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17th July, 2020

A message from Mrs. Denham

Dear parents and carers

Well, we've all made it. We have finally come to the end of a very strange and unusual term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your tremendous help and support for our school over this year, especially with home online learning. You have all been amazing! We are very grateful to all of our parents and carers for working in partnership with us and we are incredibly proud of all of the children who are a real credit to the school and to you all.

I want to thank you for all that you have done for your school and community and how much this has helped us all. The times that you have stayed at home, brought your children to school, socially distanced, kept your children learning and so many more things – thank you!

I also want to thank the tremendous team at Holywell. They have worked tirelessly throughout the whole of lockdown and have done everything they can to support the children in their care. I wish each and every one a wonderful summer break. They most definitely need to recharge their batteries ready for a new term. They have been so dedicated and the effort and care they have put into ensuring that your children had the best of what we could offer, despite the circumstances has humbled me. Together we really are all a “community” school.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest best wishes to the whole of our year 6. We all regret that they were unable to complete the school year as planned and we especially missed seeing everyone at their Leaver's Service. I would like to thank them for their hard work, fun and resilience which have made them a credit to our school. They have tried to capture some of the many experiences and memories they carry with them on to the next stage of their educational journey in a different way this year, which we hope you enjoy. We hope to commemorate their time at the school in some way next term. On behalf of all the staff and governors, I would also like to thank the parents and carers of year 6 pupils for all the support you have shown the school during your child's time here. Please be assured that even when your child leaves us, you will always be part of the special Holywell community and I hope it will always have a place in your heart. I would also like to thank all the PTA for organising the delightful hoodies that each pupil received. We will miss you Y6.

We also have to say a very sad goodbye to 3 members of staff. Mrs Arend has worked with pupils, staff and parents for several years and is now taking retirement; Mrs Lewis has worked 1:1 with a pupil and also with all the children in her class and Miss Shapland had been a teacher in Foxes for the last year and is now moving to Bratton Fleming. We are so grateful to these amazing staff – they all have made a huge difference to the lives of children at Holywell and will be very sadly missed. We wish them all the very best and know we'll keep in touch.

We look forward to September when we can welcome all the children back to school. We know that parents will have lots of questions about the reopening of school. At Holywell, we have used the Government Guidance to develop guidance and carry out a risk assessment. This will be made available on the school website.

To help parents understand the actions we are taking to help keep everyone safe and our expectations of everyone, the information below summarises the main points in the risk assessment. We hope you find this information useful:

When will the children start back at school?

- All children will start back at school on Monday 7th September.

Do they need to wear uniform?

- Yes, we expect all children to wear full uniform if possible. If you have ordered uniform Mrs. Palmer will be in contact with a date and time for when it will be available for collection from school.

- Children will need their PE kit in a small bag that can be hung on their peg

What can be brought from home?

- Children may bring a small bag to school however, they are not allowed to bring unnecessary items from home. They must only bring a water bottle, healthy snack, suncream, sunhat and packed lunch if required

What measures are in place to reduce mass gatherings of parents and children at the start and end of school?

- Staggered start and finish times will be applied for all children. Each class enters school through the school gate at staggered times – Squirrels at 8.45am; Foxes at 8.50am; Hedgehogs at 8.55am and Robins at 9.00am. Parents and children to wait outside gate on gravel at allocated time (not before) socially distancing. Parents to not arrive too early and then leave school site as soon as possible.
- **Each class will leave at home time at allocated time** –Robins 3.00pm; Hedgehogs 3.05pm; Foxes 3.10pm; Squirrels 3.15pm
- No parent to enter school ground if possible
- School office will be closed to parents on the whole – so please phone or e mail.
- Parents must not congregate on or around the school site before or after school. All adults must always maintain social distancing to reduce the chance of transmitting the virus.
- It is essential that all children arrive and leave at their designated start or finish time.
- If parents in Key Stage two want children to walk home, please inform the school office of this information by the start of the term.
- When waiting to collect children, parents and other adults must keep any other children close to them and please do not allow them to move away from the adult.
- Please see the message from St Michael’s Nursery below regarding Breakfast and After-school care.

What hygiene measures are in place? What are you doing to keep the school clean?

- We have hygiene boxes in each classroom, including cleaning products and equipment. Surfaces are cleaned regularly and all equipment is cleaned in between use.
- Children are expected to wash their hands/ sanitise multiple times throughout the day; members of staff will be available to support and supervise handwashing where it is appropriate, and we have visual reminders in all the toilets and sink areas about good handwashing.
- We have plenty of tissues and remind children about good hygiene.

How will you make sure children are socially distant with each other?

