

A message from Mrs. Denham

It has been lovely to be back full time in school and enjoy being with your children and the staff again. I have been visited by several children sharing their good work and special moments. I treasure these. Children always make me smile - whilst I was off, it was lovely to be presented with an envelope. I thought it was a Christmas card, but no, inside was a tiny piece of rolled up paper with wonderfully written instructions of how to look after my pet SNAIL! I can only assume the child who gave it to me thought I needed something to keep me busy. I kept it on a shelf and it made me and my family smile many times over the holidays – especially when my sons reminded me to feed it!

Operation Encompass

The school is now part of the Operation Encompass project which is being run between Devon & Cornwall Police and schools. A letter has been sent home this week to each family giving details of this.

Admissions for September, 2018: children born between 1st September, 2013 and 31st August, 2014

The deadline to register your child for a place at primary school if they are born between the above dates is midnight on Monday 15th January, 2018 (next Monday). You apply on-line at; www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline or if you cannot access the school admissions website you can get more information by calling the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019 or email: primaryschooladmissions@devon.gov.uk

Severe weather conditions and the closure of School

I thought I would take the opportunity to update you on the procedures for the closure of the school in bad weather.

1. We will send out a text message to all parents asap.
2. You can register with Devon County Council Connectme. The email link is: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/1c4ff62> They will then alert you if the school is closed.
3. Listen to Heart Radio
4. news.devon@heart.co.uk
5. If you are unsure, telephone school on 01271 345908. We will always have staff, if at all possible, to answer the telephone.

We will always try, wherever possible, to remain open. Alternatively it may be safer to open school later than normal.

Individual families should assess the risk posed by their journey to school and make their own decision. Many families who live close to the school will have a different level of risk to those who have much more complex travel arrangements. Let's hope that we have a trouble free winter.

Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

School News

Foxes Class

Foxes class will need newspaper! Please send into Mrs. Hammond if you have some. Thank you.

North Devon Cross country - Northam Burrows

The next race is this Sunday at Northam Burrows with the first race starting at 11sm. Mrs Hammond will be walking the course st 10am was if you'd like to join her.

Last chance - Xmas Jumper Photos

We still have some gorgeous Xmas jumper photos of children in the office. If you missed out, this is your last chance to purchase them during next week.

Preschool

We still have places available in Pre-school on all days. Pre-school is a valued part of our school community and is an important link to the success of the school which we are very keen to keep as a thriving asset to the school. If you know of anyone who has not been able to find a place or would like some extra hours, please ask them to contact Mrs. Denham or Elaine at adminh@gatewayfed.org.uk or (01271) 345908.

Further information regarding funding can be found here

<http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

NEW LINK

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/eycs/the-parent-customer-journey-tax-free-childcare-and-30-hours-free-childcare/>

You can apply for your 11 digit code from the HMRC at

<https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/applynow>

Devon Early Years and Childcare Service

Website: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/eycs/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/devoneycs>

News from the PTA



Shop

If you have or require any good quality, secondhand school uniform please contact Emma Barstow on 07976 269525

After school clubs

All clubs finish at 4:15pm.

Monday	Netball	Mrs. Hammond	Yrs, 3,4,5&6	
Tuesday	Pottery	Mrs Coulam	YR, R, 1 & 2	
Tuesday	Football	Mr Dymond	Yrs. 3,4,5&6	NO CLUB UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
Wednesdays				
Thursday	Staff Meetings			
Friday	Cross Country	Mrs Hammond	Yrs, 3,4,5&6	

Diary Dates – forthcoming events

Term Dates

February half term - 12th Feb to 16th Feb

Easter Holiday - 30th March to Monday 16th April.

Start of Summer term - Tuesday 17th April

May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 7th May

May half term - Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June

End of Summer term - Thursday 26th July

Autumn term 2018 - 5th September

Half term first day Friday 19th October

Return Monday 29th October

End of Autumn term Thursday 20th December.

Diary Dates

Year 1 & 2: Gymnastics 16th, 23rd, 30th January & 6th February inclusive. Please remember to collect your child from Tarka Tennis (Falcons Gymnastics).

Year 4 Tennis Festival: Wednesday 17th January, 2017.

Photographs Tempest; Vista Group class photos, Thursday 8th February.

Year 3 & 4 Residential: Monday 26th March to Wednesday 28th March.

Community News

Tawstock Tiddlers and Toddlers

Bumps, babies and all preschoolers welcome
Snacks provided Guest speakers and Messy play.
Monday from 9.30 – 11.00 at Tawstock Village Hall
For more details contact Mel:
07866783740

Circuits

Every Tuesday
9 – 9.45 am, in the village hall.
£4 pay as you go
All fitness levels welcome!
Children welcome to come along and play whilst mum/dad get fit.
Contact Estelle Liepa for more info or just turn up.
07973 533668

+++++++



St. Michael's Nursery **Wrap around service; Breakfast Club and After School Club.** For many years we have offered wrap around care exclusive to Holywell and we are proud to have strong links with your fantastic school. To ensure the service is viable we need to be sure of high level of demand to meet increasing costs of running the nursery and additional services.

Many families at other primary schools have asked us to consider drop/collection at their schools and, should numbers remain low at Holywell we are looking at the logistics of their requests.

We are offering our breakfast and afterschool to Holywell parents before other schools and these places are on a first come first served basis. Katie loves her daily trips to Tawstock!

