

## A message from Mrs. Denham

We are so thrilled that we now have 5 pupils who have achieved a phenomenal feat – they are all part of the Devon Gymnastics Squad after trailing in Exeter last weekend. Please read the message below and join us in congratulating the girls. I've never known one small school have such amazing gymnasts.

Well done girls – you definitely have let your light shine.

## Maths Mastery Teacher Research Group

As teachers at Holywell we are always working hard to improve our own knowledge, skills and learning as well as that of the children. This year we are very pleased to be involved in a national initiative for developing mastery maths teaching within schools.

Our teachers will be working collaboratively with teachers from other schools, a maths mastery specialist teacher and Devon maths adviser in a teacher research group. The group will look at ways to improve maths learning for all our children. Some of your children might already have noticed some of the changes we have been making!

This is an exciting project and we really look forward to seeing a positive impact on our pupil's confidence and engagement with maths learning.

## RESIDENTIALS:

We know the Y3/4 are so looking forward to their forthcoming trip to the Calvert Trust. They are going to have an amazing time.

Then in November our Y5/6 are going to have the wonderful opportunity to visit London for 4 days. As this is slightly later in the year they will have the chance to see London as it gets ready for the Christmas festivities! I always think this is an amazing trip that will stay with the children for a lifetime!

## School News

### Pupils Achievements:

Congratulations and well done to: **Tyler Cook**, who completed and passed his introduction to scuba diving last weekend and is now looking forward to learning more about the sport.

### Gymnastic Superstars

Who would have thought that a school the size of Holywell could have so many outstanding gymnasts?!

On Sunday **Bella Ayres, Lannah Barrow, Lara Heywood and Maddie Wilson** were selected by Falcon's gymnastics Academy to trial for the Devon gymnastics squad. The girls travelled to Exeter to complete the 4 hour, very intense and testing trial process. The girls were measured in their flexibility; strength and skill level and at their first outing have all qualified as part of the Devon gymnastics squad for this year. This in itself sounds an amazing achievement, but the results the girls achieved were even more phenomenal, Lannah was placed 1st and Bella 2nd, not only in age group, but across all of the age ranges and the 43 children that participated in the trial. Their scores were an amazing 30 points clear of the 3rd placed individual in their age group. Such fantastic scores have placed them in the Devon Elite squad, an exceptional achievement for two seven year olds! Lara placed 4th

and Maddie 5th in their age category and were 10th and 13th overall. This means that they are now members of the Development section of the Devon gymnastics squad, a rare feat in a first trial attempt for Devon.

A special mention also needs to be given to **Felicity Ayres** who supported all of the girls at the trials and makes the Devon elite squad on the basis of the amazing scores she achieved at last year's trials.

All 5 of the girls will now attend five Devon squad days (including a Summer camp), where they will prepare with their team mates for competitions where they will wear their Devon leotards with pride!

Well done to you all, Holywell is very proud of you and this amazing achievement.

#### **North Devon Cross Country League - Northam Burrows**

A huge well done all of the Holywell children that participated at the cross country event in Northam on Sunday. The terrain of the burrow land was very challenging and the muddy ditches meant lots of tired legs. You were all amazing and should be very proud of your super finishing positions.

U9 Girls - **Tiana Comer** 14th, **Isabelle Westaway** 19th

U11 Boys - **Charlie Marshall** 20th, **Jayden Comer** 50th, **Aidan Milton** 59th.

#### **London Residential**

The current year 4 & 5 children took home a letter on the 6<sup>th</sup> January regarding the London Residential Trip which is due to take place in November 2017. If you wish your child to go on this trip then the reply slip MUST be returned by Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January with a non-refundable deposit of £10. If you reply after this date then your child will not be able to attend.

#### **Head lice**

We have had another case of head lice reported to school this week. Could you please check your children's hair this weekend and treat as appropriate. Thank you.

#### **Letter sent home this week:**

All years - Letter from Mrs. Denham

Robins & Hedgehogs - Letter regarding the new homework folders.

Years: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 – Letter about guitar and ukulele tuition. If you would like your child to have either of these lessons could you please return the form by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January. The lessons will start after the February half term.

All years – Booklet and card from the NSPCC talk.

#### **Lost/mislaid uniform**

Please can the parents of squirrels' class please check their child's green polo shirts. A Sainsbury's TU plain green polo shirt has been mislaid. The label is on the side seam and is marked AR with a permanent pen. Also in the same class a pair of black PE shorts has been mislaid.

#### **Football Club**

We are looking for a parent or couple of parents who would like to run a football club after school. If interested please speak with Mrs. Hammond.

#### **Items required.**

If you have any spare wellington boots at home which are no longer required, up to adult size 6, school would very much appreciate them for outdoor learning. Also, if you have a compost bin or wormery that you know longer use can you please contact Mrs. Emma Vine.

