

# Holywell News

Recognising and Realising Aspirations

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year! As I said in my letter last week, the children have returned refreshed and enthusiastic about the year ahead and have settled well into their new classrooms and routines. We are very much looking forward to another exciting year at Holywell with lots of new learning to explore and new challenges to face.



**What will be working on this year?**

**Improving our Vocabulary**

Last year we focused on building vocabulary across the whole curriculum and saw great results in the type of vocabulary children were using in their independent learning. It was great to see children challenging themselves to use ever more adventurous vocabulary, in their writing as well as in their spoken language. We are continuing to focus on this area throughout this year. The Long Term Maps which were sent last week with the Year Group Newsletters detail some of the key vocabulary we are encouraging children to use in their learning. Parents and Carers can use these word lists at home to support their children too.

**Knowing More, Remembering More**

We also continue to build memory muscle to help



children have a deeper knowledge of what they are learning. Our aim is for children to 'know more and remember more' in all aspects of the curriculum.

We started the year with an assembly where we thought about everything we learned last year, what we remembered and how that could help us in the year ahead. We looked back over the floor books from last year and celebrated all of our achievements—we worked extremely hard and there was so much to celebrate, the floor books were very full! Every class was then given a new floor book to fill this year. Children have been challenged to add even more to the books from last year and build on our success!

## YOU SAID...WE DID...

Following feedback from Parents and Carers last year about improving communication between home and school, as well as providing more opportunities to find out what children have been learning, we will be doing the following this year:

- 1. Improving our school website**

We will be providing termly updates on our school website about what the children have been and will be learning throughout the year. This may include topic overviews, knowledge organisers and key vocabulary and useful websites or resources. We will also be updating the class pages each term with photographs to celebrate our learning.

- 2. Improving Communication with class teachers**

We have also re-opened the class email accounts for all classes so Parents and Carers can more regularly contact the class teacher to check on progress, ask questions, and keep staff informed of



any relevant information etc.

This form of communication worked extremely well during the two periods of remote learning. Details of the email addresses were sent on the Class Newsletters at the end of last week.

Please note, to support the teachers with their workload and well-being, class emails will only be read and responded to between the hours of 8.30am and 4.30pm weekdays. For the majority of emails, staff will aim to respond within 3 days.

Any urgent emails should still be sent via the school office email address.

### 3. Sending regular class and school Newsletters

A further way of communicating key information to Parents and Carers will be through termly Newsletters. This will include up and coming events and reminders.



### 4. Updating our Social Media weekly

We continue to use Twitter and Facebook to celebrate learning with the whole school community.

If you have not yet signed up to Twitter or Facebook, may I encourage you to do so.

Our Twitter tag is @SchoolHolywell and our Facebook tag is @holywellprimaryschool



### 5. Restarting Termly Parent and Carer celebration afternoons

Open afternoons are a great opportunity for Parents and Carers to visit classrooms and take part in activities with their children to celebrate the successes from the term. Previous celebration afternoons have focused on art sessions, phonics, reading, maths activities or computing tasks to name a few.



The three Celebration afternoons will be on the following dates all starting at 2.30pm:

- Friday 25th November 2022
- Friday 10th March 2023
- Friday 26th May 2023

### 6. Re-introducing Reading and Phonics mornings for KS1

These will be an opportunity for Parents and Carers to

drop in weekly to read with their child or take part in fun phonics activities and know how best to support early reading at home. Details of these will be sent this term.

### 6. Parent Consultation Meetings

Our bi-annual Parent consultation meetings will remain a mixture of online or face to face appointments.



This has proven to be very popular in the last few years. Our two parent consultation meetings this year will be held:

**Autumn Term meeting**—week beginning 17th October 2022

**Spring Term meeting**—week beginning 27th March 2023

Details of how to book these sessions will be sent nearer the time.

