

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

Red Lion Close, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0JA

Tel: 01234 750381

Email: school@holywellschool.co.uk

Website: www.holywellschool.co.uk



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS



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

18th May, 2020

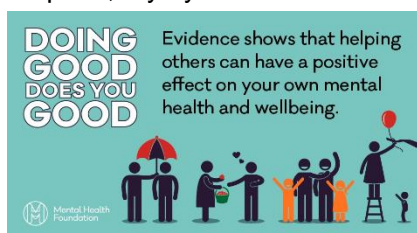
Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As we start the last week of the strangest, most challenging half-term I think all of us have ever experienced, I have to thank you and all the wonderful staff at Holywell for the terrific way we have all adapted to these unusual circumstances. We have all learned new skills, found new solutions to never-before-imagined issues and developed a new-found respect for all the simple things in life: family, friends, health, communication ... and cake! Many new words and terms have entered our vocabulary, such as: social distancing; the 'r' rate; Zoom; self-isolation; flatten the curve; super-spreader; and the cause of all of this: Coronavirus (Covid-19). For every person whose life has been tested by this virus and whose world has been turned upside-down, we say a prayer and stand with you in sympathy and strength. Please do not suffer in silence; reach out, call someone and make contact with someone at school – we may be at a distance, but we can (and will) help. For all those tempted to relax the rules now we have started to move to the next phase of guidance – a phase of recovery where we need to: 'Stay alert – Control the Virus – Save Lives', I would ask everyone to be patient and to remember the risk: the virus has not gone away; it can still be transmitted; keep socially-distant and stay alert. If you want to have a



look at some of the facts as a family, I can recommend a short interview with Jonathan Ball, professor of virology at the University of Nottingham. He answers science questions sent in by children, that we've all probably been wondering about too: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/health-52406475/coronavirus-when-will-pandemic-end-and-other-questions-from-kids>. Stay strong and be patient. If anyone has good examples of being patient (jigsaws, seeds, crystals as suggested a few weeks ago). Critical worker students are waiting patiently for their caterpillars to turn into Painted Lady butterflies. They are in Rm 17 and being checked upon daily!

This next week (18-25 May) is **Mental Health Awareness Week** and the theme is '**Kindness**'. Mark Rowland, Chief Executive of the Mental Health Foundation gives this following anecdote: "Last week, I waited in a socially distanced queue outside the supermarket as the rain started to fall. One of the staff noticed we were getting wet. He scurried away to find a pile of umbrellas, carefully disinfected the handles and passed them out with a smile. To my surprise, my eyes started to well up. At a time when I felt alone, I suddenly felt connected."



I'm sure we have all been touched by amazing acts of kindness and it does make you feel connected. However, there have also been some very lonely times and times when we have all felt isolated and powerless to do anything. We need to use our networks and connections at such times and make sure that we stay resilient and determined. Research shows that protecting our mental health is going to be central to us coping with and recovering from the coronavirus pandemic - with the psychological and social impacts

likely to outlast the physical symptoms of the virus. Have a look at the campaign from the Mental Health Foundation: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week> - especially at the section on why kindness was chosen. Think about what you can do to show kindness ... and this may well be something as simple as agreeing who has the laptop at any one time! We can all get a little tense when we're together for a long time and by 'giving a little' or agreeing some parameters for those 'pinch points' everyone can breathe and 'chill' Thinking things through from each other's perspective, is also a great way to show kindness – be the first to 'give way'.



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



National 'Thank a Teacher' Day – 20-05-20

The National 'Thank a Teacher Day' is being sponsored by the DfE and their message is that this 'is a day when we can come together to say Thank You to teachers across the country who make a huge difference to young people's lives - not just now during these unprecedented times - but every day!' There are lots of ideas for how you might say 'thank you' on the 'Thank a Teacher Day' website:

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher-day/>. Is there a teacher at Holywell who has really helped you since school has been closed? You could just send a little message via 'Satchel One: Show My Homework' or you could send a virtual 'thank you' card: <https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/>. ... I'm starting off by thanking ALL the staff for all their hard work over the last few weeks. We have achieved some extraordinary things.

