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| Ventrus logo |  | **Newsletter** | C:\Users\Head\Documents\Logos\Holywell school Logo Ultimate Version.jpg  **LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE**  [**www.primaryschoolsbarnstaple.co.uk**](http://www.primaryschoolsbarnstaple.co.uk)  **holywell@ventrus.org.uk** |

26th January 2024

**Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.**

**Message from Mrs. Lowrey**

This week seems to have flown by at Holywell@RCPA as the half term approaches. The children have been engrossed in their learning and there have been times of absolute focus and also absolute fun! I have seen some very impressive maths work this week and some exciting science in Foxes class! Even on a Friday, the children have kept going and shown they are such motivated learners.

I have also been incredibly impressed with the behaviour around school, with the children showing excellent manners, but also excellent listening to both other children and adults in school. I have had comments from Roundswell staff about the children’s behaviour and even the bus driver complimented the children on being a terrific school. This is excellent to hear from those outside of our school – children, this makes me very proud indeed.

As you know, **contractors** have been on site at Holywell today meeting with Mr Coles and myself. They have explained the works to me further and have also offered future opportunities for the children to come and **visit the school** as the works develop so that they can see how their school is shaping up! We have also discussed taking **photographs** as the building goes up for them to be a part of the experience and see what is happening. I will share these with you as we have them moving forward.

**Sickness and winter illnesses**

A few times this week, we have had some children feeling nauseous and sick and for some children this has led to sickness, where for others it has come to nothing. There does seem to be some strange bugs around at the moment! As a parent myself, I completely understand it is so difficult to know what to do and when to keep your child at home. As teachers we also will not get it right all the time. Please do stick to the 48hr rule with sickness and diarrohea to keep stomach bugs at bay and a positive covid test requires children to remain at home for 3 days. I hope that helps and also does come with the understanding that it is not easy to always know for sure – thank you!

Also, just a reminder that we are unable to give your child calpol or Nurofen. If your child needs to have pain relief, we can call you for you to bring some in and give your child the required dosage.

**Attendance**

I should also **congratulate** you as a group of parents because attendance across the school has improved dramatically! We now see that Holywell children attend school **above national average** and this is particularly impressive given the change of school environment and the amount of hard work the children are putting in – they are certainly seeming to be enjoying school life!

**World Book Day**

As you know, we are planning on dressing up for World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. We are delighted that our friends at RCPA are joining us in dressing up and we are planning a fun-packed day planned around the joy of reading books. There is no pressure if your child does not wish to dress up, I completely understand those who do not wish to. If you have spare/old costumes that you could loan, please do speak to me or Elaine – it will be useful to have some spares!

I hope that you all have a wonderful weekend and enjoy some family time – there are some tired children in school, so please do enjoy the rest. Take care – Mrs Lowrey

School News

**School Contact**

You can contact the school by phoning 01271 345908. If the phone is not answered, can you please leave a message on the answerphone. These messages will be responded to as soon as possible.

Links you may find useful.

[HANDi Paediatric app: advice for common childhood conditions - One Devon](https://onedevon.org.uk/our-work/services-and-support/children-and-young-people/handi-app/)

**Diary Dates**

**Swimming Year R, 1 and 2** – 16th, 23rd and 30th January and 6th and 20th February. Please collect your child from the Tarka Leisure Centre at 3pm. Siblings will be looked after at Roundswell until you arrive.

**W/C- February 5th** – Children’s mental health week

**Wednesday 21st February** - **Dental Survey** – Children Aged Year 5 - Please return the forms sent home.

**Tuesday 25th February** – Devon Cricket engagement day with Martin Brice

**February 26th – February 28th inclusive** - Skern Lodge residential

**1st March** – Rising stars day 2 (selected children)

**Thursday 21st March** – Holywell and Roundswell cross country festival

**World Book Day** – March – more info to follow

**Term Dates**

**Spring Half Term –** Monday 12th February to Friday 13th February (inclusive).

Last day of the Spring Term – Thursday 28th March 2024

First day of the Summer Term – Monday 15th April 2024

**School Uniform**

[**https://schoolthreads.org/collections/holywell-c-of-e**](https://schoolthreads.org/collections/holywell-c-of-e)

**PE T-shirts** will still be available to purchase from school.

**Ventrus Job Vacancies**

<https://ventrus.current-vacancies.com/v?id=VENTRUSMUL&t=Ventrus-Careers>

Including vacancies at local schools.

**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](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.devon.gov.uk%2Feducationandfamilies%2Fschool-information%2Fschool-meals%2Fnew-starter-pupil-premium&data=05%7C01%7CElaine.Palmer%40ventrus.org.uk%7C7109e4304a9443c58c6708db26ce8e88%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638146440824987705%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=E1xb%2B33KaszaeeBnofCVVbtqTBsE1ead7Mmg28rMO34%3D&reserved=0)‘ 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](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Foneonline.devon.gov.uk%2FCCSCitizenPortal_LIVE%2FAccount%2FLogin%3FReturnUrl%3D%252fCCSCitizenPortal_live&data=05%7C01%7CElaine.Palmer%40ventrus.org.uk%7C7109e4304a9443c58c6708db26ce8e88%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638146440824987705%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TDzWR7PVGNQy40PMgfbNnyUdRz%2BFPER5%2F05sUzSpOXM%3D&reserved=0). 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**

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

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|  | [School and college transport – Education and Families](https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-and-college-transport/)  School transport information, including free school transport.  www.devon.gov.uk |

**NEW Privacy Notices – November 2023**

**Important information**

Ventrus main privacy notice can be found at  <https://ventrus.org.uk/our-people/privacy-notices/>

Ventrus pupil privacy notice can be forum at <https://ventrus.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Pupil-Privacy-Notice-2022-23-Academy-Ventrus-Nov-22.pdf>