



We are a learning community with the spirit to succeed

**Holywell Primary School**

Tolpits Lane, Watford, Herts, WD18 6LL

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Headteacher: Mr C van Straaten

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by welcoming all Parents, Carers and Pupils back to school after the summer holiday. The Teachers have been working over the holiday and have attended two training day sessions last week to get ready for this academic year. The school is fully operational and pupils have been getting used to their new classes and friends.

This week the children have been writing letters to their teachers about their holiday and they have set themselves targets they wish to achieve this year. We hope to share some of these targets with you at a later date.

**Meet the Teacher**

Next Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 we will be hosting a “Meet the Teacher” evening to which all parents are invited. This is an opportunity to meet your child’s Class Teacher and also to receive information about the curriculum and other important events. There will be two sessions both starting in the Olympic Hall, introducing the Class Teachers. The first session will start at 3:30pm and the second at 4:15pm. We hope to see all parents there.

**Curriculum Maps**

Today a Curriculum Map from your child’s Class Teacher will be sent home. This sets out the topics and areas for learning in the Autumn Term.

**Punctuality**

While most pupils turn up to school on time, we have some pupils who regularly arrive late in the morning. We want to stamp this out, so from next Monday onwards, all parents with more than one late session per week will be called in for meeting to help resolve this issue. On-going lateness means that the school will have no option but to involve the Attendance Improvement Team.

**Parking around the school**

I am disappointed to report that the inconsiderate parking around the school is continuing to be a problem for the local community and neighbours, as well as our parents and pupils. A letter will go out to parents on Monday about this and I have to ask parents to co-operate with us on this as it continues to put our own pupils and parents at risk.



### **Uniform, Jewellery, Hair, School Jumper**

I have been impressed with the standard of uniform that pupils have exhibited since the start of the year. School shoes are worn and everyone is looking very smart and orderly ready for school each morning. Just a reminder to parents that pupils with shoulder length hair and longer hair, it should be tied up. Pupils are not allowed to wear jewellery, for example necklaces and hooped earrings, to schools. Stud earrings are allowed but these must be taken out or taped up for health and safety reasons during PE. All pupils must have their PE kit in school. PE kits can stay in school until half term when they can be taken home to be washed.

### **After School Clubs**

The After School Clubs start on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017. We still have places available on the following clubs

- Musical Theatre
- Archery
- Gymnastics
- Football Year 1 and Year 2
- Football Year 3 and Year 4
- Football Year 5 and Year 6
- Fencing
- Hockey
- Dodgeball
- Boxercise
- 

### **New Entrants**

We admitted 20 new pupils yesterday and they will be joining us on Monday. We would like to extend a warm welcome to them all and trust you would join us making them feel welcome at Holywell Primary School.

### **Isle of Wight – Year 6**

A letter regarding the Year 6 trip to the Isle of Wight has been sent out to parents. We would like to remind you that to secure your place on this trip a £60.00 deposit is to be paid via School Money by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017.

### **School Dinners – Payment**

We would like to remind you that Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) are for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 only. The cost for school meals for the rest of the school is £2.15 per day. If you think you might be eligible for free school meals please register at

[www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals) or telephone Hertfordshire County Council 0300 123 4048

## Parent Information Sessions – Autumn Term

Just pop in and join us for a coffee and discussion about the topic of focus for the week.  
No need to book in advance.

Where: Holywell conference room

When: Tuesday 9:00am

Who: Sam Ward and members from Holywell Primary School

Date	Session focus	Session Leader
19 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	<b>EYFS Transition</b> Helping your child transition into Nursery or Reception. Brief introduction to phonics and early reading.	Miss V Tetley
26 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	<b>Protective Behaviours</b> Encouraging your child to be able to recognise when they feel safe/unsafe and know strategies with how to deal with it.	Sam Ward
3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2017	<b>KS2 SATs</b> How to prepare your Year 6 child for SATs (Reading, writing, SPAG and maths) in May 2018.	Mrs S Alexander
10 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	<b>The benefits of extra-curricular activities</b> Realise the positive effects socially and educationally that extra-curricular activities can have on your child.	Mrs T Keshiro
Half Term		
7 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	<b>Building a positive relationship with your child</b> Looking at how to create a closer connection with your child.	Sam Ward
14 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	<b>KS1 Phonics</b> How you can support your child's phonics development at home	Miss A Hampton
21 <sup>st</sup> November 2017	<b>Time-out parenting strategy</b> A strategy for parents to gain control and be able to discipline effectively	Sam Ward
28 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	<b>Reading – Key Stage 1</b> Understanding how reading is taught in school and support your child reading at home.	Mrs T Keshiro
5 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	<b>Developing your child's self-esteem</b> How to promote your child's self-esteem and how to recognise possible low self-esteem	Sam Ward
12 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	<b>Reading – Key Stage 2</b> Understand how reading is taught in school and support your child reading at home.	Mrs S Alexander

