

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: Acting out the story of the Enormous Turnip!

Willow: Learning about famous aviator Amelia Earhart.

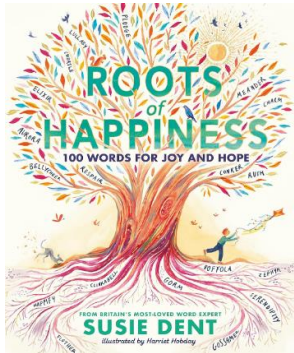
Beech: Finding out about the different periods of the Stone Age.

Oak: Learning about the use of horses and mules during the First World War and listening to War Horse.

When bad news is all we hear, we are bound to feel negative. Even if there are positives all around us, we feel the influence of other people's experiences and ideas through their words. Words can make us see, think and feel what others do, and the words we choose have power.

In school, or at home, parents, carers and teachers always aim to use this power for good. To help our children to **Be Well**, we choose words to show our care for each other; to **Learn Well**, we teach vocabulary that develops understanding, and to **Live Well**, we encourage a love of reading for life-long discovery (See Devon's **School Library Service** suggested book lists, below, for any avid science or technology fans in your household).

Just after hearing the latest (bad) news, I was lucky (she would say serendipitous) to hear Susie Dent talk about her new book: '**Roots of Happiness: 100 Words for Joy and Hope**'.



Susie has searched her extensive knowledge of language, both ancient and new, to find and share the uplifting effect of a well-chosen word.

While we might have to wait a few months more to experience a **zephyr** (a gentle summer breeze), we could all be a **lovewende** (someone who is loved for showing love to others), or a **gigglemug** (someone who is always smiling) and learn the true meaning of **dumbledore**, which was not, originally, the name of Harry Potter's Headteacher, but ... well, let's see if you can find out!

I heard Susie share some of her favourite words just after I left the house during the heaviest rain in weeks. As I sat in the car, listening to the radio, wet to the skin, she explained my condition exactly: '**thunderplunked**' (the experience of being completely soaked in a storm); it was the perfect word. Despite everything, it made me smile ☺.



Friday, 15th September 2023

Stars of the week:

Reception – Rosalie

Willow – Eli

Beech – Rosa

Oak – Isla

Next week:

Monday; WASP

Tuesday; Sports WASP, Cricket

Wednesday; WASP,

Thursday; WASP, Ferne Animal Sanctuary to visit Willow

Friday; Celebration Collective

House Points

Attenborough: 88 Anning: 106

Well done Anning!

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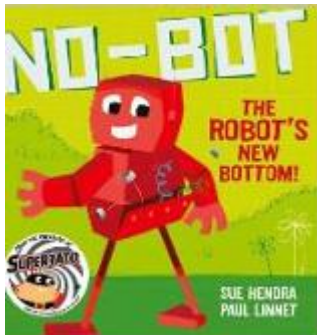


School Library Service

Each month our knowledgeable library team collate 15 different book titles based on a relevant theme for KS1, KS2 and teenagers. For September they have curated a collection of books to support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths), with titles featuring robots, artificial intelligence, and computers. Hilarious robot antics, thought-provoking near-future scenarios, and informative non-fiction should provoke plenty of interesting discussions at school, home and in the library.

[KS1: gaming, technology and engineering booklist](#)

[KS2: gaming, technology and engineering booklist](#)



IMPORTANT Information about Secondary School Places

All Year 6 Parents and Carers: applications for your child to start in year 7 at secondary school in September 2024 open on 1 September 2023 and close on 31 October 2023. The date that all allocations of school places are announced in England is known as 'Offer day'. For September 2024 secondary school starters this will be on 1 March 2024.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place/>

On this website you will find tabs and links to access:

- A step-by step guide,
- School information pages,
- School open events,
- Designated schools for your address,
- Information about equally ranked preferences – this enables you to apply for the schools you most want without affecting your chances of a place at other schools.
- Online application for any state-funded secondary school in Devon*

Please note that the Local Authority will no longer send out letters to parents or carers of children in year 6 inviting them to apply. If you have a child who is going to be applying for secondary school transfer in September 2024, you can [register to be sent an email or text reminder to apply](#), but they will not assume that you want a place at a particular school – even if you have an older child who already attends or you live nearby. If you cannot apply online, please contact the Education helpline on [0345 155 1019](tel:03451551019) and ask for a paper copy of the form.

Parents and Carers of children in Y4 and Y5

You may wish to familiarise yourselves with the available secondary schools and process of applications, as set out above.

Most of our children go to Honiton Community College, but depending on different factors*, parents can also look at Axe Valley Academy (Axminster), Woodroffe (Lyme Regis) and The Kings School. *The admissions policies of each school will dictate their intake.

As a selective school, the process of application to Colyton Grammar begins earlier, from April 1st of the year before entry: <https://www.colytongrammar.com/95/admissions#>

There are materials, such as the Familiarisation Guide, to help prepare for the 11+.

Wrap Around Care: Breakfast and After School Club Contacts

In case you need to make urgent contact with Breakfast Club (between 8 and 8.30am), or After School Club (between 3.30 and 5.30pm), here are the numbers: Breakfast Club: (01404) 831019; After School Club (01404) 831233.

These telephones are **not** to be used for normal enquiries during the school day (8.30am – 3.30pm), when you can use the usual Office number: (01404) 831417, or leave a message at any time.

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Governors

The Governing Board held its first meeting of the academic year and I am delighted to tell you that Mrs Janet Dimond was re-elected as Chair for this year. Following the request for nominations made at the start of term, I am pleased to announce that Mrs Jane Knight (Mum of Michael in Ash Class) has been appointed as Parent Governor, filling the existing vacancy. Staff elections have also taken place and Mr Chris Thomas has been elected for a period of 4 years. This fills the vacancy left by Mrs Holohan who has served as a staff governor for many years and has decided that now is the time to step aside from the governor role. Congratulations to them all!

A huge thank you to Mrs Holohan for working tirelessly to support the Governing Board and the school during her time as a governor. Mrs Holohan will, of course, continue in her role as Teaching Assistant in Oak Class.

As there have been a number of changes, I list below the present list of governors on the Board:

Chair - Janet Dimond – Local Authority Governor
Lorna Legg & Chris Thomas – Staff Governors
Jane Knight, Victoria Kyberd, William Isaac – Parent Governors
Stefanie Kastner - Co-opted Governor
Jeremy Putnam – Ex-officio Foundation Governor
John Tristram & Emily Jordan – Associate Members

We are presently in the process of filling the remaining Foundation Governor vacancy and once the paperwork is in place, we will advise you of our new governor!

We discussed many exciting things and governors have agreed to form two committees to work with the full Governing Board. We also discussed our new priorities for this academic year and these will be shared with you shortly.

If you would like to contact any of the governors, please email admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk and Mrs Davey will put you in touch or you can email Mrs Dimond directly – jdimond@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk

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

Cross Country

Some of our children took part in the first event organised by Honiton Learning Community. Well done to all the children involved for a superb effort and representing the school well. The Year 3/4 teams did particularly well with Rosa winning her race and Poppy coming 2nd. Zak won his race for the Year 3/4 boys.



PTFA AGM

Everyone is invited to attend the PTFA AGM on Thursday, 2nd November at 7.30pm. Stay informed and get involved. Help as much or as little as you like but do come along to the meeting!

Are there any children, parents, teachers who love sewing and might be interested in a small PTFA project? Please email the PTFA if interested or speak to Sophie Joy.

Thelma Hulbert Gallery – Free Event – Saturday, 23rd September – Create Organic
Please see the poster and drop in to this free event.