

8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

## A message from Mrs. Denham

### PTA – HOLYWELL HOLLOW

A huge thank you to the PTA for the wonderful new play equipment in the Holywell Hollow that they have helped fund. The children have loved playing on it and our hope is to add to it over the coming months. We enjoyed the opening celebration last Friday afternoon.

As the Hollow is used so much during playtimes and for Wild Tribe, the PTA are holding a working party from 9am this Saturday to help further develop areas in the Hollow. They would love any parents to join them. Children may attend with their own parents but each parent must be responsible for their own child and must be aware at all times that there will be equipment and tools being used.

### Coffee Morning

At Holywell we are planning to re-instate the coffee morning which Mrs. Arend used to hold in Tawstock Village Hall. We have organised it for the morning of Friday March 15<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 10.30am and we hope to hold them monthly after that. We hope as many parents as possible can join us for coffee, cake and a chat!

### World Book Day

What a lovely time the children had during World Book Day – thank you so much for making the effort with costumes. The children looked amazing.

### Exeter Cathedral

Thank you so much to the five children who sang in the concert at Exeter Cathedral last Saturday with other schools, the Devon Schools choir and the Cathedral choir. They sounded so wonderful and we hope they will always remember the singing in such a wonderful building. Many thanks to: Mrs Curtis for organising the event and to the parents who came and enjoyed the concert with us.

### Parents Evening/Conferences

If you have not yet booked your parent conference appointment for next Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> can you please email the school on [holywell@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:holywell@ventrus.org.uk), phone 345908 or call into the school office.

### Easter Service 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

This year's Easter service will be held at St Peters Church, Tawstock at 9 am on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. On this day we are asking if you could kindly drop off your children at the church rather than school. We are also hoping that many of you will be able to stay and join us in this celebration. You are all very welcome.

### Tempest Photos

Your child should have brought home a class school photo last week. If you would like to purchase a copy please return the form with payment by Monday (**MORNING**) 11th March. Thank you.

### School Funding

Please see below the letter from Mrs. Denham

### Autumn term

The start of the Autumn term is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2019.

**Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.**

## School News

### Sports Relief

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, we would like your child/children to dress up as their favorite inspirational sports person. This will cost 50p

We would also like your child/children to participate in a 15 minute run/walk around the playground. If you can sponsor your child/children as much money as possible, please do. Sponsor form will follow.

At the end of the school day school council are going to sell bags of sweets for 20p. Your child/children will also bring home a design a football sheet.

### Guitar Lessons

Alex Rogozinski has a space for either a group of 2 or 3 children or an individual lesson. If your child is interested please call into the office to collect the relevant letter. As there are few spaces available they will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

### News from the PTA



### Forthcoming events:

Cinema night's on Friday 8 March.

Working party needed for the Holywell Hollow on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 9am.

Easter Trail on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Bags2School – dates in May and October, 2019.

### Op Shop

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

### Clubs

Please see the information above.

Monday	Netball	Mrs Hammond	Yrs., 3, 4, 5 & 6	
Tuesday	Pottery	Mrs Coulam	YR, R, 1 & 2	<b>No Pottery - Tues 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>
Wednesdays	Tag rugby	Mr. Day	Yrs., 3, 4, 5 & 6	
Thursday	Football	Mr Dymond	Yrs., 3, 4, 5, & 6.	
Thursday	Staff Meetings			
Friday	Cross Country	Mrs Hammond	Yrs., 3, 4, 5, & 6	<b>No X Country – Fri 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>

### Diary Dates – forthcoming events

#### Term Dates

End of the Spring term, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

Easter holiday starts, - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2019.

Start of the Summer term – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2019

May Bank holiday, - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.

Summer half term starts; - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2019.

Non Pupil Day – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2019.

Last day of the Summer term, – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.

**Autumn term starts, - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2019.**

#### Diary Dates

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Holywell School Coffee morning 9 am to 10:30 am, Tawstock village hall.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March – School Gymnastic Competition.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March - <https://www.specsavers.co.uk/red-nose-day>

### Community News

#### St Michael's Nursery

St Michael's Nursery operates a breakfast club open from 8am, and after school club 3.15 - 6.pm. We still have a limited number of spaces available so please phone us 01271 327074. [office@stmichaels-nursery.org](mailto:office@stmichaels-nursery.org)

### **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 Sue on 07890 046033.

### **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

### **Links you may be interested in?**

#### **On-line Safety**

Online safety is an ever expanding area and you can find further valuable information on the CEOP website  
'Think you know' has produced some useful conversation starters and advice to help you talk to your child about staying safe online

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

the NSPCC website

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventingabuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

#### **Some good sources of information and advice for parents:**

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

The Professionals Online Safety Helpline is available Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm  
Call 0344 381 4772 or email [enquires@saferinternet.org.uk](mailto:enquires@saferinternet.org.uk)

<https://parentinfo.org/>

Parent Info is a free web service providing information to parents and carers.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/ShareAware>

Advice from the NSPCC: on social networks, apps and games.

