

# HOLYWELL SCHOOL

Red Lion Close, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0JA

Tel: 01234 750381

Email: [school@holywellschool.co.uk](mailto:school@holywellschool.co.uk)

Website: [www.holywellschool.co.uk](http://www.holywellschool.co.uk)



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
DIOCESE OF  
ST ALBANS



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

Update Letter 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I hope that you are all well at the end of the most bizarre Easter break ever! We can all congratulate ourselves on getting through two weeks of School Closure and 2 weeks of School holiday under 'lockdown'.

It's interesting to reflect on how we've all adapted to this new 'normal' and how some things are now just part of our weekly routine – everything from Joe Wicks' workout at 9.00 every morning, to a Thursday evening clapping on the doorstep for the amazing NHS (and other key workers); from solo trips to the supermarket where routes and distances are marked out on the floor to new terms such as 'social distancing', 'self-isolation', 'lockdown', 'PPE' and 'WFH' [working from home]. We have certainly seen the best of humanity in these last four weeks with individuals, families, neighbours all rallying round to help each other and to take care of each other. We've all been watching the progress of Captain Tom Moore's Birthday Walk for the NHS. The 99-year old veteran, who lives in Marston Moretaine, has, at the time of writing, raised over £18 million with his personal challenge to walk 100 lengths of his garden before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 30<sup>th</sup> April (you can still donate on his Just Giving page). This positivity and spirit are a real inspiration and one to share and support in our community.

## Holywell remains CLOSED

On Thursday, the Government announced that 'lockdown' would continue for at least the next three weeks. School remains closed to the majority of students until further notice. The DfE have a useful page for parents and carers with Frequently Asked Questions and some links to resources for both work and wellbeing. This is regularly updated: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>. We will continue to follow the DfE guidance and remain closed for the majority of students.

## Support with work during school closure

From next week, we will recommence our provision of work for students using our online programme – Show My Homework. Please note that all work set is suggested work. Feel free to complete the work as it is set, to adapt the work or even ignore the work altogether! Students will not be behind if they miss anything out – we will do our best to 'catch everyone up' when we're back at school. If you need more work, feel free to ask through the Show My Homework App. You can also message through the App if you need anything ... or, indeed, if you just want to catch up! We shall constantly reinforce this message as we set work. We had initially tried to stick as closely as possible to the normal curriculum, however, we have become increasingly aware that this may not always be possible. We are also trying to be mindful of the limitations you may have at home. We know that even the most resourceful of you (including some of our own staff) are finding it a challenge. We have asked staff to be creative, to set self-contained, fun, interesting challenges that practise skills but don't necessarily demand new knowledge. If you have anything to share with us, do drop us an email with a photograph via the school email – [school@holywellschool.co.uk](mailto:school@holywellschool.co.uk). If you are having issues with IT, Mr Crapnell has set up a dedicated website at [holywellit.com](http://holywellit.com) which explains what passwords are needed 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 the use of technology at home. Thank you to everyone who completed the IT survey.

That was really helpful.



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs H Donnellan

Acting Assistant Headteacher / DSL: Mrs J Davies

Operated by Holywell Church of England Academy, Registered in England, Company Number 08224216

If you do not have access to IT, core work packs have been printed and collated by Mrs Donnellan and have been posted out (if you live in Cranfield, these can be collected from school from Monday morning).

### Catch-up phone calls from tutors

Over the next week, we are aiming to make contact with families by phone just to 'check-in' and to catch-up with everyone. It will be mainly tutors who contact you – some tutors are unavailable due to some having to self-isolate, but we have allocated someone to each tutor group to give you a contact call.

### Free School Meals Voucher Scheme Update

For parents eligible for Free School Meals, please bear with us as we navigate the voucher system from the government and the company co-ordinating this: EdenRed. It is quite a complex system which has had a huge number of applications to process. Miss Watson has done a brilliant job setting this up for us but it has taken a while for EdenRed to activate the vouchers. They are all now being processed. Those of you who have opted for online vouchers will be sent an activation code and, from there, you can order your vouchers for the supermarket of your choice. For those families who have opted to have vouchers sent to them, these are being processed and will be sent out as soon as they are released to us.

### School Trips

With regard to school trips – we are still waiting for the refund from Halsbury Travel for the Ski Trip. As soon as this is received in school, we will pass on the refund to parents. The Finance Team is in regular contact with the company. We have also had a couple of enquiries about the Year 6 residential to Osmington. We are anticipating that this trip will be cancelled, however, it has not yet been 'officially' cancelled by PGL - the travel company through whom the trip is booked. This is the statement from PGL: *"We are monitoring government announcements closely and for travel after 01 June 2020, currently unaffected by current restrictions, we will be in contact should the situation change and your booking be affected."* If PGL cancel the trip, then there will be a full refund. We will keep the situation under review and will let you know as soon as we have some definite information.

### In-school support for children of key-worker families

We will continue our support for children of key-worker families from Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April. Although Monday was calendared as an INSED Day for staff, school will be open for critical key-worker children (staff are doing their INSED remotely!). Thank you to families who have let us know their needs – we just needed to know numbers so that we could organise the appropriate number of teachers/staff. We are very happy to support any key-worker family, so if this becomes a need over the next few weeks, please give us a call and we will do whatever we can to support. We will have some catering on site over the next few weeks, but students will need snacks/drinks with them.

### 50 challenges

... and just to finish with, it's been lovely to hear that some of you have tried some of the challenges listed in the school newsletter. Some of the children in school tried some ... we had great fun with extreme reading in strange places and students had great fun creating their own obstacle courses →



My favourite so far has to be this creative noughts and crosses game from Isobel and Olivia ... I hope the dog didn't eat the orange!

←

### ... and finally

Thank you for all you're doing! It is a challenge and it will continue to be a challenge ... so, let's all adopt Captain Tom's positivity, let's be creative and let's beat this virus together. Stay at home and stay safe.

With all best wishes, thoughts and prayers  
Mr Simpson

