



Holywell Primary School

Tolpits Lane, Watford, Herts, WD18 6LL

Tel: 01923 225188 email: admin@holywell.herts.sch.uk

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

we are a learning community with the spirit to succeed

21st July 2023

Dear Parents & Carers

It certainly has been a challenging end of the year for us with the disappointment of the Ofsted grading at the start of the summer term. We are determined that with the work of the staff at Holywell and the support of the governors and yourselves, we will turn things around very quickly. Many initiatives have already been put in place and we will keep you updated in the new year as we continue to progress.

Our priorities next year are:

- Ensure our curriculum builds cumulatively from the early years all the way up to Year 6.
- We deliver good quality teaching all the time to meet the needs of all our pupils including those with a Special Education need.
- For Leaders to support all staff to ensure that ongoing assessments are used effectively.
- Accountability for all stakeholders.
- To deliver high quality CPD for all staff.
- To improve the attendance and punctuality of all pupils.
- To improve behaviour of pupils within the school so that all pupils feel safe and can learn and progress to their best ability.

Speech Cup

We had our Speech Cup Final this week where the finalists presented their speeches to the school, governors and parents. A huge congratulations goes out to Preesha from Y2 Hawthorn who shared a long list of facts about the body.

In the upper half of the school we could not separate between the top two. Aliyah in Y5 Chestnut and Maddison in Y6 Elm who both presented compelling speeches and arguments in a confident manner to the audience. A great performance from the all the finalists.

Staff

Unfortunately, we will be saying farewell to some staff who will be leaving us today. We wish them all well in their future endeavours.

Miss Taff will be leaving us to start work in a primary school in North Watford. Mrs Yiu will be taking up a teaching role in local secondary school. We will also say our goodbyes to Mrs Lukacsne and Miss Akbar who will be starting her teaching career after completing her training this year at Holywell.

PTA Reading Challenge

Our PTA Reading Challenge readers received their prizes from the PTA this week. Congratulation to Robert from Y5 Chestnut who both read the most, 914minutes and raised the most amount of money (£101). Our runners up were Andres also from Chestnut who read for 547 minutes and Samanta from Elder who read for 670 minutes. Well done to every who read and raised money for books for our school.



New School Hours

The DFE has updated their guidance on the length of the school day and the number of sessions that schools are expected to deliver each year.

The means that from September 2023 Holywell will not be able to close early on the last day of term as we need to deliver 2 sessions a day for 190 days a year. In addition, schools are all expected to deliver 32.5 hours school week. At the moment Holywell is 10 minutes short of delivering this and therefore from September, we will adjust our start and finishing times to ensure that we are compliant with these new regulations.

School will start officially at 8:50 each day instead of 8:55 and will end at 3:20 and not 3:15. We will send a reminder to you in September. We will be working hard to improve our attendance and punctuality of pupils from the first day of term.

Terms Dates

Please see attached our term dates for 2023 - 2024.

School Restarts

Parents are reminded that school restarts on Tuesday 5th September 2023. Teachers will be back in school from Friday the first for INSET days.

Have a Great Summer

Yours faithfully



Mr C van Straaten
Headteacher

Spirit to Succeed Winners

	Adult Vote	Child Vote
EYFS	Hania – for her kindness to all those around her.	Kushi – for being good fun and trying hard in all her learning.
Y1 Sycamore	Nard - For always following the 6 R's and being a role model of respect and kindness to all of his friends. This year, Nard impressed us all with his growing resilience in learning and making such fantastic progress in both Reading and Maths. It is so rewarding to see Nard smiling during Maths lessons and participating with lots of enthusiasm.	Anaya - This child received the children's vote for her friendly and caring personality. She is always there for her peers and gets along with everyone in her class. She is very respectful, always saying please and thank you. She is always supportive and understands her friends' feelings and we have all enjoyed her presence in the classroom. We all loved the books she shared with us from home. Thank you!
Y2 Hawthorn	Oliwia - for showing fantastic resilience over this term. She always gives 100% in all she does, even when it is tricky. She is a brilliant friend to all as she is kind and helpful and she includes everyone. Oliwia has started to come out of her shell and is contributing more to lessons and trying to work more independently. We are super proud of her attitude this term!	Joel K - has made fantastic progress this term, he has developed his confidence and self-motivation and tries his hardest in all of his learning. He always follows the 6Rs, he is super responsible and always making the right choices. I can always rely on Joel to help others as he is a kind and caring friend. We are so proud of Joel, keep it up!
Y3 Mulberry	Nathan - Nathan has been working very hard this term and he follows the 6Rs every day at school. He has been a great role model towards his peers and teachers and he has made great progress across all subjects of his learning. He is a friendly and kind boy who is much liked across the class. A massive well done to Nathan! I am very proud of you!_	Alexia – the pupil's vote went to this person and here are some of the reasons that were given: This person is a great friend to everyone in the class, respectful towards others and is available to help others in class when they are stuck. The person that the children voted goes to Alexia. Well done Alexia! I am very proud of you!
Y3 Rowan	Liya – has been chosen as she is a wonderful member of her	Owen – The children have chosen Owen to receive this Medal because