SPOTLIGHT ON ENGLISH

Just after the last newsletter, Mr Brown sent some lovely English work to be included ... which started a flurry of emails from other members of the English team sharing some of the amazing work students have done at home. Many are too long to share in their entirety, however, here is just a sample of some of the work done. We start with Tilly's brilliant poem about Mysterious Doors:

Mysterious Doors

Doors are wonderful things,
They hide surprises on the other side,
They keep unwanted things out.

Doors are terrible things,
They segregate and isolate,
They keep things locked up for infinity.

Doors have hidden wonders,
Sunny places where you can play,
Towering trees that you can climb.

Doors are sometimes locked up for a reason,
Dark places that turn into your worst nightmares,
Fields of dead plants and trees.

Doors are wonderful things,
They hide surprises on the other side,
They keep unwanted things out.

Doors are terrible things,
They segregate and isolate,
They keep things locked up for infinity.
Doors are mysteries,
You never know what's on the other side,
You never know if you want to go.

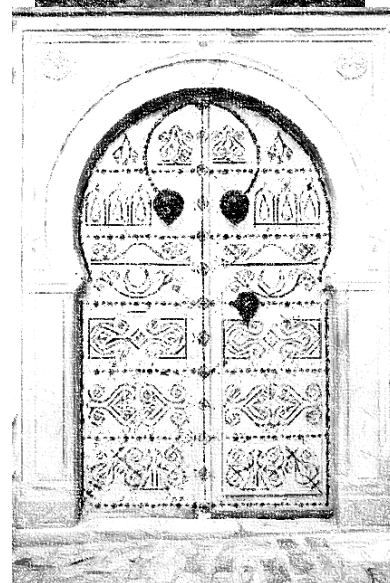
Doors are traps,
They lock you in and never let you out,
They lock away people you love.

Doors are power,
They let people in,
They keep you safe.

Doors are hate,
They slam with no reason,
They hide love.

Doors are mysteries,
You never know what's on the other side,
You never know if you want to go.

Doors are traps,
They lock you in and never let you out,
They lock away people you love.



By Tilly H

Here's an extract from Harrison's football magazine – it contains an interview with an MK Dons player – Callum Brittain – who was also a student at Holywell. Harrison sent the questions, Callum videoed his answers and sent them back to Harrison



Interview with Callum Brittain MK Dons, fullback/midfielder

1. What is your favourite position?
Probably right back, definitely right back
2. Who is your footballing idol?
Steven Gerrard, he was Liverpool's captain who I support
3. What would be your dream move?
Liverpool, especially with all they have won at the moment
4. What do you want to do after football?
Something to do with football, sports... analyst or sports coach.
5. How many hours do you train per week?
1.5 - 2 hours on the pitch, back to the stadium for lunch, then 1 hour in the gym
6. What score do you get on the beep test?
I have not done a beep test in years, but my best 5 km time is 18.64 mins
7. What was your favourite subject at school?
Best and worst? 8

Favourite was PE, loved all the different sports. Worst subject was definitely History, I didn't pay enough attention.

8. What would you have done if you didn't become a footballer? Did you have a back-up plan?
Answer to question, it was all football at the time for back up plan. I really enjoyed graphic design, so probably that.
9. How do you get over a set back? Being injured or losing?
I focus getting back on the pitch, I'm sloppy and maybe that I get back from game and order a Domino's and watch a film.
10. What advice would you give to children wanting to become a footballer?
Work hard if you listen at school that helps and listen to advice.
11. If you were 10 what would you go back and tell your self?
Go question plan more on at school and work hard and enjoy your friends.

