

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

16th December 2022

Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

Tuesday 3rd January - Non-Pupil Day
Wednesday 4th January - First day of the Spring term

Message from Mrs. Hammond

Thank you to all of the parents/carers that have shared their photos of their children at our recent festivities – I hope they bring a smile to your faces, just like they have mine.



What a wonderful week it has been. I have loved being able to go to the classes and see so much excitement, cheer and creativity happening. The children have loved all of the lovely activities that the class teachers have been planning and delivering and it has been delightful to see many of the old Christmas traditions (pre-Covid) return to the school and for us to be able to open up all of our celebrations to our wider community and families once again.

This week we have had a swap shop, a Christmas lunch, a Christingle and a Christmas party to plan, organise and deliver and the children have been amazing adjusting to the changes, especially given the weather (despite looking very pretty) has not been particularly accommodating!





I have so many people to thank and be appreciative of this term as I have ventured into being the Acting Head of school. The Holywell staff team have been fantastic and we are so lucky to have such a dedicated and caring team – you all most definitely deserve the up and coming break. Our PTFA has been incredibly active and their efforts to support the school with enabling all children to access opportunities has been phenomenal. You really are a dynamic team and I wish you luck in 2023 where I am sure you will smash your fundraising targets.



So my last task as Acting Head of School is to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and to send you best wishes for 2023.

New School News

Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 gymnastics and swimming in January

You should have received a letter about your child's swimming/gymnastics happening at the leisure centre and Falcons gymnastics starting in January. Hedgehog class will be swimming for the first half of the dates given and Robin class will go to Falcons. Please contact the school if you have any questions about these planned events.

Year 3 and 4 Residential

It has now been confirmed that the residential for years 3 and 4 planned to happen in February will go ahead. You will be receiving the information about this over the next few days.

Services in St Peter', Tawstock

Sunday 18th December: A pop-up nativity service, 11.00am. All are welcome to dress up as a character from the nativity story

Christmas Eve: First Communion of Christmas, 10.00pm

Christmas Day: Christmas all-age worship, 11.00am

Exmoor Carollers Concert in St Peter,s Church

Saturday 17th December, 7.00pm. Entrance £7.00. Let Elaine Smallridge know if you are coming on 01271 858306

Reminders



ParentPay

Parent Pay Debts.

ALL DEBT balances MUST be cleared. We have **27 parents with debts** for School Meals, and **11 parents' debts for Breakfast and/or ASC**, if this applies to you can we please ask that these debts are cleared as soon as possible.

If payments aren't kept up to date, we may have to inform you that your child will need to bring a packed lunch or can't attend Breakfast or ASC.

On your ParentPay account you can check all payments made and see any monies outstanding.

The following trips are now available or will be available shortly for payment and consent to be made:

School Meals – £2.30 per day

Breakfast & ASC – See below

Swimming and Gymnastics – Reception & yrs. 1, 2, & 3. These sessions start on the 10th January.

Please remember to pay the correct funds into the correct account item, and for the correct child in your family

Pre-School Funding

In order to access 30-hour funding from Spring Term 2023 parents need to have applied to HMRC and received a code by 31st December 2022.

[30 hour funding: deadline to apply and receive a code to access funding from Spring 2023](#)

Tax Free Childcare

If your child attends or may attend at some time our Breakfast or After-School Club may be entitled to tax free childcare. The link below will take you to the site where you can check if you are entitled and also register with the scheme.

https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/?utm_source=Search+&utm_medium=RSA&utm_campaign=CC&gclid=CjwKCAiAyfybBhBKEiwAgtB7frB3iIr0Z9xEIGZQa9F68icank8Swoc1RZIOp1kjRQzL18xoapp2hoC2RwQAvD_BwE

September 2023 intake

Children born between 01/09/2018 and 31/08/2019 are entitled to start full time Primary Education in September 2023. The application facility opens on 15th November 2022 and closes at midnight on 15th January 2023.

