



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

4th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Visitors

It has been great to have visitors return to school this week. We welcomed back Wizard Theatre, Watford Football Trust and Rock Steady, who are some of our usual visitors. These groups work regularly with children in our school.



In addition to this, the local Police came into work with children in Year 6. They were very impressed with our Year 6 cohort and Special Achievement Cups were given to Clark and Diana.

Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education

Unfortunately we have had to delay the consultation to ensure that everything is in a presentable format for parents. We want to be transparent and clear to parents, to give them the best opportunity to raise any issues. As soon as the information is finalised we will send out the consultation documents.

Clubs for the Spring Term

We tried on more than one occasion to get clubs off the ground in the Autumn term. Schools have been given clear guidance on running activity clubs for pupils. If parents are interested then we will provide after school activity clubs for children in the Spring term. We rely on external providers to deliver these clubs and if there is not sufficient take up to make the club financially viable the provider simply cannot run the club. If you are interest in signing your child up for a club in the Spring term, please let us know via the survey link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VGMGS8R>

Breakfast and Afterschool Club

After surveying parents we have decided to postpone setting up our breakfast and after school club at this current time. This will be reviewed again at the February half term.



Christmas Production

Each class will perform a small snippet of the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas' instead of our usual Christmas production. We hope to put this together as short film clip. Pupils will spend the last day watching the video in class and we will provide them all with a mince pie. It is a shame we cannot hold our usual Christmas festivities with the COVID-19 pandemic, but hopefully things will improve in the New Year.



Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 11th December 2020

This is our last fundraiser for the year. Children are allowed to wear their Christmas jumper for a donation of £1. This is a national event supported by the Charity 'Save the Children', who raise money for essential food, healthcare, education and protection to millions of children around the world who are less fortunate.



Christmas Cards

We encourage pupils who want to bring in Christmas cards to write one card for their class, their teacher can put this on display in the classroom. This will stop a lot of handling of cards between pupils and the possible spread of disease.

Year 2 Phonics Screening

Usually, each year, pupils in Year 1 undertake a phonics screening test. If they do not reach the benchmark they are required to re-sit the test in Year 2. Unfortunately, as a result of school closures this year, the children in Year 1 did not complete their usual phonics screening. Schools have been advised to complete the screening with pupils in Year 2 before we close at the end of the Autumn term. Those who do not meet the benchmark will have an opportunity to redo the phonics screening again June 2021. Our Year 2 pupils have been working hard on catching up on their phonics learning and will complete their phonics assessments next week. We wish them all the best.

Free School Meals (FSM)

The country is continuing to see a rise in the number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance or Universal Credit. As such, it is anticipated that more families will be eligible for a Free School Meal for their children.

To continue supporting families, we as a school are encouraged to:

- Share the Free School Meal eligibility criteria (with families) as outlined on the Hertfordshire County Council Website

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Reception and Nursery Classes – September 2021

The on-line application system to apply for a place in Reception for September 2021 is now open. We would like to remind parents who have children born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 that they must apply for a place in a Reception class, they do not automatically transfer from Nursery to Reception.

Nursery applications, for children born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018, also opened on Monday 2nd November 2020. For an application form please visit the school website <http://www.holywell.herts.sch.uk/our-school/admissions/> or call the school office.

Open Day – New to Reception – September 2021

As a result of the new lockdown measures currently in place, we have had to postpone the original scheduled Open Day. The new date for the Open Day is Wednesday 9th December 2020, we ask you contact the school office by telephone 01923 225188, or email admin@holywell.herts.sch.uk to book an appointment.

Open Day – Nursery – September 2021

The Open Day for Nursery is Wednesday 6th January 2021, again we ask you contact the school office to make an appointment.



UNICEF FAMILY ACTIVITY

Article 42

Do you know your 'birthday right?' This is a fun idea thought up by schools in the North East of England – look up, and remember if you can, the article with the same number as the day of the month you were born. Involve all your family and friends to know their 'Birthday Right'.

Click on the link below to access the rights.

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/11/UN0332751.pdf>



HOLYWELL STAR LEARNERS

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| Blue | Kameel | This is awarded to Kameel for remembering all the phonics sounds |
| Red | Charlie | For great progress in reading |
| Maple | Alexia | For always putting effort and care into her work |
| Sycamore | Zayvon | For showing enthusiasm about the class assembly and memorising his lines |
| Hawthorn | Radhiya | For her researching skills to find interesting facts about Neil Armstrong |
| Hazel | Naomi | For trying her hardest making her Christmas Pom Pom |
| Cedar | Dilan | For an excellent effort with his times tables this week |
| Mulberry | Haresh | For using a range of alliteration, similes and rhymes to write a free poem |
| Rowan | Ines | For showing a fantastic attitude when learning about angles in Maths |
| Chestnut | Franklyn | For converting improper fractions to proper fractions independently |
| Elder | Haashir | For pushing himself in Maths and English to reach his full potential and show his determination with reaching his goals |
| Elm | Sagal | For her excellent team work and leadership skills that were highlighted during the Police Peace Workshop this week |
| Birch | Brooke | For consistently applying amazing descriptive techniques in her writing |

HOLYWELL CHARTER CERTIFICATES

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| Blue | Andres | This is awarded for always trying his best |
| Red | Joel | For being a good friend to his peers |
| Maple | Tayla-Rose | For always being reflective in her actions on a daily basis |
| Sycamore | Zahra | For displaying resilience when finding the properties of 2D shapes |
| Hawthorn | Maab | For always being a positive role model for our class and following the 6 Rs |
| Hazel | Aaron | For showing resilience in his Newspaper article writing |
| Cedar | Amin | For improving his concentrating and following the 6 Rs |
| Mulberry | Amadou | For being resilient in his writing |
| Rowan | Indianna | For reflecting on her learning in English when using prepositional phrases |
| Chestnut | Megan | For reflecting on using a dictionary independently to find out the meaning of the words she is unsure of |
| Elder | Daud | For listening to feedback and taking support to push himself to reaching his full potential with our factions this week |
| Elm | Luis | For reflecting on his Maths learning this week |
| Birch | Taiba | For always trying her best to reflect on the 6 Rs of Holywell |