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

A non-profit organization; working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children.

#### **Red Nose Day**

<https://www.specsavers.co.uk/red-nose-day>

#### **West Buckland School Activity Day**

<https://www.westbuckland.com/prospective-parents>

#### **Early Help for Mental Health**

<http://eh4mh.co.uk>

#### **Early Help**

<http://devon.cc/earlyhelp>

**Courses for Parents and Children**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--bideford/family-and-education--classes/>

These above events are constantly being updated and there are many new courses available which may be of interest.

**The Plough Torrington**

<https://www.facebook.com/StAnnesArtsCommunityCentre/>

**Devon Library Services (including Barnstaple)**

<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/events>

**Royal Albert Memorial Museum - (Exeter)**

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UK ECC/bulletins/20a0199>

**Barnstaple Library**

<http://devonlibraries.org.uk>

Dear Parent / Carer

### Update - School Funding Issues

I have been asked to send this letter to you on behalf of Devon Association of Primary Headteachers (DAPH)

They wanted to contact you to provide an update on current issues relating to school funding.

Sadly, they have to confirm that despite intense lobbying of the Government and Department for Education, matters remain extremely challenging. In short, schools are still not being provided with adequate funding and resource to deliver the level of provision and support that is expected and that our families and children deserve.

### Current Concerns

- Since 2010 school budgets have been reduced in real terms by 8% and by 20% at post-16
- Class sizes are rising and the curricular offer is being restricted
- Increasingly, schools are being asked to support with children's emotional health and wellbeing. Frequently, we do not have adequate resource to meet a growing need.
- Often, the most vulnerable students in our schools - those from disadvantaged backgrounds or those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - are bearing the brunt of cuts and schools are struggling to provide the levels of support that they are entitled to.

These issues are not simply affecting a few schools. They are common features across our education system up and down the country. Levels of concern are so widespread amongst headteachers that we are all working together with a united voice.

As such, we have written to the Secretary of State for Education on three separate occasions since September 2018. We are dismayed that he has chosen to ignore our communications and repeated requests to meet. On 13 December 2018, we were informed by a junior civil servant that ***"I am afraid that, on this occasion, the Secretary of State and the Minister of State must decline your offer to meet. I hope you will understand that their time is heavily pressurised and their diaries need to be prioritised according to ministerial, Parliamentary and constituency business."***

Given the seriousness of the current school funding crisis and the impact upon schools, children and families, headteachers and colleagues, believe that this approach is entirely ill-judged. On 14 January 2019, we wrote again to the Secretary of State for Education asking that he reconsider meeting with representative headteachers. Six weeks later, this request was declined once more: ***"As I'm sure you will appreciate, both their diaries are very full and they are unable to accept your kind offer at this time."*** Thousands of headteachers simply do not understand what issues could be seen as more important than the ones we are raising on behalf of schools, children and families.

In September 2018, over 2000 headteachers campaigned at Westminster in order to underline the seriousness of the current situation. This action was unprecedented.

The 'Worth Less?' campaign group now comprises 64 Local Authorities and Boroughs, covering thousands of schools and millions of families. This gives a clear indication of the levels of concern felt by reasonable and moderate headteachers in England.

We continue to recognise that there is not a 'bottomless pit' of money and also acknowledge that many local MPs from across the political spectrum are taking a supportive approach. We must make clear, however, that the current response from the Department for Education is inadequate.

### Why we need to meet

- Headteachers want to contribute constructively to overcome current funding issues.
- Headteachers want to reflect the serious concerns expressed by families regarding inadequate levels of resource and provision especially for our most vulnerable students.
- Headteachers want to ensure that schools receive a much better deal when future Government spending plans - the Comprehensive Spending Review - are drawn up over the next few months.

- Headteachers want to indicate serious and rising concerns relating to the wider pastoral and social care that schools are expected, by default, to provide against a background of severe cuts to Local Authority provision.

Headteachers and colleagues, feel fortunate that we have been so strongly supported by parents and carers as we campaign for a much improved level of funding for our schools and pupils. We urge you to continue to make representations to your local MP and to the Department for Education and wider Government to ensure that matters improve.

We will continue to inform you of the facts and to campaign vigorously over coming weeks and months. A positive starting point should come from the Secretary of State for Education in the form of an urgent meeting.

Yours sincerely  
DAPH