

Many other school events and news can be found on our [Facebook page - click here](#)

18<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

### Message from Mrs. Hammond

The teachers have had a fantastic week reconnecting with parents at parent conferences. We hope the new families in Robin class enjoyed meeting Mrs. Coulam and that Hedgehog and Foxes parents enjoyed having some one-to-one time with Miss. Boundy and Mr. Platt, to be able to start to get to know them as your child's new class teacher. For me it has been wonderful to meet more of the parents that I have not conferenced with before, as well as catch up with those who have met with me many times through the years! This conference was a settling in discussion and general catch-up. We hope you found them helpful and look forward to the in person meetings in the Spring term.

I have managed to get out and about into some of the classes again this week, which has been very exciting. I really enjoyed a visit to Hedgehog class where they were busy adding ingredients to dips to make their own recipes. The taste test went down very well!

There was great excitement by Robins class on Thursday afternoon when an electricity helicopter flew very low over the school and circled for a while. The enjoyment was contagious and I just loved watching them with their delightful chatter and smiles.

A big thank you to the PTFA for their Christmas jumper sale on Wednesday, what a great idea to recycle clothing while raising money for the school. For those of you that purchased new jumpers we look forward to seeing them being worn next Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November for the first of our four Christmas jumper days.

### New School News

#### Children in Need

The school council have run a fantastic fundraiser at school today. It was lovely to see the children dressed in their spots, pyjamas and Pudsey outfits. The school council have judged the dress the teddy competition, which was particularly hard this year with so many wonderful entries. The winners were:

Pre-school/Reception: Isabelle

Year 1: River

Year 2: Darcey P

Year 3: Amber

Year 4: Tom

Year 5: Olivia

Year 6 Anya

A big well done to you all!



#### Christmas Jumper Days

Next week is the first of the schools four Christmas jumper days (25<sup>th</sup> November and then every Friday until the end of term). This is an event that the school participates in to raise money for the 'Save the

Children Charity'. We ask that you make a donation of £1 on the first wearing of your Christmas jumper (you do not donate each week) and that this is to be paid on Parent Pay. Thank you.

### **Christmas Lunch**

The school's Christmas lunch will be taking place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December – an email about how to order your child a lunch has come out to you today.

We are also delighted to say that we will once again be inviting parents/carers to join us for this event. emails around menu and payments will be coming out to those of you who responded to the recent survey – so watch your emails! If you did not respond to the survey but are interested in a Christmas lunch, please contact the school ASAP as we do have a cap on numbers.

### **Christmas Swap Shop**

Our annual pupil SWAP SHOP will go ahead on the afternoon of Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

We would be very grateful, if you are able to send in a donation 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. This 'Swap 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. On the day the children are able to choose and wrap at least a couple of presents to bring home for Christmas Day. There will be no charge so you do not have to send in money!

Please send your donations into the office on the morning of the **9<sup>th</sup> December** (not before as we don't have space!)

### **Parent Conferences**

If you had to cancel or simply missed your child's appointment, please do get in touch with their class teacher and set a new date. We really do enjoy talking to you about what school life is like for your child.

### **Driving Through the Villages of Tawstock & Eastacombe:**

Please can we remind everyone driving to school through the lanes and villages of Tawstock & Eastacombe to reduce your speed accordingly. We have received several complaints from the local community regarding the inconsiderate speed at which some cars are travelling. We also have several families who live in these villages who walk their children to and from school. All routes to the school have narrow lanes and we have heard of a few near misses involving families from our school. We all leave and arrive at different time, so please respect other road users including pedestrians and keep your speed down; I am sure you will all agree that our children's safety is paramount.

### **September 2023 intake**

Children born between 01/09/2018 and 31/08/2019 are entitled to start full time Primary Education in September 2023. The application facility opens on 15th November 2022 and closes at midnight on 15th January 2023.

### **Lost Trainers**

Foxes class – please can you check your child's bag and trainers to see if they have brought home in error an extra pair. This message was sent home last week but the trainers have still not turned up.

## **Reminders**

### **Coats at Break times**

We know that most of our children generally travel to and from school by car and so don't think about the need for a coat, however we do have break times and lunchtimes outside. As the weather has now changed, please can you ensure that your child (yes even the very cool year sixes!) comes to school with a coat so that they can access these times of the day alongside their friends. Thank you.

### **Admissions Policy consultation 2024-2025**

The consultation period for the 2024 – 2025 - Holywell C of E Primary School admissions policy began on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2021 The consultation period ends on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.

Below you will see a link to our proposed admissions policy for 2024-25

[http://www.primaryschoolsbarstaple.co.uk/website/admissions\\_policies/627029](http://www.primaryschoolsbarstaple.co.uk/website/admissions_policies/627029)

We are consulting on this between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 and 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and invite any parent or other person with an interest in our admission arrangements to read the policy and make any comments you wish.

### **A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS A FREE RESOURCE FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND THEIR WORRIES:**

Our Mental Health Support Team are able to offer a new digital therapeutic intervention "Lumi-Nova - Tales of Courage", available free until January 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

This is an app aimed at Children aged between 7-12 years old and uses a Low Intensity -Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (LICBT) graded exposure model to help children overcome their worries.

There is more information on the BFB-Labs website below.

<https://www.bfb-labs.com/luminova>

You can gain Open Access to the app by clicking on the link below:

<https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/lumi-nova/>

**Our MHST clinicians are also offering a "practitioner sign-up" model across North Devon, offering supportive calls throughout the intervention. Contact your school (Mrs Hammond - [samantha.hammond@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:samantha.hammond@ventrus.org.uk)) to complete a Request for Help form to access this service**

#### **Absence Requests**

Just a reminder that any absence requests from school during term time will be unauthorised unless evidence suggests that the absence required is due to exceptional and unavoidable circumstances.

