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5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## **A message from Mrs. Denham**

Dear parents and carers

We are so looking forward to all children being back at school on Monday. Let's all really hope that there will be no more lockdowns and we can now start to get back to schools being as normal as they can be. Staff are being positive and hopeful that we will be able to start to resume things like sports day and trips and visits.

We hope all the children enjoy being back at school, back into the routine and structure of the school day. Obviously we understand that it may be hard for some children especially in the first early days but we will do everything we can to support them.

And finally can I please thank you all for all your amazing hard work both in school and at home during this lockdown. We are so proud of all the children. They have been stars. I must also say the biggest thank you ever to the most wonderful teaching team who have worked so incredibly hard over the last 8 weeks. They have made such a difference and now can't wait to have their class back!

**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?**

Children in Years 3 to 6 will start back at school on Monday 8th March, starting at 8.45am and finishing at 3.15pm. Children in Rec to Y2 will start back at school on Monday 8th March, starting at 9.00am and finishing at 3.00/ or 3.15pm. If a pupil in this age group has a sibling starting at 8.45am, they may start at the same time too.

### **Do they need to wear uniform?**

- Yes, we expect all children to wear full uniform if possible.

### **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 named water bottle, healthy snack, sun cream, 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?**

- When children arrive in school they will be asked to sanitise their hands and go to their classrooms. They will hang their belongings up in an allocated space in the cloakroom and they will be asked one by one to wash their hands
- Please can we ask parents NOT to 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 alone, please inform the school office of this information
- Please can we ask parents NOT to congregate on or around the school site before or after school. Please leave a clear wide path for children to walk through.
- All adults must always maintain social distancing to reduce the chance of transmitting the virus.
- **Can all adults please wear a face mask whilst dropping off and picking up their children**
- 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 do not send children to school too early as this could potentially lead to unsupervised contact between pupils.
- No parent to enter the school ground if possible
- **The school office will be closed to parents on the whole – so please phone or e mail.**
- **Thank you for your support with this.**

#### **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.
- 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.
- Staff will be wearing face masks in communal areas and in some cases in the classroom

#### **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, 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.
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### **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 class and teachers? How are you going to support their wellbeing after such a difficult time?**

- The activities for the first week will be planned to support the transition for everyone. We understand lots of our children will not have been in school, 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.

### **Although we will be making school as normal as we can, there will be number of things that are different, and this is to keep everyone as safe as we can. This includes:**

- No large gatherings will take place such as assemblies in the hall – we will have these in classes instead
- Parents will not be allowed on site so communications will need to be made via the office through email or phone

### **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.

### **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 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.

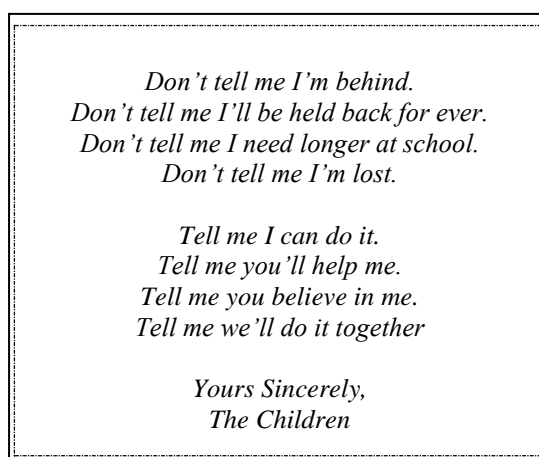
### **What if my child, or one of our family members, becomes ill?**

- 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 10 days.
- If a member of a child's household tests positive for COVID, the child and the household members must self-isolate for 10 days. The other children and staff in the child's group do not have to self-isolate.

With very best wishes

Susan Denham

I saw this short poem on the internet this week and thought that you may like it.



### **Consultation - Holywell Pre-School**

As an academy with a governor run preschool we are proposing to extend the age range of the school. In practical terms, this will mean that Holywell C of E Primary School will become a school for children aged 3 to 11. To make this possible, on paper, Holywell Pre-school will officially disband on one day and will reopen again as Holywell C of E Primary School the next. The provision in terms of buildings and education will continue as normal for all pupils, parents and staff.

The extension to the age range of the school will ensure that resources both practical and human will be used much more efficiently, ensuring that the time and the savings in economy of scale will go towards continuing to provide the best possible education for the children.

With this in mind we have this week written to formally consult with parents, staff and the wider community partners regarding the change. We would welcome your views and have opened a dedicated consultation mailbox for any interested parties to offer their thoughts or comments at [holywellconsultation@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:holywellconsultation@ventrus.org.uk). Similarly, for those of you who prefer to make contact via letter, please send your comments to Holywell C of E Primary School, Tawstock EX31 3HZ.