### 7. Using Google Classroom for Home Learning

We are a 'No Homework' school but we strongly encourage children to practice their key skills regularly at home with an adult. For example, regular reading, weekly Mathematics or Maths Seeds, weekly spelling practice. Alongside this, some 'Home Learning Challenges' may be set at the start of a term or topic. These are an extension of what the children will be learning in school and may include things like—short projects in History, research about aspects of science, collecting objects for an art project etc. Please encourage your child to show you their Google Classrooms regularly so you may support them in any tasks which have been set.



### 8. Tapestry for Reception Parents and Carers

For Parents and Carers of children in Mayflower, we use Tapestry, an online assessment recording and tracking tool used to collect evidence of your child's learning journey throughout the year as well as celebrating their successes and achievements. Parents and Carers are strongly recommended to log in to Tapestry regularly to check on progress and upload your own photos or videos of your child working on something at home. This will provide additional evidence against the Early Learning Outcomes.



## School Performance 2021-2022

Last year saw the return of all formal testing for children in Primary School since before the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government will not be publishing the results online in performance tables this year but we thought it important to share and celebrate our results with the whole school community. We are extremely proud of all our pupils who worked very hard to achieve great results, especially coming off the back of two very disrupted years of education.

### EYFS

Working At expected standard		<b>National</b>
<b>Good Level of</b>	84%	65%

### Phonics check

Working At expected standard		<b>National</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	83%	76%
<b>Year 2 recheck</b>	80%	44%

### Key Stage 1

Working at or above expected standard		<b>National Average</b>
<b>Reading</b>	57%	67%
<b>Writing</b>	48%	58%
<b>Mathematics</b>	52%	68%

### Key Stage 2

Working at or above expected standard		<b>National Average</b>
<b>Reading, Writing and Mathematics Combined</b>	70%	59%
<b>Reading</b>	89%	74%
<b>Writing</b>	78%	69%
<b>Mathematics</b>	89%	71%
<b>Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar</b>	82%	72%

### Class Names/Class Teachers

For those parents new to the school, the Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants are as follows:



	Teacher	Teaching Assistant teams
<b>Mayflower</b>	Miss B Osbourne	Mrs D Jempson Miss E Payne
<b>Richmond</b>	Miss K Sheehan	Mrs C Horn Mrs S Lewin
<b>Viking</b>	Miss M Glass	Miss C Bovis Miss M Schopman
<b>Oak</b>	Mrs K Mittoo	Mrs T Martin Mrs L Ingall
<b>Cambria</b>	Mr B Hogan	Mrs B Eakins Mrs L Vigar
<b>Pioneer</b>	Miss N Lassman Mrs G Jemison	Mrs K Crawley Mrs A Webb
<b>Challenger</b>	Mr T Ball Mrs J Warner	Mrs H Mace Mrs E Divers
Mr K Tiernan will be teaching Computing to KS2		

### Staffing update

As previously informed, Mr Ball is the new Assistant Headteacher, responsible for Teaching and Learning and curriculum development.

Mrs Warner is now our SENCO. Parents and Carers may contact her via [senco@hollywell.kent.sch.uk](mailto:senco@hollywell.kent.sch.uk) to discuss any SEND concerns.

We have appointed Mrs Hunt (currently SENCO at Lower Halstow and Newton Schools) on a part time basis to support Mrs Warner up to the Christmas break. Mrs Warner or Mrs Hunt may contact Parents and Carers of children on the SEND register to discuss provision maps and intervention support.

Miss Osborne assumes lead responsibility for English and Phonics; Miss Glass will lead Maths and Miss Lassman will be our new Inclusion and Pupil Premium Leader.

### Goodbye

We will shortly be saying goodbye to Mrs Divers who will be leaving us at the start of October to take up a position as a Clinical Support Worker for the NHS. Mrs Divers has worked at Holywell since 2013 when she started as a volunteer before being appointed as a Teaching Assistant. Since that time she has worked extremely hard to support children across many different year groups. She will be very sadly missed but we wish her every success in her new role.



