



NEWSLETTER

<http://www.holywell.devon.sch.uk>
www.primaryschoolsbarntable.co.uk
adminh@gatewayfed.org.uk

11th September, 2015

www.facebook.com/HolywellSchoolTawstock

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the Autumn Term. We hope you all had a wonderful summer.

We welcome all the new reception children Tyler, Chloe, Kyron, Macey, Corry, Holly, Jack, Maisy, Evangeline, Harry, Emily, Thomas, Gracie-Anne, Sophia, Joseph, Isabella, Ollie, Chloe, Tia, Theo, George, Leylan, Flossie and their families, also the Matthews family who have moved to the area, Archie, William and Matilda. We also welcome Mrs. Scott, (TA in Robin's Class), Mrs. Vine (TA in Squirrel's Class), Miss Lee (a student teacher in Robin's) and Mrs. Carylon (TA in Robins and pre school). We hope they will be very happy at Holywell School.

The theme this term in each class is a history one and each class will be shortly sending home a letter with all the details of the subjects being covered throughout the term.

CAR PARKING: Thank you so much helping us to cope with car parking situation - we all know the car parking at Holywell is dire! The Village Hall car park is too small for the number of cars we now have coming daily to the school, so parents have no alternative but to fill the car park up by double parking and by parking on the road. The school has grown considerably in numbers with staff and pupils in the last couple of years, and we have pre school on site now too – but we needed all this in order to survive and be a viable, thriving school for the future.

Therefore, we ask you all to be understanding of each other and park as carefully and considerately as possible. I believe the “unspoken parking rules” are:

1. Parents who are in a rush to get away need to park on the road – and **MUST** not block either the car park entrance or the gravel driveway. We need these clear so we can utilise the car park's capacity to its maximum.
2. Parents who arrive early enough to park in the car park have to realise that if they park on the edge of the car park, it is likely they may have to wait a while for the car park to clear.
3. Once the edges of the car park are full, cars then double park through the middle of the car park.
4. Some cars now park carefully along the edge of the gravel – this is now acceptable so long as the taxis and minibus have right of way and are not blocked in, in any way at all.

The school staff and Governors are doing all we can to make it as safe for our pupils and parents as we can:

- We are in regular contact with the Police over all this and they have said they will have a greater presence at the school whenever they can and they hope to set up more speed cameras and drop ins in the future. They are very concerned about the unsafe driving on the roads to and from school and have received some calls of parents feeling harassed by other users. As more cars are now parking on the road, we must pull away from parking spaces carefully and be aware that parents and children will be walking on the road.
- We have also considered a staggered finish time for KS1 and KS2 and drop off only bays in the car park, but both these ideas have many implications.
- We offered the possibility of the school minibus dropping off at Roundswell after school to save parents having to come to school, but each time we have offered this we have only had a couple of families interested. There would have to be a charge to cover the drivers hours and fuel, but if you think you would use this facility, please drop me a note saying when you would use it and for how many children.

If you have any further suggestions please let me know.

As one parent said to me this week “The car parking is a problem. But if you want a smaller rural school this is the price you have to pay! So long as we're all tolerant of each other and are happy to wait a few minutes it'll be OK.”

School News

Hedgehogs

Mrs Ashcroft will be away from school for a few weeks for compassionate reasons. We are thrilled that a very experienced teacher Mrs Dawn Baker who has been in this week and will be able to cover the majority of Mrs. Ashcroft's days.

Pupils Achievements

Well done to **Madison Wilson** who has been selected by the Unlimited Dance Company to become a member of their U10 street dance competition squad.

Guitar lessons for KS2 children

If you would like your child to start guitar lessons this term please speak to Mrs. Palmer or Mrs. Archer. The cost of 10 half hour lessons is £40.

Letters sent home this week:

Artefact day for the whole school on Wednesday 16th September – cost £1.75 per child.

Author visits Monday 14th September KS2 and Friday 18th September KS1 – cost £1.40 per child.

London Residential letter inviting parents to a meeting on Wednesday 16th September at 3.30pm plus a Kit list.

There is still one place available if anyone would still like to come. Please see Mrs Curtis or Mrs Denham.

School Council

As it is the beginning of a new school year we need to elect a new school council to ensure that we have the children's voice when making important decisions about many areas of school life.

The following positions are waiting to be filled:

Squirrel's class: Chair Person, Vice Chair Person, Secretary (X2), Events organisers (X2), Class representatives (X2), Robin's class representatives (X2).

Foxes class: Class representatives (X2)

Hedgehog's class: Class representatives (X2)

If your child would like to run for one of the positions available for their class they will need to create a poster showing the role they wish to be considered for, a bit about them and reasons for why they should be chosen by their peers.

On Friday (next week) your child will be asked to present their poster and ideas to their class. The class will then carry out a ballot style vote (like in a real election!). The vote will decide the members of this year's school council.

Any questions please do come and see Mrs Hammond.

Cross Country

Cross country club is open to children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6. It will take place after school on a Tuesday, finishing at 4:15pm. Your child will need to have appropriate clothing for the weather conditions including footwear – please no plimsolls.

Children from Holywell's cross country club are invited to represent the school at the North Devon cross country league (this league is completely optional and you can still come to the club and not do the races if that is what you wish) which takes place on the following dates:

Sunday 20th September 2015: Kingsley School, Bideford

Sunday 18th October 2015: West Buckland School

Sunday 15th November 2015: Shebbear College

Sunday 29th November 2015: Arlington Court

Sunday 10th January 2016: Coxleigh Barton Equestrian Centre, Shirwell, Barnstaple

Sunday 7th February 2016: West Buckland School (Finals day and League Presentations)

The League is divided into the following competition categories:

1. under 9: Normally School Years 3/4
2. Under 11: Normally School Years 5/6

There is an entry fee of £7 per runner which covers the whole series of six races.

