

10th May 2024

Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

Message from Mrs. Lowrey

Well, what an exciting week we have had at Holywell! We started the week with the joy of seeing a huge crane lifting cabins into the school site where the clearing and preparation of the building site has finally begun! Mr Coles managed to capture some pictures of the crane in action and says that it has been fantastic to see the work happening. On Monday next week, they will be stripping back the internal walls and removing the asbestos from the building. I will try to capture some of the progress in pictures for you to share with the children at home.



How fantastic to finally see some sunshine in school? It makes the day so enjoyable for the children, being able to be outside for longer periods. Please do remember to think about applying suncream as the days get warmer – even if it is overcast, it is very easy to catch the sun – especially when it catches us by surprise!

On Tuesday, our R, 1 and 2 children went to Rosemoor Gardens for a day trip, which was kindly supported by our PTA. The children had a pond-dipping workshop and explored the gardens and enjoyed the first of the sunshine! Thank you to all of the staff involved and to Adam and Lauren for joining us on the trip. Not only was it a fantastic experience, but this has prompted some excellent writing back in the classroom this week – well done, children!

Also on Tuesday, the year 3/4 children attended a cricket festival at Park School for the afternoon. Again, the sport was well-received and children were extremely well-behaved. Mr Day was very proud to take them off-site, which is excellent, especially as this term we have a number of sporting events coming up for the children to be involved in.

Year 6 SATs

In school, I have seen some excellent attitudes to learning and I am so proud of the quality of learning that we see. I know that some of our Year 6s will be feeling nervous over the weekend, but Miss Boundy, Mrs Carlyon, Mr Garrett and I are all extremely proud of the progress that they have made. They all show excellent concentration and testing attitudes and I know that they will do brilliantly. Please do tell the children to get plenty of rest over the weekend and do not spend time worrying about tests. They are more than ready and the week will fly by! We have a few treats to help them through their day.

Summer uniform

I have been discussing uniform with a group of children today and thought I would try to answer their question about summer uniform now that the weather is getting warmer. I absolutely agree that uniforms need to be fair and balanced between girls and boys and I accept that some of the Year 6 girls may wish to have an option that is more grown up than the summer dresses.

As we are at Roundswell at the moment, we have asked that the children come to school in their PE kit only on their PE days due to limitations of changing. If it is a warm day, I would recommend that girls can wear uniform grey shorts (just as the boys), a skirt with cycling shorts underneath, the summer dress or playsuit or you can also buy green check shorts in the summer dress material.

I have spoken to the girls specifically in year 6 and I have explained that I have to bear in mind many factors, but secondary schools will also have very strict policy around uniform and PE kit and it would not be right to move away from the uniform expectations for the school. I absolutely value the fact that they have raised this with excellent points and I truly value their opinions. However, I think the above answer their questions while maintaining the uniform standards of the school. Holywell has no gender specific guidance, pupils are allowed to choose from the list outlined below. I hope this helps clarify the situation.

In our prospectus, the guidance is as follows:

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We feel that the wearing of uniform is very important as it encourages a smart appearance and gives the children a sense of identity with the school. The school colours are grey and green. ***All items of clothing should be named.***

white shirts or blouse

white or green polo shirts

green sweatshirts, cardigan or fleece

grey skirts, shorts or trousers

green sweatshirts, cardigans or fleeces

green and white check or striped dresses (Summer)

Indoor PE

Green T-shirt and dark green or black shorts, (standard length, not cropped trousers).

PE Hoody for PE only.

Plimsolls

Training shoes are not suitable for indoor PE and children without plimsolls will have to go barefoot or be unable to participate in that lesson.

Outdoor PE

Green T-shirt and dark green, black shorts (standard length, not cropped trousers).

If it is cold, dark green or black tracksuit or jogging bottoms and sweatshirt may be worn.

Green school hooded tops are available for PE use only.

Training shoes.

Swimming

Swimming costume or trunks (not bikini or shorts).

Note: Pupils should wear swimming caps if their hair is long.

Footwear

Sensible black school shoes. **Trainers should not be worn.**

Jewellery

The only jewellery that may be worn are watches or studded earrings. Make-up and nail polish should not be worn at school.

Gates at Roundswell

Please can we remind you that the gates at RCPA are closed between 8:30am and 9am and 3:45 and 3:30pm whilst the children walking are coming and leaving the school grounds.

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

Links you may find useful.

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

Diary Dates

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

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