

# Holywell Primary School

Tolpits Lane, Watford, Herts, WD18 6LL

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Headteacher: Mr Coert van Straaten MA. Ed, Dip Edu, NPQH

*we are a learning community with the spirit to succeed*

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents & Carers

## Sports Leader Training

This week, some pupils from Year 5 received Sports Leader Training from Queen's School, who are linked to our Sports Partnership. The children learnt how to organise and run games for the younger children in our school. We are very much looking forward to them delivering these sessions to the children.

## Year 6 Hockey

This morning, our winning hockey team attended the next stage of the competition at West Herts Hockey Club. The children represented the school fantastically after being triumphant in the previous round. Well done to all.



## Assessments

Next week, we will be assessing all the children who are taking part in the Read, Write Inc phonics teaching to check their progress. This will give us an opportunity to regroup the children and plan further sessions if we have identified gaps in their learning.

We are also using a new maths assessment specifically linked to the maths curriculum we teach. The teachers will assess the children next week to check the progress they have made so far this year.

These assessments will then be followed by pupil progress meetings with myself so we can plan teaching and intervention for the children where needed.

## DT Week

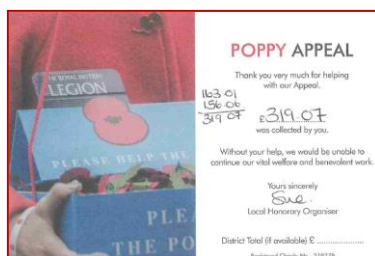
As you might know, we teach design and technology in blocks of learning. The children will be focusing on their DT project next week and you are invited to come into school next Thursday at 3:00pm for the children to “show and tell” you about their designs, the making and evaluation process. All would be welcome.

## Christmas Jumper Day

This years' Save the Children Jumper Day is on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December, and we ask that for a small donation of £2.00 the children are able to wear a Christmas Jumper to school. Please visit our online payment system to make your donations.

## Poppy Appeal

Thank you all for your donations; £319.07 was raised for The Royal British Legion, who also send their thanks.



## School Uniform

School uniform helps the children in school to feel part of our community and ensures that they are dressed comfortably and safely for the day ahead. Our uniform is comprised of the following:

- Maroon Cardigan – with school logo
- White Polo Shirt – with school logo
- Grey trousers / skirt
- Sensible black school shoes (no sandals or trainers please)
- Red Check dress / smart grey trouser shorts (Summer Term only)

Children will also be expected to wear the school PE Kit for all PE lessons:

- Maroon shadow shorts – with school logo
- White PE T-Shirt – with school logo
- Maroon jogging bottoms (for outdoor PE) – with school logo
- Maroon sweatshirt (for outdoor PE)
- Trainers/Plimsolls
- Swimming Hats

If you would like to purchase any items, please visit [www.essentialschoolwear.com](http://www.essentialschoolwear.com). The orders can either be delivered here or to your home address for a small charge.

Yours faithfully

Mr C van Straaten  
Headteacher

## Diary Dates

Please find below a list of dates for your diary. As you can imagine it is a busy time and we look forward to seeing you at the events in the lead up to the Festive break.

Monday 5th December 2022	Year 5 & Year 6 Football Club (3:30 - 4:30)
Monday 5th December 2022	Flu vaccinations - Please complete the online consent form
Tuesday 6th December 2022	Wizard Theatre
Tuesday 6th December 2022	New entrants meeting (11:15)
Tuesday 6th December 2022	Year 1 & Year 2 Football Club (3:30 - 4:30)
Wednesday 7th December 2022	Morning Multi Sports (7:50 - 8:50)
Wednesday 7th December 2022	Cornet lessons start (Year 4 )
Wednesday 7th December 2022	Girls Football Club (3:30 - 4:30)
Thursday 8th December 2022	Morning Multi Sports (7:50 - 8:50)
Thursday 8th December 2022	Rocksteady lessons (9:00 – 12:00)
Thursday 8th December 2022	Watford FCT - Primary Stars (Year 1 / 2)
Thursday 8th December 2022	Elder Class Swimming
Thursday 8th December 2022	Y3 & Year 4 Football Club (3:30 - 4:30)
Thursday 8th December 2022	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 9th December 2022	Whole School Assembly (9:10)
Monday 12th December 2022	
Tuesday 13th December 2022	New entrants meeting (11:15)
Tuesday 13th December 2022	School Health to visit Year 6 (Height and Weight)
Wednesday 14th December 2022	Cornet lessons start (Year 4 )
Wednesday 14th December 2022	Y6 Elm - Ancient Mayan History & Chocolate Making
Thursday 15th December 2022	Early Years Christmas performance (11:15) - Parents are invited.
Thursday 15th December 2022	Rocksteady concert to parents (10:00)
Thursday 15th December 2022	Watford FCT - Primary Stars (Year 1 / 2)
Thursday 15th December 2022	Christmas Production to Parents (6pm) - Parents are invited
Friday 16th December 2022	Whole school assembly - Christmas production (Key stage 1 parents invited)
Friday 16th December 2022	Christmas Dinner Day
Monday 19th December 2022	Whole school assembly - Christmas production (Key stage 2 parents invited)
Tuesday 20th December 2022	Early years Christmas performance (11:15)
Tuesday 20th December 2022	New entrants meeting (11:15)
Wednesday 21st December 2022	Cornet lessons start (Year 4 )
Wednesday 21st December 2022	Presentation assembly (9:10)
Wednesday 21st December 2022	School closes for Christmas break (1:30)
Wednesday 21st December 2022	No afternoon Nursery