Driving Through the Villages of Tawstock & Eastacombe:

Please can we remind everyone driving to school through the lanes and villages of Tawstock & Eastacombe to reduce your speed accordingly. We have received several complaints from the local community regarding the inconsiderate speed at which some cars are travelling. We also have several families who live in these villages who walk their children to and from school. All routes to the school have narrow lanes and we have heard of a few near misses involving families from our school. We all leave and arrive at different time, so please respect other road users including pedestrians and keep your speed down; I am sure you will all agree that our children's safety is paramount.

Admissions Policy consultation 2024-2025

The consultation period for the 2024 – 2025 - Holywell C of E Primary School admissions policy began on the 1st November, 2021 The consultation period ends on 6th January, 2023.

Below you will see a link to our proposed admissions policy for 2024-25

http://www.primaryschoolsbarstaple.co.uk/website/admissions_policies/627029

We are consulting on this between 1st November 2022 and 6th January 2023 and invite any parent or other person with an interest in our admission arrangements to read the policy and make any comments you wish.

Anxiety Workshop

Mrs. Williamson, along with Debbie, a member of the school's Mental Health Team have planned an Anxiety Workshop for parents. It will be taking place in the Hall on the Friday 13th January, 9 – 10am. Please see the attached flyer. We hope you will be able to come along.

A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS A FREE RESOURCE FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND THEIR WORRIES:

Our Mental Health Support Team are able to offer a new digital therapeutic intervention “Lumi-Nova - Tales of Courage”, available free until January 31st 2023.

This is an app aimed at Children aged between 7-12 years old and uses a Low Intensity -Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (LICBT) graded exposure model to help children overcome their worries.

There is more information on the BFB-Labs website below.

<https://www.bfb-labs.com/luminova>

You can gain Open Access to the app by clicking on the link below:

<https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/lumi-nova/>

Our MHST clinicians are also offering a “practitioner sign-up” model across North Devon, offering supportive calls throughout the intervention. Contact your school (Mrs Hammond – samantha.hammond@ventrus.org.uk) to complete a Request for Help form to access this service

Absence Requests

Just a reminder that any absence requests from school during term time will be unauthorised unless evidence suggests that the absence required is due to exceptional and unavoidable circumstances.

After-School and Breakfast Clubs

We are able to run both Breakfast and ASC Clubs every day this term, and although we no longer require a weeks' notice for Monday Breakfast and Friday after-school clubs we still ask that you book in advance as the places are limited to 8 per session. If we are over this number, we require an extra member of staff which we may not be able to provide at short notice. The clubs are now being run by Ms. Scott, Mrs. Lowin and Mrs. Mullen

The cost for Breakfast club is £4.50 per child - can drop off from 8am.

After School Club starts - pick-up 4.15pm (£4.50) or 5.15pm (£9.00).

If you are going to be late collecting or if you need to collect at an alternative time, please can you phone to school by the end of the school day (3.15pm).

After 3.15pm, please email myka.scott@ventrus.org.uk jemma.lowin@ventrus.org.uk

charlotte.mullen@ventrus.org.uk

Diary Dates

Spring Term - Gymnastics and Swimming Years R, 1, 2 & 3

Term Dates

Tuesday 3rd January - Non-Pupil Day

Wednesday 4th January - First day of the Spring term

Ventrus Job Vacancies

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

Including vacancies at local schools.

BIZZY BEEZ Coffee and Play -

This is closed temporarily but will be opening up again in the new year.

Free School Meals

If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals please go to the [Citizen Portal](#) which is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in an instant decision.

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

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>



News from the PTA

A reminder of 2 things to sign up to before you do your online Christmas Shopping...
(you earn us free money!!)

Easyfundraising

If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 7,300 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today. https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofholywellschool/?invite=2RQAJ0%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt

Amazon Smile

Don't forget to use our unique charity link (<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1045040-0>) to help us earn money each time you purchase through Amazon!