### **DFE Information**

**Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college**  
**NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.**

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. **Parents and other adults in households** with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) (PLEASE CLICK ON THIS LINK) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms **are not** being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

### **PE with Mr Day**

Robins: Thursdays only

Hedgehogs: Thursdays & Fridays

Foxes: Thursdays & Fridays

Squirrels: Fridays only

Children will need to come into school in full PE kit with suitable footwear for both field & playground.

### **Goal Getters After School Club**

The Goal Getters After School Club for KS1 children will be recommencing on Wednesday 17th March. A letter will be going out to all KS1 children on Thursday.

### **Year 6 Bikeability**

Year 6 children will be receiving letters next week about the Level 1/2 training on offer that is due to take place in the week commencing 19th April.

### **Prostate Cancer UK House Group Day**

On Friday 19th March, we will be having a creative house group day (although staying in our bubbles!) in aid of Prostate Cancer UK (Nick Butter's chosen charity). The children will be taking part in a range of physical activities including a sponsored Prostate Cancer UK Mile around the field. Children may come into school dressed as their famous sports person if they wish along with £1. More information to follow.

YOUR CHILD WILL NEED TO BE IN SUITABLE CLOTHES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND WILL NEED PLENTY TO DRINK.

### **Pre-School Funding**

Working parents with three and four year olds could get up to 30 hours funded childcare. You'll **need to apply now to claim for next term.** If you're already claiming, don't forget to reconfirm your eligibility every three months. [Check the government website for full eligibility criteria](#) to find out if you can claim.

All parents get up to [15 hours funded childcare per week for their three and four year olds.](#)

if you receive certain benefits or they have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

[Please visit our website for more information about funded childcare](#)

### **Music Lesson Returning.**

For those of you who have children who have private music lesson at school should now have heard from their music teaches about their return dates and timetable.

Mrs. Lara Foot – Piano teacher will be returning week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March, and

Mr. Alex Rogozinski will be returning on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Spring Term**

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

**May Day Bank Holiday Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**Non-Pupil Day Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Half term Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021 inclusive**

### **Vodafone Sim Card**

Vodafone UK wanted to do their part to help keep children and parents connected and be able to continue learning from home during this difficult time. They have given away for free 250,000 data SIMs with 30GB of data to use for 90 days.

We requested and have been allocated a small number of Vodafone data SIM cards to give out to parents who have problems logging on to the Wi-Fi for their children to access Microsoft Teams from home. As they are limited, they will be given out on a first come first served basis.

- ❖ Vodafone data SIM to use as a Wi-Fi replacement.
- ❖ 30GB data (lasts for 90 days)
- ❖ Need a smart laptop/dongle that has a slot for a sim card or a smart phone that takes a sim card
- ❖ Need good Vodafone signal (you can use the Network Status tracker on [www.vodafone.co.uk](http://www.vodafone.co.uk))
  
- ❖ If your phone is locked to another network, you just need to contact your network provider's customer service team to request for your phone to be unlocked.
- ❖ You won't be able to use your phone to make calls/texts while using this data SIM.
- ❖ You will be able to enjoy 30GB data for 90 days this will start once you insert the SIM into your phone and start using the data.

### **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/>

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

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

### News from the PTA



**Thank you** to all who came to Wednesday's meeting and continue to support the school in various ways! We are proud to have been able to contribute to the purchase of new laptops for the children to use in school.

#### **Easter hamper**

After the success of the Christmas raffle, we are organising another one, this time for an Easter hamper. We would be really grateful for your donations of items to be included in the hamper by 19th March.

#### **21 Challenge sponsorship**

Well done for completing your challenges! It looks like you had a lot of fun cycling, running, baking, dressing up, painting... we love your creativity! Please remember you can still donate your sponsorship money by BACS, Paypal Giving Fund

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/3276041>

or in an envelope in the school post box. Thank you!

#### **Your School Lottery**

We just need 8 more supporters to reach our target of raising £1,000 for the school over the year. Tickets can be bought any time at <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/holywell-church-of-england-primary-school> There is a guaranteed weekly prize for one of our supporters plus the chance to win bigger prizes up to a £25,000 jackpot. Good luck!

#### **Uniform shop**

Has your child outgrown their uniform during lockdown? Please contact Hazel on 07974208835 if you require or wish to donate pre-loved uniform.

#### **Online fundraising**

Remember you can raise much needed funds for free during the Coronavirus pandemic just by shopping via easyfundraising with over 4,400 online

retailers: [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofholywellschool/?invite=HP2SQV%26referral-campaign=c2s&utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_medium=facebook&utm\\_content=raf-f](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofholywellschool/?invite=HP2SQV%26referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=facebook&utm_content=raf-f)