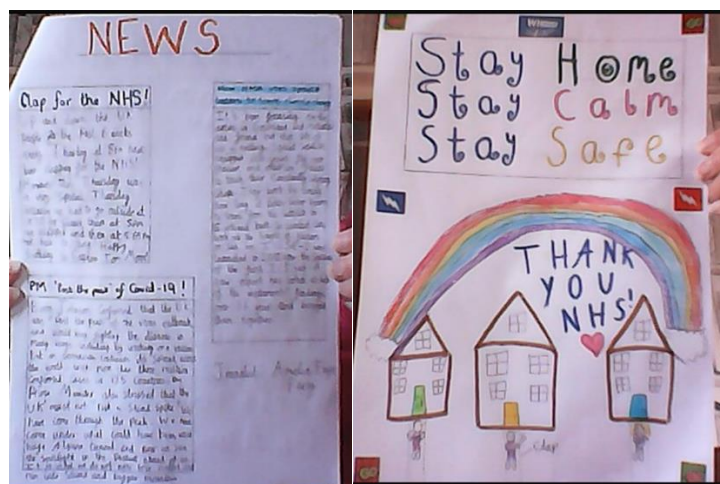


Year 6 were set a very challenging piece of work by Mrs Bassett all about Dalí's famous surrealist painting 'Swans reflecting elephants'. Here is Xavier's description and analysis:

"For someone who has not seen this painting I would describe it as: A painting which is set around a cove of water - the colour of sapphires, clear as crystal - with amber coloured mountains either side. Dead trees, dark, brittle, and twisted, make the painting look futuristic and lifeless. However, amongst all this darkness there is a trio of swans, three strong elephants, beautiful butterflies, and slithering snakes. A silent, smartly dressed man stands alone wearing a white shirt and brown trousers. He has his back to the

creatures appearing to be thinking." Xavier went on to say: "The image suggests to me that the more you look, the more you see and it's also about animals coming together. I think the message the painting is sending to the viewer is that we should take time to look around our surroundings, as things are not always what they first appear." [Wise words Xavier ... that's certainly a challenge for us for this next week!]

Mr Brown was also impressed with Amelia-Faye's newspaper:



and Teagan's Cheer-leading magazine:

What is Cheer?

Cheerleading is a team-based sport that involves stunting, pyramids, baskets, tumbling, jumps and dance. It was initially started in the USA, and now it's the fastest growing sport in the UK. Why? Because it's fun!

To perform in a cheerleading routine you need to be able to throw someone in the air then immediately do your gymnastics tumble pass. You need to have variety of skills to complete a routine - and this variety means the sport is always exciting!

Competitive cheerleading is a very athletic sport, that does not involve pom-poms (like sideline cheer). It involves competing a high-energy two and a half minute routine at competitions across the country and abroad!

Teams compete against other cheer teams and a panel of judges who score the routine.

Interview with Paige Hotter

I interviewed Paige Hotter who is one of the Coaches and Directors at Milton Keynes Cheerleading Academy.

Q1: What is it like being a coach?

A: Being a coach is the best job in the world. You get to teach fantastic athletes and really push them to be the best. They can be. Not every session is an easy practice, but we take the good with the bad and stick together.

Q2: What is your favourite part of cheer?

A: My favourite part of cheer is the teamwork. I love that everyone works together towards a common goal and seeing it all come to life in a performance, show or competition is just incredible. I also do choreography for other teams, so getting to travel around the country with them is really great too.

Q3: How long have you been a coach?

A: I have been a coach for 13 years.

Q4: What is your favourite moment with MKCA?