	<p>Year 3 class. Every minute of every day she has been polite, kind and hard working. I salute her readiness to learn and her ability to listen and follow instructions. We are all very proud of her! Well done Liya</p>	<p>he is friendly, co-operative with excellent manners.</p> <p>He is productive and involved in all tasks especially in Maths where he can explain, show or help others to understand the work in progress.</p> <p>What a fantastic role model he is for his peers. Well done.</p>
Y4 Cedar	<p>Parmeet – This person has been chosen by our teachers to receive the esteemed Spirit to Succeed Medal. Her character embodies everything we value in our class.</p> <p>Their genuine politeness and kindness radiate positivity, making them a true joy to be around. Her dedication to academic excellence is evident through her hard work in all subjects, always striving to reach her full potential. She consistently upholds the values of the 6 R's of Holywell, leading by example.</p> <p>But what sets this person apart is her selflessness and willingness to assist others, going above and beyond without any prompting. Her thoughtful acts have left an indelible impact on our class, and Cedar Class wouldn't be the same without her presence.</p> <p>Now, with great pleasure, I am thrilled to reveal that Parmeet is the well-deserved recipient of the Spirit to Succeed Medal. Her spirit of kindness and determination serves as an inspiration to us all. Well done, Parmeet!</p>	<p>Valentina – Cedar Class voted for their winner of the Spirit to Succeed Medal and here's some of their reasons why this person deserves the award. Her unwavering politeness and kindness uplift everyone around her, she gives 100% dedication to her work and she consistently follows the 6 R's of Holywell, setting a remarkable example for us all.</p> <p>Not only does this person brighten our day with her infectious positivity, but she has also made remarkable strides in English, consistently presenting her work to an exceptional standard. Cedar Class simply wouldn't be the same without her vibrant presence and I will miss her very much.</p> <p>And now, it is with great delight that I reveal Valentina as the well-deserved winner of the Spirit to Succeed Medal.</p>

Y5 Chestnut	Amira <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She is a kind friend • She always shows the 6Rs • She always tries her best • Amira always has a smile on her face 	Robert <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When I look at him he is always so focussed and concentrated. He always works hard and is a really good friend • He is kind and never gives up • He has made progress and achievements. He always shows good manners and is a good friend. At dinner time he always says 'Please' and 'Thank you'
Y5 Elder	Kashvee - Both the adults and children thought of this person. When children voted for her they highlighted that she is a good friend, she is kind, tries her best on her work. Kashvee is always ready to start her learning, she always shines in maths and always willing to support all those around her. She is a role model on and off the playground by always following the 6Rs.	Chenul - This person was thought of by both us teachers and the children. When children voted for him they highlighted that he is a good friend, very nice, tries his best on all his work. Many highlighted how he shows respect to everyone in class. They are always ready to start their learning. He is a role model on and off the playground. He has begun to become more confident and has made many friends in Elder since joining.
Y6 Elm	Elif - for always trying her best no matter what. We have been really impressed with her progress this year in particular, writing. She is an excellent role model who will go on to do amazingly well at Secondary School.	Samuel -for being an excellent friend, always helping children when the need it and for always following the 6Rs

Spirit to Succeed Winners



Congratulations



Spanish Certificates

Awarded To

Ali (Mohammed) Butt	Y1 Sycamore
Anaya Haque	Y1 Sycamore
Charlie Bolton	Y2 Hawthorn
Lina Rahmoune	Y2 Hawthorn
Hila Alkan	Y3 Mulberry
Mathias Szollos	Y3 Mulberry
Anannya Baldaniya	Y3 Rowan
Oliver Dobson	Y3 Rowan
Maisey Baxter	Y4 Cedar
Eduard Gatej	Y4 Cedar
Lacey Marie Smith	Y5 Chestnut
Sarthak Tandon	Y5 Chestnut
Samanta Rosadzinska	Y5 Elder
Chenul Wasala	Y5 Elder
Summer Bruff	Y6 Elm A
Hasnain Latif	Y6 Elm A
Maddison Baxter	Y6 Elm B
Abdullah Khan	Y6 Elm B

PE Star & Charter Certificates – Summer Term 2023

	PE Star Learner	PE Charter
Y1 Sycamore	Amelia	Frankie
Y2 Hawthorn	Antony	Makanaka
Y3 Mulberry	Mathias	Anaya
Y3 Rowan	Damilola	Oliver
Y4 Cedar	Sayul	Parmeet
Y5 Chestnut	Hamithra	Sehasna
Y5 Elder	Stefi	Ines
Y6 Elm	Sofia	J-J



Art Award of the Year 2023

Awarded for Creativity & Effort

Awarded for Ability & Effort

**Y1 Sycamore
Y2 Hawthorn
Y3 Mulberry
Y3 Rowan
Y4 Cedar
Y5 Chestnut
Y5 Elder
Y6 Elm A
Y6 Elm B**

**Lei
Felix
Aviel
Oliver
Aaron
Zain
Roberto
Samuel
Shayan**

**Alishba
Salma
Anaya
Anannya
Sarah
Aliyah
Samanta
Esmay
Maddison**

TERM DATES FOR 2023 - 2024

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Friday 1st September 2023 INSET Day (school closed for pupils)
Monday 4th September 2023 INSET Day (school closed for pupils)

Tuesday 5th September 2023 - First Day of Term

Half Term - Monday 23rd October 2023 to Friday 27th October 2023

Friday 24th November 2023 - Occasional Day
Wednesday 20th December 2023 - Last Day of Term

SPRING TERM 2024

Thursday 4th January 2024 INSET Day (school closed for pupils)
Friday 5th January 2024 INSET DAY (school closed for pupils)

Monday 8th January 2024 - First Day of Term

Half Term - Monday 19th February 2024 to Friday 23rd February 2024

Thursday 28th March 2024 - Last Day of Term

SUMMER TERM 2024

Monday 15th April 2024 INSET Day (school closed for pupils)

Tuesday 16th April 2024 - First Day of Term

Monday 6th May 2024 - Bank Holiday

Half Term - Monday 27th May 2024 to Friday 31st May 2024

Tuesday 23rd July 2024 - Last Day of Term