



# Holywell News



Issue No: 153

April 2020

Headlines: From Mr Simpson

Welcome to a **rather unusual edition of our Holywell Newsletter**. I hope that you are all well and that you are coping with 'the new normal' ... which seems to be anything but normal! The newsletter is unusual in that, as usual, we are celebrating all the things which we have done during the half term, whilst having spent the last two weeks at home! Fortunately, we had a busy and exciting half-term so there is still a lot to share. It is also comforting to remind ourselves of all the things we have done and achieved as well as **counting our blessings at a time of great challenge and sadness**.



As I have mentioned in several update letters, our value of the month for March was '**Endurance**' – never giving up in the face of adversity ... it is probably a value which we will need to carry with us throughout the next few months! At some point, I'm sure we will all feel anxious or worried and this little graphic full of advice is well worth bearing in mind.

## MANAGING CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) ANXIETY



←

... and it really is a case of **managing anxiety and managing the situation**. We all deal with things in different ways, however, trying to maintain some routine and some semblance of normality is probably a helpful thing for all of us.

**Our value of the month for April is 'Forgiveness'**. Our original intent was to link this to Easter and to Jesus' sacrifice. A huge part of the Easter story for us as Christians is the forgiveness Jesus demonstrated to those who put him to death, but also the forgiveness offered to each of us in relationship with God as we

confess and repent of the wrong we have done. The concept of forgiveness can be an overwhelming one and is at times hard to accept. Either because we feel we are unworthy of forgiveness, or because someone has done something big enough that feels too hard to forgive.

In school, we come across situations all the time that require apologies and forgiveness... lies that have led to rumours going around school; arguments and fall outs between groups of friends; fights that not only cause physical but also emotional pain and a hundred other scenarios with which we are all familiar. Apologising and forgiving others is not often the first thing that comes to young people's minds, or even



ours at times if we are honest. The natural feeling often is to want to retaliate, to hurt someone else or to get defensive and close ourselves off from others. Part of our role in school is to help students in these situations to take a wider look; to consider all the factors and people involved and to try and see things from other's points of view. We cannot make someone else meaningfully apologise or forgive those who have hurt them or they have been hurt by; but we can talk them through the process and inspire them with what forgiveness can mean, or what genuinely apologising can mean for someone else. Our recent work on restorative practices is rooted in trying to recognise and help our young people to see things from the other person's perspective. In Colossians, it says: **"Bear with each other and forgive one another"**; I am sure that over the coming weeks, we will need to bear with each other – either with families working and living closely together at home or with friends and colleagues, teachers and employers communicating from a distance ... we will need to forgive each other when we have disagreements or misunderstandings. We hope that this virus doesn't impact on our community, however, the increasingly challenging statistics suggest that somewhere in the future, someone close to us will be affected – we need to appreciate each other while we can and we need to 'stay at home' to limit the spread of this pandemic.

In the meantime, we can take comfort in each other, in books (have you read 'Wonder' yet?? Another lovely book to have a look at is 'The Boy at the Back of the Class'), in films, in walks, in games together ... and in a whole range of challenges set by teachers on 'Show My Homework. We will take a break from setting work over the Easter break, but we will return on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April with more challenges. There are some students who haven't taken up any of these challenges ... please make sure that students do some work during our enforced closure. At the end of the newsletter is a series of additional challenges for EVERYONE! See how many you can do ... and do send us pictures of anything you do at home. We are still hoping to do a Summer-term newsletter – this time celebrating the best of what you have been able to achieve at home.



Thanks to the great generosity of school staff, we will also continue to offer care placements for our 'critical key worker' families during the Easter break. Families eligible for this service have been contacted – if your circumstances change and you need emergency support, please let us know ... bearing in mind the overriding advice from the government to **'Stay at Home'**. We are also in the process of registering for Free School Meal vouchers. The government have now sent us details and we will be contacting families eligible for support to see how we can best help each particular family at this time. DfE have stated that vouchers are not available during holidays so this scheme will start after the Easter break.

