



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

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

29th November 2024

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

It is beginning to feel a little festive in school today and what a lovely sight to see all of the children in their Christmas jumpers! With costumes coming in for the performance and carols being rehearsed, it creates a lovely atmosphere in school. It has, however, been a little wet and windy, so please do continue to bring in coats and plenty of layers as it gets colder.

A lot of my focus has been taken up with beginning to think about the move back to school. The works are looking to be completed next week, with the ramp now finished and the internal work complete. We are having the site deep cleaned next week, with the external site being cleared of leaves and brambles the following week. There is still plenty to do!

Previously, I have asked for volunteers to help as part of a community day for those who would like to be involved. I have settled on 2 days: Thursday 12th December and Monday 16th December. I will be in touch with those that have volunteered with more details. Please note, I will only be able to host a small group of volunteers as we will still have cleaners and contractors on site and this will need to be fully risk assessed. For this reason, I would kindly ask that if you have not volunteered so far, we would ask that you remain off site at this point in time.

You should have now received an invitation to the celebration afternoon back at the Holywell site on Wednesday 8th January in the afternoon. Please note, I have contacted those who no longer have siblings at the school if they have a Year 7 leaver who would like to attend. Those with siblings still here, please simply add your child's name when signing up. I have had authorization from Park and Pilton school that they will authorize this as if their children were attending a trip and will risk assess accordingly. However, I will be providing each school with a list of those who have signed up in order that they are released from school. Should your child wish to attend and attends a different secondary school, please do let me know and I will contact their school.

This week, I had the pleasure of speaking to Foxes class who are working on an oracy project with Mrs Bellew. We spoke about our school values and I was delighted to hear them speak about how they value the kindness of our children and adults and how they think it is important to be respectful. They also spoke passionately about our Christian values and how they are looking forward to getting back near to nature. I was so impressed with the mature way that they spoke about their ideas and I look forward to sharing this further as we move back to Holywell.

Christmas performance

Please note, the Christmas performance at Roundswell will require signing up to prevent overloading the hall. We will be limiting seats to 2 per child, however, if there are specific circumstances surrounding your child, please could you email us on holywell@ventrus.org.uk and we will do our best to take this into account.

I do hope that you stay safe this weekend and take advantage of the weather warnings – I know children are tired and perhaps it will be a good reason to stay indoors in pyjamas!

Have a wonderful weekend! Mrs Lowrey

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

Monday 9th December – Vision Screening check – Reception children

Friday 13th December – Christmas carols and tableau performance – time 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-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](https://www.devon.gov.uk/opss-issues-safety-alert-to-warn-of-the-risks-of-water-beads)

Links you may find useful.

[Devon Family Hub - Monthly Newsletter.](https://www.devon.gov.uk/devon-family-hub-monthly-newsletter)

[HANDi Paediatric app: advice for common childhood conditions - One Devon](https://www.devon.gov.uk/handi-paediatric-app)

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](tel: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