

Offwell C of E Primary School

Our vision: **Be well; Learn well; Live well; Offwell**



1st May 2026

Dear Families and Friends,

This week has seen the start of some exciting changes for our school.

On Monday, most of our Key Stage 2 children went on their first swimming lesson of the school year. These lessons aim for all children to swim confidently by the end of their time in Primary School, using a range of strokes, for a distance of at least 25 metres, with the ability to keep themselves safe and use survival skills in different scenarios. This is a vital set of life skills, so we thank our PTFA (and all of you) for your ongoing support. Meanwhile, our Year 6 pupils who have already gained these skills, will have some valuable additional time with their teacher, as they approach the time when they can show off their knowledge of reading, writing and maths in their assessment week (May 11th – 14th).

On Wednesday, we began our first official **Forest School** session, led by Mrs Batten (supported by Mrs Sutton, this week). The Forest School experience is different from our Welly Walks, even though both take place in Offwell Woods.

Welly Walks generally have a collective purpose, such as learning about curriculum subjects in a new context, with adults taking the lead. Forest School, in contrast, is a child-centred learning process, offering opportunities for growth in knowledge, attitudes and skills through regular sessions of play, exploration and supported risk taking. It can develop confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

Mrs Batten will guide these weekly sessions (usually working with Mrs Bryant), drawing on her specific Forest School training. This training is required to capitalise safely and effectively on the opportunities that each child discovers through engaging in nature. In the first instance, this trial will involve a carefully selected small group of children, but this provision will adapt and grow over time. Each group will receive a letter before any sessions and parents/guardians are welcome to see our risk assessment and ask about the sessions their child attends.

On Thursday and Friday, interviews will have taken place to recruit Offwell's new Headteacher! As Offwell's old Headteacher (almost!), I remember my two days of interview vividly, with the questions from our School Council being my favourite part, where I began to feel what it would be like to become part of Offwell School's journey; eight years later, it has been better than I could have imagined.

Whoever is successful will, I am sure, feel equally blessed to be welcomed into the flourishing school community we have created, ready to step into their new role in September, with everyone's support. Mrs Dimond, our Chair of Governors, will share more information on Tuesday.

In the meantime, I wish you all a very happy (possibly sunny?) bank holiday weekend! We will see you all on Tuesday morning ☺
Be safe and healthy and may all go well with you.

Mrs Lorna Legg, Headteacher



Headteacher: Mrs L Legg

www.offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk

admin@offwell-primary.devon.sch.uk

01404 831417

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Details of week beginning 4th May: School Meals Week 1

Monday – Bank Holiday

Tuesday – Larks and Owls,

Wednesday – Larks and Owls, Youth Speaks (Some year 3/4)

Thursday – Larks and Owls

Friday – Larks and Owls, Whole School walk to the woods – see below for further information

Highlights of the week –

Ash – Making a fruit salad and watching our beans germinate.

Willow – Being part of the interview process and taking our learning outside.

Beech – Watching light bulbs light up when making a circuit. We created our own switch.

Oak – Starting our history topic on World War II

House Points –

Attenborough – 87

Anning – 86

Well done Attenborough

Friday, 10th May – David Attenborough's 100th Birthday – Whole School walk to Offwell Woods

We will be celebrating David Attenborough's 100th birthday by going on a walk during the morning next Friday. There will be no Celebration Collective Worship that day. Children should wear non-uniform ensuring it is suitable for a walk. Appropriate footwear should also be worn. We are also inviting the children to wear something blue as part of their clothing for obvious reasons! Upon our return, the PTFA will be providing refreshments for everyone. Thank you PTFA.

In the afternoon, we will be taking part in a live online assembly to celebrate his birthday.



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