

## Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

First day of the Spring term Thursday 9th January 2025

Last day of the Spring term Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Non-Pupil Day

### Message from Mrs. Lowrey

This week has begun to feel a little more normal for everyone as we settle back into our usual routines. It may be that your child has felt a little more unsettled than usual, but please rest assured that this is really normal and even as adults, such a big move can take a few weeks to feel settled.



It was a pleasure today to host our first celebration worship back in the hall with our whole school! Congratulations to all of the children who received awards today for their efforts in their learning. Fantastic to see awards given for kindness and excellent attitudes to learning. Well done, everyone!

For new children to school, we also celebrate our 99club maths awards in worship on a Friday afternoon and we have regular golden time! We were so proud of Jimmy and Thomas for getting their maths awards today – well done!

As we are getting used to being back in our own environment, it is fantastic to see children appreciating their surroundings – spotting the squirrels and the robins is making the children feel at home again! I promised the boys I would put their picture in this week – here you go lads!



## **Pick up – end of the day routines**

I mentioned previously that I am aware of the amount of people using the car park at the end of the day and can see that this is really very busy for everyone to be able to manage. I have been so pleased to see how respectfully everyone has driven and parked to be able to manage this pick up time – thank you for your efforts.

However, it is clear that a decision to help reduce traffic and overloading the car park would be helpful and likely improve the safety of the roads for children to be collected. I am now proposing the following pick-up times at the end of the day:

Years Pre-school, Reception, 1 and 2 – please collect at 3.00pm.

Years 3,4,5 and 6 – please collect at 3.15pm.

If you have children across the key stages, please could you arrange to collect your child at the earliest pick-up and wait for your older child until 3.15pm. However, if this is a problem, please email us on [Holywell@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:Holywell@ventrus.org.uk) and we are happy to arrange a 3.15pm collection and keep your younger children on site until later.

We are hoping that these measures ease the pressures on the car park, but we are happy to keep working together as we recognise that we are still adjusting to our environment again. Thank you for your patience and I understand that the community have worked so hard to make this smooth and safe – thank you!

## **Oh no!**

Don't panic, but we have been informed that there a couple of cases of nits that have been picked up in the holidays and now back at school. Please do check your child and treat your child at home if you spot any itchy heads! We do know that this is easily caught and passed on, so please do not worry – but it can be very uncomfortable for anyone to have, so please do treat at home or regularly condition and comb through your children's hair – thank you!

Best wishes, Mrs Lowrey

## **Diary Dates**

Swimming Years R, 1 & 2 – Jan/Feb - Tuesdays – more information from Mr Day coming soon!

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January – Year 5/6 athletics – Park School

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February – Calvert Trust meeting

February 2025 - Year 3 & 4 Residential to the Calvert Trust –The trip has been set up on ParentPay and a deposit to secure your child's place is due in September. Please email if you need to discuss an alternative payment plan.

## **ARBOR NOT PARENTPAY**

You will now have to use ARBOR for all payments and bookings and not ParentPay. Details have been sent out with how you can log-on and also how to download the app.

All debts and credits will be transferred from ParentPay to ARBOR although these may not show up immediately as most of the entries will have to be added manually. Please bear with us and if you have any issues please email and we will get back to you as soon as possible. If you are having any issues logging in to your ARBOR account, please let me know and we can send you a link for your to reset your password.

**Piano/Flute/Recorder Tuition – Vacancies available from Spring Term 2025.**

When we return to Holywell Ania one of our current music teachers will have some free slots for tuition if you would like your child to start lessons learning any of the above instruments.  
Your child must be aged 6 years old or above.  
If you/your child is interested in this, please contact Ania by email:

[aniaflute@gmail.com](mailto:aniaflute@gmail.com)

Ania will then liaise with you via email to arrange the lessons.

### **Admissions policy for 2026-27: Annual Consultation**

Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2026-27. The Local Authority is also consulting on its admission arrangements. You are invited to look at the proposals and have your say. Our proposed policy is on our admission page [link to school website](#) and you can see all policies at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy>. Further information is here: [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements)

The formal consultation runs until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Policies will be determined on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and published in the same places by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

The events below will be available on Arbor from the 1<sup>st</sup> December

**Year 5/6 Swimming – Now overdue.**

**Year 3 /4 Swimming – Now overdue**

**Year 5/6 Residential to the Calvert Trust - instalments to be paid.**

**School Meals**

**Breakfast Club – to be booked on Arbor either daily, weekly, monthly or termly.**

**After School Clubs – as above.**

**School Shop**

**PE t-shirts – size 7/8 on order – no stock held at school.**

### **Admissions Reception September 2025**

Applications for the new Reception Intake in September 2025 open on 15th November 2024.