Other highlights this half term which are mentioned later in the newsletter include:

- Year 7 Band (White-Eyed Peace) winning Bedford Band Factory Competition
- Sport Relief (as a school, we walked over 2,000km! and raised loads of money)
- Year 8 Residential visit to France
- Archdeacon Dave Middlebrook visited school as part of the Diocese Lent 2020 Project: God in this Place

... and, finally, as we move into Holy Week, may I take this opportunity to wish you all peace, health and happiness. It will be a strange Easter week, but take time to reflect on the Easter story – have a watch of 'Pilgrimage' on BBC2 and on i-player as seven celebrities tackle a modern-day pilgrimage which aims to promote tolerance for all faiths and cultures.

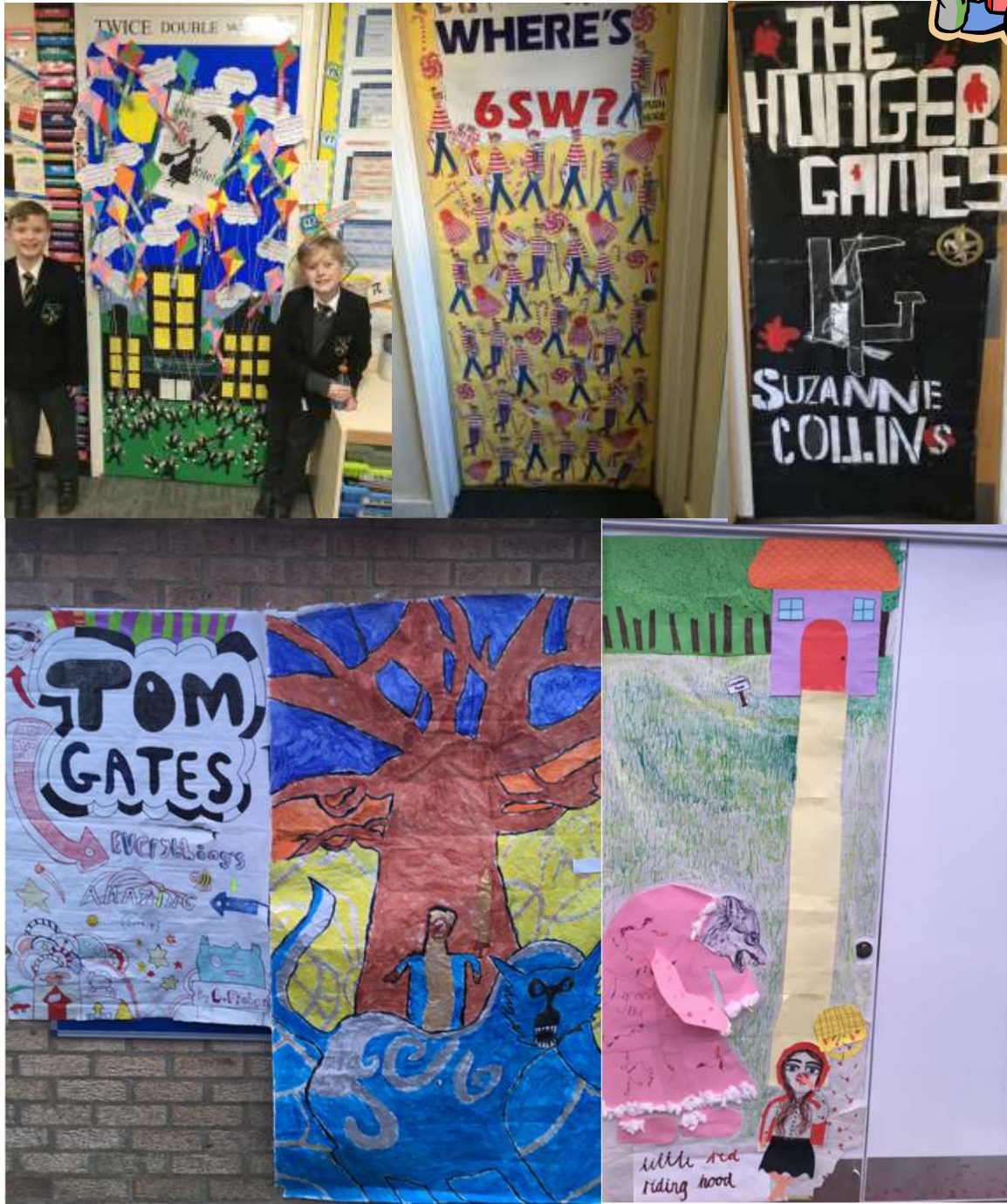
Best wishes  
Mr Simpson



# WORLD BOOK DAY

## World Book Day

Holywell had a fantastic World Book Day! Students and Staff shared their love of reading and were very creative with both costumes and the amazing Book-Door Challenge. The winners were 5TM, 6SW, 7CS and 8PB:



We started off the day with a 'Drop-Everything-And-Read' session and, after that, students were reading all day ... as well as doing all their usual lovely lessons.



Thank you for all the support in preparing costumes – a great effort by all!





## Postcards

Don't know if you want to mention that the children, that were in school, produced postcards for the elderly with some lovely pictures and messages. They were sent to a home for elderly suffering with dementia. We also send them to some staff member's family as well.

The children loved doing them and produced some lovely postcards!



## Home Tech survey and Passwords

This week on Show My Homework Mr Crapnell has been running a survey of the whole school to try to help us to better understand what technology students are using from home.

