



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

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## A message from Mrs. Denham

Dear families

We survived the first week! Well done to all staff and pupils in school and well done to all the families getting to grips with home learning once again. We are so proud of you all and all the hard work EVERYONE has had to put into this. We now have about 95% of children logged into Teams and able to access the work being set. What a fantastic achievement. WELL DONE.

The Government have been very direct asking schools to work through either Teams or Google classrooms this lockdown whereas in the first lockdown it was a case of just getting on a platform to be able to send work home! Seesaw did the job and was simpler but we were unable to deliver any “live” streams though or have easy contact with families. Thank you for bearing with us and supporting us with Teams. Whilst we appreciate how frustrating it’s been getting onto Teams, we will all master it and then wonder how we managed without it.

I can’t thank the staff enough. All staff (except for anyone isolating) are in school **all day every day**. We most definitely are not closed! We have had a much higher uptake of places for critical workers and vulnerable pupils as more people are working this lockdown. Staff are having to teach in school and plan, deliver and assess lessons for those pupils at home.

The government’s expectations for home learning have really increased this lockdown and so we have had to respond in a different way to how we sent work home and the quantity and type of work compared to lockdown 1.0. We really do appreciate how very difficult it can be for you at home – we already have had messages asking for more work and messages saying it’s all too much! We just have to provide work that we feel is suitable and of the right amount for as many of our children as possible.

As you may be aware on 7 January 2021, the government published revised guidance called “Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools”. Below are the key points:

### Children of critical workers

- The school will remain open to the children of critical workers – however the guidance states that “parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can”. We will send out a Microsoft Form for critical workers to complete each Friday for the following week, stating the days they would like their children in school
- With this in mind, we encourage critical workers to only send their children to school on days they are working.

### Vulnerable children

- Vulnerable children are expected to be in school full time and we will be working closely with parents to meet this expectation.

### Remote learning offer

- We are encouraging all families when working from home to see it as a normal school day. Your child’s teacher will be sending home more information about this next week. We are seeing if a different approach using “assignments” works better for those working at home.
- We hope to be doing more “live” sessions so children both at home and at school are receiving the same information where possible. However, our school broadband can cause us issues. We will try our very best.

- Please be kind and understanding to staff working on Teams – they may make the odd spelling mistake or write something down incorrect. We are all only human and we all are trying our very best – within a very different world and at a very fast pace.
- As stated in this new government guidance, we aim to provide 3 hours' worth of work per day for KS1 and 4 hours per day for KS2.
- We ask that if you are supporting and helping your child at home, please DO NOT do the work for them. Teachers would much prefer to see a child's own attempt with mistakes on it, than a perfect adult completed piece of work J
- Please encourage your child to join up at all times if possible in KS2 and to use correct letter and number formations in KS1.
- We will be publishing our remote learning offer on our website, by 25 January 2021. Our remote learning offer will be in line with these new expectations.

### **Microsoft Advocates**

*As written in an email yesterday, I have seen that another school has a group of parents that have offered their support (email, phone call or via Teams) to parents who are struggling around Teams. I thought this was an excellent idea.*

*Therefore, are there a group of parents out there who would be willing to become Microsoft Advocates and support other families through these rather strange and difficult times? We would all be so VERY grateful. Contact could be restricted to evenings only if that suited working parents better.*

Amazingly, I have had a couple of parents already volunteer their time which is just fantastic. If anyone else is interested, please let me know and then we can set this up for next week. I am so grateful to our willing volunteers. You are stars \*\*\*

### **Holywell pre-school**

- In line with the new guidance, from Monday 11 January 2021 our preschool will continue to be open to **all children**, as they normally would be. Therefore, if you haven't sent your child back into pre-school as you are not a critical worker, please do so if you would like them to attend. Please book in your normal way through Mrs Palmer in the office.

**Holywell** - Please can children come to school in their PE kits on Wednesday next week. We will let you know about the following weeks.

With very best wishes  
Take care, stay kind and keep safe  
Sue Denham

### **Spring Term**

**Last day of the Spring term will be 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

**Half term Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 inclusive**

### **Car parking**

Please can we ask that you DO NOT park on the lane and that you drive slowly and carefully into the car park. Thank you.

**Gazette website** that may be of interest

<https://www.northdevongazette.co.uk/news/north-devon-lockdown-laptop-appeal-6891920>

[Laptop appeal launched to help North Devon lockdown families | North Devon Gazette](#)

The appeal has gone out for laptops to help North Devon families and the vulnerable during lockdown. Local businessmen Andrew Marshall and Gary Arlett have appealed for donations of used laptops ...

[www.northdevongazette.co.uk](http://www.northdevongazette.co.uk)

### **Admission to primary school 2021 (for children born between 01/09/2016 and 31/08/2017)**

The application facility opens on 15th November 2020 and closes at midnight on 15th January 2021. 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.

### **Privacy Notice**

The Trust has updated its Privacy Notice for parents. It is available for you to view on our website <https://www.ventrus.org.uk/our-people/privacy-notices/>

### **News from the PTA**



**Welcome back!** We hope you enjoyed the holidays and are keeping safe and in high spirits! Just as school doesn't stop, neither does fundraising and supporting each other, so we look forward to next week's meeting!

**Please join us on Wednesday evening to discuss new fundraising ideas or just to see some familiar faces and say hi!**

Zoom meeting:

13 January 2021 07:30 pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75342846662?pwd=Ti83T2JOU1RESTIJUGRiUjNJSWF0dz09>

Meeting ID: 753 4284 6662

Passcode: 4u7DRF

### **Selling on ebay**

If you are having a lockdown sort out, why not sell any unwanted items on eBay, where you have the option to donate up to 100% of the sale to go to "Friends of Holywell School - Tawstock". You can customise the donation percentage and the charity you want to support for each individual listing.

### **Online fundraising**

Amazon Smile: [https://smile.amazon.co.uk/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi\\_chpf\\_redirect?ie=UTF8&ein=1045040-0&ref\\_=smi\\_ext\\_ch\\_1045040-0\\_cl](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi_chpf_redirect?ie=UTF8&ein=1045040-0&ref_=smi_ext_ch_1045040-0_cl)

or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app

Easyfundraising: [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofholywellschool/?invite=2RQAJ0%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm\\_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm\\_content=srt](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofholywellschool/?invite=2RQAJ0%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt)

Remember it is not just about shopping in the sales! You can also raise funds when buying insurance or booking holidays for example.

### **Your School Lottery**

Thank you to everyone who has bought a lottery ticket! Have you been a lucky winner this week? Tickets can be bought any time at <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/holywell-church-of-england-primary-school> Good luck!

### **Term Dates – Jan 2021 to July 2021**

15 <sup>th</sup> February to 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Half Term
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	Last Day of Term
19 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Summer Term begins
3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2021	Spring Bank Holiday

28<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Non Pupil Day

31<sup>st</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Half Term

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

Last Day of Term