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13<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

## Autumn Term

**Last day of the Autumn term will be 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2020**

**Half term Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 inclusive**

# **Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.**

## A message from Mrs. Denham

### Parent conferences

Thank you to all the parents who worked their way through Arbor and Teams to have your parent conference this week with your child's class teacher. Thank you to so many parents who have been in touch thanking the admin and teachers for finding a way to still continue to hold the meetings even in these difficult times. The teachers have been just wonderful and I am so grateful to them. They really are working incredibly hard day and night to do everything required and I am so grateful to them.

### Children in Need/our sponsored child in Africa.

It was lovely to see all the children in non-uniform today. Thank you to all those parents who have already donated to this fundraiser. If you haven't yet donated, please do so as soon as possible. We have so far raised £108.

### Christmas

I have been having conversations with staff and the PTA about how we can try and continue with as many of our Christmas traditions for your children as possible within our COVID19 Risk Assessment and guidelines. We want to make the Christmas period in school as special as we can.

Therefore, we have decided to continue with the following:

#### **1. Swop Shop**

At many pupils' requests, our annual pupil Swop Shop will go ahead week the commencing 14th December. We would be very grateful, if you are able to send in any small donations of presents suitable for a mum, dad, and brothers and sisters, such as small bubble bath, talc, soap, pens, pencils, chocolates, sweets, gloves, socks etc.

Due to Covid restrictions, we do however, ask you to send in any donations on ONLY Thursday 10th & Friday 11th December. Please do not send any donations in before these dates nor after. A tray will be left on the doorstep of the main entrance for you to place your donations. All the presents will then be isolated for 72hrs.

On swop shop day, we will ensure the children hand sanitise before and after the swop shop. They will only touch the item they choose as their present, they will wrap it up and then bring it home the same day. If you then isolate the item for 72 hours, we should be in line with all present guidance.

This 'Swop Shop' will hopefully be a way for you to be able to 'recycle' some of the small presents you do not need, that you have at home! Any donations of wrapping paper and tags/labels will also be useful. There will be no charge so you do not have to send in money!

#### **2. Save the Children Christmas Jumper Fundraiser**

The children may take part in “wear a Christmas Jumper to school.” Your child may wear their Christmas Jumper to school, on Friday 27th November, then the following three Fridays until the end of term, for a one off donation of £2.00. Please make your donation through Parent Pay preferably by 4th December 2020.

### 3. **PTA**

The PTA have been so busy working out ways for them to continue to celebrate Christmas. There will be the opportunity to buy a school Tea towel and enjoy a wonderful raffle to name just a few ideas

### 4. **Christmas lunch**

The St Michael catering team are working hard to ensure your children can still have a yummy Christmas lunch

We are also considering how to COVID safely support other Christmas traditions such as children sending Christmas cards to each other

### **PE – with Mr. Day**

From next week PE days will change slightly to:

Squirrels & Foxes Class on Wednesday – full PE kit.

Hedgehogs on Friday – Trainers only required.

These days will change in January but we will let you know before we break up.

On these days’ children can come to school wearing appropriate PE kit.

Please can we encourage children to wear normal school uniform on all other days, including school shoes not trainers. A few parents have written to me as they are trying to get their children to wear school uniform but other children in their class are not and this is making things tricky!

We did say in last week’s newsletter however, that we understood if your child wears normal full uniform but with slightly warmer clothing added e.g. an extra fleece, due to windows and doors being open due to COVID guidance.

### **Admission to primary school 2021 (for children born between 01/09/2016 and 31/08/2017)**

The application facility opens on 15th November 2020 and closes at midnight on 15th January 2021. It is important that parents apply before the closing date, even if they are intending to defer their child’s admission until later in the academic year, they must secure a place before that decision need be made.

### **ParentPay**

Can I please thank all parents who have now activated their accounts on ParentPay only 3 parents have not yet login.

