

Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

Last day of the Autumn term Friday 20th December 2024.
First day of the Spring term Thursday 9th January 2025

Message from Mrs. Lowrey



We were so pleased that our school was invited to participate in two days of drama outreach work at West Buckland School! We are so proud of our Year 5 and 6 children and I have asked them to do their own write-ups of the event! What a fantastic experience, my sincere thanks to the school for making us so welcome and, of course, to Mrs Carlyon, Mrs Rolfe and Mr Garrett for supporting the group. Here is what some of our children had to say:

"At the start of the day we got to school on Wednesday and we left at 10.15 and we went outside to get on the bus. We got to sit with our friends. We buckled our seatbelt on. We talked about what could happen. We got there at 10.40. We had our snack and the building looked like Hogwarts. We saw a sneak peak of the actors. We went in but the fire alarm went off and we had to go back outside. But after, it went back off and we went on our seats and watched the play. There was Wendy, Michael, Johan and Tom but Tom disappeared and Peter Pan came in. He flew and sent Wendy, Tom, Michael and John to Neverland. There were mermaids, dancing and the went back to the children to eat with them." – Kennie-Dee

"It all started at 10.30 that morning. Me and Oscar were so excited. We were waiting for the people to be called up. Finally, we got called up. We walked down the hallway and onto the bus. Me, Oscar and Quinn sat at the back (obviously!). We sat down and off we went, chatting all the way in a one-driver minibus dashing on roads. When we got there, we walked through the parking lot and had a snack. Then we took a photo on the bench. We sat down for while and me and Oscar yapped to each other. Then the big park happened. We got to go in but the fire alarm went off so we had to go back out. But like 2 minutes later we went back in and sat down for real. Moments later, it started. The curtains moved, revealing the stage. There were 3 kids playing war and then Wendy came down and Peter Pan jumped through the window." – Harry

"On Wednesday 27th November, I and some of my class friends went to watch Peter Pan at West Buckland School. So, we left Holywell and set off to West Buckland. When we got there, me and my friends said thank you to the bus driver. Then we found the other schools sat on benches. So we sat on a bench and had a snack. Then we saw Mrs Rolfe come in her car. So, a few minutes later they called us in to the theatre then we found our seats and sat down. But as soon as we sat down, the fire alarm went off so we had to stand back up and run very fast out of the room. But then we went back in to the theatre. The show started. There was smoke and steam in the show. In the play, Peter Pan was really funny. Sometimes he ran like a dog in the show a pirate had a real broken foot so it must have been difficult. When it ended, someone told us to follow them so we followed the leaders to lunch. So we had lunch and played on the climbing frame and left West Buckland school and went on the mini bus to Holywell." – Oscar

Today, the children returned for a special drama, dance and singing workshop. What a fantastic experience!

On Thursday, we were also so proud that our Year 5/6 children were invited to walk to participate in a PE session led by On Track education sports leaders. The session was a huge success and I was so proud of all of the children and the way that they interacted with the other school and students. The adults attending said that the session was a delight to see, with children listening to each other and showing huge amounts of respect. I was delighted to hear some children saying that they had had the best time – this makes me proud to be a Headteacher – thank you, children! As always, thank you to the adults for their time to make this happen.

In school, I also want to pass on my pride at how many Holywell parents came along to the Roundswell Christmas Fayre and the representation was fantastic! With 3 weeks to go in our shared school, I would like to thank you all for the patience, kindness and resilience that you have shown. It is wonderful to hear another Headteacher so grateful for your support as well – thank you!

Finally, just a little note to say that I will move the calendar dates nearer to the top of the newsletter as I agree that some items can get a little lost in the newsletter. Very soon, our new website will be going live and this will have a more visible calendar on that should be easier for you to access – I will let you know when the content is complete and is due to be ready. This is likely to be in spring term.

I do hope that you enjoy some festive activities at the weekend! There are lots of lights switch ons and festive fairs coming up, that I may see you at over the coming weeks!

Best wishes,

Mrs Lowrey

Diary Dates

Swimming Years 3/4 – please collect from the leisure centre at 3pm on Tuesdays

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

Monday 2nd December – Let's go bowling – selected children only

Monday 9th December – Vision Screening check – Reception children

Friday 13th December – Christmas carols and tableau performance – 2pm @Roundswell

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.

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

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

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

ParentPay will be no longer and is closing last day 30th November. From the 1st December you will need to use ARBOR for all payments and bookings. 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 although these may not show up immediately as some 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.

The events below will be available on Arbor from the 1st 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 15th November 2024 and close on the 15th 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)

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 20th December 2024

First day of the Spring Term – Thursday 9th January – The school will be closed on the 6th, 7th and 8th of January as stated in the letter/email sent home on Monday 11th 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](#).

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

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](#).

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

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>

Tawstock and Barnstaple Community News