



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

20th December, 2019

A message from Mrs. Denham

I want to say a huge thank you to all our parents who have helped in any way with the school activities in the run up to the end of term. Your help and support is very much appreciated by all the staff. To our wonderful PTA for their support to the school over the festive period, we are very grateful. I thank every one of them for all their hard work, support and energy.

Foxes and Squirrels classes sung, danced, performed and played their hearts out last week in the performances of 'Light, Camera, Action 2, The Sequin' whilst Robins and Hedgehogs classes performed magnificently in their Nativity 'Our Own Nativity' at the church on Wednesday. All the children took part in these wonderful Nativity plays and I know these performances were enjoyed by everyone who watched them. All the children had a scrummy Christmas dinner (thank you to the St Michael's team), worn gorgeous Christmas jumpers and had the swap shop and parties to enjoy! What a wonderful busy end to the term.

We are very grateful to everyone who sent in gifts for the Swap Shop. The children REALLY enjoyed choosing something to wrap and bring home to you, so we hope you enjoy them on Christmas morning!!

Thank you to Mrs Andrews for all the work she has put into the music for the school (recorders) and for kindly volunteering to support the school with 'Outdoor Learning.' We are very grateful for her commitment to the school.

And finally a massive thank you to the whole school staff team. Everyone has worked so hard to bring a wonderful Christmas to your children and I am so grateful to each and every one of them.

Yesterday the children went home with a small succulent plant as their Christmas decoration this year, from me. I was thrilled with how excited many children were to receive their own plant to look after, many even giving their succulent a name! I have told the children the plant is their responsibility to look after. It needs good light, a window sill is ideal and a small amount of water once a week!

The children in every class asked me so many questions. How big will it grow? Did it come from a seed? What 'mud' does it grow in? How did you grow so many? And so on. They were very excited to know that their succulent could have babies.

I hope I have inspired one or two 'green fingers' to love plants.

**We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year –
have a very special time and we look forward to seeing the
children back in school on January 7th 2020!**

[Facebook page - click here](#)

School News

Autumn term

The first day of the Spring term will be Tuesday 7th January, 2020.

Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

Pupil Achievement

Congratulations to **Gracie-Anne Bearman** who has this week been performing at the Landmark Theatre in their production of 'A Wonderful Christmas.' **Gracie** performed a solo and has been part of the children's group. Well done **Gracie**, what a little star!

Church News and current Christian Value

Value: Truthfulness

When the children return in January our Christian Value will be Truthfulness.

Services over Christmas at St Peter's Church, Tawstock

Sunday 22nd December at 3:30pm – A Pop-Up Nativity

Tuesday 24th December at 10:30 pm – Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday 25th December at 11 am – Christmas Day Service.

Gliddon and Squires North Devon X country

A big well done to the 8 Holywell runners who turned out to represent the school at the Gliddon and Squires North Devon X country last Sunday. The weather was very challenging, with very strong winds and driving, freezing rain. The conditions underfoot were not great either - despite all that was against them these amazing children still let their lights shine - well done everybody, I'm super proud of your commitment and determination

-Mrs H 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊🙌🙌🙌🙌

Results are:

U9 Girls - Greta 18th, Sophia 19th, Ruby 24th, Flossie 48th

U9 Boys - Henry 46th, Ollie 49th

U11 Girls - Maddie 14th, Lottie 54th (a nasty fall, but still finished!★).

Hedgehogs Class

Our topic for next term is based on Materials and we are going to be using lots of recycling across all areas of the curriculum. For part of our art unit we will be making sculptures from things found on local beaches, such as driftwood, sea glass and micro plastics called nerdles (plastic beads) - anything that would make a great addition to this art project.

So, if you are walking the beaches over the festive period and you come across any items that you think appropriate can you please collect them and send them into school at the start of next term.

Admission to Primary School September 2020 for children born between 01/09/2015 and 31/08/2016

The application facility opens on 15th November, 2019 and **closes at midnight on 15th January, 2020.** It is important that parents apply before the closing date, even if they are intending to defer their child's admission until later in the academic year, they must secure a place before that decision need be made. The online address on which to apply is www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline

Parent Pay.

If you have not yet logged on and you have mislaid your username and password, please speak to Mrs. Palmer. This system has been very well received and It has been great to hear the positive comments from those of you who already signed up and have used it. Thank you.

Items on Parent Pay

Skern Lodge Residential – Yrs. 3 & 4

Swim & Gym – Years 1 & 2 – Letter sent home today.

Guitar Lessons

Alex Rogozinski has a space for either a group of 2 or 3 children or an individual lesson. If your child is interested, please call into the office to collect the relevant letter. As there are few spaces available they will be allocated on a first come first served basis.



Saxophone/Clarinet/Flute Lessons

Clarinet, saxophone, flute and toot lessons are available for your child and take place during the school day. If you would like your child to take lessons on these instruments please can you contact the IMS office on 07974 849303 or email imsnorthdevon@gmail.com

A letter giving full details of these lessons have been attached to the email with this newsletter.

News from the PTA



PTA Christmas Fayre

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the Christmas Fayre a success on the 6th December. A grand total of £370 was raised on the day with proceeds from the raffle still to come.

