



**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE**

[www.primaryschoolsbarntable.co.uk](http://www.primaryschoolsbarntable.co.uk)  
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13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

**Last day of the Autumn term Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024.**  
**First day of the Spring term Thursday 9th January 2025**

### Message from Mrs. Lowrey

There are times as a Headteacher when we experience great pride to stand before our school community and today was one of those moments for me watching our children perform today. I am writing this evening, having been in post for my second year now at Holywell and I still remember those words that brought me to the school: "Let your light shine!" Recently, we have been talking to the children about what that means – to be kind, show your goodness and to let your inner light shine.

On stage today, we saw confident readers and speakers; children overcoming nerves, heart-felt singing and determination to succeed. We saw children letting their lights shine in more ways than one. Likewise, it was sincerely heart-warming to feel the support of our parents and visitors enjoying this experience together in the true spirit of Christmas. I feel immensely proud to be part of a school that lives such strong values: thank you, everyone – children, staff and families. Thank you, as always to Philly and Lauren for taking time to provide the festive treats and the organization of the tea-towels. I do hope that everyone enjoys the weekend!

As our time at Roundswell comes to an end, we have so much to celebrate and recognise the efforts of everyone during such a challenging year. There has been a great deal of learning as well as challenges and adventures. Next week, we will try to involve the children in packing up the school through the week as this will help them to close down their experiences. Over at the Holywell site, a huge amount of work has taken place recently and now begins the logistical operation of getting everything cleaned, preened and ready to go! I am hugely grateful for the support of the community and to those who have given up time to help.

Finally, just a reminder that it is Christmas dinner on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December and that the Christingle service will be held at the church on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December will be the last day of the term.

Have a wonderful weekend and see you for the final countdown next week!

Mrs Lowrey

Diary Dates

Swimming Years R, 1 & 2 – Jan/Feb Monday

Tuesday 17th December – Christmas dinner - @ Roundswell

Thursday 19th December – Christingle Service at Tawstock church – 2pm start

Friday 20th December – Christmas parties in class

Wednesday 8th January – Celebration event at Holywell school

February 2025 - Year 3 & 4 Residential to the Calvert Trust – A letter was emailed home this week. The trip has been set up on ParentPay and a deposit to secure your child's place is due in September. Please email if you need to discuss an alternative payment plan.

### **ARBOR NOT PARENTPAY**

**You will now have to use ARBOR for all payments and bookings and not ParentPay. Details have been sent out with how you can log-on and also how to download the app.**

**All debts and credits will be transferred from ParentPay to ARBOR although these may not show up immediately as most of the entries will have to be added manually.** Please bear with us and if you have any issues please email and we will get back to you as soon as possible. If you are having any issues logging in to your ARBOR account, please let me know and we can send you a link for your to reset your password.

### **Piano/Flute/Recorder Tuition – Vacancies available from Spring Term 2025.**

When we return to Holywell Ania one of our current music teachers will have some free slots for tuition if you would like your child to start lessons learning any of the above instruments.

Your child must be aged 6 years old or above.

If you/your child is interested in this, please contact Ania by email:

[aniaflute@gmail.com](mailto:aniaflute@gmail.com)

Ania will then liaise with you via email to arrange the lessons.

### **Admissions policy for 2026-27: Annual Consultation**

*Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2026-27. The Local Authority is also consulting on its admission arrangements. You are invited to look at the proposals and have your say. Our proposed policy is on our admission page [link to school website](#) and you can see all policies at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy>. Further information is here: [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements)*

*The formal consultation runs until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Policies will be determined on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and published in the same places by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025.*

The events below will be available on Arbor from the 1<sup>st</sup> December

**Year 5/6 Swimming – Now overdue.**

**Year 3 /4 Swimming – Now overdue**

**Year 5/6 Residential to the Calvert Trust - instalments to be paid.**

**School Meals**

**Breakfast Club – to be booked on Arbor either daily, weekly, monthly or termly.**

**After School Clubs – as above.**

**School Shop**

**PE t-shirts – size 7/8 on order – no stock held at school.**

### **Admissions Reception September 2025**

**Applications for the new Reception Intake in September 2025 open on 15th November 2024.**

**Admissions to Reception Year for September 2025**

Further details can be found at [Apply for a reception or year 3 place at a primary school \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/apply-for-a-reception-or-year-3-place-at-a-primary-school) The Application window for the September 2025 will open on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and close on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

