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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** |

1st December 2023

**Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.**

**Message from Mrs. Lowrey**

**End of Autumn Term – Friday 15th December 2023**

**Beginning of the Spring Term – Wednesday 3rd January 2024**

Dear parents/carers,

It has been such an excellent week in school: the amount of festive cheer in school has been amazing and the children are proving themselves to be extremely settled, despite the changes to school routines. They are just brilliant! I am so pleased with how the play is progressing and the singing is just beautiful.

With the Christmas play approaching, please do book your tickets using the link provided on last week’s newsletter. Any problems, please do just phone or email the school and we will make sure that you get your tickets.

On Thursday, not only did we have our first sprinkling of snow, but the Year 3 children went out with Mrs Carlyon to the forest school area. They were all wrapped up and got to enjoy making popcorn over the fire!

I have been so impressed with many children this week and I have been visited by more and more children sharing their learning.

A child smiling at the camera

Description automatically generatedA group of people outside by a campfire

Description automatically generatedA group of children sitting around a fire

Description automatically generated

This week, I have seen Betty, George B, Thomas and Elsie already and I know that Miss Boundy is particularly pleased with the writing in Squirrels class this week.

**Harry and Oscar**

I was so impressed with Harry and Oscar this week who approached me to let me know that they are having a sponsored competition to see who can wear their shorts for the longest time and not give in to wear trousers! They have been supported by their families to raise money for Morrish and I have pledged £10 myself to donate on top on behalf of the winner. Well done, boys, this shows great initiative and bravery!

**Christmas Fair**

Today will be our Christmas Fair and I will be so delighted to attend. Our children are excited and dressed in our Christmas jumpers ready for the occasion. I really must thank our PTA and everyone involved for their continued support. The members go above and beyond in giving up their time to give the children fantastic opportunities as well as raise significant funds for our school. Just thank you, thank you and thank you again and to all of the parents and carers who give towards these events so generously.

I do hope that you all have a fantastic weekend and keep warm – and so the countdown begins! 24 sleeps to go!

Best wishes, Mrs Lowrey

Best wishes,

Mrs Lowrey

**School News**

**Christmas Sway Shop**

Our annual pupil SWAP SHOP will go ahead on the afternoon of Friday 15th December. We would be very grateful, if you are able to send in a donation of presents suitable for a mum, dad, and brothers and sisters, such as small bubble bath, talc, soap, pens, pencils, chocolates, sweets, gloves, socks etc. This ‘Swap Shop’ will hopefully be a way for you to be able to ‘recycle’ some of the small presents you do not need, that you have at home! Any donations of wrapping paper and tags/labels will also be useful. On the day the children can choose and wrap at least a one present to bring home for Christmas Day. There will be no charge, so you do not have to send in money! Please send your donations into the office on the morning of the Wednesday 13th December (not before as we don’t have space!)

**Christmas Jumper Days**

Now we have entered December the children, for a small donation and once only payment of £2.00 in aid of the Safe the Children charity, can wear their Christmas Jumpers to school on Fridays until the end of term. Payment can be made on ParentPay.

**Book your tickets here for the Christmas play!**

[**Wednesday 6th December**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3RWFZvuneEGMNLPFLdk_cBxm7KP7e-ZMpJ57Dd1bWclUMVA3QVRQS1FQNDZIU0gzRzFXRjkwVloxRi4u)

[**Thursday 7th December**](https://forms.office.com/e/weLBNCfus5)

**Admissions policy for 2025-26: Annual Consultation**

Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2025-26. The Local Authority is also consulting on its admission arrangements. You are invited to look at the proposals and have your say. Our proposed policy is on our admission page [weblink](http://www.primaryschoolsbarnstaple.co.uk/website/admissions_policies/627029) and you can see all policies at [http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fdevon.cc%2Fschoolpolicy&data=05%7C01%7CElaine.Palmer%40ventrus.org.uk%7Ce7059382d80847ff632208dbd95bbec0%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638342760289264841%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rszGoljRotG8gHpOwG19vHp6wLr%2Bdu3xBjFdq4TU9Uo%3D&reserved=0) . Further information is here: [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.devon.gov.uk%2Fadmissionarrangements&data=05%7C01%7CElaine.Palmer%40ventrus.org.uk%7Ce7059382d80847ff632208dbd95bbec0%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638342760289421080%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fACAwUb49no3U3tAHOdJrCQf%2ForknrV0%2BgAc%2BgW%2FE0k%3D&reserved=0)

The consultation runs until 12 January 2024. Policies will be determined on 31st January 2024 and published in the same places by 15 March 2024.