All money raised goes towards supporting the school and enriching the children's time at Holywell.

Parents - please ensure any purchased raffle ticket stubs are returned to the box in the school office by the 18th December.

Additional tickets are available from the school office.

The winner of the 'Sweets in the jar' game is Bella Ayres with 65 (actual answer 66).

The Winner of the 'Christmas Pudding 5p' game is Sonny Ellis with £6 (actual answer £7.20).

All un-purchased KS1 photos will be available to Parents on Tuesday 17th December, a member of the PTA will be selling them in a classroom at the school.

Thanks to everyone who has already signed up to support us through shopping online with easyfundraising – we're really grateful. We have already raised over £45!

If you haven't signed up yet, please do it before you shop online next time – it only takes a few minutes and it will really help us.

For more info and to sign up, go to:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofholywellschool/?invite=HP2SQV&referral-campaign=c2s>

Op Shop

If you have or require any good quality, secondhand school uniform please contact Emma Barstow on 07976 269525

Club

Please see the information above.

Monday	Netball	Mrs Hammond	Yrs., 3, 4, 5 & 6	Starts on January 13th, 2020
	Singing Club	Miss Shapland	Yrs., 3, 4, 5 & 6	Day & date to be confirmed
Tuesday	Pottery	Mrs Coulam	YR, R, 1 & 2	Starts on January 14th, 2020.
Wednesdays	Goal Getters	Goal Getters	Yrs., R, 1, 2 & 3	
Thursday	Football	Mr. Dymond	Yrs., 3, 4, 5 & 6	Start date to be confirmed.
Thursday	Staff Meetings			
Friday	X County	Mrs. Hammond	Yrs., 3, 4, 5, & 6	No club until the Spring Term
Friday	Indoor Football	Mr. Day	Yrs., 3, 4, 5, % 6	Starts on January 17th, 2020

Diary Dates – forthcoming events

18th to 20th March, 2020 – Skern Lodge Residential for Yrs. 3 & 4.

14th, 21st and 28th January – Yrs. 1 & 2 Gymnastics

Term Dates 2019 – 2020

A full list of dates can be found on the school website under 'Links and Downloads' on the home page

Community News

The cost of hiring the village hall for a 3 hour children's birthday party is now £45.00.

St Michael's Nursery

St Michael's Nursery operates a breakfast club open from 8am, and after school club 3.15 - 6pm. We still have a limited number of spaces available so please phone us 01271 327074. office@stmichaels-nursery.org

Tawstock Tiddlers and Toddlers

Bumps, babies and all preschoolers welcome
Snacks provided Guest speakers and Messy play.
Monday from 9.30 – 11.00 at Tawstock Village Hall
For more details, contact Sue on 07890 046033.

Circuits

Every Tuesday
9 – 9.45 am, in the village hall.
£4 pay as you go
All fitness levels welcome!
Children welcome to come along and play whilst mum/dad get fit.
Contact Estelle Liepa for more info or just turn up.
07973 53366

Links you may be interested in?

The Plough Theatre – Great Torrington

<https://www.theploughartscentre.org.uk/whats-on/diary>

Romarsport

A letter was sent home attached to the newsletter today from this company if you would like to find out more this is there website and the parent booking link.

www.romarsports.com link for parents to book is <https://www.romarsports.com/Holiday-Camps>

HappyMaps

www.happymaps.co.uk

New website for parents on children's mental health problems now launched. Funded by Health Education England, HappyMaps is designed to help parents find useful resources on behaviour and mental health for their children – from babies to young adults. It is hoped that this will be really useful for parents whose children don't meet the specialist referral thresholds or are perhaps on the waiting list. There is good general information (national) and also local information on counselling, charities, local CAMHS and parenting groups for the South West. Take a look at the website.

Outdoors Group

<https://www.outdoorsgroup.co.uk/forestschoollactivities/>

Riverdart.co.uk – event 30th March

<http://riverdart.co.uk/news-and-events>

Easter Holiday Club – Tawstock Court

<https://sciencedipity.co.uk/school-holiday-science-club/>

On-line Safety

Online safety is an ever expanding area and you can find further valuable information on the CEOP website 'Think you know' has produced some useful conversation starters and advice to help you talk to your child about staying safe online.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

The NSPCC website

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventingabuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

Some good sources of information and advice for parents:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

The Professionals Online Safety Helpline is available Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm

Call 0344 381 4772 or email enquires@saferinternet.org.uk

<https://parentinfo.org/>

Parent Info is a free web service providing information to parents and carers.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/ShareAware>

Advice from the NSPCC: on social networks, app and games.

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

A non-profit organization; working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children.

West Buckland School Activity Day

<https://www.westbuckland.com/prospective-parents>

Early Help for Mental Health

<http://eh4mh.co.uk>

Early Help

<http://devon.cc/earlyhelp>

Courses for Parents and Children

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--bideford/family-and-education--classes/>

The above events are constantly being updated and there are many new courses available which may be of interest.

Devon Library Services (including Barnstaple)

<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/events>

Royal Albert Memorial Museum - (Exeter)

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCECC/bulletins/20a0199>

Barnstaple Library

<http://devonlibraries.org.uk>