end! You are welcome to take photographs of your own child, but please ask the permission of the parent/carer of any other child in shot and never share another child's image online without the parent/carer's express permission first.

We hope to offer a varied range of sporting activities, some old, some new, but the beauty is, for our youngest children, it is all new! We welcome any toddler entrants in the relevant categories, but please keep younger siblings safely off the track during any races.

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

Family Maths

We know that helping children with maths homework can sometimes be a daunting task. This may be due to our own experiences of maths at school or a lack of confidence in some areas of the subject. We want to be able to support parents, so you can advise your child with confidence. The National Numeracy website has a great resource called '[The Family Maths Toolkit](#)' which has information sheets for parents and carers about boosting their own confidence with numbers and supporting children to develop positive attitudes towards maths. On the website, there are also some great tips and activities for parents. In addition, there are also resources available for parents to support maths learning in school, available from [White Rose Maths](#). These address the various units covered at school and might give you an insight how children learn maths. They also have answers!

Mr Thomas - Maths Coordinator

Language Matters

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is referred to as "The most common childhood disability you've never heard of." because despite 7.6% of the population having it (that's 2 pupils in every class of 30) many people have never heard of it. We want to be a part of changing that, because the right support can make a difference to pupils and people with DLD. Identification and regular speech-language therapy and educational adjustments, enable children with DLD to thrive. People do not grow out of DLD, it is a lifelong disability, so it's about growing with DLD. Increased awareness of DLD can reduce social stigmatisation and improve access to specialist and support services. For guidance on how to support *any* child to develop better language skills, see <https://www.moorhouseschool.co.uk>