### **Useful Links and Information:**

Here are some useful links that may assist you with your query

In Year Admission Information - [Apply for an in-year place - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/apply-for-an-in-year-place)

School Catchment Area Checker - [School designated \(catchment\) areas - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/school-designated-catchment-areas)

Admission Advice for international arrivals [Admission advice for international arrivals - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/admission-advice-for-international-arrivals)

Guide to School Appeals [School admission appeals Archives - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/school-admission-appeals-archives)

School Term Dates [School term dates - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/school-term-dates)

School Admissions Team

Telephone – 0345 155 1019 (Education Helpline)

### **SAFETY ALERT**

[opss-issues-safety-alert-to-warn-of-the-risks-of-water-beads](#)

### **Links you may find useful.**

[Devon Family Hub - Monthly Newsletter.](#)

[HANDi Paediatric app: advice for common childhood conditions - One Devon](#)

### **Online Safety**

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/online-safety-videos/>

### **Term Dates**

End of Autumn Term – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**First day of the Spring Term – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January – The school will be closed on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of January as stated in the letter/email sent home on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November.**

A full list of dates for the 2024/2025 academic year can be found on our website.

### **School Uniform**

<https://schoolthreads.org/collections/holywell-c-of-e>

**PE T-shirts will still be available to purchase from school.** These will now be available for you to purchase from the ARBOR shop. Currently we do not have any size 7/8 in stock.

### **Free school meals**

If you're struggling to pay food bills, we encourage you to [check your eligibility and apply for free school meals](#) for your child.

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. From year 3 onwards, just children whose parents are receiving certain benefits are entitled to free school meals during term time. However, parents are encouraged to apply for free school meals when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child's school to attract additional 'pupil premium' funding to support their learning.

Some children whose parents meet the eligibility criteria and whose child attends a school nursery all day can also get a free school meal when they are two, three or four years old.

You can apply for free school meals for your child [on our website](#), and you'll get an instant decision. Or you can call our education helpline on [0345 155 1019](tel:03451551019).

If you have applied unsuccessfully before and your financial circumstances have since changed, please apply again.

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## Supermarket vouchers for the school holidays

The financial challenges faced by some families can be intensified during school holidays because of increased costs such as food, especially with the current cost of living, and reduced incomes due to childcare.

We want to make sure that no child in Devon goes hungry in the school holidays, when free school meals are unavailable. We can only do that by using some of the Government's Household Support Fund to help families who receive benefits-related free school meals during term time, to purchase food over the holidays.

Supermarket vouchers worth £45 will be sent to each child currently eligible for free school meals during term time, to spend during the Christmas holiday and February half-term break to replace the meals they would have had at school during the day. More detailed information about our free school meals holiday voucher scheme is [available on our website](#).

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## Free school holiday activities

Children aged five to 16-years-old who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals are invited to take part in our action-packed [Holiday Activities and Food programme](#).

We've teamed up with over 60 different providers across Devon to offer a great range of free physical activities and healthy, nutritional, hot meals during the school holidays.

Activities including a range of sports and coaching opportunities, indoor and outdoor play activities; magic and circus skills; film making; arts and crafts; music; cooking; theatre workshops; yoga and mindfulness; and a lot more! Some schemes are also offering hampers for the holidays.

Bookings are now open, and details of activities can be [found on our interactive map](#). If your child is [eligible to access the programme](#), simply search for a provider in your area, have a look at their listing to see what they're offering, then when you're ready, book a place with them directly.

### **Ventrus Job Vacancies**

<https://ventrus.current-vacancies.com/v?id=VENTRUSMUL&t=Ventrus-Careers>

Including vacancies at local schools



### **Free School Meals**

#### **Check if your child can get free school meals and additional funding support.**

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals.

However, parents and guardians are encouraged to apply for free school meals when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child's school to attract additional '[pupil premium](#)' funding to support learning.

From year 3 onwards, children whose parents are getting any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

#### **How to apply**

Apply through the [Devon Citizens Portal](#). This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

#### **School Transport**

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-and-college-transport/>

[School and college transport –  
Education and Families](#)

School transport information,  
including free school transport.  
[www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk)

**NEW Privacy Notices – November 2023**

**Important information**

Ventrus main privacy notice can be found at <https://ventrus.org.uk/our-people/privacy-notices/>

Ventrus pupil privacy notice can be found at <https://ventrus.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Pupil-Privacy-Notice-2022-23-Academy-Ventrus-Nov-22.pdf>