

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: Mixing our own saltdough to create Gingerbread Men characters.

Willow: Playing rabbits and foxes whilst learning about the food chain!

Beech: We enjoyed the gym festival at Honiton Community College learning new skills.

Oak: There were so many highlights this week including juicing (and drinking it), using the belle plates and making some great tunes and our still life drawing.

"I am just one person," said 8 billion people. <https://www.theeconews.co.uk>

It can feel like one person cannot make a difference in our great, big world. On our own, all the little things we try to do to make life better can seem insignificant and pointless. You might hear people say: What is the point of recycling one piece of litter, when nobody else does? What is the point in giving £1 to charity, when so many people and animals are suffering?

Why smile, when so many people are frowning? Perhaps it would feel worth it if we saw other people doing the same, they might say, or maybe they might smile back, but only if someone else smiles first. They must feel so alone.

We are not alone, though; we are all part of something much bigger. If nothing else, we are part of our family and we are all part of humanity. We number 8 billion and counting (8000,000,000 -how many zeros is that?! Getting together (as we are today) to raise funds to help others, is brilliant and important, and if every day just 1% (1 in every hundred) of the planet's population did one small thing to make a difference – they each put one piece of litter into the recycling, or gave £1.00 to charity, or smiled at one other person – it would make a *huge* difference to our world!

It would mean 80 million (80,000,000) pieces of litter recycled, 80 million pounds for charity and 160 million (160,000,000) smiles shared (Why not 80 million? Because the other 80 million would have to smile back!) Believing you can make the world a better place is part of our vision and values and is part of all world religions, including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and world views like Humanism. Since at least 85% of the world's population believe in something bigger than themselves, we are definitely not alone – there is hope – we are making a big difference, in our own small ways!

Coffee Morning, Cake Sale and Pre-loved Uniform

Thank you to all the lovely people (families and staff) for baking and bringing such delicious cakes today. We have already contributed to the pot, as we had to sample some! We also had a great turn out for the PTFA Coffee Morning, which is a great opportunity for some of our future pupils to play together (I am sure most meetings would be improved by a group of small children).

Our school is currently part of the **Tesco Blue Counter** scheme in our local store. Please remember to use your counters each time you shop. Ask for them if you don't get given one! Our PTFA will be raising funds for shelters and play equipment for breaktimes. This may present you, like me, with a moral dilemma, depending on who else is raising funds at the same time, but be assured, we all get a share.



Friday, 6th October 2023

Stars of the week:

Reception – Michael

Willow – Iola

Beech – Remy

Oak – Eric, Elizabeth and Serge

Next week:

Monday; WASP

Tuesday; WASP, Farmwise – Beech & Oak

Wednesday; WASP,

Thursday; WASP,

Friday; Celebration Collective Worship, PTFA Disco

House Points

Attenborough: 74 Anning: 93

Well done Anning!

Offwell Phonics Workshop for parents:

5 – 6 pm Monday 16th October in Ash Class. All parents welcome, but may be especially useful for families with children in Ash Class. It will explain how we teach reading and spelling in school and offer advice and activity ideas on how to consolidate these important reading and spelling skills at home.

Website Survey

Please click on the link to complete the website survey mentioned in the newsletter. It is a very quick survey to complete with just 6 questions!

<https://forms.office.com/e/RH2hdsX94M>

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Devon's popular **Autism and Us** programme has returned this autumn, with a combination of four-week courses and one-off workshops. The programme offers support for families of children and young people who have an autism diagnosis, are waiting for one, and those not seeking a diagnosis but would welcome support. It is designed for parent/carers of primary and secondary school children in Devon. There are several workshops covering what to expect, vulnerability and online safety, anxiety and autism in girls, among other subjects and more dates will be added:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/autism-and-us-autumn-2023-dates/>

To secure a place, or to express your interest, please send an email to educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk.

Dyslexia Awareness Week's theme is '*Uniquely You,*' celebrating the fact that dyslexia can be found in all backgrounds and walks of life. Many people have heard of dyslexia, but they don't always know what it is, or what it means for those who have it. The week aims to spread awareness and understanding through sharing facts, stories, resources and more!

Did you know?

- Dyslexia is the most common learning disability.
- Dyslexia is usually inherited - most families have multiple members with dyslexia.
- The symptoms of dyslexia aren't always what you think - there are many symptoms of dyslexia and a person may only exhibit a handful of them.
- No two dyslexic experiences are exactly alike either, it affects everyone differently!
- Many dyslexic people are very creative and 'out-of-the-box' thinkers, meaning they can be excellent problem solvers!

Please get in touch if you think your child may need assessment or support.

<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/support-us/awareness-events/dyslexia-awareness-week>

Attendance

This has been a difficult area since March 2020, the three Lockdowns that followed, and the complex ramifications of Covid. While we are still trying to navigate the remaining issues, we are committed to maximising your child's educational opportunities and we know that you are too.

If your child's attendance falls below 90% this means they are missing, on average, half a day a week, amounting to 10% of their education. Low attendance and frequent late entry to school can cause children to face barriers both socially and academically, as they try to catch up on lost information, support and relationships. Sometimes this is unavoidable, so communication is vital, but if we are unclear of the reason, we will write to let you know if your child's attendance slips below 90%, so we can discuss ways to support better attendance.

We thank you for letting us know if your child is unwell and for completing absence request forms (available in the office). To avoid disappointment, please do not book holidays in term-time, as this cannot usually be authorised. Extended and repeated unauthorised absences can result in a fine from County. Medical reasons aside, we cannot authorise time out of school for anything other than exceptional circumstances, such as important and rare family events, or unusual educational opportunities. Please discuss any questions or difficulties with us.



PTFA Disco
Please see the attached poster with

information about the disco on Friday, 13th October.

Firework Display

The PTFA are asking for volunteers to help at the firework display on Wednesday, 25th October (half term). They are running a refreshment stand and the stall will close during the fireworks and will only be for a couple of hours.

School Meal Menu after Half Term

Please see attached for the new menu which starts after half term. The menu begins with week 1 on 30th October. If your child has a school dinner, it is important that you look at the menu and let admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk know of any changes. The menu has completely changed on Mondays and Tuesdays of every week and Thursday week 1 offers pasta bolognese as the main course with pizza as the meat free option. Please let us know if your child wants the pizza on that day if they usually have the meat pizza!

Ferne Animal Sanctuary

A reminder that we still have a box for loose change held in the office. If you would like to contribute, please send your child in with a small amount of money. The box will be collected within the next two weeks.

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