### School Enrichment Fund

As you know, the voluntary contributions we receive from parents on an annual basis go towards the cost of coaches, events and resources to enrich and enhance the curriculum. Some of these simply could not happen without voluntary funding.

We ask you again to support the school through the annual subscription to the School Enrichment Fund. With the increasing costs of transport and increased prices for many educational sites and workshops, we are asking for an **annual contribution of £30 per pupil**.

This can be paid in full at the start of each academic year or in instalments over the year. A letter detailing how to pay the School Enrichment Fund will follow.

We hope you agree such additional curriculum opportunities enrich our children's learning and provide memories which stay with them for many years to come. All donations are gratefully received.

### Update on the School Minibus

Unfortunately there have been supply and delivery problems with our new school minibus. The latest date we have been given for delivery is November.

In the meantime, we continue to use the minibus from Bysing Wood school for local school visits.

### Kids Club

Our Breakfast and After School Club provision is proving to be very popular and we are seeing increasing numbers of children attending each week.

Please note, sessions **must be booked in advance**. Please only book sessions if you absolutely need to use the provision and your child will be attending that day. Unless your child is ill and not in school, you will be charged the full amount. We have had a number of occasions where children have been booked in, additional staff have been asked to work to ensure correct adult/child ratios and children have not attended. We still have to pay the staff for these sessions.

To book a place for your child at any of these sessions, please contact us via email at [kclub@holywell.kent.sch.uk](mailto:kclub@holywell.kent.sch.uk) or telephone 07706002060 .



### Reminder about what to bring to school



A number of parents have asked what children are

allowed to bring to school.

Children must **only** bring their school reading book; lunch box if they have one; water bottle and, if they have one for safety reasons, their mobile phone.

Mobile phones will need to be sanitised and placed in a box in the office for safe keeping during the day. **Please do not send your child into school with a large bag**, a book bag is sufficient.



### Forgotten items

We continue to have a number of children forgetting to bring bags, coats, lunch boxes etc and parents dropping them off at the office during the day.

This is difficult for office staff, especially at the start of the day as this is often the busiest time of the day. Therefore, if your child has forgotten something please refrain from bringing into school unless it is absolutely essential.

### Correct Uniform

It has been lovely to see the children dressed smartly in their uniforms at the start of the term. May I remind parents/carers the school footwear should be all brown or black shoes or all black trainers. Please do not send your child to school in high heels or boots.



### Hair

If your child has long hair may I request it is tied up with a hair band while they are in school. Please avoid large bows, a small elastic hair band is sufficient.

Parents and carers wishing to purchase new uniform may do so from ParentMail.

**Please note, all uniform must be paid for on the day it is ordered.**

## Attendance Matters

May I remind you about the importance of school attendance and punctuality. In response to the Department for Education's drive for improved attendance nationally, we have amended our school policy. Whilst we have very good attendance overall, being one of the highest in Swale, there are some areas we know we must focus on to ensure these high standards remain:

**Punctuality.** At the start of the school day the school gate is locked at 8.50am. Anyone arriving between 8.55am and 9.10am will be marked as late and a valid reason must be provided. Anyone arriving after this time will be marked as unauthorised. It is the Parent/Carer responsibility to sign the child in if they are late.

**Proof of absence due to appointments.** From the start of this term, Parents and Carers taking their children out of school for medical or dental appointments will need to provide proof of absence, such as a medical or dental appointment card or text message. If no evidence is provided the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

**Holiday requests.** Holiday requests will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Families should contact the school at least 3 weeks before the holiday, providing evidence why it should be considered an exceptional circumstance. No holiday will be authorised without prior permission being given.