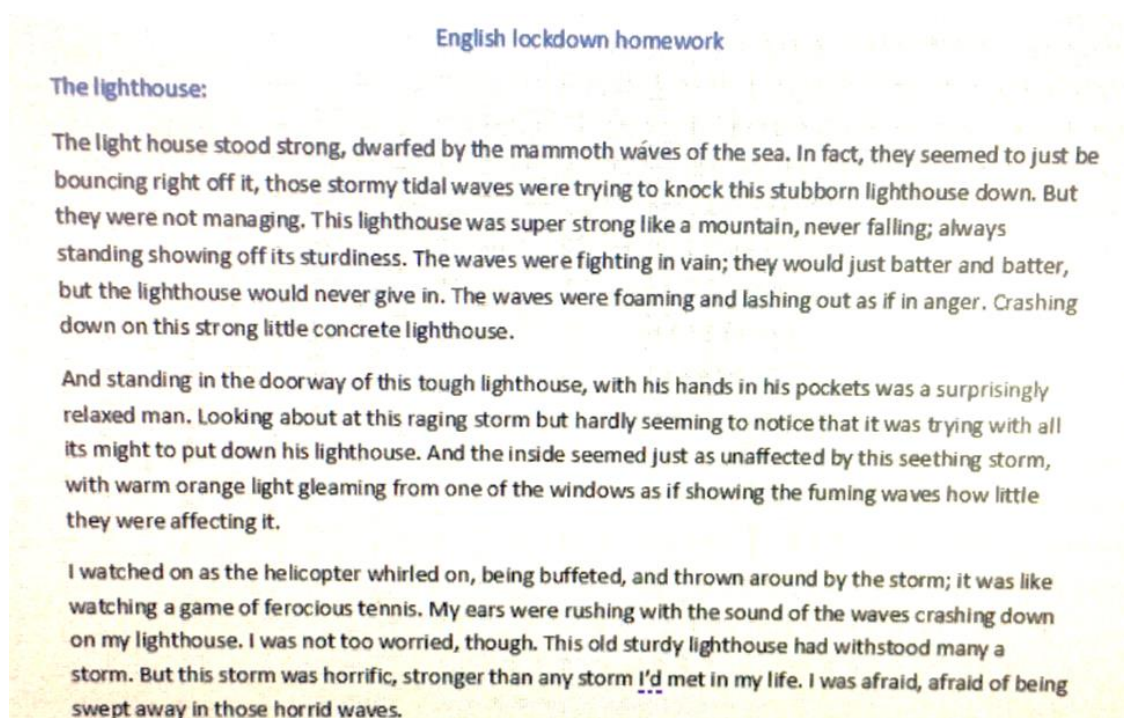
A: Getting our own gym has definitely been my favourite moment. After years of searching and trying to find somewhere it was so lovely to finally have a home. Every time I walk through the gym doors I remember how lucky we are to be able to train in great facility with so much equipment. Not haven to roll the mats out every day is also a big bonus!

Q5: What was your favourite competition?

A: My favourite moment has to be BCA 2004 as that is where I fell in love with cheerleading. It was my first time ever competing and I loved every minute. The uniforms, the bright lights, the atmosphere... it was electrifying.

4

This is Idris' description of 'The Lighthouse':



This was Eloise's great film review of 'School of Rock' ... a good half-term film for all the family according to Eloise:

Film Review - School of Rock

Having Seen the brilliant stage version of 'School of Rock' in the West End a few years ago, I was eager to watch the film version from 2003, and I think that overall it was thoroughly entertaining.

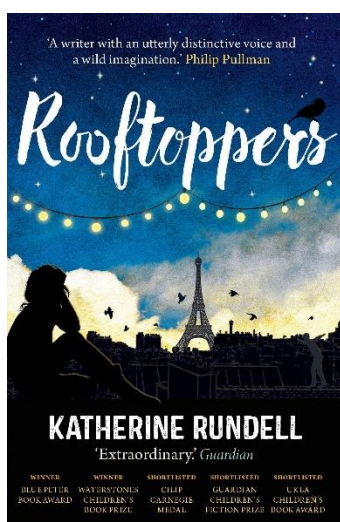
The stage version and film both follow the same story: Rock loving Dewey Finn is desperate for money so when a private school is in need of a supply teacher he pretends to be his house mate, grabs the chance for himself and eventually persuades the children to participate in the Battle of the Bands. It's a fun, engaging storyline that's easy to follow, but with one unbelievable pole: the fact that his teaching qualifications were never checked, even following some very strange behaviour witnessed by Joan Cusack's Principal Rosalie 'Roz' Mulins.

