



Many other school events and news can be found on our [Facebook page - click here](#)

18th December, 2020

A message from Mrs. Denham

Well we've all made it to the end of another rather unusual term. We thank you so much for all your support, understanding, kind words and help. I really do believe the Holywell community and family is a very special one. Even through these very difficult times the school team has ensured your children have been able to share as many of Christmas traditions as possible such as Christmas jumper days, Christmas lunch, meeting Father Christmas, swap shop, carols and Christingle and treat times.

We have so many people to thank this term who have helped make the school such a wonderful place to work and a fabulous place for your children to learn, grow and thrive. These include:

- Our Governors who help support and run the school and have managed this so well even in these difficult times. Special thanks to Tim Baker the chair of governors whom has been a great support.
- Ventrus MAT who support the school behind the scenes, with areas such as School Improvement, HR, H&S and training
- Reverend Gary and the Church team for all their love, support and kindness.
- The amazing PTA who even through a pandemic, have organised the Christmas raffle, quiz, Santa hats, the sale of T-Towels and special visitors to school! These activities will have helped to raise much needed funds for our school.
- Jenny Baker who has supported the children with a much loved specialist music programme.
- St Michael's Nursery catering team for a scrummy Christmas dinner.
- You as parents for supporting the school and helping us follow the COVID risk assessments and guidance as best as possible. Thank you also to everyone who sent in gifts for the Swap Shop. The children REALLY enjoyed choosing something to bring home to you – their faces were a picture and we hope you enjoy receiving your gift on Christmas morning! Then to top it all, this week we had the flood and once again so many of you came together to help which was so very much appreciated. Thank you.
- And lastly the most wonderful school team who despite anything and everything that has been thrown at them this year, have accepted it and just got on with a huge smile on their faces and a massive loving heart. They are an extraordinary team and I am so grateful to each and every one of them for their support and absolute dedication.

I hope your child was able to successfully bring home the homemade piece of slate I made for them as their Christmas gift this year. Please be aware these are homemade and I can't promise, even though they have been sprayed with sealant, that the paint and writing won't wash off over time i.e. don't put them in the dishwasher! Can I also clarify that I haven't taken the slate from the office roof – these were left over pieces that the builders had had cut down and so were not needed and were going to throw away!!

We have to say a very sad "au revoir" to Mrs. Turner who is leaving Holywell to be with her family and go onto pastures new. We will miss her warmth, compassion, dedication and kindness. She will be very sadly missed. We are therefore, also saying a big welcome and hello to Mrs. Hathway, who will be working in Foxes on Thursday and Friday alongside Mrs. Bellew who will be working all day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

We are desperately needing to get more pupils to apply for places at Holywell in Reception, year 1 and year 2. We have attached a poster/ advertising leaflet to this newsletter. If you can print it out and put the poster in any local shops, business or anywhere you can think of we would be very grateful!

If any child has to self-isolate or becomes ill over the holiday period, please follow the guidance received in an email from Ventrus on December 9th and listed below:

Finally, although this is going to be a very different Christmas period, I would like to wish you all a happy, safe, peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year. Enjoy being together as a family and spending precious time with each other. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday, January 5th 2021.

With very best wishes
Sue Denham

Guidance from Ventrus

We would like to give absolute clarity on the **steps you need to take if one of the children in your family who attends our school has a confirmed positive test for COVID-19** during the Christmas holidays.

Please email info@ventrus.org.uk as soon as you possibly can, marking the subject as "Confirmed Covid-19 Case", in the subject of the email and please include the following information in the body of the email:

School Name:

Child Name:

Date of confirmed positive test:

Date child became symptomatic:

Please ensure that you send this email without delay, as it will be crucially important for contact tracing to begin immediately enabling those who have been in close contact with a positive case to take appropriate self-isolation measures. We only need to be emailed if a positive test is received, we don't need to be notified if a child is isolating due to having one or more symptoms associated with Covid-19, it is only if a positive test is received that we need to be contacted.

Spring Term

Starts on Tuesday 5th January 2021

Last day of the Spring term will be 1st April 2021

Half term Monday 15th February, 2021 – Friday 19th February, 2021 inclusive

**Holywell is a NO NUT
Zone.**

Christmas Services

You are invited to join in the Christmas celebrations at Tawstock church:

Sunday 20th: 11.00am nativity and carols with short communion

Christmas Eve: 10.00pm - first communion of Christmas

Christmas Day: 11.00am: family service

Rev Gary Owen

Team Rector, Two Rivers Mission Community

Admission to primary school 2021 (for children born between 01/09/2016 and 31/08/2017)

The application facility opens on 15th November 2020 and closes at midnight on 15th January 2021. It is important that parents apply before the closing date, even if they are intending to defer their child's admission until later in the academic year, they must secure a place before that decision need be made.

Wow dress up for Wednesday 6th January.

We would like to introduce our history topic for the Spring term by completing a whole school dress up to provide a taster of what the terms main focus will be.