Please see below information from our school policy on what good attendance looks like and the impact this has on a child's progress and attainment:

Descriptor	Attendance over the academic year	Equals number of days absent	Approximate Learning hours lost
Excellent	100%	0	0
	99%	2	10
Good	98%	4	20
	97%	6	30
	96%	7.5	37.5
Satisfactory	95%	9.5	47.5
Cause for Concern	90%	19	95
	89%	21	105
	88%	23	115
	87%	25	125
Unsatisfactory	86%	27	135
Serious Cause for Concern	85%	28.5	142
	84%	30.5	152
	83%	32	160
	82%	34	170
	81%	36	180

## Upchurch Bell Tower Restoration Project

As detailed on my previous newsletter, Upchurch Church is aiming to raise £50,000 to carry out urgent repairs to the tower roof and spire.

Retired Civil Engineer Elspeth Baecke has taken on the task of fundraising and management of the project. She brought a scale model of the roof and spire into school and this will live in our entrance hall. As funds are raised, the children will be asked to stick post-it notes onto the model of the church spire in the entrance hall of the school to represent the total raised so far. Events and donation details will soon appear on Facebook sites, Upchurch Matters and Upchurch Village News and notices will be displayed in the local shops. We would like to support this fundraising event by providing opportunity for our whole school community to contribute. A donation box will be placed in the entrance hall for Parents and Carers to donate any loose change. As a school we will be raising money for this cause later in the year.



## Sports Day sponsored event

I am pleased to inform you we raised £1113 last year at our sponsored event. This money will be split between Cancer Research and the school sports fund to purchase new outdoor learning equipment. Well done and Thank You to everyone!

## Raising money for Mind

On Friday 30th September, we will be holding a non uniform day in support of the mental health charity, Mind.



Children may wear non uniform on that day and bring a small donation of £1.

Thank you for your continued support and thank you again for the excellent start we have made to the term.

Best Wishes,

Darran Callaghan,  
Headteacher



## Dates for Your Diary

### SEPTEMBER

#### **Tuesday 13th**

Kwik Cricket Tournament

#### **Monday 19th**

School closed for State funeral

#### **Thursday 22nd**

Bishop Rose visiting Holywell

#### **Monday 26th**

Coffee morning for new Year R parents

#### **Thursday 29th**

Harvest Service in church

#### **Friday 30th**

Non Uniform Day in support of Mind

### OCTOBER

#### **Tuesday 4th**

Whole school nasal flu vaccinations

#### **Wednesday 5th**

TAG rugby event

#### **Thursday 6th**

School Photographs

Autumn School Census

#### **Friday 7th-Monday 17th**

Bikeability Year 6

#### **w/b Monday 17th**

Parent Consultation meetings (online and face to face)

#### **Thursday 20th**

Staff Development Day

#### **Friday 21st**

Term 1 ends

#### **HALF TERM BREAK**

#### **Monday 24th—Friday 28th**

**Don't forget to book your space at Holiday Club**

#### **Monday 31st**

Start of Term 2

Year 5 swimming starts (Thursdays)

National closing date for secondary applications



### NOVEMBER

#### **Friday 4th**

Kent Primary applications open

#### **Wednesday 9th**

New Parent tours

#### **Friday 11th**

Remembrance Day Service in church

#### **W/b Monday 14th**

Anti-bullying week

Road safety week

#### **Thursday 17th**

New parent tours

#### **Friday 18th**

Children in Need

#### **Thursday 24th to Tuesday 29th**

Book Fair

#### **Friday 25th**

Parent celebration afternoon

#### **Monday 28th**

New parent tours

### DECEMBER

#### **Friday 2nd**

Christmas tree decoration assembly

#### **Thursday 8th**

KS1 Nativity to parents (2 shows)

#### **Friday 9th**

New parent tours

#### **Tuesday 13th December**

Christingle and Carol service

#### **Wednesday 14th**

EKC Trust Carol Service (Canterbury)

#### **Thursday 15th**

Christmas Parties

#### **Friday 17th**

Christmas Dinner

PFHS Jolly Jumper Day

End of Term 2

**Please note:  
School will close at  
1.30pm on this day**