



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

www.primaryschoolsbarntable.co.uk
holywell@ventrus.org.uk

8th November 2024

Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

Message from Mrs. Lowrey

What a busy week at Holywell! I do hope that everyone had a fantastic half term and are ready for the countdown to the end of term and, of course, a long-awaited return to Holywell! I have been able to see the siteworks this week and am delighted with the very fast progress. The kitchen is now in the staff room, the flooring has been completed and the rooms are approaching the final fix and decoration. I have been now told that the scaffolding will be coming down next week and the crane is booked for the removal of the cabins from the playground the following week.

At school, we have been busy completing orders for soft furnishings and for plenty of reading books, which is quite exciting to be a part of. I am working to a return plan and will be sending out further correspondence with dates and with ways that you can be involved.

For your information, we have been working with the MH4ST lead on preparing the children emotionally for the return to school. We have taken time to consider all groups of children: those who are excited, those who may be anxious, those who have made friends at Roundswell and those who have never been to Holywell! I will be putting together a short film to show some of the work that has taken place and also have a guided tour of what the building looks like now. I do hope that the children enjoy the run up to our return as we prepare to say goodbye and thank you to our friends at Roundswell who have so generously supported our school.

This week, I am delighted to announce that we have welcomed new members of staff to our team. Miss Wilcox, Mrs Lycett and Ms Meakin will be joining our Holywell team in various different capacities – I am sure that you will join us in making them feel very welcome at Holywell.

Now that return dates are looking more finalised, we have made some key decisions about Christmas events and dates are listed below. This year, we will join **Roundswell for Christmas dinner** and be sharing some Christmas songs with them as a way of saying thank you and to enjoy the seasonal time together. We will be hosting our **Christingle Service at Tawstock church** and also hosting a **celebration day back at the school**. Any dates not listed yet are in the process of being confirmed and I will confirm these as soon as I can.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone for the efforts that you have made in collecting children from swimming on Tuesday – this has run really smoothly this week – thank you so much! Have a great weekend – Mrs Lowrey x

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

These events are now available on ParentPay

Year 5/6 Swimming – Now overdue.

Year 3 /4 Swimming – this half term

Year 5/6 Residential to the Calvert Trust

School Meals

Breakfast Club

After School Clubs

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 \(devon.gov.uk\)](#) 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 \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

School Catchment Area Checker - [School designated \(catchment\) areas - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

Admission Advice for international arrivals [Admission advice for international arrivals - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

Guide to School Appeals [School admission appeals Archives - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

School Term Dates [School term dates - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this busy time

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/>

Diary Dates

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

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

Friday 15th November – Pyjama day in aid of Children in Need

Wednesday 20th November – Jumper and coat sale – please see attached flier

Every Friday in December – Christmas Jumper days in school

Christmas Dinner – Tuesday 17th December - @Roundswell

Christingle Service – Thursday 19th December - @Tawstock church

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.

Term Dates

End of Autumn Term – Friday 20th December 2024

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. We will be having a delivery during the holidays and will be distributed by payment dates on ParentPay, except for new parents who are awaiting login details for ParentPay.

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