### **Admissions Policy consultation 2022 -2023**

The consultation period for the 2022 – 2022 – Holywell C of E Primary School admissions policy began on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2020 The consultation period ends on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

Below you will see a link to our proposed admissions policy for 2022-23

<http://www.primaryschoolsbarstaple.co.uk/website> and found on the Homepage under ‘Links and Downloads’ We are consulting on this between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 and 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and invite any parent or other person with an interest in our admission arrangements to read the policy and make any comments you wish. You will see where there are changes, the text is in red – either something we propose to add or, if it has a line through it, something we propose to remove.

One of the proposals is to add children who have been adopted from state care outside of England to our oversubscription criterion 1. This is in anticipation that the Department for Education will require this change for all schools as it has just consulted on changes to the School Admissions Code. It is possible that the Department’s timescales may mean that the Code is not amended before the end of February, when we have to formally set our policy. If that is the case, we may have to determine our policy without that change and then alter it later in spring or summer. We are bringing it to your attention though as a change in policy that we expect to have to introduce.

Other than changes in red and dates moving forward a year, the way our policy will work is the same as in the previous year, 2021-22.

Any response you may have to this consultation should be sent to Mrs. Denham.(susan.denham@ventrus.org.uk)

Further information is at [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements). You will be able to view the proposed policies for all state-funded schools in Devon and the Local Authorities policies there too.

### **School News**

To find out more about what support is available in Devon, including how to access local financial support, healthy start vouchers and free school meals, where to find foodbanks and community larders, free meals during the school holidays and what to do if you're on a low income and need to self-isolate, [please visit Devon County Council's website](#).

### **IMPORTANT - After School Club – Wrap around Care.**

We are extremely sorry but we are no longer able to run these sessions. We require 8 children to attend per session to break even and we have only achieved this on a couple of evenings.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Flu Immunisation**

Your child is eligible for a Free Nasal Childhood Flu vaccination. If you have not already booked your child's vaccination, please do so using this link. <https://schoolimms.virgincare.co.uk/flu/2020/devon>

### **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

### **Dates for your diary**

**27<sup>th</sup> November 2020** 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas Jumper day. **Also, 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December.** Funds to Save the children. **A one off** donation of £2.00 per child which will cover the 4 weeks. This will be up on ParentPay and should be available by the 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2020** Flu Immunisation

### **Term Dates – Dec 2020 to July 2021**

18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Last day of Term
5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Spring Term begins
15 <sup>th</sup> February to 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Half Term
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 all for your continued support as we find new ways to raise funds for our lovely school. As you can imagine, we are planning for a much lower key Christmas than usual but nevertheless we hope to celebrate and of course continue to raise funds, in particular for buying new iPad for the classrooms. Thank you the all who came to the meeting this week and are in any way contributing and offering help, it is really appreciated.

### **Scavenger Hunt Challenge**

Well done to all those who completed the challenge! Congratulations to the winners! They are:

Robins - Frank

Hedgehogs - Wilfred

Foxes - Holly

Squirrels - Ruby

### **Tea Towels**

Our next initiative are beautiful tea towels that the children have collectively created with their self-portraits. Printed on cotton and at a price of £3 they make excellent Christmas gifts! Please order and pay on Parent Pay by Wednesday 18th of November. The order line on ParentPay will hopefully be opened by the end of the day on Monday.

Orders need to be placed by the end of the day on Wednesday. If you are unable to pay for them at such short notice but still would like to reserve some, please let the school office know also by Wednesday to avoid disappointment.

### **Your School Lottery - First draw next Saturday!**

Quick, get your lottery tickets in time for the first draw on **21st November**! Tickets cost just **£1** for the chance to win up to **£25,000** jackpot. The easiest way is to pay by direct debit, simply go to

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/holywell-church-of-england-primary-school>

### **Easy fundraising**

Black Friday is fast approaching and as we're now in the second national lockdown we anticipate lots of online spending in the run up to Christmas! There has never been a better time to sign up to easyfundraising and help us to collect free funds for the school. Share the link with your friends and families – every penny counts and signing up only takes 2 minutes –

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofholywellschool/?invite=HP2SQV&referral-campaign=c2s>