

Offwell C of E Primary School

Our Core Values: Honesty, Loyalty, Caring, Sharing and Forgiveness.



Dear Friends and Families of Offwell,

This second week has whizzed by! With the planning, preparation and anticipation of our trip to Paignton Zoo, as well as the day itself, it seems that we have reached Friday far more quickly than usual. So, our newsletter will be largely zoo themed, just as many lessons will have been, this week. The highlight for all classes is, obviously, our zoo trip!

Our three main aims in visiting Paignton Zoo were to learn:

- that all species are important
- that all species depend on each other – including us
- that we can make things worse or better, depending on what we do.



Some of the animals, understandably, ignored us or rested out of sight (not the Red Panda, for once). Quite right too; they should not be there for our entertainment. The role of zoos (short for zoological gardens) has changed, as animals have become increasingly **endangered**. At first, we had to explain to our youngest pupils that endangered does not necessarily mean dangerous to people -

although all wild animals have ways to defend themselves - it means that these animals are in danger because of another animal: humans.

Often, zoo animals or their parents would have been brought into **captivity** because their natural home, or **habitat**, has been destroyed, or because people have taken them to become pets, or to be killed for their meat, fur, or horns. No wild animal should have to live in a cage and zoos should not have to exist, but at least they are now actively involved in educating people about **conservation** (saving nature) and they can breed species that have become rare in the wild.

Zoos also remind us of the love of nature we all have as children. I would like to share with you an animal that is entirely new to me, rarely seen and now endangered. Meet the **Binturong**!

Now, maybe it is not glossy or glamorous and maybe you have seen loads before, but it seems like a creature from a story to me, with its bear's face, cat's whiskers, unique, tufty ears and huge, shaggy tail. I had never heard of them, let alone seen one, so everything about it was marvellous to me. It made me realise how a child might practically fall over on seeing their very first cat or dog. Every creature is amazing, if we see it as if it is the very first time – or last.

<https://factanimal.com/binturong/>



Friday, 15th September 2023

Stars of the week:

Reception – All of them!
Willow – Ares
Beech – Lewis
Oak – Marley

Next week:

Monday; WASP
Tuesday; Sports WASP, cricket, PTFA Meeting
Wednesday; WASP, Willow welly walk
Thursday; WASP
Friday; Celebration Collective

House Points

Attenborough: 62 Anning: 75
Well done Anning!

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The Binturong, like so many other species (e.g: Orangutan, Pygmy Elephant and Sumatran Rhino), has lost its natural forest habitat across the continent of Asia and islands like Borneo, Sumatra and Java because of the destruction of forests to build or plant palm oil plantations. This causes tonnes of Carbon Dioxide to enter the atmosphere, adding to climate change. The Binturong is also crucial to the spread of some trees, which will only germinate after being eaten. This shows how everything is linked. Without the life that surrounds us, we cannot enjoy the life we have. Every plant, insect, bird, animal has its place, and so do we. All nature conservation groups, in different ways, are telling us that we are the last generations on earth who can help nature recover.

There is one small step we can all take: **check everything for palm oil and only buy RSPO certified products** (using oil from a sustainable source). When enough of us do this, fewer rainforests will be laid waste for cash crops and the Binturong will be able to live as it should, hanging out in the tree-tops.

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/8-things-know-about-palm-oil>

Finally, I want to share a lovely email we received:

Subject: Well done!

My husband and I were at Paignton Zoo today and came across pupils from your school two or three times and were very impressed with their calmness, politeness and good behaviour. Well done!

So, well done to you all: every pupil, member of staff and parent or carer, who should feel as proud of yourselves as I do of you! Have a great weekend, keep up that good behaviour, watch out for sustainable palm oil and enjoy hanging out in your natural habitat!



PTFA Meeting

The first meeting of the year has been set for Tuesday, 19th September at 7.30pm in The White Hart Inn, Wilmington. Everyone is welcome to attend. You will be given a warm welcome!

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



School Games Mark Award

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2022/23 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success. With many of our children competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. A special well done to Miss Phillips who applied for this award and Mr Bardot who also enabled us to be successful! We look forward to applying once again in 2024!