

# 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:** Enjoying role play in our Gingerbread café.

**Willow:** Oak joining us and making commemorations for explorers.

**Beech:** Coding algorithms, debugging and using Scratch to create superheroes.

**Oak:** Continuing to enjoy art lessons using pumpkins. This week we looked at Pop Art and created pastel paintings in the style of Andy Warhol.

We have definitely entered Autumn; all the evidence is there: mist, wind, rain and apples everywhere. In some ways, it is a relief – at least we know what to wear!

However, it is clear that this Autumn has been different, with some odd overlaps between summer and winter. On my usual walk, I have seen wild strawberry flowers, blackberries and holly berries, all at once; beautiful, but odd.



When we rely on things staying the same, like each season following the other, or a much loved landmark standing tall, it can be confusing when things change.



Today I was delighted to share in a live assembly (shared with around 100 other schools) about the beloved and sadly missed Sycamore Gap Tree. As it was recently and brutally hacked down, the assembly asked pupils to think how they felt about this event and why.

Then, to manage the many, difficult feelings they shared, the children were able to consider helpful ways to respond, rather than give instant responses that do not always help.

Sometimes, when we don't understand why things happen, the confusion can drastically upset our usual sense of wellbeing. When we have time to reflect and learn more about a situation, we can, eventually, learn better ways to live well; to live in harmony with our world and the plants, animals and people with whom we share it. On my wall is a prayer I really should read more often and that I would like to share with you:

*God, grant me SERENITY  
To accept the things I cannot change,  
COURAGE to change the things I can, and  
WISDOM to know the difference.*

And with that, I wish you all the calm, courage and creativity you will probably need to enjoy a very happy half-term 😊



Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

## Stars of the week:

Reception – Ralph

Willow – Hetty

Beech – Rhys

Oak – Albert and Toby

## Week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> October:

**Monday;** WASP

**Tuesday;** WASP

**Wednesday;** WASP,

**Thursday;** WASP, Story & Rhyme, PTFA AGM

**Friday;** Celebration Collective Worship

## House Points

**Attenborough: 120 Anning: 129**

Well done Anning

That means Anning are overall winners this half term and will be rewarded with a non-uniform day on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

## Story & Rhyme

The next Story and Rhyme session is on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 2.40pm in Ash Class. Everyone with children in Ash Class or with pre-school children is welcome to attend so please pass this on to friends, neighbours, etc who may be interested.

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## Reading Ambassador Library Trip

On Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October, the Reading Ambassadors went to Willand to the Devon School Library Service to choose 130 books. We chose books for all of the classes including nursery. Some of the books we chose were fiction and some were non-fiction books. There were picture books, chapter books, short stories and so much more including; adventure, fantasy, coding, board books and animal books. We tried to not pick any books that we have in the school at the moment. We tried to get different books that covered a range of subjects and a range of ages because it is important to enjoy what you are reading. We believe we have found a book to suit everyone. Tilly P, Jessie and Thomas.



## Offwell Fireworks & Lantern Parade

Please see flyer going home today telling you more about the Lantern and Parade Competition. The gates open to the village fireworks at 6.15pm and there is a charge of £6 for people aged 16 and over with under 16s free.

## PTFA AGM – Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November – 7.30pm in Oak Class

A reminder of the details of the AGM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Dates for your diaries:

### My Plans will be updated – Week of 30.11.23:

- teachers will be in touch to gather your ideas and share next steps

2.11.23 – PTFA AGM 7.30pm at school

13.11.23 – Assessment Week – termly check up on progress

29.11.23 – Parents' Evenings – sharing information about your child

Week of 11<sup>th</sup> December – last week of term –

Christmas Carol Performances 😊



**NB: Look out, next half-term, for a re-launch our newsletter... it will be easier to read and accessible via any device.**

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



## Parental Minds

Join Parental Minds for a FREE online workshop focused on supporting young people that are avoiding school. We will be joined by Matt Gould, strategic lead for inclusion for DCC.

Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

19:15 - 21.00

Sign up

here: <https://bit.ly/EngageEducation>

Parental Minds material is informed by families lived experience, with professional input and supporting evidence is cited, where it exists, by Dr Abby Russell's research students from the University of Exeter. Sharing knowledge and insights. Answering your questions. Helping to make informed choices about your loved one.'

See attached poster