- Children have been organised into class groups that will stay with each other for most of their time in school. We call these ‘pods’.
- Playtimes will be staggered so that fewer children are outside on the playgrounds with each class having their own designated area to play within. This way, the classes will not routinely mix with each other. They will have their own play equipment in their zone.
- Children will not move around the site as much as they used to however, when they do, they will be encouraged to social distance
- We recognise that social distancing with the younger children is a challenge so we will remind them regularly about it, but we cannot guarantee that it can be maintained with the younger children. The government guidance states that schools do not need to insist on social distancing with the younger children. We want our children to learn through play and interaction with others.

How will staff social distance?

- Staff will continue to maintain 1m+ social distancing wherever possible. Our staffroom will not be used for staff to congregate and our school office is out of bounds to all if possible.
- We ask that parents do not come into the school building to maintain good social distancing, however we are still available to talk to parents either over the phone or through email.

What will the classrooms look like?

- The classrooms do look a bit sparser than they usually do, this is so that the surfaces are easily cleaned.

- In Years 3 to 6, most desks have been arranged into front facing rows.
- Teachers are planning learning activities that reduce the need for close face to face interaction.
- Adults will give feedback to the children at the adults' level rather than the adult moving to the child's level.
- In Reception and Year 1, we will allow a more 'free flow' approach to the provision so that the children can learn through play. They will be allowed to sit on the carpet in small groups but will be expected to distance themselves as much as possible.

What equipment will be available to the children? What will they need to bring from home?

- All children will be given their own pencil case with their own equipment because they are not allowed to share equipment such as pens and pencils.
- Any equipment that does need to be shared will be cleaned thoroughly in between uses.
- Children will be expected to bring a named water bottle to school. This will stay on their desk to reduce movement around the classroom.
- Reading books will be sent home. They will be cleaned after they have been returned and will only be permitted to go back onto bookshelves after 72 hours.

Do the normal rules and expectations still apply?

- Absolutely! We always have very high expectations for behaviour and attitude.

How will you make sure the children settle into their new class and teachers? How are you going to support their wellbeing after such a difficult time?

- The activities for the first two weeks of term will be planned to support the transition for everyone. We understand lots of our children will not have been in school for over five months, so the teachers are planning to take their time to make sure the children can settle in. The children will revisit our school motto, values and expectations including our Building Learning Powers.
- The whole school will support the wellbeing and mental health of all our pupils.

How will you help the children to 'catch up'?

- Over the next year, our curriculum and timetable will be more flexible to respond to the different needs of the children who return to school. We will prioritise their wellbeing and emotional response to the pandemic by including lots of personal and social education, wellbeing, creative arts and outdoor learning as well as Reading, Writing and Maths.
- When the children have settled in, their teachers will assess them all over the first few weeks and will plan support for anyone who needs additional help.
- All teachers have reviewed the curriculum and adjusted plans so that it enables the children to repeat aspects they may need to, but also supports rapid progress.
- Our teachers have been working hard to plan the new curriculum for the next school year; we have re-written many of the topics.
- Reading is so very important, so please try and keep it up over the summer holidays.

What will happen at lunchtime?

- A slightly restricted lunch menu will initially be available
- Hot lunches will be served to the children and they will eat with the rest of the children in their pod.
- We do encourage all children to have a school meal because they are fresh, well balanced with locally produced ingredients
- As normal, lunches will be booked in advance.
- Children can bring a packed lunch; please can you ensure the lunch box is cleaned thoroughly every day.
- If your child is moving into Yr3 in September, please note that UIFSM will no longer apply. Your child may still have a school meal and the cost will be £2.30 per day.

What happens if a child gets ill in my child's group?

- No child or adult showing signs of infection are allowed on the premises.

- Staff and pupils are required to have immediate tests if they show symptoms. If a child is sent home with symptoms, we ask parents to arrange a test for the child.
- Any child who displays any symptoms of COVID must be collected immediately. When the child is awaiting collection, they will be moved to our isolation room.
- The adult supervising the child will wear full PPE clothing when dealing with a suspected case; this includes a face mask, face shield/ visor, apron and gloves.

What if my child, or one of our family members, becomes ill?

- If any child in school tests positive for COVID, every child and member of staff in their group will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.
- If a member of a child's household tests positive for COVID, the child and the household members must self-isolate for 14 days. The other children and staff in the child's group do not have to self-isolate.

The government guidance states that all children will be expected to attend school from September and we want to work with any parents who are worried to reassure you that we are taking every precaution to keep our community safe.

We also need to be prepared to change our plans at short notice as this is an ever-changing situation so we do need to be prepared for different scenarios on our return.

Everyone's health and safety is our priority and we hope that, by reading this document, all parents and families are reassured that the school staff are taking every possible measure to create a happy, healthy and safe learning environment for all our community.

In September, school will be a different place in terms of its organisation, but our standards and our drive for learning will still be there. Our children need support, stability and routine. Please support us to get them ready for September and we will support them once they are in school.

I am proud to be the headteacher of such an amazing community. Have a wonderful summer break and we look forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday, September 7th 2020.

