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| Ventrus logo |  | **Newsletter** | C:\Users\Head\Documents\Logos\Holywell school Logo Ultimate Version.jpg  **LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE**  [**www.primaryschoolsbarnstaple.co.uk**](http://www.primaryschoolsbarnstaple.co.uk)  **holywell@ventrus.org.uk** |

26th January 2024

**Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.**

**Message from Mrs. Lowrey**

In the past four weeks, I have noticed how well the children have remained focused on their learning and have shown great resilience in settling into new routines and expectations. For us as educators, our focus has been very much on ensuring that learning time has not been lost and ensuring that the children have been safely supported in a new environment. Now that the children are settled, I feel that my attention can turn to ensuring that your concerns around the pace of the building works are addressed.

Firstly, thank you to parents who have brought your concerns to me in this area. I absolutely value your honesty and feedback. I have spoken with Ventrus directors again today and they will draft more formal communication to you as a group of parents. However, I have today been sent timelines of the process including details of the contractors, the site clearance and the planned works. We also have the contractors visiting the site this week to look at the implementation of the work. We are currently still looking to return for summer term, but would emphasize that this could be open to change if anything unforeseen happens when the site is stripped.

When talking to the children, I would advise to be open and honest with them about the nature of some of these works. It is absolutely our aim and the aim of Ventrus to ensure that the rebuild works are undertaken as quickly as possible. I appreciate this is not easy to do, but hopefully the coming weeks will be easier as work begins to be more visible.

Further details and information will be shared in a more formal letter with you shortly and I am talking to our central team regularly to ensure that I will be able to share updates with you more frequently in future. Thank you for your patience, you have been extremely giving to me in your support and I really appreciate it.

**Children’s Mental Health Week**

This week, Mrs Scott will be meeting with our mental health ambassadors to gather their ideas for the focus week. We have proactive group of ambassadors and we value their ideas for the school. We will start the week with a focus assembly on mental health awareness for children and provide a range of activities led by our ambassadors.

**World Book Day**

World Book Day is becoming a big part of our school tradition at Holywell and is a fantastic celebration of reading. This year, I am very aware of pressures on families due to cost of living, however, we have made the decision that we will be dressing up as our favourite book characters as well as hosting a variety of book themed activities during the day. There is no pressure to dress up if your child does not want to – there will be plenty of other book related activities that they can enjoy! We will share more information nearer the time, but wanted to give you time to prepare should you need it! World Book Day is **Thursday 7th March** and please do not feel the need to buy new costumes – we genuinely want the children to have fun, enjoy their reading and celebrate the joy of books!

School News

**School Contact**

You can contact the school by phoning 01271 345908. If the phone is not answered, can you please leave a message on the answerphone. These messages will be responded to as soon as possible.

Links you may find useful.

[HANDi Paediatric app: advice for common childhood conditions - One Devon](https://onedevon.org.uk/our-work/services-and-support/children-and-young-people/handi-app/)

**Diary Dates**

**Swimming Year R, 1 and 2** – 16th, 23rd and 30th January and 6th and 20th February. Please collect your child from the Tarka Leisure Centre at 3pm. Siblings will be looked after at Roundswell until you arrive.

**W/C- February 5th** – Children’s mental health week

**Wednesday 21st February** - **Dental Survey** – Children Aged Year 5 - Please return the forms sent home.

**Tuesday 25th February** – Devon Cricket engagement day with Martin Brice

**February 26th – February 28th inclusive** - Skern Lodge residential

**1st March** – Rising stars day 2 (selected children)

**Thursday 21st March** – Holywell and Roundswell cross country festival

**World Book Day** – March 7th – Dress up and book based actvities

**Term Dates**

**Spring Half Term –** Monday 12th February to Friday 13th February (inclusive).

Last day of the Spring Term – Thursday 28th March 2024

First day of the Summer Term – Monday 15th April 2024

**School Uniform**

[**https://schoolthreads.org/collections/holywell-c-of-e**](https://schoolthreads.org/collections/holywell-c-of-e)

**PE T-shirts** will still be available to purchase from school.

**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](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.devon.gov.uk%2Feducationandfamilies%2Fschool-information%2Fschool-meals%2Fnew-starter-pupil-premium&data=05%7C01%7CElaine.Palmer%40ventrus.org.uk%7C7109e4304a9443c58c6708db26ce8e88%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638146440824987705%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=E1xb%2B33KaszaeeBnofCVVbtqTBsE1ead7Mmg28rMO34%3D&reserved=0)‘ 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](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Foneonline.devon.gov.uk%2FCCSCitizenPortal_LIVE%2FAccount%2FLogin%3FReturnUrl%3D%252fCCSCitizenPortal_live&data=05%7C01%7CElaine.Palmer%40ventrus.org.uk%7C7109e4304a9443c58c6708db26ce8e88%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638146440824987705%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TDzWR7PVGNQy40PMgfbNnyUdRz%2BFPER5%2F05sUzSpOXM%3D&reserved=0). 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/>

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|  | [School and college transport – Education and Families](https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-and-college-transport/)  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 forum at <https://ventrus.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Pupil-Privacy-Notice-2022-23-Academy-Ventrus-Nov-22.pdf>