

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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*A Church of England School
providing a Values Based Education*

11th November, 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

In our month of COURAGE, it is rather timely to be writing on the 11th day of the 11th month. This is the time of year when we remember those who have died for their country in war; those who have given their lives for freedom, justice and the hope of peace. This year, Miss Warren and the Art Department (students and staff) have created two touching Art installations – one is a collage of soldiers associated with Holywell families ... giving us a real connection and image of who we are remembering and praying for:



Copies of this collage were attached to the tribute wreaths which were laid by Holywell students at the memorial services in Cranfield and Wootton. Both



Mrs Donnellan and I were very proud to see so many Holywell students (current and ex students) taking part in the two parades, not just as Holywell representatives but also representing the many different groups and clubs to which they belong – from Guides, Brownies, Scouts and Beavers, from the Boys' Brigade to the Army and RAF cadets and from the local football teams to local church groups. They were all very respectful and thoughtful.

The second Art installation was a memorial flame made up of a myriad of matches and it has been submitted as an entry in the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust's 75 Flames competition. Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2020 marks 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The theme for this year is 'Stand Together'. *"Don't be content in your life just to do no wrong, be prepared every day to try and do some good."* – a quote from Sir Nicholas Winton, who rescued 669 children from Nazi-occupied Europe. Hundreds of



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groups around the country are creating their own Memorial Flame marking 75 years since the end of the Holocaust. Each one will bring people together to remember individuals and situations during the Holocaust, and the Trust will select 75 to form a unique national exhibition in January 2020. We hope that we might be one of the 75!

Unfortunately, some members of our community have not followed Sir Nicholas Winton's advice and, recently, we have had a small number of unpleasant incidents – both physical and via social media. We would be grateful if parents would reinforce our peaceful problem-solving approach and, if students have a disagreement, please encourage them to be assertive (not passive or aggressive). We suggest that if they start to feel uncomfortable, they remove themselves from the situation and talk with an adult – either in school or at home *before* the situation becomes 'heated' and before some gets hurt. We would also advise parents to regularly check students' social media accounts – particularly where students have Instagram, TikTok or Snapchat. When unsupervised, students do not always consider their actions or their choice of words. This is also the case where students travel on buses – in spite of all the work we have done in school on road safety, students are still taking unnecessary risks such as not wearing seatbelts, moving seats while the bus is in motion and being unpleasant to each other on the bus. We expect the same high standards of all students when they are wearing their uniforms. If, as parents, you become aware of anything, please contact us directly and we will try to support and resolve any unpleasantness. All concerns should be addressed directly to school.

This week is also Anti-Bullying week and, echoing the words of Sir Nicholas Winton, the theme this year is all about having the courage to be the change we wish to see in the world. In assemblies, we posed this question: Who is responsible for making sure we care for others?



Be the change you want to see...

"How are you feeling?"

"Would you like to join in?"

"Are you OK?"

"I thought you did really well!"

"You can sit with me!"

Who is responsible for making sure these things are said?

"Did you have a nice break time?"

"Nice try!"

"Can I help you?"

By being kind and caring, by making sure that everyone is included, by making sure that everyone feels that they matter, we can build up everyone's resilience and positive peer group. It really is up to us to be the change and make our community (both online and face-to-face) a good place! We can also ensure that we are a bully-free school by living out our Christian values - Live life in all its fullness; If we fill our classrooms with learning

and love and if we fill our hearts with kindness and care, we will have an amazing community where everyone feels safe and secure. Fortunately, bullying incidents are rare at Holywell and, when they do emerge, we deal with them quickly and decisively. Sometimes, behaviour gets labelled as bullying ... and, although sometimes unkind, hurtful and distressing, we use a simple definition to help identify bullying:

Bullying
is behaviour which is:
intentional,
deliberately hurtful
and repeated over a period of time.

So, in this month of COURAGE, we are challenging students to make a small change to see a BIG difference. Change starts with a conversation. It starts with checking in. It starts with working together. Change starts here. Change starts now. Change starts with us.

To help students think about diversity and accepting everyone for their uniqueness and difference, we are encouraging students to take part in ODD SOCKS DAY on Tuesday! November 12 is Odd Socks Day when people are encouraged to wear a pair of odd socks to celebrate individuality and allow them to express themselves by showing how unique everyone is. ... "Odd Socks Day is such a simple awareness raiser and we really hope everyone will get on board."

We can also make a difference by supporting Children in Need on Friday.



This half term's Charity Mufti Day (on Friday) is a simple way to raise some money for this amazing charity that does so much work to support young people across the UK. The vision of the charity is that every child in the UK has a childhood which is:

- Safe
- Happy and Secure
- Allows them the chance to reach their potential

Children in Need use money raised to provide grants to projects in the UK which focus on children and young people who are disadvantaged. Children in Need is local to people in all corners of the UK and they support small and large organisations which empower children and extend their life choices. Children in Need are currently supporting 2,400 projects all across the UK. The projects they fund help children facing a range of disadvantages for example poverty and deprivation; children who have been the victims of abuse or neglect or disabled young people. So, please, find your inner Pudsey Bear and support a very worthy cause on Friday. Pudsey-related items are on sale in the library at lunchtimes.

We also need to say thank you to all the local residents and to our local Co-op store. This year, we put in a bid to be one of the Co-op community fund charities with a view to equipping our new sports hall so we can, in the future, hire it out for community use. We were fortunate to have been successful in our bid and we have been notified that we have received an amazing £2,418.46 thanks to Co-op members.



Thank you for your continued support and interest in Holywell – there will be further details of events coming up later in the term in a subsequent newsletter update ... watch out, in particular, for our Family Carol Service on Thursday, 19th December.

With all best wishes

Mr MG Simpson
Headteacher