This survey was published as a quiz to each IT class on Thursday 26th March. The survey only takes a few minutes to do and so far 500 students have completed it. Thank you very much to those students and if you are one of the 182 who hasn't done it yet please could you do it as soon as possible. Well done year 7 - you are in the lead at the moment with 84% done!



One of the things we deal with all the time in school is forgotten passwords but this is more difficult if you are not in school. Many students are contacting their teachers through Show My Homework to have their passwords reset especially for Doodle Maths and My Maths. The most important thing to remember is that your login details for Show My Homework are exactly the same as the login you use to get on a computer in your IT lesson every week.

Mr Crapnell has also set up a dedicated website at [holywellit.com](http://holywellit.com) which explains what passwords you should have and how they work. This website also has a dedicated email address - [helpit@holywellschool.co.uk](mailto:helpit@holywellschool.co.uk) - where you can get help with passwords and other issues that affect your use of technology at home.

Finally many thanks to the parents who have messaged Mr C telling him about educational IT stuff that they have found on the web to keep student education going at this time. I'm going to put these suggestions on a page on [holywellit.com](http://holywellit.com) soon, so keep them coming.

Mr Crapnell  
ICT Subject Leader

## Birdwatch

The birdwatch group has really enjoyed using the binoculars funded by the PTFA in school this term. If you want to try something yourselves, why not have a breakfast birdwatch when you would usually be travelling to school. Mrs Saunders set this as a challenge to her Year 5 Maths group – you can all give it a go too!! Have a look at the

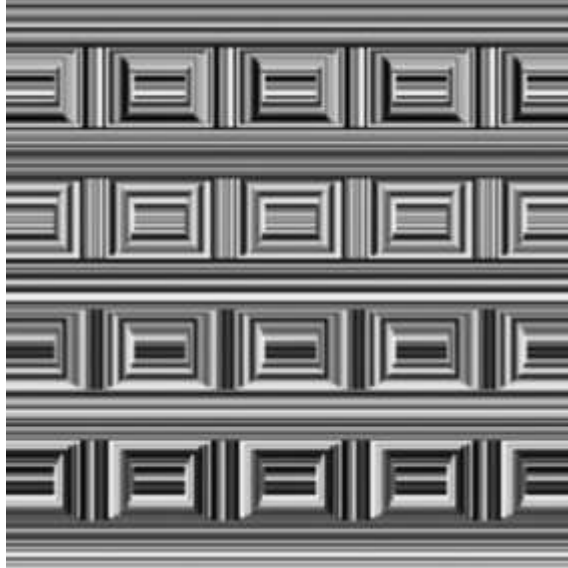
RSPB bird identification pages on the website (<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird/>) and the hawk and owl trust who have webcams on two peregrine falcon nests (Bath and Norwich cathedrals) at the moment (<https://hawkandowltrust.org/>).

