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| Ventrus logo |  | **Newsletter** | C:\Users\Head\Documents\Logos\Holywell school Logo Ultimate Version.jpg  **LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE**  [**www.primaryschoolsbarnstaple.co.uk**](http://www.primaryschoolsbarnstaple.co.uk)  **holywell@ventrus.org.uk** |

19th January 2024

**Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.**

**Message from Mrs. Lowrey**

What an eventful week it has been! Freezing temperatures and snow and hail one minute to glorious sunshine! There has been a beautiful atmosphere in school and we are becoming more and more settled into routines. Where the weather has been so cold, many children are bringing in hats and gloves, which is fantastic. Please could you make sure that you also **write or label these accessories** as well as their coats as these are the types of items that tend to go astray!

**Park School Festival**

Today, 12 children from **Year 5/6 attended an athletics festival** at Park School, competing in a schools’ tournament against a group of 7 North Devon schools. Mr Day has informed me that the children were excellent ambassadors for the school and I am very proud of their polite behaviour and their naturally sporting ability. They also showed excellent competitive, but kind sportsmanship. Well done to all of the boys and girls that took part. I am so proud to say that we came **fourth (possibly 3rd, awaiting a points check) out of all 7 schools**. This is an excellent achievement for Holywell as a small school. Very well done all and thank you to Mr Day for organizing.

**Returning to Holywell**

It has been mentioned to me in passing that some parents are concerned that **Holywell school** will close following the fire and I wanted to take a moment to reassure you that there is **no truth** in this rumour as far as I understand through Ventrus directors. I will make sure that I update you all as soon as I can with any news of an update on the planned rebuild works, however, this is the intention moving forward. Through Christmas, I understand that the holidays naturally led to some delay through surveyors and insurers, however, this work is being chased daily. We have not wanted to touch any of the debris on site until we have the start date for the complete works.

Some of you will also be aware that the **TIddler and Toddler group** is continuing on a Wednesday morning in the hall. This has been a fantastic resource for the school and I am delighted to say that the impact is showing with a huge rise in applicants to Reception in September. I am so grateful to the PTA and to those who attend and build this community! The numbers have more than doubled for Holywell school.

I have also heard that the **Quiz night** was a huge success! I even heard from my neighbour in Bideford about it – which is quite an accomplishment! My sincere thanks to Rachel for her organization and to the PTA together who continue to do an amazing job. The teachers and myself will be coming together to suggest ideas for the school as part of the rebuild process.

Thank you all for your patience with transport and parking through difficult weather circumstances this week. I hope that you have a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing you next week. Take care! Mrs Lowrey

School News

**Bag2School**  
Collection planned for 24th January from outside Holywell School – by the benches as normal!

**Please check at home** - Jessica Taylor has lost a named cardigah and a pink worry worm possibly in the cardi pocket. Please could parents check at home in case these have been picked up by mistake.

**Dental Survey**

These forms have been sent home again today with the reception children.

**School Contact**

You can contact the school by phoning 01271 345908. If the phone is not answered, can you please leave a message on the answerphone. These messages will be responded to as soon as possible.

Links you may find useful.

[HANDi Paediatric app: advice for common childhood conditions - One Devon](https://onedevon.org.uk/our-work/services-and-support/children-and-young-people/handi-app/)

**Diary Dates**

**Dental Survey** – Children Aged Year 5 – Wednesday 21st February. Please return the forms sent home.

**Swimming Year R, 1 and 2** – 16th, 23rd and 30th January and 6th and 20th February. Please collect your child from the Tarka Leisure Centre at 3pm. Siblings will be looked after at Roundswell until you arrive.

**Park School sports athletics** - Friday 19th January - 12 children attending

**W/C- February 5th** – Children’s mental health week

**Tuesday 25th February** – Devon Cricket engagement day with Martin Brice

**February 26th – February 28th inclusive** - Skern Lodge residential

**1st March** – Rising stars day 2 (selected children)

**Thursday 21st March** – Holywell and Roundswell cross country festival

**World Book Day** – March – more info to follow

**Term Dates**

**Spring Half Term –** Monday 12th February to Friday 13th February (inclusive).

End of Spring Term – Thursday 28th March 2024

**School Uniform**

[**https://schoolthreads.org/collections/holywell-c-of-e**](https://schoolthreads.org/collections/holywell-c-of-e)

**PE T-shirts** will still be available to purchase from school.

**Ventrus Job Vacancies**

<https://ventrus.current-vacancies.com/v?id=VENTRUSMUL&t=Ventrus-Careers>

Including vacancies at local schools.

**Free School Meals**

**Check if your child can get free school meals and additional funding support.**

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. However, parents and guardians are encouraged to apply for free school meals when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child’s school to attract additional ‘[pupil premium](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.devon.gov.uk%2Feducationandfamilies%2Fschool-information%2Fschool-meals%2Fnew-starter-pupil-premium&data=05%7C01%7CElaine.Palmer%40ventrus.org.uk%7C7109e4304a9443c58c6708db26ce8e88%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638146440824987705%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=E1xb%2B33KaszaeeBnofCVVbtqTBsE1ead7Mmg28rMO34%3D&reserved=0)‘ funding to support learning.

From year 3 onwards, children whose parents are getting any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

* Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
* Income Support (IS).
* Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
* Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
* The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
* Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
* Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190).
* Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

How to apply

Apply through the [Devon Citizens Portal](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Foneonline.devon.gov.uk%2FCCSCitizenPortal_LIVE%2FAccount%2FLogin%3FReturnUrl%3D%252fCCSCitizenPortal_live&data=05%7C01%7CElaine.Palmer%40ventrus.org.uk%7C7109e4304a9443c58c6708db26ce8e88%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638146440824987705%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TDzWR7PVGNQy40PMgfbNnyUdRz%2BFPER5%2F05sUzSpOXM%3D&reserved=0). This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

**School Transport**

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-and-college-transport/>

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|  | [School and college transport – Education and Families](https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-and-college-transport/)  School transport information, including free school transport.  www.devon.gov.uk |

**NEW Privacy Notices – November 2023**

**Important information**

Ventrus main privacy notice can be found at  <https://ventrus.org.uk/our-people/privacy-notices/>

Ventrus pupil privacy notice can be forum at <https://ventrus.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Pupil-Privacy-Notice-2022-23-Academy-Ventrus-Nov-22.pdf>