#### **School Admissions September 2016**

If you have a child that was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2013 and have not applied of a Primary School place the admissions close at midnight on Sunday 15 January.

#### **News from the PTA**



#### **Op-Shop**

If you have or require any good quality, secondhand school uniform please contact Emma Barstow on 07976 269525.

### **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	Computers	Mrs Curtis	Y3, 4, 5 & 6	<b>No Computer Club on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.</b>
Tuesday	Pottery	Mrs Coulam	YR, 1 & 2	
Tuesday	Netball	Miss Purchase	Y3,4,5 & 6	
Wednesday	Cross Country	Mrs Hammond	Y3,4,5 & 6	
Thursday	Staff Meetings			
Thursday	Rugby Tots			

**Rugby Tots** will be starting back on Thursday January 12<sup>th</sup> in the hall on after school. If your child has not yet been to this club and would like to start please just turn up with your child on Thursday after school and speak with John who runs this club.

### **Diary Dates – forthcoming events**

10<sup>th</sup> January - 7<sup>th</sup> February inclusive – Year 1 children to Gymnastics. Please remember to pick your child up from the Falcon Gymnastic Academy (Tarka Tennis) at 3pm.

31<sup>st</sup> January – 3<sup>rd</sup> February inclusive – Year 3 & 4 Residential

7<sup>th</sup> February – Tempest photograph – Vista Group photographs.

27<sup>th</sup> February – 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Parent conference week, dates and times to be arranged.

2<sup>nd</sup> March World Book Day

24<sup>th</sup> March Red Nose Day

### **Term Dates**

Start of Spring Term – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Spring Half Term – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February inclusive.

End of Spring Term (Last Day) – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

First Day of the Summer Term – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

May Day – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May.

Half Term – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June inclusive.

End of Summer Term (Last Day) – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

### **Community News**

#### **St Michaels Nursery**

If you are looking for wrap around care for your child St Michaels may be able to help!

We have spaces in afterschool club on Thursdays and Fridays. Breakfast club we have spaces on all days this term.

If anyone is interested and would like to know more about how to book a place, please contact us on 01271327074 or [office@stmichaels-nursery.org](mailto:office@stmichaels-nursery.org)

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#### **Circuits**

Every Tuesday

9 – 9.45 am, in the village hall.

£4 pay as you go

All fitness levels welcome!

Children welcome to come along and play whilst mum/dad get fit.

Contact Estelle Liepa for more info or just turn up.

07973 533668

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#### **Tawstock Tiddlers and Toddlers**

Bumps, babies and all preschoolers welcome

Snacks provided Guest speakers and Messy play.

Monday from 9.30 – 11.00 at Tawstock Village Hall

For more details contact Mel:

07866783740

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Quiz night in aid of North Devon Hockey Club  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm.  
Tawstock village hall quiz,  
£6 per person, including teas and wine, teams, maximum of 6.  
Telephone Christine Thorne, 858393 to book

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### **Dogs Helping Kids**

Does your child struggle with reading at school? Do they need a confidence boost to help them progress with their learning? Then why not book a session with a Dogs Helping Kids dog here at Barnstaple Library. These brilliant dogs have the ability to calm, to listen and to be infinitely patient with children. Highly trained and supervised by their trained handlers they listen without judgement as your child reads. No interruptions and no corrections allow your child to keep going improving fluency and confidence. We have appointments waiting with our lovely library dogs Dexter and Brady on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please contact Sharon Dixon or Charlotte Aitken on 01271 318780 for further details.

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### **Code Club at Barnstaple Library**

*Would you like to learn how to make computer games, animations and websites?  
Then Code Club is for you.*

*For children aged 9 - 11  
Wednesdays 4pm - 5pm*

*booking essential. For more information or to sign up please contact the library.  
01271 318782*

*[barnstaple.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:barnstaple.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk)*

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### **The Plough Arts Centre** **Torrington**

Jack Frost - Family Theatre Show for 3+ - Thursday 16th Feb (2.30pm)

Half Term Treat! Tickets £7 (Buy three get one free!)

*A magical, wintery production brings Jack Frost to life through puppetry, live music and enchanting storytelling. Meet our mischievous sprite as he takes us on a snowy adventure and spreads winter wherever he goes. But wrap up warm or you'll catch him nipping at your fingers and toes!*

*Moon on a Stick transform the stage once more using their unique combination of light play, song and visual theatre to reimagine this well-known Nordic legend. A playful production perfect for children 3+*

***Moon on a Stick is a Norfolk based puppetry company combining visual theatre, storytelling and puppetry to create theatre for all ages.***

Book online <http://www.theploughartscentre.org.uk/event/jack-frost> or through our Box Office on 01805 624624.

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