Here's James - one our Year 5 watchers - doing his daily birdwatch through the window.



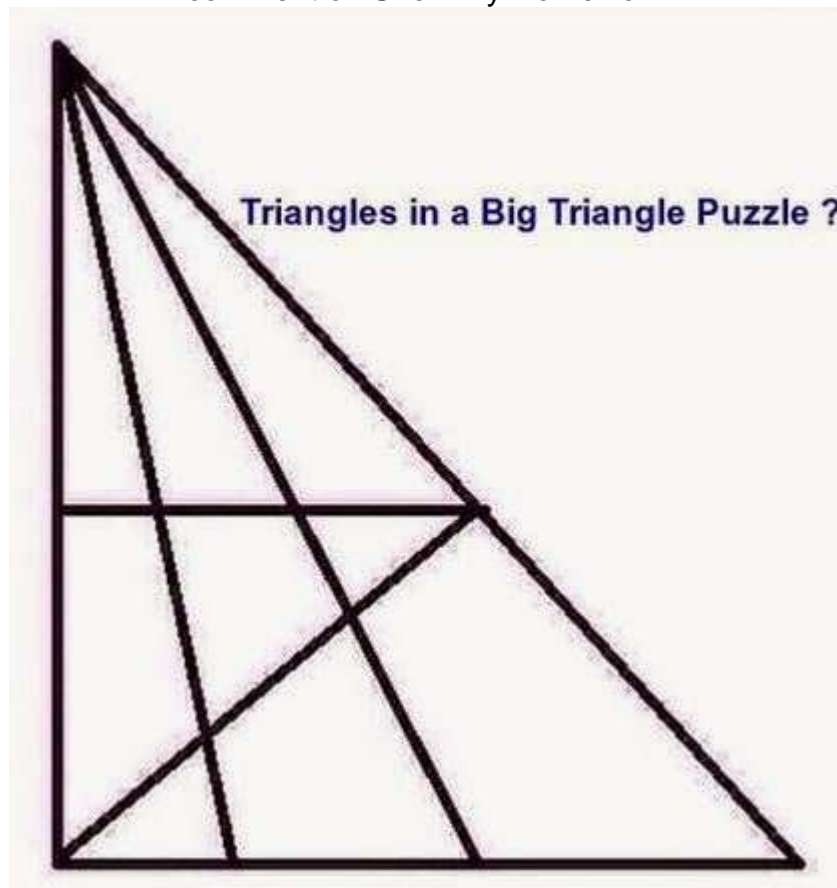
## Maths Challenge

For the last few months, Mr Jones has been challenging us all with a fiendish Maths challenge. Last months was all about circles in tiles ... How many circles do you see? If you can't see any, keep staring! For some of you they will pop immediately. Some never at all ... and, when you do see them, in total, there are 16.



**This month's challenge: How many triangles in a big triangle?**

Let your Maths teacher know how many you think are in the big triangle by writing a comment on Show My Homework.



## PE Department News

**Cross Country:** We went to Priory park for a cross county championship on a wet and windy day in February. We took a full team from years 5, 6, 7 and 8. It was a tough course that was made even harder due to the previous wet weather making the course very muddy. Everyone did extremely well and we had some great personal bests from the previous cross country event. A special mention to year 7 girls who finished 3rd overall. Well done to everyone! **Miss Dell**



### Sport Relief – 13 March 2020

Thank you for your support and fund-raising for Sport Relief on Friday 13 March. As a school we walked over 2,000 kilometres! It was lovely that so many parents joined us to walk and raise money too. Everyone had a great deal of fun whilst thinking seriously about helping others who are very much less fortunate than ourselves. If there is any outstanding sponsor money, pupils will still be able to bring it in on their return to school. Many thanks again.