**Spring Term Begins**  
**Monday 9th January 2023**

House Points	
Cassio	153
Ebury	189
Brightwell	150
Vicarage	183

**Star & Charter Certificates – 2nd December 2022**

Star Learner of the Charter Certificate		
EYFS	Aaliyah	Catrina
Y1 Sycamore	Abel	Frankie
Y2 Hawthorn	Makanaka	Aarav
Y3 Mulberry	Julio	Carolina
Y3 Rowan	Liya	Deborah
Y4 Cedar	Hannah Gangi	Cristiano
Y5 Chestnut	Andreas	Anas
Y5 Elder	Liban	Alizah
Y6 Elm	Benita	Amadou

**WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FROM SEPTEMBER 2022**  
93%

**Week Commencing 28th November to 2nd December 2022**

Attendance by Class			
Nursery	78%	Y3 Mulberry	94%
Reception	78%	Y4 Cedar	96%
Y1 Sycamore	90%	Y5 Chestnut	89%
Y2 Hawthorn	85%	Y5 Elder	86%
Y3 Rowan	99%	Y6 Elm	94%

Attendance	
<i>Best Classes in the whole school for attendance</i>	
Key Stage 1	Y1 Sycamore
Key Stage 2	Y3 Rowan



# Welcome! Winter 2022

To our Winter edition of the Schools Stay Safe Newsletter.  
Read on for advice on ways to stay safe for you and your family.

## Lithium Batteries and E-Scooters

You may be thinking about buying an E-Scooter for your child this Christmas, but did you know that private e-scooters are currently illegal for use on public roads and cycleways, even though they are widely available for sale? There is currently a lack of regulation of these vehicles, meaning there are no minimum vehicle standards or battery specification.

Most modern mobile devices such as mobile phones use lithium-ion batteries. Lithium-ion is the most common form of battery because it can store the most energy in the smallest space.

Because of their tendency to catch fire, lithium-ion batteries must be looked after.

- Only buy batteries from a reputable manufacturer.
- Unplug devices when they are fully charged to avoid overheating.
- Store batteries in a cool dry place.
- It is recommended that you do not charge items such as mobile phones or tablets under pillows or on beds.
- Avoid charging devices overnight when anyone is asleep.
- You should not charge anything in a corridor or room that provides your only way out of your home.
- Ensure there is a working smoke alarm in every room where charging takes place and charge in a location where you can close a door to prevent smoke spread.
- In the event of a fire, leave immediately and do not attempt to extinguish the fire yourself.

E-bikes and e-scooters fire safety guidance  
([nationalfirechiefs.org.uk](https://nationalfirechiefs.org.uk))



## Road Safety and Drink Driving

As the party season approaches and we plan our Christmas parties, we ask that you are mindful of the dangers that drink driving pose. Just one drink can impair coordination, slow your reactions, and distort your judgement.

Drink driving is illegal and puts lives at risk. It is not possible to say how much alcohol you can drink and stay below the limit. The way alcohol affects you depends on:

- your weight, age, sex, and metabolism (the rate your body uses energy)
- the type and amount of alcohol you're drinking
- what you've eaten recently
- your stress levels at the time

So, if you're driving, it's better to have none for the road.

Here are a few pointers to ensure you can enjoy your night safely.

- Consider allocating a designated driver for the night. You can rotate amongst groups of friends.
- Do not drink any alcohol if you are the designated driver rather than risk it.
- Book and take taxis if you are going to drink alcohol. Make sure your friends do the same.
- Use public transport where you can and if it is safe for you to do so.
- Do not get into a car with anybody you suspect has drunk too much no matter how much pressure you feel under.
- Tell somebody who has drunk too much not to drive, you could save their life.
- Inform the police if you suspect somebody is driving under the influence.



Drink driving - THINK!

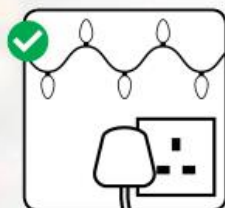


## Christmas Fairy Lights and decorations

We all love a pretty Christmas decoration and fairy lights at this time of year, but did you know unsafe use of such items as fairy lights can cause fire.

Christmas is a magical time of year and with some careful planning it can stay that way!

- Check your Christmas tree lights carry the British Safety Standard sign.
- Never place candles near your Christmas tree or materials that can catch light easily.
- Decorations can burn easily - so don't attach them to lights or heaters.
- Keep candles, lighters, and matches out of children's reach. Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Never overload electrical sockets.
- Always switch Christmas lights off and unplug them before you go to bed



## Family Escape Plan for your loved ones.

At Christmas it's great to have the family come over and stay!

Have you thought about how you would all escape in the unlikely case of a fire? It only takes 5 minutes to run through your escape plan and can save lives!

- Be prepared by making a plan of escape
- Make sure everyone knows how to escape.
- Make sure exits are kept clear.
- The best route is the normal way in and out of your home.
- Think of a second route in case the first one is blocked.
- Take a few minutes to practise your escape plan.
- Review your plan if the layout of your home changes.
- Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them.



We work closely with Hertfordshire Police and Safer Neighbourhood Teams to ensure our local communities feel safe in their homes and when out and about. The below website offers items for you to purchase to keep your personal belongings safe and ensure you are protected against theft.

<https://owlprotect.uk/index.php/>

If you need any further information or advice on any of these topics, please feel free to call our friendly staff at your local station

- **Watford Fire Station**  
01923 255235  
[Watford.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Watford.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk)
- **Garston Fire Station**  
01923 672825  
[Garston.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Garston.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk)
- **Rickmansworth Fire Station**  
01923 481200  
[Rickmansworth.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Rickmansworth.fire@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

- Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Community Safety