### **Admissions to Reception Year for September 2025**

Further details can be found at [Apply for a reception or year 3 place at a primary school \(devon.gov.uk\)](#) The Application window for the September 2025 will open on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and close on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

### **Useful Links and Information:**

Here are some useful links that may assist you with your query

In Year Admission Information - [Apply for an in-year place - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

School Catchment Area Checker - [School designated \(catchment\) areas - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

Admission Advice for international arrivals [Admission advice for international arrivals - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

Guide to School Appeals [School admission appeals Archives - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

School Term Dates [School term dates - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

School Admissions Team

Telephone – 0345 155 1019 (Education Helpline)

### **SAFETY ALERT**

[opss-issues-safety-alert-to-warn-of-the-risks-of-water-beads](#)

### **Links you may find useful.**

[Devon Family Hub - Monthly Newsletter.](#)

[HANDi Paediatric app: advice for common childhood conditions - One Devon](#)

## Online Safety

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/online-safety-videos/>

## **Term Dates**

End of Autumn Term – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**First day of the Spring Term – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January – The school will be closed on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of January as stated in the letter/email sent home on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November.**

A full list of dates for the 2024/2025 academic year can be found on our website.

## **School Uniform**

<https://schoolthreads.org/collections/holywell-c-of-e>

**PE T-shirts will still be available to purchase from school.** These will now be available for you to purchase from the ARBOR shop. Currently we do not have any size 7/8 in stock.

## **Free school meals**

If you're struggling to pay food bills, we encourage you to [check your eligibility and apply for free school meals](#) for your child.

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. From year 3 onwards, just children whose parents are receiving certain benefits are entitled to free school meals during term time. However, parents 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' funding to support their learning.

Some children whose parents meet the eligibility criteria and whose child attends a school nursery all day can also get a free school meal when they are two, three or four years old.

You can apply for free school meals for your child [on our website](#), and you'll get an instant decision. Or you can call our education helpline on [0345 155 1019](tel:0345 155 1019).

If you have applied unsuccessfully before and your financial circumstances have since changed, please apply again.

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## **Supermarket vouchers for the school holidays**

The financial challenges faced by some families can be intensified during school holidays because of increased costs such as food, especially with the current cost of living, and reduced incomes due to childcare.

We want to make sure that no child in Devon goes hungry in the school holidays, when free school meals are unavailable. We can only do that by using some of the Government's Household Support Fund to help families who receive benefits-related free school meals during term time, to purchase food over the holidays.

Supermarket vouchers worth £45 will be sent to each child currently eligible for free school meals during term time, to spend during the Christmas holiday and February half-term break to replace the meals they would have had at school during the day. More detailed information about our free school meals holiday voucher scheme is [available on our website](#).

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## **Free school holiday activities**

Children aged five to 16-years-old who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals are invited to take part in our action-packed [Holiday Activities and Food programme](#).

We've teamed up with over 60 different providers across Devon to offer a great range of free physical activities and healthy, nutritional, hot meals during the school holidays.

Activities including a range of sports and coaching opportunities, indoor and outdoor play activities; magic and circus skills; film making; arts and crafts; music; cooking; theatre workshops; yoga and mindfulness; and a lot more! Some schemes are also offering hampers for the holidays.

Bookings are now open, and details of activities can be [found on our interactive map](#). If your child is [eligible to access the programme](#), simply search for a provider in your area, have a look at their listing to see what they're offering, then when you're ready, book a place with them directly.

### **Ventrus Job Vacancies**

<https://ventrus.current-vacancies.com/v?id=VENTRUMUL&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' 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](#). 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/>

[School and college transport –  
Education and Families](#)

School transport information,  
including free school transport.  
[www.devon.gov.uk](http://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 found at <https://ventrus.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Pupil-Privacy-Notice-2022-23-Academy-Ventrus-Nov-22.pdf>