### New member of the Holywell PE Team

Welcome to Rory! Just to let you know, Rory James McEwen was born at 11:50am on Friday 28th February weighing 7.4lbs.

### Holywell School Band win Beds Band Factory

“Overwhelming” and “amazing” were just two of the words used by members of a Holywell School group after they triumphed at The Beds Band Factory school music competition run by Central Bedfordshire Council’s Inspiring Music service. Creating and performing their own version of smash-hit song ‘Where is the Love’, the Year 7 pupils called themselves White-Eyed Peace, having been challenged to create a one-off band specifically for the competition. Held at Redborne Upper School, The Beds Band Factory is an annual event, also supported by the Music for Bedford Borough hub, to give schools a chance to promote popular music performance. Student Casey-Mae said: “It was different to performing in school. It was really special, especially competing against the Year 9 students. The crowd was really supportive, particularly when Dilan was doing his rap.” Dilan said: “It was really fun to do – when I did my fast rap section it felt really overwhelming. It was amazing that the audience were screaming in response to the lyrics that me and my brothers had written.”

After winning the competition, Hannah said: “It was unexpected. We never imagined we would win as the standard was so high. It was lovely that the judges appreciated all the hard work we’d put in.”

The Holywell students are now onto the next challenge; however, they all want to continue to do something outside of lessons. Dilan said: “We’re planning something but it’s confidential!” All of the schools who participated in The Beds Band Factory won a Cajon drum from Inspiring Music and Holywell and the two runners up also won a recording session. The recording sessions were sponsored by local web company TT Rockstars, who have been using Rock Music as the basis for supporting children in 14,000 schools worldwide in practising their times tables. Year 5 and Year 6 are currently signed up in a trial run ... we look forward to hearing their feedback.

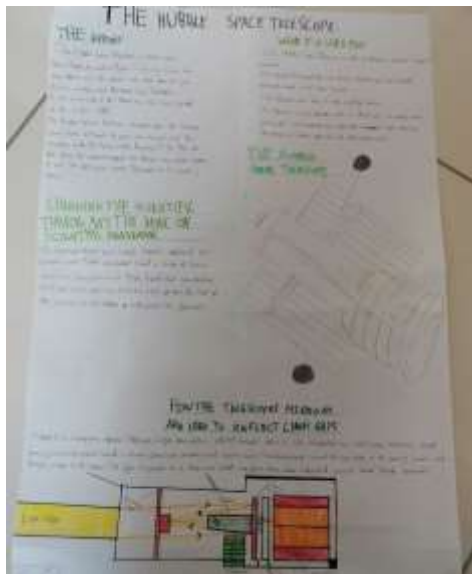




## Excellent work during lockdown!

Staff have been really impressed with some of the amazing work our students have done.

Mr Johnson has been really impressed with how well some students have done with online speaking and writing activities using Kerboodle. Special mentions go to Aarav Mehmi in Year 6, Jasmyn Mahi in Year 7 and Sara Mesa Vega in Year 8. Mrs Shirvington also shared some of the excellent vocabulary work from Year 5:



Romeo's Science work on the Hubble Space Station  
←

Skyla's artwork ->



One of the regular Year 6 students in school wrote this:

### My life at Holywell

My life at Holywell it is beautiful  
I love the teachers so much  
I love Holywell yes, I do  
They are my heroes, yes they are my life  
Oh my world is for them  
Thank you for your blood sweat and tears.  
I'm here for you as you are here for me.

# Science News

The Spring term has been a very busy time! Pupils have worked hard during their time with us and the majority have gone on to continue that hard work at home. Many thanks to those families who have chosen to send us examples of work. We have seen some fantastic pieces across all the year groups and we appreciate the support that parents and carers are giving during this tough time. It has been a real lift to us teachers to see the efforts made at home!

## Key Stage 2:

Year 5 have been learning about Earth and Space and most were due to complete the unit over the last fortnight. A special thanks to Mrs Donnellan for continuing our space theme with the tasks submitted on Show My Homework. You should have been learning all about the life of an astronaut, the effects of space travel on the human body, and what it would be like aboard the ISS.