#### **After-School and Breakfast Clubs**

We are able to run both Breakfast and ASC Clubs every day this term, and although we no longer require a weeks' notice for Monday Breakfast and Friday after-school clubs we still ask that you book in advance as the places are limited to 8 per session. If we are over this number, we require an extra member of staff which we may not be able to provide at short notice. The clubs are now being run by Ms. Scott, Mrs. Lowin and Mrs. Mullen

The cost for Breakfast club is £4.50 per child - can drop off from 8am.

After School Club starts - pick-up 4.15pm (£4.50) or 5.15pm (£9.00).

If you are going to be late collecting or if you need to collect at an alternative time, please can you phone to school by the end of the school day (3.15pm).

After 3.15pm, please email [myka.scott@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:myka.scott@ventrus.org.uk) & [jemma.lowin@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:jemma.lowin@ventrus.org.uk)



**ParentPay**

#### **Parent Pay Debts.**

**ALL DEBT balances MUST be cleared.** We have **20 parents with debts** for School Meals and **6 parents with debts for the ASC.** If this applies to you can we please ask that these debts are cleared as soon as possible.

If payments aren't kept up to date, we may have to inform you that your child will need to bring a packed lunch or can't attend Breakfast or ASC.

On your ParentPay account you can check all payments made and see any monies outstanding.

The following trips are now available or will be available shortly for payment and consent to be made:

**School Meals – £2.30 per day**

**Breakfast & ASC – See above**

**Current Year 5 & 6 – London Residential – 6 final payments still outstanding.**

**Year 4, 5 & 6 – Swimming and Gymnastics. This will be available in the next couple of weeks.**

Please remember to pay the correct funds into the correct account item, and for the correct child in your family

### Diary Dates

**11<sup>th</sup> September to 29<sup>th</sup> November (excluding 11<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> October) – Year 4, 5 & 6 children - Gymnastics and Swimming**

**16<sup>th</sup> November** – PTFA Christmas Jumper shop

**25<sup>th</sup> November** – PTFA Cinema Evening – 3:30pm – 5:30pm

**2<sup>nd</sup> December** – PTFA Christmas Fair – 2:30pm – 4:30pm

**25<sup>th</sup> November, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Jumper Days.

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December** – Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 Christmas Nativity performance 9:20am – 10:20am.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December** – Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 Christmas Nativity performance 2pm – 3pm.

**12<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Swap Shop

**15<sup>th</sup> December** – Christingle, 2pm at the church. Children to be collected from the church at 3pm.

**15<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Lunch

**Spring Term** - Gymnastics and Swimming Years R, 1, 2 & 3

### Term Dates

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December** - Last day of the Autumn term

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** - Non-Pupil Day

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January** - First day of the Spring term

### Ventrus Job Vacancies

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

Including vacancies at local schools.

### **BIZZY BEEZ Coffee and Play** –

This as closed temporarily but will be opening up again in the new year.

### Free School Meals

If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals please go to the [Citizen Portal](#) which is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in an instant decision.

### 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>



## News from the PTA

Thank you to everyone that donated a coat or Christmas jumper for the sale! We also sold second hand School uniform on the day and made a brilliant £53!

We still have some coats and jumpers left so please let us know if there is a size you are after and we can let you know what we have! Contact us at [friendsofholtywell@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofholtywell@gmail.com)

If we have no takers over the next couple of weeks we will donate the coats to the Library who help families in need.

In our big black box this week, we are collecting...

- **Toys, soft toys, books, games, complete puzzles and raffle prizes** for the Christmas Fair - Friday 2nd December in Tawstock Village Hall 2:30pm – 4:30pm. Everyone Welcome!
- **Unwanted Christmas Decorations**
- **Raffle Prize Donations**

### Christmas Cards

Thank you for sending back completed Christmas Card sheets! These are being sent off and we will be in touch with next steps in due course!

### Coming up next week...

#### **PTA Christmas Cinema Night!**

We will be hosting a Cinema night after school on Friday 25th November 3:30pm – 5:30pm. Letters to sign up have gone out in book bags today – but there is also a form attached to the email for anyone who needs to print one off. There will be a choice of two films to watch which are The Nativity and Jack Frost, as chosen by the wonderful School Council.

### Community News

#### **Cold days, Warm libraries**

We know it's going to be a tough few months ahead with the cost-of-living crisis and heating bills rising. So, Barnstaple library is launching a 'Libraries for Life' campaign to remind everyone that we're not just about books!

You can sit in the warmth and use our free Wi-Fi or book a computer. And there are groups ranging from Bounce & Rhyme for babies and toddlers to our Wednesday Wanderers walking group for 55s and over. Why not come to our new Tea and Chat on Fridays 1.30-3.30pm? It's free!

If you're a new parent or carer, you can bring your baby and use our free weighing facilities to chart their growth.

Our free coat rails have been running for several years and will again be offering a chance to both donate and take a warm winter coat. You can just help yourself, no questions asked.

If you're job hunting, our Work Clubs will help you with one-to-one support in CV writing, developing your skills and applying for jobs online.

Starting or developing a business? Our Business & Intellectual Property Centre is right here with courses, webinars, one-to-one coaching and advice [bipc@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:bipc@librariesunlimited.org.uk)

There are free IT sessions on offer – just ask at the desk. And don't forget if you're housebound or struggle to get to the library, our Home Library Service can deliver not just books but a friendly chat too! Contact your local library or [home.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:home.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk) for details.

To sign up and join for free, pop into Barnstaple or your local library. We can't wait to see you.

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