

3rd May 2024

Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

Message from Mrs. Lowrey

After a slightly grey and miserable start, it has been lovely to end the week with a glimpse of sunshine and dry weather and it has been a lovely way to end the week. We had so much to celebrate in worship today, with so many children being celebrated for their achievements. It is particularly noticeable how many children are really flying with their 99 club awards for maths! We are close to being able to celebrate the first children to achieve their 111 club gold star – I cannot wait to announce it when it happens! The 111 club is made up of a mixture of times tables, fractions and square and cube numbers. What a great achievement – I will have to look into getting some platinum stars for those going beyond 111... watch this space!

Earlier in the week, we enjoyed a fantastic visit from the RNLI. The lifeguards came to speak to the children in IS2 about water safety and their float advice for saving lives. You can see from the pictures that the children really enjoyed the visit and learned a great deal before the summer season. Also, we also were able to enjoy the tennis festival at Tarka Tennis with our year 2 children! They were extremely excited to be going on the enormous bus that came to transport Roundswell and Holywell children to the centre. The festival was a lot of fun and the behaviour of the children in Year 2 was excellent – congratulations all of you!



At this point, I really must send an enormous thank you to our PTA, who have been extremely generous in supporting these trips and sporting events. I do need to let you know that transport costs (particularly at the moment) are extremely high and it can cost £200 to go on a local visit within Barnstaple. As is widely known, schools are continually searching for ways to fund opportunities and this would not have been possible most recently without the generous support of our PTA. Some schools have had to cut down on attending sporting visits and some schools can only afford to fund swimming lessons for children who cannot swim in



Year 6 – which is such a shame. Please do remember, although we ask for voluntary donations, schools simply cannot afford to sustain some of these lovely opportunities that are extra-curricular. I am incredibly grateful to the PTA for their continued hard work, giving up their own time to organize events and support these trips and activities, particularly since the fire where they have generously given towards activities in order to ensure that our children do not miss out – a very huge thank you indeed!

At mention of the fire, I also can see that some of the work has started this week and this was exciting for the children to see. On Tuesday, I am expecting to see cranes lifting in portacabins and the builders setting up their building site. I am now working with the teachers and with Steve and Elaine to plan other aspects of the return to school. We have been planning for various scenarios and as soon as I can share more, please rest assured that I will keep you informed.

This week in school, I have been over the moon with some of the learning that I have seen. I have seen some amazing Hebrew writing in Foxes class, some fantastic art work from Robins and Squirrels and children in Pre-school taking some huge personal steps in their development. I had the pleasure of hearing the KS1 children with their phonics and I am amazed by how much progress they are making – very well done everyone!

Finally, if I could please just remind parents to get in contact with the school using the office email address of holywell@ventrus.org.uk. There are multiple reasons for this and we will always aim to get back to you as soon as we can. The main reason is that emails to this address stay in the system and we can keep track of any items that have been agreed and they will always be on the school system. If you needed to find something out in a year's time, we can always go back and check for you. Anything sent direct to teaching staff cannot necessarily be kept and monitored should you need to. Teachers are also busy teaching during the day and some emails are creeping back into their personal emails. It can be very distracting to receive these on your computer when you are teaching.

Finally, just a quick reminder that children with mobile phones need to ensure that they are passed to an adult to keep secure and they should not be in their lockers or in the classrooms. This is for safeguarding reasons. It is not a problem for your children to bring in their phone if they do need it, but they do need to be switched off and kept safely in the office. Thank you!

That's it for another busy week! I do hope that the sun stays out and that you all enjoy your long weekend. Year 6s, make the most of the restful weekend and please do not begin to panic about your coming SATs, you will be amazing! We are very proud of all of you!

Take care! Mrs Lowrey

ParentPay

Please can you check you ParentPay account and pay off any outstanding balances.

The trips available for any outstanding balances to be cleared are:

Years 3 and 4 Swimming

Years R, 1 and 2 Swimming

Rosemoor Trip – taking place on Tuesday 7th May.

School Lunches

Breakfast and After-School Clubs

Pre-School Fees

Rosemoor Trip

Thank you to those of you who have already paid for this trip. We do realise that you didn't receive the letter and ParentPay item until earlier this week, but we would really appreciate if you could make your contribution before the trip takes place on Tuesday.

Also, due to the trip being after the bank holiday Monday we are unable to provide packed lunch as we would normally make these the day before. Therefore, could we please ask that all children bring in a packed lunch from home.

Can you help?

The Tawstock/Holywell Tiddler group would like to develop the outside area and the home corner. So, if you have any of these items which you no longer require and would like to donate them to the group, please contact a member of the PTA committee. Details can be found on

- water and sand tray
- playhouse, both for the outside area,
- small table and chairs
- small fold down rail to hang the dressing up clothes on, both for the home corner.

Also, please share the details of the poster with family and friends.

Links you may find useful.

[HANDi Paediatric app: advice for common childhood conditions - One Devon](#)

Diary Dates

7th May – Year 3 & 4 Cricket

7th May – Trip for Years R, 1 & 2 – Rosemoor – Letter sent home last week.

10th May – Year 1 Multi Skills

13th May – 17th May – Year 6 SATs week

24th May – Torrington Aquathlon – email sent home this week.

11th – 13th June – Parent conferences – details to follow.

13th June – Tempest Class/Group Photos

27th June – proposed date for a trip for Foxes class – details to follow.

20th June -

1st & 2nd July – Year 6 Taster days Pilton

11th & 12th July – Year 6 Taster days Park

16th July – Sports Day – details to follow.

Other dates to be added when know e.g. Class trips, and leavers service.

Term Dates

May Day Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May 2024

Half Term – Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024 inclusive.

Last day of term – Tuesday 23rd July 2024

First day of the Autumn term 2024-2025 – Thursday 5th September 2024

School Uniform

<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](#)' 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 Community

Tawstock beaver group have space for new 6-year-olds to join them. It is run on Monday evenings from 6-7.15 and is a great way to meet new friends and learn new skills. It is such a lovely group with great leaders. If you are interested, please contact Helen Roseveare on beaver.tawstock@gmail.com