The ISS travels at a speed of 17,500mph and at an altitude of approximately 250 miles, nevertheless it can be seen in our current, clear night skies. If interested, you can see local viewing times by following the link below:

[https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/view.cfm?country=United\\_Kingdom&region=England&city=Milton\\_Keynes#.XoYuG4i6PIU](https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/view.cfm?country=United_Kingdom&region=England&city=Milton_Keynes#.XoYuG4i6PIU)

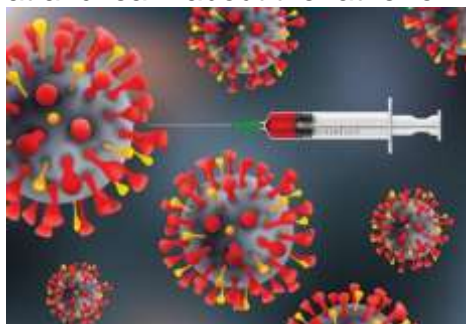
Year 6 have completed the unit on light and we have been busy marking some great examples of the gorilla enclosures that you have designed based on transparent, translucent and opaque materials. A challenge for you, year 6..... using your knowledge of Space (from Year 5) and light, can you explain how we are able to see the ISS when it does not emit its own light? Why can we not see it in the middle of the day? Why are there times when we can't see it at all?



## Key Stage 3:

In the last week of school, we had lots of very intelligent questions from you about the corona virus which showed you had a real interest in the issue and a healthy concern. We hope that the first of the tasks set on SMHW gave you the opportunity to learn a bit more about it and how to stay safe.

Other than social distancing, ways to beat the virus include achieving herd immunity or through an effective vaccine. The task you will be set after Easter will help you understand more about that and learn about the father of vaccines – Edward Jenner.





Thanks to all of the keen scientists that have turned up to our weekly lunchtime Science club. We have made balloon rockets, created electrical circuits using lemons, and made slime. To keep you busy in a similar way over the Easter break we have uploaded (on SMHW) optional Science experiments you can try from home. Please, do make sure that you check with an adult before you raid the cupboards though.... especially at a time like this! Photos of you doing your experiments would be most welcome, please do send them in.



## Year 8 French Trip

More than 70 students in Year 8 had the opportunity to visit The Opal Coast and The Somme in Northern France from 5th to 7th March.

This enriching opportunity gave students the chance to visit various First World War battlefields sites, museums and monuments, as well as exploring the local market, the old town, a bakery and a sweet factory in and around Boulogne. The highlight for most people was probably the pancake-making show, though!



The French department is hoping to organise a similar trip for the spring or summer term in 2021.

Photos can be found on the school website under News and Events > Photo Gallery > France.

**Mr Johnson**



# THE HOLYWELL WHOLE SCHOOL HOME CHALLENGE!



To Students, Parents, Carers and Staff of Holywell! During the time that school is closed, you are challenged to complete a selection of random challenges. Some will be easier than others, some will need you to be extra creative, some will take you out of your comfort zone (or lazy zone) and some you'd never think to do were it not for this challenge!

Take care, be kind and look after each other!

## Guidelines and Rules:

- You **MUST** provide some sort of evidence to prove you have completed each task.
- Before completing each task, you will need to get permission from a parent/carer.
- You can work together with people at home to help you complete the challenge but **YOU** must be involved in each task.
- For each task, you will need to demonstrate a 'Take Care' approach ensuring you are respectful towards other people.
- This challenge is solely based on having **FUN** and looking after your **WELLBEING**!
- You can get an adult to send us pictures of some of the things you are doing from the challenge – [school@holywellschool.co.uk](mailto:school@holywellschool.co.uk).

## Top Tips

- Plan out when you are going to complete each task.
- Think about what resources you could use before you start a task.
- Talk to your friends/family for advice/ideas.

