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16th October, 2020

Autumn Term

Last day of the Autumn term will be 18th December, 2020

Training day Friday October 23rd, 2020

Half term Monday 26th October, 2020 – Friday 30th October, 2020 inclusive

Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

A message from Mrs. Denham

I wrote last week thanking you for all of your support over the past few months with our online learning provision, Seesaw and how we will now be starting to give the children access to Microsoft Teams over the next few weeks. Teachers are starting to look into this process with their children.

We do appreciate that it can be hard to change from one platform to the other, especially when it took a long time to get used to Seesaw in the first place. Some parents have asked why we have to change. The Government have funded training for schools in either Microsoft Teams or Google Classrooms and are preferring us to use either of these platforms rather than the ones schools may have used during lockdown. It does make sense to have a uniform way of working so children get used to one of these platforms. They will be used in most schools across the country and in secondary schools.

At school, we are all very busy receiving online training on how to use Teams and the teachers and staff have been amazing at trying to get to grips with this new system. We do understand however how frustrating this may feel for you at home. We are constantly trying to find ways to make this work for both school and home. Our aims are to plan lessons on Teams, send out homework, have lessons and work on it for children who may need to self-isolate and have it as a platform for home/school learning if we ever had to go into complete lockdown again. This form of blended learning is being implemented gradually across the school. The children seem to enjoy it and cope with all the changes well.

Of course, we know that a few families may have IT and internet difficulties with Microsoft Teams and we ask you to email the school and let us know so we can see if we can help in any way.

Thank you for your continued support. We really appreciate your understanding.

Transport Require – Are you able to help?

We have a parent who requires a lift home for their child 2 or 3 times a fortnight to the Whiddon Valley area of town. If you are able to help could you, please contact the school by email or phone. Thank you.

School lunches

To avoid handling paperwork and risk of transmission, we now have a central email address for all school meal bookings.

office@stmichaels-nursery.org

Please could we ask that a full month is ordered in advance, weekly payments by BACS or card (01271327074) are still fine. We ask that the full months' order is received at the above email address by 12pm on the last Thursday of the previous month e.g. for the November menu, 12pm on Thursday October 29th for all meals to be taken in November.

After School Care – Wrap around Care.

We are to continue, the wrap around care/after school club, for a **further 3 weeks** as it has been well received by those who have attended. However, after half term to make it viable we are considering offering the care on a **Wednesday** night as well. Could you please let us know **by return of email or by Monday at the latest**, if you would like a place on this extra night. Due to budget restraints we have ensure it is viable and all our costs are covered.

The clubs will run from – 3.15pm to 5.15pm.

The cost is £8.50 per child, per session which **MUST** be paid for on ParentPay before your child attends.

Wrap around care – St Michael's

As there have been no further changes to covid restrictions in our setting, we are unfortunately unable to offer breakfast club or afterschool club for pupils. We miss your children at St. Michael's and send them a friendly 'hello' from Katie!

Walking or cycling home from school

If you wish you child to wither cycle or walk home from school alone, without another adult present can you please notify the school in writing. Thank you.

Year 6 application for Secondary School

If you have not yet applied for a secondary school place for your year 6 child, you must do so before the 31st October. The easiest way to apply is online by visiting www.devon.gov.uk/admissiononline If don't wish to or can't apply online, you can contact the customer service centre on 0345 155 1019 or you can use the copy of the application form that is attached to this email.

Devon is entering into a period now where a lot of secondary schools in Devon will be experiencing growth, so it is essential that they get as many applicants applying on-time. Late applications may be disadvantaged, so it is essential that you make an on time application to give yourself the best chance of securing a place at one of your preferred schools.

COVID 19 - Useful links and phone numbers:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>

Phone NHS on 111, or the Covid kit delivery helpdesk on 119

IMPORTANT

Free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination

We have been made aware that a letter is being sent to all parent/carers of children eligible for the flu nasal vaccination. Parents have already started to receive these letters and it is causing some confusion around the process of consent. Please can we reassure you that at this time you don't need to bring this letter and as long as you have completed the consent link provided by Virgin Care Services then your child will be vaccinated at the planned school session.

Any changes to this process will be clearly communicated from the Devon Immunisation Team if/when changes are made.

This is not something that the Devon Immunisation Team have control of locally, it is a national NHS drive to ensure parent/carers of all eligible children are aware of the flu vaccination programme.

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.virgincare.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).

Dates for your diary

5th November 2020

PTA - Bags2School collection.

4th November 2020

Tempest Photographer (individual photo only)

30th November 2020

Flu Immunisation

News from the PTA



Scavenger Hunt

"This half term, why not help keep the kids occupied by getting involved with our Holywell Photo Scavenger Hunt?"

Find one example of as many of the items on the grid as you can over the half term break, emailing photos of them to holywellchallenge@gmail.com (ensuring no people are included in the photographs). Whoever photographs the most items on the grid in each class will win a prize (a prize draw will be held if more than one person has photographed the most items). Entry is £1 per child and can be paid outside the school gates in the week prior to half term where printed versions of the grid will also be available."

On Tuesday and Thursday next week we will be selling uniform outside the school gates at pick up time, weather permitting! We will be selling sizes up to 7-8 on Tuesday and 8 upwards on Thursday. Please sanitize hands before touching any items and observe social distancing by coming up one at a time. Please contact Hazel on 07974 208835 if you want to pre-order specific items for collection.

We would be very grateful for any donations of prizes for our Christmas Raffle, so if either yourself or someone you know is able to donate a prize please let us know!

Dates for your diary:

October half term - scavenger hunt photo competition - details to follow shortly

5th November 9am - Bag2School collection of unwanted clothes for resale, see information below.

10th November 7.30 pm - PTA meeting online, everyone is invited!

BAG 2 SCHOOL FREE FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOLS

In partnership with your school Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing and we have arranged to make a collection from your school.

All the bags will be weighed and you will be paid for the total weight collected. Remember, the more you collect the greater the benefit to your school. Please use your own bag or bags (there is no limit). When the clothes have been removed from the bag the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling.

Your own clothes Your own bags.

We are collecting good quality items for RE-USE: Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.

(No uniforms, work wear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please).

Please return your Bag2School on Thursday 5th November 2020 - 9.00am – No earlier.

Remember you can follow us on Facebook Instagram or email friendsofholywell@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions.

Easyfundraising: Please share this link with friends and family and remember to use it the next time you shop online!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofholywellschool/?invite=qxe9k8&referral-campaign=s2s>