**Charter and Star Certificates this week, congratulations to:**

Class	Charter certificate	Star learner of the week award	Class	Charter certificate	Star learner of the week award
Red Base	David	Ava	Aspen	Zamin	Katie
Green Base	Peter	Alizah	Pine	Ismaeel	Zuzzana
Blue Base	Reece	Iniya	Mulberry	Thabo	Shobah
Sycamore	Indianna	Madeline	Rowan	Chloe	Salini
Maple	Hussayn	Roberta	Cedar	Natasha	Daniel
Oak	Karra	Amelia	Ash	Nabeela	Imani
Hawthorn	Charlie	Lorenzo	Elder	Ali	Eshana
Hazel	Shaya-Mae	Kebba	Chestnut	Annabelle	Kriti
Willow	Caden	Cristiana	Birch	Jacob	Madiba
Beech	Cameron	Esa	Elm	Niamh	Terin



**Dates for your diary**

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 - Meet The Teacher at 3:30pm and 4:15pm  
 Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Year 4 Cedar Swimming  
 Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017 – Year 4 Cedar Swimming  
 Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Year 4 Cedar Swimming

**OCTOBER 2017**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Year 4 Cedar Swimming  
 Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Early Years Harvest Festival in KS1 Hall at 9:15am  
 Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Reception Red – Cassiobury Park  
 Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Year 4 Cedar Swimming  
 Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Reception Green – Cassiobury Park  
 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Reception Blue – Cassiobury Park  
 Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – School Health to administer nasal flu vaccine to children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4  
 Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Year 4 Cedar Swimming  
 Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Zoo visiting Early Years  
 Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017 Half Term

**NOVEMBER 2017**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 – Year 4 Rowan Swimming  
 Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – Year 4 Rowan Swimming  
 Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – Year 3 – trip to Verulamium  
 Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – School Photographer – Individual and family photographs  
 Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – Year 4 Rowan Swimming  
 Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 – Year 4 Rowan Swimming  
 Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 – Year 5 - British School Museum  
 Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – Occasional Day – School Closed  
 Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – Year 4 Rowan Swimming

**DECEMBER 2017**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – Year 4 Rowan Swimming  
 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – Year 2 Willow and Hawthorn – Willow Farm  
 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – Year 2 Hazel – Willow Farm  
 Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – Year 4 Rowan Swimming  
**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – End of Term – School Finishes at 1:30pm**

**Attendance**

Whole school Attendance up to Friday last week for this academic year is 87 %

Nursery am	N/A	Aspen	77%
Nursery pm	%	Beech	79%
Blue base	55%	Pine	83%
Green base	89%	Mulberry	79%
Red base	71%	Cedar	85%
Maple	96%	Rowan	88%
Oak	85%	Ash	90%
Sycamore	89%	Elder	90%
Hawthorn	90%	Chestnut	90%
Hazel	88%	Birch	92%
Willow	93%	Elm	92%

Attendance:	Punctuality:
KS1 Hawthorn	KS1 Maple, Hawthorn & Hazel
KS2 Beech	KS2 Ash & Elder

# **TERM DATES FOR 2017-2018**

## **AUTUMN TERM 2017**

Half Term – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 Occasional Day – school closed

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – last day of term (school finishes at 1:30 pm)

## **SPRING TERM 2018**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 Occasional Day – school closed

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> & Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018 INSET Days – school closed for pupils

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – first day of term

Half Term – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – last day of term (school finishes at 1:30 pm)

## **SUMMER TERM 2018**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018 INSET Day – school closed for pupils

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – first day of term

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – May Bank Holiday

Half Term – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – last day of term (school finishes at 1:30 pm)