With very best wishes

Hello everyone from St. Michael's Nursery - we are missing you and hope you are all well and happy.

As with all childcare and education settings, we are operating very differently in these current times, to keep the children, our team, and our families at home safe.

We await further guidance on re-opening our wrap around care and how this can be carried out in our setting, and also keep the nursery children safe this Autumn.

As soon as we deem it is safe to open this service, we will inform parents who are already booked on our system.

If you are new to Holywell School and know that you would like to use our service in the future, please email us at office@stmichaels-nursery.org to show your interest.

Thank you for your understanding and patience, and we hope to see you soon.

Enjoy your Summer Holidays everyone!

Sarah

Autumn Term

First day of the Autumn term will be Monday 7th September, 2020.

**Holywell is a NO NUT
Zone.**

News from the PTA



Take part in the BT Digital Dash for the chance to win up to £10K to spend on new tech for your school: <https://www.bt.com/skillsfortomorrow/home-life/digital-dash>

Thank you for helping us raise funds through easyfundraising. Please remember to use this link next time you shop online! <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofholywellschool/?invite=qxe9k8&referral-campaign>

Would you like to help create and reserve a copy of our limited edition fundraising 2021 calendar? <https://forms.gle/QvttFWcfzn1BpeA2A>

Op Shop

If you have or require any good quality, secondhand school uniform please contact Hazel Malin on 07974 208835 Thank you for your support.

Uniform Order

We need to make a uniform order and would like your help.

Please complete the attached order form and return to: holywell@ventrus.org.uk - marked uniform required for September as soon as possible. **If you have ordered and paid for your uniform on-line can you, please email the school to confirm the size you require.**

We will let you know the arrangements for collecting the items at a later date.

Parent Pay

As previously notified, all payments **must** now be made by parent pay and we are **unable** to take cash payments, if you have not yet logged onto parent pay and have lost your username and password can you please email and we will get this sent out to you.

Free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination

Your child is due to be in Reception to Year 6 from September 2020 and they are therefore eligible for a Free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination.

It is anticipated that this will be delivered in schools between October 2020 to December 2020, this will be administered adhering to all up to date Infection Control, PPE and social distancing guidance at the time.

Flu vaccination is one of most effective interventions we have to reduce pressure on the health and social care system which is going to be more important than ever this year. For this reason, it is essential we deliver the vaccine to as many children as possible to prevent the spread of infection to those most at risk in society.

In light of the above we are expecting demand to be high and therefore we urge you to follow the below link to consent to your child's vaccination now. You will also find answers to your FAQ's on this link.

<https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/flu/2020/devon>

If you have any difficulties with completing the consent form, please contact the Immunisation Team on our Single Point of Access (SPA).

Links you may be interested in?

The Plough Theatre – Great Torrington

<https://www.theploughartscentre.org.uk/whats-on/diary>

Romarsport

A letter was sent home attached to the newsletter today from this company if you would like to find out more this is there website and the parent booking link.

www.romarsports.com link for parents to book is <https://www.romarsports.com/Holiday-Camps>

Happy Maps

www.happymaps.co.uk

New website for parents on children's mental health problems now launched. Funded by Health Education England, HappyMaps is designed to help parents find useful resources on behaviour and mental health for their children – from babies to young adults. It is hoped that this will be really useful for parents whose children don't meet the specialist referral thresholds or are perhaps on the waiting list. There is good general information (national) and also local information on counselling, charities, local CAMHS and parenting groups for the South West. Take a look at the website.

Outdoors Group

<https://www.outdoorsgroup.co.uk/forestschoollactivities/>

Riverdart.co.uk – event 30th March

<http://riverdart.co.uk/news-and-events>

Easter Holiday Club – Tawstock Court

<https://sciencedipity.co.uk/school-holiday-science-club/>

On-line Safety

Online safety is an ever expanding area and you can find further valuable information on the CEOP website 'Think you know' has produced some useful conversation starters and advice to help you talk to your child about staying safe online.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

The NSPCC website

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventingabuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

Some good sources of information and advice for parents:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

The Professionals Online Safety Helpline is available Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm

Call 0344 381 4772 or email enquires@saferinternet.org.uk

<https://parentinfo.org/>

Parent Info is a free web service providing information to parents and carers.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/ShareAware>

Advice from the NSPCC: on social networks, app and games.

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

A non-profit organization; working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children.

West Buckland School Activity Day

<https://www.westbuckland.com/prospective-parents>

Early Help for Mental Health

<http://eh4mh.co.uk>

Early Help

<http://devon.cc/earlyhelp>

Courses for Parents and Children

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--bideford/family-and-education--classes/>

The above events are constantly being updated and there are many new courses available which may be of interest.

Devon Library Services (including Barnstaple)

<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/events>

Royal Albert Memorial Museum - (Exeter)

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCECC/bulletins/20a0199>

Barnstaple Library

<http://devonlibraries.org.uk>