

Many other school events and news can be found on our [Facebook page - click here](#)

7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

**Message from Mrs. Lowrey**  
**Last day of the Summer term is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

### **School News**

What an amazing week it has been at Holywell! The sun is beginning to shine again and although children are tiring and getting excited about the holidays, they continue to impress us all of the time! The sponsored walk on Wednesday being a joyous day where we all felt part of achieving something much bigger than ourselves and was a highlight of our year.



The children were incredible Ambassadors for the school and all of the teachers were so proud of them completing the challenging walk. A huge thank you to Mrs Hammond and the school council for their hard work organising the event, it was very smooth! Thank you to all of our parent and family volunteers for giving up their time to support the walk and to the PTA for the donation of ice-lollies at the end of the walk! We were also incredibly grateful to the gentleman who runs the kiosk, who very kindly commented that our children were so polite and gracious at receiving their ice-lollies that he also decided to donate half of the money for the lollies back to the school. Thank you all for your



Today has been such a celebratory day in school, with so many children receiving Head teacher awards. However, it is unusual when whole families stand to be celebrated, yet that is exactly what happened! Congratulations Poppy, Freya and Noah, who all were celebrated during worship today!

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### **School meal prices**

We need to inform all parents that, after careful consideration, we are having to increase the cost of school meals, **from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, the cost of a meal will be £2.50**. This decision hasn't been taken lightly but with the significantly higher costs that we are now facing for our gas and electric along with the food and non-food inflationary costs increasing by over 12%, we are now at the point where we need to reflect these in our price per meal costs. We fully understand how difficult times are, therefore we have tried to keep the increase as small as possible. As a nation we are all hoping that food and utility costs stabilise or potentially drop in the months ahead but as a precaution we will be undertaking a further review of meal prices in spring 2024.

The Government has continued to support the Universal Infant Free School meals project, and this means that all the children, from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can be provided with a school meal free of charge. If your child is in Years 3-6, they can also have a free school meal if you are in receipt of certain allowances. Please see the information below. If there is a difficulty in providing payment for meals, please contact the school office as soon as possible. All queries and requests for support are confidential and we will always work with families to ensure find the best solution we can.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

## **Outstanding fees**

Please could all parents and carers check their parentpay accounts for any outstanding nursery, school meal, breakfast club and after school club fee payments. We do have some accounts that remain unpaid. As a parent myself, I genuinely do appreciate that these fees can mount up very quickly and at times without realising.

I am asking that these could please do one of the following by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July**:

- Pay the full outstanding amount
- Make a contribution towards the outstanding amount
- Contact the school if you need to make arrangements to pay in instalments or at a later date, we are more than happy to listen and advise
- Contact the school if you are struggling to pay

Please note, due to the rising costs, we may have to disallow your child from attending BC/ASC should these remain unpaid. Likewise, we would ask you to provide your child with a packed lunch, but please could all parents check to see and please do get in touch.

## **Diary Dates including all the Y6**

**12<sup>th</sup> July** - Y6 Performance (village hall) 2pm – all welcome

**13<sup>th</sup> July** – Y 4 & 5 Trip to Lundy. Drop off at Ilfracombe at 9am and collect from the same place at 6pm

**17<sup>th</sup> July** - Y6 teacher takeover (in school time - organised by Y6)

**19<sup>th</sup> July** - Y6 Trip

**20<sup>th</sup> July** - Y6 Leavers Service (village hall) 2pm – all welcome

**21<sup>st</sup> July** - Y6 water fight (in school time)

## **Term Dates**

**End of Term – last day Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023.**

**Beginning of the Autumn Term - first day back for pupil is Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

## **The Park Community School**

Our Open Evening is on Thursday 21st September and our Open Days run from 25th September to 29th September. Parents can book on our website here - [The Park Community School Open Events 2023](#) or scan the QR code on the advert.

## **School Uniform**

We are in the process of moving our school uniforms sales from school to Daw's at Daw's Clothing Company Ltd, Unit 2 Affinity Devon, (Atlantic Village) Clovelly Road, Bideford.

As we sell out of items they are taking them on and can be purchased on-line at:

<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](#)' 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**

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

[School and college transport – Education and Families](#)  
 School transport information, including free school transport  
[www.devon.gov.uk](http://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 found at <https://ventrus.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Pupil-Privacy-Notice-2022-23-Academy-Ventrus-Nov-22.pdf>

#### **Community News**

**Your child is invited to sign up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Sign up at your local library!**

##### **What is the Summer Reading Challenge?**

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to keep reading during the school summer holidays – and to enjoy anything they like to read! Children aged 4-11 are invited to set a reading goal, and collect rewards for their reading.

It's FREE to take part, and last year 75% of children taking part improved their reading skills over the holidays.<sup>1</sup>

##### **Why should my child sign up?**

- They will be better prepared to return to school in the autumn.
- The Challenge supports the move into a new year group.
- Becoming more independent in their reading boosts children's confidence and self-esteem.
- The library provides free access to books and fun family activities all through the summer.
- Library staff are on hand to offer support and book recommendations. Your child will be part of a UK-wide programme developed by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with the public library network.

