Newsletter

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Website:
Holywell Church of England School - Home
Email: holywell@thsp.org.uk

6th November 2026

Holywell is an allergy aware zone. No nuts please!

End of Term – Friday 18th December
Non-Pupil Day – Monday 4th January
First day of the Spring Term – Tuesday 5th January

Message from Mrs. Lowrey



Firstly, I am delighted to share a couple of photographs of our library area, which is being used daily by our pupils. I owe a huge amount of thanks to the PTA for their generous donations of additional bookshelves and soft furnishings, as well as added board games that are available at lunch time break. The children are enjoying chess, Uno and Scrabble across the week! A big thank you to Mrs Carlyon who has spend so much time organizing the books with our AR coding and to Emma for crocheting the beautiful cushions! We will continue to top up our selections of books for the children.



The change of season is very much in the air this week and the falling Autumn leaves have made the school a joyous place to be! With that in mind, we have have spoken to the children a lot this week about ways of keeping safe and have discussed seasonal events such as Bonfire Night and the dangers of fireworks as well as new routines for keeping safe in school.

With the changing seasons in mind, it does seem wise to have a gentle reminder about bringing coats (and hats, scarves, gloves etc.) and to remember to label any additional items. Please do just use initials on the label to save time, but these items are easy to forget to label!

School Council – Children in Need Fundraiser – Friday 13th November

Our fantastic pupils would like to invite all pupils next **Friday 13th November** to raise funds for BBC Children in Need by wearing **Yellow Non-Uniform** on Friday AND/OR children will also be invited to enter into a **Pudsey Colouring competition.** Darcey and Helena will be placing the posters in class and bringing around your colouring entries on Monday for you to bring them in next Friday. On the Friday, pupils may wear full non-uniform and are able to wear Pudsey related items eg. Pudsey ears etc. Please bring a £1 donation and our school council will collect funds on the day.

Bikeability

Just a reminder that we have opened up the Bikeability next week to our Year 5 pupils as well as year 6. If you have signed up to Bikeability on Wednesday and Thursday next week, please could you take time over the weekend to check the bike and helmet for usability! Thank you!

Pantomime – Snow White – Queens Theatre – Tuesday 15th December

We are delighted that the PTA have organised subsidised tickets to the pantomime for the school again. This year, the performance is Snow White. A huge thank you to Rachel and all involved for their support and for organizing tickets. We are currently trying to establish numbers and are asking if you can please follow the link below to express interest and to understand that we will be asking for a voluntary donation of £7, which will cover the cost of the transport, the ticket to the pantomime and an ice-cream for your child. Please do understand, the cost of the trip has been heavily subsidised by the PTA and the school will be supporting those eligible pupil premium (targeted FSM only) to a further reduced donation. Without those donations, we will not be able to facilitate the trip. Please can I ask that you use the form link below as an expression of interest and commitment to use being able to secure the correct number of tickets – thank you!

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3RWFZvuneEGMNLPFLdk_cBxm7KP7e-ZMpJ57Dd1bWdUMFdFRTRDMEdBT1VaQ0FJOVJJUjhJSTRBMS4u

Tempest Photographs

Tempest photographs are organised for Tuesday 24th November and will take place in the morning. We will organise a reminder nearer the time, however, please be aware that any siblings who do not attend the school and you wish to have a family photograph, will need to attend in the morning from 8.20am when photographs are taking place. Please see the note below.

Driving

Finally, please be aware that I received a telephone call at the end of the day today from a local Tawstock resident who reported receiving verbal abuse from drivers exiting the school. Please can we ensure that our school community remains respectful to everyone

within the village. Likewise, should any members of our school community have frustrations around traffic or any difficulties surrounding collection or drop off, please do let us know and we will do what we can to support. Thank you!

Have a wonderful weekend! Mrs Lowrey X

Admissions Policy for 2028–2029: Annual Consultation

Alongside all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on our admissions policy for 2028–2029. The Local Authority is also consulting on its own admission arrangements. You are invited to review the proposals and share your views. Our proposed policy is available on our admissions page Holywell Church of England School - Admissions. You can view all policies at http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy , and further information is available at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements

The formal consultation period runs until 15th January 2027. All policies will be determined on 10th February 2027 and published by 15th March 2027.

Tempest - School Photographs

Tempest will be coming into school on Tuesday 24th November. If you would like younger siblings to be included in the photographs or if your child doesn't usually attend school on that day, then photographs will be available to be taken before school, from 8:20am in the village hall.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 10th, 17th & 24th November plus Tuesday 1st December – 5 weeks swimming for Year 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6. Please collect from the Tarka Leisure Centre at 3pm.
Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th November – Bike-ability Year 6 and possibly Year 5 (To be confirmed).
Friday 13th November – Children in Need
Tuesday 24th November – Tempest School Photographs.
Friday 4th December – PTA Christmas Fair
Tuesday 15th December - Snow White – Pantomime @Queens Theatre
Thursday 17th December – Christingle Service at St Peters Church, Tawstock.