If you would like to join the school at this event please can you either visit the website:

<http://northdevonxleague.weebly.com/how-to-enter-the-league.html> to register for the event yourself showing Holywell as your school/team or send £7 into school with a note including your child's full name and date of birth by Thursday 17th September (after this you will have to self-register, cheques made payable to Devon County Council).

Any questions please see Mrs Hammond.

Author visits

On Monday 14th September Philip Ardagh will be visiting Holywell to share his experiences of being an author, completing a workshop with the children and signing books. The books range in cost from £5.99 to £8.99 and a limited amount are available for purchase from Mrs Hammond at school. Once the books have been sold I'm afraid we are unable to get any other copies before the author visits.

On Friday 18th September Chloe Inkpen will be visiting Bratton Fleming and both Robin and Hedgehog's classes will be joining them. Once again books will be on sale from Mrs Hammond.

Well done to Madison Wilson who has been selected by the Unlimited Dance Company to become a member of their U10 street dance competition squad.

Absences

Please can you let the office know by 9.30am if your child is absent from school and on return we require a note to say the reason for the absence. This can either be done by letter or email adminh@gatewayfed.org.uk

Signing your children 'In or Out'

If your child arrives late or you take them out during the day for any reasons you must sign them in or out. The signing in /out sheets can be found in the folder in the office near the microwave. Parents must sign this form so you must accompany your child onto the premises.

Returning forms etc.

The post box is now outside the office for you to put all forms/permission slips etc. that need to be returned. Any forms which have money attached MUST be put in envelope with your child's name on plus the name of activity that the money is for.

All cheques for school activities must be made payable to 'Devon County Council (DCC) and school meal cheques to 'St Michaels Learning Centre'.

After school clubs - All clubs finish at 4:15pm except Recorders which finish at 4pm but if your child wishes to also do Computer Club they can leave at 3.45 to join that club.

Monday	Netball	Mrs Hammond	Y3, 4, 5 & 6	Starts 14 th Sept
Monday	Pottery	Mrs Coulam	YR, 1 & 2	Starts 14 th Sept
Tuesday	Cross Country	Mrs Hammond	Y3,4,5 & 6	Starts 15 th Sept
Wednesday	Computer	Mrs Curtis	Y5 & 6	Starts 23 rd Sept No Club 30 th Sept
Wednesday	Recorders	Mrs Archer	Y4,5&6	Starts 23 rd Sept
Thursday	Staff Meetings			
Thursday	Tag Rugby	Mrs Vine	Y3,4,5&6	Start date to be notified by text.

Diary Dates – forthcoming events

Half Term – Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October inclusive.

Non Pupil (Staff Training Day) Friday 23rd October.

End of Autumn Term (Last Day) – Friday 18th December.

Start of Spring Term – Tuesday 5th January.

Wednesday 16th December – Whole School Pantomime, Queens Theatre.

Thursday 17th December – Christingle Service at St Peter's Church 2pm.

Community News

North Devon Roots Band is a weekly group for 8 - 18 year olds. It meets weekly on Tuesdays at the Castle Centre in Barnstaple from 5.00 - 6.30pm. We provide instruments for this group so you don't need to have your own to join in but please bring your own acoustic instrument along if you have one! This group is mainly instrumental but we also do some singing and make great arrangements of traditional music and song. The cost of £45 for the term (10 sessions) or £5 per session.

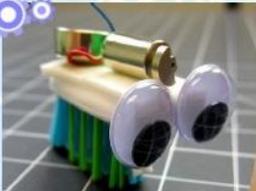
SCIENCE DIPITY PRESENTS

Experiments
Science
Workshops

SATURDAY SCIENCE CLUB

DESIGN SQUAD

2 hour hands on engineering workshop
Saturday 26th September at Barnstaple Library



Build a Bristlebot and enter in into the tournament arena.



A mystery engineering challenge awaits you!

Design & construct a balloon powered car. Will yours win the race?

Choose either am or pm session: 10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm
£15 for 2 hour workshop
includes activities listed above, take homes & refreshments.
Suitable for ages 7-12 approx.
To book email: sciencedipity@outlook.com
or call/text 07847006048 or 01271314938

Sciencedipity is your local science outreach non-profit company. Insured, CRB, qualified & registered teacher & scientist. T&Cs apply. www.sciencedipity.co.uk

SCIENCE DIPITY BRINGING THE LAB TO YOU

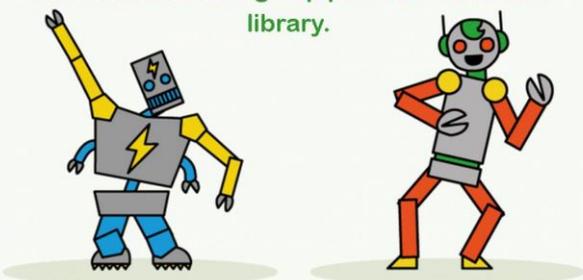


Code Club

Would you like to learn how to make computer games, animations and websites?

Then Code Club is for you.

We are starting a Code Club at Barnstaple Library for children aged 9-11. For more information or to sign up please contact the library.



www.codeclub.org.uk



Barnstaple Children are amazing!

- 1363 Joined our Summer Reading Challenge
- 1773 Paper dolls were produced, making Barnstaple's the longest paper doll chain produced by a Devon Library
- 297 hours were worked by our Young Volunteers
- 462 children attended library events during the summer holidays

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