



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

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

13th December 2024

Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

First day of the Spring term Thursday 9th January 2025

Last day of the Spring term Friday 4th April 2025

Non-Pupil Day – Friday 14th February 2025

Message from Mrs. Lowrey

We have had such a fantastic week at Holywell, getting fully back in the swing of things! Some of you may have seen the article in the newspaper or on Devon live regarding the return to school – if not, please do check it out! The report in the North Devon Gazette was fantastic to read and always makes me so proud!

Today, again, we are full of pride for our children representing the school. We were so pleased to take 12 Year 5/6 children to Park School for the athletics festival and I am delighted to say that our school came joint 2nd or 3rd – depending on how you interpret the results! (There was a joint first place and then we shared the next position with our friends at Orchard Vale!) Behaviour was excellent and I was so proud to hear how well they competed – excellent, as always, children!

This week, we have focused our collective worship on our school value of kindness. We have spent time talking to the children about how we “Let our Light Shine”. Our school values are rooted theologically in Matthew 5 outlined below:

¹⁴ Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

We then developed our values trying to think about how we let our lights shine and what values help us to demonstrate our good work. We have added in honesty as part of our value system to help us to understand the authenticity of which we try to grow.

Holywell School Values

Be Kind
Be respectful
Be determined
Be forgiving
Be safe
Be honest

This week, it was an absolute pleasure to hear the children singing new songs about kindness and giving individual awards for children who have really demonstrated kindness this week – well done children!

Reverend Ally will be joining us for worship next week and will be talking about kindness even more.

Attendance

Now that we are settled and back into our typical Holywell expectations, I thought it timely to refocus our attention to school attendance. I have noticed a huge improvement over the years in our punctuality and children are arriving increasingly on time and even early, which is fantastic. I am sharing information on school attendance for your information as there has been a shift in guidance for parents and schools over time and I am wanting to keep you fully informed.

This table has been shared for you to see how your child's percentage for attendance can have

This table will give you a clear understanding of what your child's percentage means:

| Attendance during one school year | Equivalent days absent | Equivalent weeks absent | Number of lessons missed |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 95% | 9 | ≈ 2 weeks | ≈ 48 |
| 90% | 19 | ≈ 4 weeks | ≈ 96 |
| 85% | 29 | ≈ 6 weeks | ≈ 144 |
| 80% | 38 | ≈ 8 weeks | ≈ 192 |
| 75% | 48 | ≈ 10 weeks | ≈ 240 |
| 70% | 57 | ≈ 11 weeks | ≈ 276 |

such a big impact on the learning that is missed. The department for education set the national expectation for attendance at anything above 96%; even at this percentage, this is 7 days missed in a school year.

Over the course of this term, we will be sending out some letters which are designed to monitor children's attendance and we want to make sure that you are fully informed on this. Of course, I understand that children can be unwell and some children need to attend appointments and I would **always** encourage you to take the time to recover and attend as necessary. It can, however, be very easy to be unaware how much learning has been missed, so please do not be offended if you receive a letter regarding attendance, we simply want to work together to make sure that your child is supported to attend as regularly as possible.

Thank you for your support!

We will be soon be sending home information regarding extra-curricular clubs that we are aiming to launch after half term. We are definitely keen to re-launch welly walking and some old favourites as well as some new ideas that we will share soon – please bear with us as we want to make sure that this is not rushed and fully risk assessed.

Best wishes, Mrs Lowrey

Diary Dates

Swimming Years R, 1 & 2 – Jan/Feb - Tuesdays –

Tuesday 4th February – Calvert Trust meeting

February 2025 - Year 3 & 4 Residential to the Calvert Trust –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.

Friday 14th February – Non-pupil day

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day – we will be dressing up as book characters – I know this is a Holywell favourite and one of mine too!

Easter Service – date to be confirmed – last week of spring term

ARBOR NOT PARENTPAY

You will now have to use ARBOR for all payments and bookings and not ParentPay. 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 to ARBOR although these may not show up immediately as most 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. If you are having any issues logging in to your ARBOR account, please let me know and we can send you a link for your to reset your password.

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.

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](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>