**Lost or mislaid uniform.**

Please can we ask that you check your child’s uniform to make sure they haven’t brought home in error anyone else’s named items If you do find any items can you please return them to the school office. Please can you also ask your child if they have seen a Royal Blue Nike Sports bag as this has also been mislaid in school. Many thanks.

**Year 3 & 4 Swimming**

Thank you to those parents who have paid for the Swimming sessions this term. We have arranged on ParentPay that this can be paid in two instalments so if you have not yet paid can we please ask that you do this as soon as possible.

**Admissions to Reception Year for September 2024**

Further details can be found at [Apply for a reception or year 3 place at a primary school (devon.gov.uk)](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.devon.gov.uk%2Feducationandfamilies%2Fschool-information%2Fapply-for-a-school-place%2Fapply-for-a-primary-school-place%2F&data=05%7C01%7Celaine.palmer%40ventrus.org.uk%7C3180d7b3b896472170b408dbba9bbba4%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638308950263009479%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RmRsy6bJaf8ipCiyUoHEVgZ2gIYSv32snPYBs69hxcY%3D&reserved=0)  The Application window for the September 2024 Intake will open on 15th November 2023.

**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)](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.devon.gov.uk%2Feducationandfamilies%2Fschool-information%2Fapply-for-a-school-place%2Fapply-for-an-in-year-place%23%3A~%3Atext%3DThe%2520majority%2520of%2520schools%2520in%2520Devon%2520participate%2520in%2Cof%2520the%2520form%2520to%2520be%2520sent%2520to%2520you.&data=05%7C01%7Cholywell%40ventrus.org.uk%7C1e32303174064aa3093608dbadd04df3%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638294882419015332%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fCDapfUDjgmdm%2FXYc8T9xph4ynwB6FMn60Auj6KRCWE%3D&reserved=0)

School Catchment Area Checker - [School designated (catchment) areas - Education and Families (devon.gov.uk)](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.devon.gov.uk%2Feducationandfamilies%2Fschool-information%2Fapply-for-a-school-place%2Fschool-designated-areas&data=05%7C01%7Cholywell%40ventrus.org.uk%7C1e32303174064aa3093608dbadd04df3%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638294882419015332%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=98dSKMMk7s8r1v9dpmADvdWkqYFesaDoGDH79lYK%2BK0%3D&reserved=0)

Admission Advice for international arrivals [Admission advice for international arrivals - Education and Families (devon.gov.uk)](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.devon.gov.uk%2Feducationandfamilies%2Fschool-information%2Fapply-for-a-school-place%2Fadmission-advice-international-arrivals&data=05%7C01%7Cholywell%40ventrus.org.uk%7C1e32303174064aa3093608dbadd04df3%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638294882419015332%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=MLFhctHzcmybRiJJ940%2FNjM5PuDgdS9IM%2FaAiRAoz44%3D&reserved=0)

Guide to School Appeals  [School admission appeals Archives - Education and Families (devon.gov.uk)](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.devon.gov.uk%2Feducationandfamilies%2Fguide%2Fguide-to-school-admission-appeals&data=05%7C01%7Cholywell%40ventrus.org.uk%7C1e32303174064aa3093608dbadd04df3%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638294882419015332%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=W%2Bl3XJrGZf99iGnazEtw7wTtfRpMvltL%2BtEEsu0qpKw%3D&reserved=0)

**Diary Dates**

**Christmas Jumper Fridays – Friday 1st, 8th & 15th.**

**Christmas Plays** – Wednesday 6th December, Tickets are now available. Please email holywell@ventrus.org.uk.

**Christmas Plays** – Thursday 7th December, Tickets are now available. Please complete the Microsoft form (link above) or email Holywell@ventrus.org.uk

**Christmas lunch -** Wednesday 13th December (children only – this year).

**Christingle** – Wednesday 13th December – 2.30pm at the parish church Tawstock.. If you are not attending, you will need to collect your child from the church at the end of the school day. We will walk children at after school club back to school.

**Swap Shop** – Friday 15th December – Please drop your donations off on but **NOT before** 13th December into the school office.