##### **How can my child take part? (Library OR online)**

In the library. Visit your local library and sign up. Your child will:

- Set a reading goal for the summer and borrow and read books, eBooks and audiobooks. Your child can choose anything they like to read!
- Receive a Challenge folder and collect special stickers and rewards for reading.

OR Online. Take part online at [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk) · Sign up on the official Challenge website.

- Set a reading goal and get tips for accessing books for free at home.
- Unlock digital badges and online rewards, including a printable certificate.

When?

Throughout the summer holidays. Check with your local library to find out start & finish dates near you. Unsure where your closest library is? Use the Library Finder to check.

Head to your local library this summer and sign up! If you have any questions, please contact Barnstaple Library 01271 318780 or email [barnstaple.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:barnstaple.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk).

Yours faithfully, Lisa D'Alberti, Senior Supervisor, Barnstaple Library [1] The Reading Agency (2022) Summer Reading Challenge 2022: Annual Report

Want to know more? · Find out more about the importance of reading and its impact on children's success here. · Visit the official Summer Reading Challenge website for free activities, competitions and videos. · Keep up-to-date! Follow @SummerReadingChallengeUK on Facebook.

### **What do families think?**

"I never liked reading before because of this challenge I got the courage to read more books and I have more interest in books. This has been the greatest experience ever in my life to read more books than before thanks."

Girl, aged 12+

"The challenge encouraged my child to read more often, and in turn encouraged myself as well."

Parent/carer of 6-7-year-old boy

"Enabled us to have some fun cheap days out and reading together has brought us closer than before."

Parent/carer of 8-9-year-old girl

"We've joined the reading challenge for the past 4 years and every year it has inspired and encouraged a deeper joy for reading. For a young dyslexic boy, the challenge helps make reading fun."

Parent/carer of 6-7-year-old boy

"My child lacks confidence. Going to the library and meeting the friendly staff has definitely made him more confident in himself and encouraged him to read more being able to pick his own books to read from their huge collection."

### **'Autism and Us' Parent Programme (Autumn Term 2023):**

[Support from the Communication and Interaction Team - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

**Support for parents/carers of Devon primary and secondary children who are either on the autism assessment waiting list or who have received a diagnosis of autism.**

Our 'Autism & Us' programme delivered this academic year will once again be offered during the forthcoming Autumns term of the new 2023-24 academic year for parents/carers of Devon primary and secondary school children, pre or post diagnosis.

We are delighted to announce that we are offering access for families of CYP (Children & Young People) who are currently on the autism assessment pathway, in addition to families of CYP who have received an autism diagnosis.

Attending the 'Autism & Us' parent programme gives you an opportunity to develop your understanding of autism and look at practical solutions to managing and supporting your child's presenting needs, whilst also connecting with other parents/carers. Full programme details and application process below

#### **Autism & Us programmes:**

- 4 weekly 'live online' sessions (approx. 2hrs each) related to the following topic/themes:

No.	Topic	Programme 1	Programme 2	Trainer
1	Autism overview	Thurs 14 Sept - 10 - 12	Tues 31 Oct - 4.30 - 6.30	Paul Lamanna
2	Communication	Wed 20 Sept - 10 - 12	Tues 7 Nov - 4.30 - 6.30	Laura O'Shea + Melissa New
3	Understanding and supporting behaviour	Thurs 5 Oct - 10 - 12	Tues 14 Nov - 4.30 - 6.30	Laura Matthews
4	Sensory	Thurs 12 Oct - 10 - 12	Tues 21 Nov - 4.30 - 6.30	Kevin Jones

Apply direct by email to: [educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk](mailto:educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk)

To secure a place on either of the above programmes, or express your interest for forthcoming programmes. We will confirm your booking request, and provide you with a direct link to the event. They will be delivered on line 'live' via the Microsoft TEAMS platform.

Additionally, we will also be offering the following very popular themed/topic based workshops, which lead on from the above programmes for themes/topics that may be a priority area for you against your child's presenting needs:

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Trainer</b>
Autism – Sensory processing + integration	Thurs 16 Nov 10-12	Kevin
Autism and Girls	Wed 8 Nov 9.30-12	Rob
Autism – Demand avoidance + PDA	Wed 6 Dec 10-12	Rob
Autism – Communication (verbal – support strategies)	Tues 12 Dec 10-12	Laura O + Melissa
Autism – Managing stress + anxiety	Wed 15 Nov 10-12	Alison
Autism – Vulnerability + online safety	Wed 1 Nov 10-12	Paul
Autism – Communication (pre/non-verbal – support strategies)	Wed 22 Nov 10-12	Laura M

**Apply direct by email to:** [educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk](mailto:educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk)

To secure a place on any of the above topic based workshops. We will confirm your booking request, and provide you with a direct link to the event. They will be delivered on line 'live' via the Microsoft TEAMS platform.