



**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE**

[www.primaryschoolsbarntable.co.uk](http://www.primaryschoolsbarntable.co.uk)  
[holywell@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:holywell@ventrus.org.uk)

6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

**Non Pupil-Day Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October followed by Half Term.**

### Message from Mrs. Lowrey

Firstly, may I say a warm welcome back to school to everyone at Holywell. Yesterday was a wonderful start to the new year and I was hugely impressed with the enthusiastic return by all. Our new Reception starters are already showing signs that they are settled, keen and full of confidence. What a pleasure, also, to speak to other adults around school who complimented our children on their behaviour, attitudes and super manners. Holywell, I am extremely proud!

You will have seen that yesterday, we also welcomed visitors to talk about Run Barnstaple and already I have spoken to children who have signed up to the running event – again, what a fantastic attitude to have children, well done!

After a fairly wet summer, it is disappointing that the sun still refuses to make an appearance and I am aware it has caught many of us parents off guard! It does not quite feel cold enough for a winter coat and yet the rain is persistent! Please rest assured that we have supported children with trying to take shelter near the hall, however, sheltered space is limited. I am also aware that children like and need fresh air, hence the need to get outside. Please could all parents remember a coat – these are kept in lockers during the day and can be taken outside for breaks. At Holywell, we absolutely encourage the children to be outside, but it is a considered balance and we want to make sure that your child stays dry enough so that they are not uncomfortable during the day. Thank you – I will send a separate reminder email to help. (I too sent my children to school without one, so you are not alone!)

Please also note that we have our class teams for general communication items from your class teacher. Please do log on for homework items and spellings as they come up. If your child is in Reception and Nursery, we will be using tapestry for daily items and updates as well as posting photographs for you to see.

A personal thank you from me for the way that the children using the bus have behaved on their journey to and from school. They are acting responsibly and waiting patiently and I did inform their teachers today how maturely they have behaved, so thank you children!

Works have progressed well through the summer break. Fire and security systems have been redesigned and are currently in progress under the first fix. Final decisions on external cladding have been agreed upon, and materials have been ordered. This includes compliance with the planning department to ensure

longevity and reduced maintenance requirements. For your information, I have tried to make myself more available at Roundswell on two mornings a week where I would typically be needed on the bus. Mrs Palmer will greet and travel on the bus from Holywell on Mondays and Thursdays and I will be available to greet children at Roundswell on these mornings.

Below, you will see some dates coming up through the term that have already been set, including parent conferences, trips and swimming. Please do scroll through to see key dates for your information. It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome the children back this week and to see our families return to school.

Thank you all for a fantastic start back to school and look forward to a full week next week.  
Best wishes, Mrs Lowrey

### **Breakfast and After School Clubs**

- Breakfast Club (BC) from 8am to 8.45am.
- After School Club (ASC) from 3.20pm to 4.20pm or 5.20pm.  
Times will be reviewed when we return to Holywell.

To book your child into these clubs **you must book on ParentPay in advance** and choose the days and times you require. There will be one entry for BC, but for ASC you will have the choice of 4.15pm or 5.15pm. You will be able to book places in these clubs up until 10pm the day before for BC and until 3pm on the day for ASC. If you haven't booked your child on to the BC or ASC before these times your child will not be able to attend. During the last academic year, we had children who were just turning up but if no one is booked on via ParentPay we may not have a member of staff available. If on a rare occasion when you try to book on and it is telling you that the club is full please email [holywell@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:holywell@ventrus.org.uk) and we will see if we are able to fit your child in and get back to you.

Prices remain the same for the time being.

Please email if you have any additional questions.

For new joiners to the school and we haven't yet set you up on ParentPay, please email [holywell@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:holywell@ventrus.org.uk) with the days and times you require, and we will book them on for you. Once you have been set up and receive your ParentPay login details you will be able to pay for these previously booked sessions.

### **Autumn Term Menu**

This has been emailed separately.

### **Instrumental Music Lessons - Guitar/Piano/Ukulele**

There is now space available for your child to begin music lessons at school.

Lessons are available from complete beginner to advanced, and take place during school hours.

Instruments available are: Piano, Guitar and Ukulele.

These lessons are available weekly, as either group or 1:1 sessions.

If your child is interested in learning an instrument, please enquire at school office, or feel free to contact our peripatetic music tutor Mr Rogozinski directly for more details.

Email: [alexrogo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alexrogo@hotmail.co.uk)

Phone: 07565951786

### **Links you may find useful.**

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

### **Online Safety**

Please see separate attachment

### **Diary Dates**

**10<sup>th</sup> October** - KS2 (years 3,4,5 and 6) – Trip to Eden Project

**15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> October** – Parent conferences – evenings Times and location TBC

**24<sup>th</sup> October** – Harvest Assembly – Time and location TBC

Swimming sessions (for all year groups) – proposed time table – Years 5 & 6 – Sept/Oct, Year 3 & 4 - Nov/Dec and Years R, 1 & 2 – Jan/Feb

February 2025 - Year 3 & 4 Residential to the Calvert Trust – A letter was emailed home this week. 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.

### Term Dates

Non-Pupil Day – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Half Term – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

End of Autumn Term – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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.** We will be having a delivery during the holidays and will be distributed by payment dates on ParentPay, except for new parents who are awaiting login details for ParentPay.

### 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](http://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>