**Christmas Jumper Days** – for a one-off donation of £2.00 per child for Save the Children charity – Friday 1st December, Friday 8th December and Friday 15th December.

**Dental Survey** – Children Aged Year 5 – Wednesday 21st February

**Term Dates**

**End of Autumn Term – Friday 15th December 2023**

**Beginning of the Spring Term – Wednesday 3rd January 2024**

**Community Information**

TWO RIVERS MISSION COMMUNITY

Christmas 2023 at St Peter’s Tawstock

Christmas Starts Here You Are Invited

Community Carols in the Car Park Saturday 9 December 4:00pm Come join the Singing - Free Hotdogs & Mulled Wine

Nativity Sunday Family Service Sunday 17 December 11:00am The Instant Nativity, everyone welcome, come dress up and join in with the story. Followed by Tea, Coffee & Mince Pies

Carols by Candlelight Sunday 17 December 6:00pm Followed by Tea, Coffee & Mince Pies

Christmas Eve Communion by Candlelight Sunday 24 December 10:30pm

Christmas Day Celebration & Communion Monday 25 December 11:00am A short service of Celebration followed by Communion.

We also continue to hold a service every Sunday in December at 11.00am

St Peter’s Church Tawstock EX31 3HY

https://www.tworiversmissioncommunity.or

**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**](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>

**Museum of the Moon**

Barnstaple is set to become the celestial centrepiece of North Devon this December, as "Museum of the Moon", a captivating artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram, lands in the newly regenerated Barnstaple Pannier Market.

Get ready to visit the market in a whole new light and immerse yourself in something truly extraordinary. This stunning artwork has been presented in over 300 different ways, across 30 different countries, and has captivated the hearts of more than 20 million people worldwide.

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this global sensation right here in Barnstaple! Secure your FREE place now to avoid disappointment – [https://www.seetickets.com/tour/museum-of-the-moon](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.seetickets.com%2Ftour%2Fmuseum-of-the-moon&data=05%7C01%7Cholywell%40ventrus.org.uk%7C24955d555bbd4165fe6a08dbe0470d84%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638350368032427689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=BrrPrKWKAyzs0Ol7NklwK4DXsZ53o2VF3%2F4BshGoJfY%3D&reserved=0)

We understand that some visitors may prefer a quieter, calmer setting, which is why we have times available with enhanced lighting and lower music levels. Plus, we're limiting the number of available places to ensure everyone can fully immerse themselves in this experience. Book your experience now: [https://www.seetickets.com/tour/museum-of-the-moon-relaxed-viewing](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.seetickets.com%2Ftour%2Fmuseum-of-the-moon-relaxed-viewing&data=05%7C01%7Cholywell%40ventrus.org.uk%7C24955d555bbd4165fe6a08dbe0470d84%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638350368032427689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UfYnXSskz5b7wj4XCn%2FB1dNPwkOcBt2n%2FUc9LwIBc8s%3D&reserved=0)

As well as the viewing of the moon, we have some additional activities running alongside, one being:

Family Silent Disco beside the Moon

North Devon Silent Disco and Silent Disco World bring you a unique Family Silent Disco like no other. The UKs Best Silent Disco Djs playing the most uplifting party tunes on the planet with Barnstaple’s historic Pannier Market lit up like you’ve never seen it before.

What better way to start the New Year than with a full family party in the shadow of Luke Jerram’s MOON!

Choose from three Channels of anthems, classics and sing-along bangers served up by the UKs top silent disco DJs.

80’s 90’s Naughties and NOW, Pop, Commercial, House, Garage, Rock, Hip hip, DnB

Buy your tickets now: [https://www.seetickets.com/tour/family-disco-beside-the-moon](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.seetickets.com%2Ftour%2Ffamily-disco-beside-the-moon&data=05%7C01%7Cholywell%40ventrus.org.uk%7C24955d555bbd4165fe6a08dbe0470d84%7C668515dda7fb41788c34b3c52dd93f70%7C1%7C0%7C638350368032427689%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HrRRCUkZGyk%2BwU%2BzrPATkrTL1dzbprGG45AXAJz2Y1U%3D&reserved=0)

Venue: Barnstaple Pannier Market

Date: Monday 1 January 2024

Times: 2:30PM - 5PM

We hope you will join us.