

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: Creating pictures with shapes, photographing them ourselves and then trying to copy somebody else's picture. It was quite tricky!

Willow: Making camouflaged moths and learning about prey and predators.

Beech & Oak: Farmwise was amazing and a fantastic learning experience. We learnt a lot about where our food comes from.



October is Black History Month, but Black History, like the history of women's fight for the right to vote, or of disabled people's rights, are simply part of human history that have been (until recently) left out of the story, leaving us without a full picture of who we were and who we are now.

Our classes have or will each look at different contributions in their history lessons. This is one of our ancestors – the oldest complete Homo Sapiens skeleton found in Britain – that Beech class have learned about.



He lived 10,000 years ago and was found in 1903, in Gough's Cave, Cheddar Gorge, Somerset (which is why he is called Cheddar Man). This reconstruction was created more recently, from a careful analysis of

the DNA in his skeleton.

His combination of blue/green eyes and dark skin is striking and tells us a lot about our ancestors. Dark or pale skin is an adaptation to different levels of sunlight. Dark skin has more melanin, which is better at protecting our skin from damaging UV light in sunny climates, whereas pale skin is better at absorbing vitamin D in cloudy climates.

Cheddar Man, and other Stone Age people found across Europe, show us that the melanin-rich skin associated with Africa and the Mediterranean was common for Mesolithic humans throughout Europe. It is further evidence that all human life originated in Africa and that all humans are part of one race: the human race.

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/cheddar-man-mesolithic-britain-blue-eyed-boy.html>



Friday, 13th October 2023

Stars of the week:

Reception – Lilli

Willow – Sophie

Beech – Ella

Oak – Jessica

Next week:

Monday; WASP, Phonics Workshop

Tuesday; WASP, Trip to Willand (Reading Ambassadors), Cricket, Ethos Group Meeting

Wednesday; WASP,

Thursday; WASP, Yr 6

Friday; Celebration Collective Worship

House Points

Attenborough: 83 Anning: 81

Very close this week but well done Attenborough!



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Phonics Workshop for Parents/Carers Monday, 16th October 5-6pm in Ash Class

All parents/carers welcome but the workshop may be especially useful for families with children in Ash. We will explain how we teach reading and spelling in school and offer advice and activity ideas on how to consolidate these skills at home.

Flu Vaccination

Every child in school is eligible to receive a free flu vaccination and everyone, except nursery, can receive theirs at school on 17th November when the team will be visiting. This is by completing the online **OPT IN** form. Please see attached to this newsletter the very important letter giving you all the information you should need and links to the online form. The online link to the form is also here:

<https://www.kernowimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu> Please ensure you enter the school's unique code which is: DV113359. This must be completed by midday on 15th November. The school does not get advised about who has completed the form until the day before the vaccination is due to take place, so we are unable to check as to whether it has been completed.



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