***When we're back at school, your achievements will be awarded with Housepoints.***

**There will be 3 levels you can achieve:**

Bronze (10 Housepoints: Completing 20- 35 challenges)

Silver (20 Housepoints: Completing 35 – 45 challenges)

Gold (30 Housepoints: Completing 45 – 50 challenges)

**For each challenge, you need to either have a picture or some evidence that you have completed it. You could create a folder or file (on your computer or ring binder for example) to put your evidence in. You could add pictures to the end of this document.**

Thank you to Mrs Purcell and Year 7 students from Arnold Academy for sharing the idea ... we have added in some Holywell challenges too!



<b>Task</b>	<b>Notes/Evidence</b>
1. Read a book in the most unusual place you can think of	
2. Write your own rap/song	
3. Build the highest tower you can out of household items	
4. Create an obstacle course in your garden	
5. Build a den that can fit at least two people in	
6. Make something out of toilet roll cardboard tubes (no limit to how many you use or what you make!)	
7. Create a video message which can be shared with family/friends/teachers	
8. Have an indoor treasure hunt	
9. Learn or choreograph a dance routine	
10. Make an indoor restaurant and serve your family	
11. Tidy your bedroom without being asked to by a parent (parents signatures required to confirm!)	
12. Give five compliments to people throughout the day	
13. Have an upside-down meals day (breakfast for lunch etc)	
14. Have a game of noughts and crosses	
15. Spend the whole day in your pyjamas	
16. Sketch something in your house/garden	
17. Tell a joke to make people laugh	
18. Design your own indoor sports game	
19. Use the resources in your house to make a musical instrument	
20. Host a talent show with the people at home	
21. Create your own science experiment using the things you have at home	
22. Design your own paper aeroplane	
23. Listen to a whole story (for free) via Audible Stories <a href="https://stories.audible.com/start-listen">https://stories.audible.com/start-listen</a>	
24. Wear your best clothes for the day	
25. Create a music playlist (spotify, youtube, on paper etc)	

<b>26.</b>	Wear sunglasses inside for the day	
<b>27.</b>	Do 10 pushups, 10 situps, 10 burpies, 1min plank and 1 min run on the spot or round the room.	
<b>28.</b>	Create a photo journal of 1 week during your time at home while school is closed.	
<b>29.</b>	Bake a cake	
<b>30.</b>	Draw a really good picture, colour it in and give it to someone	
<b>31.</b>	See how long you can hold a handstand	
<b>32.</b>	Have a relaxing shower or bubble bath	
<b>33.</b>	Organise your bedroom	
<b>34.</b>	Make water your only choice of drink for the day	
<b>35.</b>	Write down 10 things you love about yourself	
<b>36.</b>	Do a jigsaw puzzle (there are always apps you can use)	
<b>37.</b>	Open your window and listen... what can you hear outside?	
<b>38.</b>	Watch the sunrise	
<b>39.</b>	Go a day without complaining!	
<b>40.</b>	Birdwatch	
<b>41.</b>	Watch the sunset	
<b>42.</b>	Go to bed without your phone at least once a week	
<b>43.</b>	Contact a friend and write a poem together	
<b>44.</b>	Try a food you have never tried before.	
<b>45.</b>	Don't use your hands for two hours.	
<b>46.</b>	Illustrate your favourite value.	
<b>47.</b>	Make breakfast in bed for someone (everyone) at home	
<b>48.</b>	Make a collage (about you, your favourite something, your time at home...)	
<b>49.</b>	Have a movie night at home and write a review	
<b>50.</b>	Look in the mirror and tell yourself you're doing good	



## **FORGIVENESS- Let it go!**

Forgiveness is a beautiful and powerful act  
that frees us from hanging on to old and new hurt.

At the moment our homes are so small  
that forgiveness becomes even more important.

Our Holywell School prayer written by our students, asks Jesus to:

**“Help us to find peace when we are angry,  
Compassion to forgive when we are wronged  
And courage to try again when we fail.”**



It asks the Holy spirit to:

**“Guide us in our darkest moments  
and lead us towards your light”**