Term Dates

A full list of dates for the **2026/2027** academic year can be found on our website. Holywell Church of England School - Term Dates

Holywell Facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/share/18X8aa9giQ/

School Uniform

All items are now available from Brandit, we do not hold any stock items in school.
Brandit - Barnstaple

School Menu – price £2.70 from September 2026

These can be found on the school's website, and any amendments will be sent out in the newsletter or by separate communication. Holywell Church of England School - Home

LUNCH MENU – WEEK 2

9th Nov, 23rd Nov, 7th Dec

Harbour Schools Partnership
A guiding light for education

Week 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Blue Band	Cheese & Tomato Pin Wheels	Pork Meatballs	Roast Chicken	Sausage Roll	Fish Fillet
Green Band	Moroccan Cauliflower Bites	Vegan Meatballs	Quorn Fillet	Vegan Sausage Roll	Vegetable Nuggets
Yellow Band	Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	Ham, Lettuce & Tomato Sandwich	Tuna & Salad Wrap	Cheese & Cucumber Sandwich	Jacket Potato with Various Fillings
Sides	Wholegrain Rice & Mixed Vegetables	Wholewheat Spaghetti, Rustic Tomato Sauce & Garlic Bread	Roast Potatoes, Broccoli, Carrots, Stuffing & Gravy	Potato Wedges & Corn on the Cob	Cubed Potatoes & Garden Peas
Dessert	Vegan Pancakes with Bananas & Toffee Sauce	Warm Dutch Apple Cake with Custard	Deconstructed Fruit Crumble with Greek Yoghurt	Strawberry Mousse with a Berry Compote	Vanilla Ice Cream Pots

Piano/Flute/Recorder Tuition – Vacancies available.

If your child is interested in starting lessons to learn any of the above instruments and your child is aged 6 years old or above, please contact Ania by email:

aniaflute@gmail.com

Ania will then liaise with you via email to arrange the lessons.

Harbour Job Vacancies

Harbour Schools Partnership Job Search

Including vacancies at local schools

Dear Parents and Carers

Have you, or someone you know, ever considered a career in teaching?

SWIFT Teacher Training, in partnership with The Harbour Schools Partnership, offers high-quality Primary and Secondary teacher training across 14 subject areas, leading to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and a PGCE. With flexible programmes and local placements at all our TSHP schools, trainees benefit from exceptional support while training close to home.

Applications for 2027-28 are now open via DfE Apply service. To find out more visit our website https://thsp.cloud/bdh3sbjj, or call 01626 882828.

Rated 'Strong Standard' in all areas by Ofsted, SWIFT Teacher Training and THSP are proud to be in partnership to support the next generation of teachers.

Links you may find useful.

Devon Family Hub - Monthly Newsletter.

HANDi Paediatric app: advice for common childhood conditions - One Devon

Online Safety

https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/online-safety-videos/

Ticks

Enjoy the great outdoors but #betickaware. - News

Extra School Information

Useful Links and Information:
Here are some useful links that may assist you with your query:

In Year Admission Information - Apply for an in-year place - Education and Families (devon.gov.uk) School Catchment Area Checker - School designated (catchment) areas - Education and Families (devon.gov.uk)
Admission Advice for international arrivals Admission advice for international arrivals - Education and Families (devon.gov.uk)
Guide to School Appeals School admission appeals Archives - Education and Families (devon.gov.uk) School Term Dates School term dates - Education and Families (devon.gov.uk)
School Admissions Team
Telephone – 0345 155 1019 (Education Helpline)

Free School Meals

Check if your child can get free school meals and additional funding support.
All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. However, parents and guardians are encouraged to apply for free school meals when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child's school to attract additional 'pupil premium' funding to support learning.
From year 3 onwards, children whose parents are getting any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

How to apply
Apply through the Devon Citizens Portal. This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

School Transport

School and college transport – Education and Families
School transport information, including free school transport.
www.devon.gov.uk

https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-and-college-transport/





PTA News

Thank you to everyone who has helped to raise £623.72 so far this term!

- Teddy Tombola at Annie's Vintage Fair - £51
- Easyfundraising - £162.42
- Your School Lottery - £206.30
- Playgroup – £90 Thank you Beau, Sue and Beanie for your time and effort each week.
- Pre-loved Uniform - £29
- Raffle at Annie's Halloween Disco - £85

We have supported the author visit, the new library, and the Exeter and beach trips.

Christmas Plea

We are sourcing raffle prizes and would be very grateful for any contributions please!

Also, please let us know if you are able to help at the Christmas Fair by Thursday 12th November. We will be discussing what activities we can offer at the meeting. Thank you.

Easyfundraising

You can raise funds for the school at no extra cost to you! Please sign up and select:

'Support Friends of Holywell School, Tawstock'

What better time with Christmas on the way? Lots of shops and online stores will donate to us when you shop with them.









Next Meeting: Thursday 12th November at The Cedars 7:30pm

Rachel, Lisa, Hayley and Annie

A fairer, stronger Devon for everyone

Devon County Council

School Admissions Policy - Consultation

from 13th November 2026 until the 15th January 2027

You are invited to review the proposed 2028-2029 admission arrangements for state funded schools in Devon.

Please visit

www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements

to view the documentation and have your say.