Robins and Hedgehogs: Kings, Queens, knights and ladies

Foxes: Romans

Squirrels: Anglo Saxons

COVID -19

Please note that it has been announced that there has been a change in isolation time from 14 to 10 days.

Holywell virtual school tour

On our school website and Facebook page we now have a virtual tour. Please can we ask that you take a look at this and share it with anyone who may be interested in joining the school.

Vodafone Sim Card

Vodafone UK wanted to do their part to help keep children and parents connected and be able to continue learning from home during this difficult time. They have given away for free 250,000 data SIMs with 30GB of data to use for 90 days.

We requested and have been allocated a small number of Vodafone data SIM cards to give out to parents who have problems logging on to the Wi-Fi for their children to access Microsoft Teams from home. As they are limited, they will be given out on a first come first served basis.

- ❖ Vodafone data SIM to use as a Wi-Fi replacement.
- ❖ 30GB data (lasts for 90 days)
- ❖ Need a smart laptop/dongle that has a slot for a sim card or a smart phone that takes a sim card
- ❖ Need good Vodafone signal (you can use the Network Status tracker on www.vodafone.co.uk)

- ❖ If your phone is locked to another network, you just need to contact your network provider's customer service team to request for your phone to be unlocked.
- ❖ You won't be able to use your phone to make calls/texts while using this data SIM.
- ❖ You will be able to enjoy 30GB data for 90 days this will start once you insert the SIM into your phone and start using the data.

Free School Meals over the Christmas Holidays

If you are entitled to free school meals, you should have received a letter or email from DCC on or after the 8th December with details of how to access your vouchers or an alternative food box. Also, on or after the 8th December you should have received a unique code per child. Each code can be used once on a website call 'Hawk Select' to redeem your voucher/s to the value of £30.00 per child (£15.00 per week for the two weeks of school holidays) for Sainsbury's, Tesco, Morrison's, Asda, M&S Food and Waitrose.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please visit the Devon County website:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/free-school-meals-holiday-voucher-scheme/>

Help with Microsoft Team

We have not been able to check these all the way through but you may find them useful. Please copy into your browser.

<https://computeam.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6502ccd6ae7fa097838c4488b&id=2a3105a94d&e=715cfa1d2b>

Severe weather conditions and the closure of School

I thought I would take the opportunity to update you on the procedures for the closure of the school in bad weather.

1. We will send out a message on the Holywell C of E Primary School Facebook page as soon as we know the weather conditions, we will also put a message on the Holywell PTA Facebook page, Holywell website page and we will also email you.
2. You can register with Devon County Council school closures, alert me -stay up to date. The email link is: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/schools/closure/> They will then alert you if the school is closed.
3. Listen to Radio Devon.
4. If you are unsure, as a last resort please telephone either Holywell C of e Primary school on (01271) 345908. However, if we cannot get into school to man the phone please try Bratton Fleming on 01598 720337 they may be open to assist you. We will always have staff, if possible, to answer the telephone.
We will always try, wherever possible, to remain open. Alternatively, it may be safer to open school later than normal.

Individual families should assess the risk posed by their journey to school and make their own decision. Many families who live close to the school will have a different level of risk to those who have much more complex travel arrangements. Let's hope that we have a trouble-free winter!

Privacy Notice

The Trust has updated its Privacy Notice for parents. It is available for you to view on our website <https://www.ventrus.org.uk/our-people/privacy-notice/>

Dates for your diary

Term Dates – Jan 2021 to July 2021

5 th January 2021	Spring Term begins
15 th February to 19 th February 2021	Half Term
1 st April 2021	Last Day of Term
19 th April 2021	Summer Term begins
3 rd May 2021	Spring Bank Holiday
28 th May 2021	Non Pupil Day
31 st May to 4 th June 2021	Half Term
23 rd July 2021	Last Day of Term

News from the PTA



Thank you all for your support this term to help raise funds for new ipads for the school and to spread a bit of Christmas cheer after such a difficult year! A special thanks to all the school staff who have adapted to new challenges and worked so hard to look after and educate our children, you deserve a good break!

Tea towels

Thank you for purchasing tea towels, which have been distributed this week. There are still a few spares so you can order some more for collection next term if you wish!

Remember we can continue fundraising during the holidays!

Selling on ebay

Before donating those unwanted Christmas presents, please consider selling them on eBay, where you have the option to donate up to 100% of the sale to go to "Friends of Holywell School - Tawstock". You can customise the donation percentage and the charity you want to support for each individual listing.

Online shopping

Amazon Smile: https://smile.amazon.co.uk/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi_chpf_redirect?ie=UTF8&ein=1045040-0&ref_=smi_ext_ch_1045040-0_cl

or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app

Easyfundraising: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofholywellschool/?invite=2RQAJ0%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt
e donation percentage and the charity you want to support for each

Your School Lottery

Thank you to everyone who has bought a lottery ticket! Tickets can be bought any time

at <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/holywell-church-of-england-primary-school> Good luck!

Second hand uniform

If you require or wish to donate pre-loved uniform, please contact Hazel on 07974208835.

Next meeting: Wednesday 13th January 7.30pm online

Until then, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