This is a high energy film that keeps the viewers interested from start to finish thanks mainly to Jack Black's performance as Dewey Finn. Although at first I found his over the top facial expressions and gestures highly irritating, as the film developed he became more likeable, especially when he dropped his selfish ways and became a teacher who motivated and encouraged his class to achieve their wildest dreams.

Richard Linklater's film direction allowed you to really engage and get to know all the main characters, particularly the talented children. (Robert T. Soy as Lawrence was especially enjoyable to watch as he transformed from a shy hesitant boy to 'Mr Cool' the confident keyboard player.) This wasn't so much the case with the stage version, however the ^{film's} musical performances could

not compete with the live atmosphere of the stage production where the children's musical abilities really blew me away and the atmosphere was full of energy.

The film is packed with numerous hilarious moments which would make the grumpiest of people smile. It's perfect viewing for lockdown as you can escape to a world of music, silliness and laughter. I would highly recommend it to all ages.



Remember to keep reading too. Some students are working their way through the 100 book challenge. I'm half-way through 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell which was also recommended by Eloise

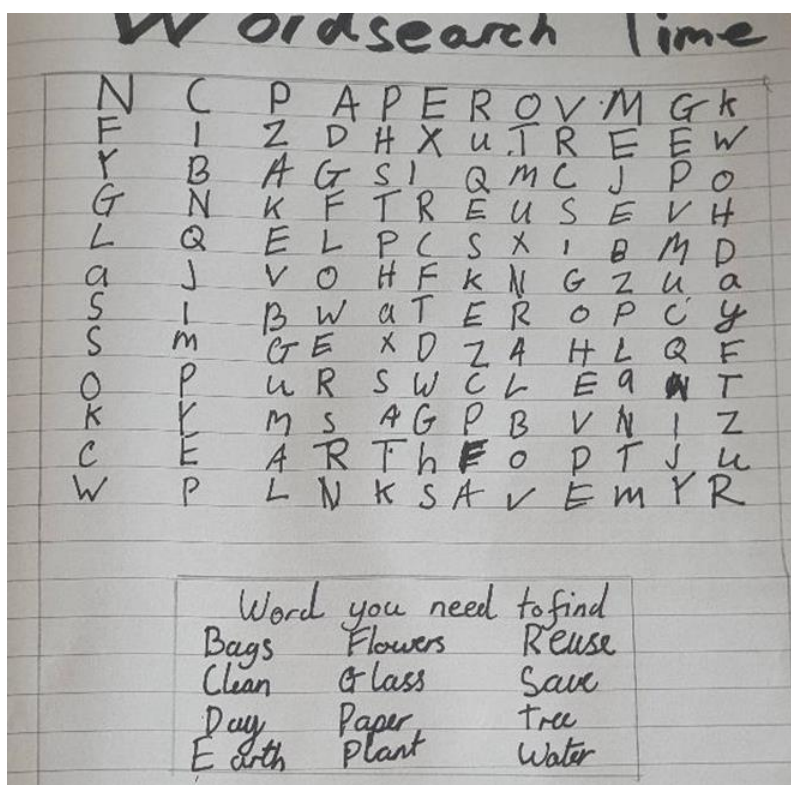
... and if you're bored and want a wordsearch to do, try Erika's:

We have had some brilliant English work – keep sending it in and we'll continue to challenge you. We'll have a focus on some different

subjects in the next few update letters.

It's also been lovely to hear of students doing other things at home – as well as all of the baking, students have been sewing, painting, researching World War 2, creating their own WWE wrestling arenas and 'day-in-the life' reports and one student has been making a soil flattener! One family has been learning British Sign Language together – the videos were brilliant. So, keep us updated and keep in touch.

If you haven't been in touch with school yet, please contact us urgently so we can make sure we have all the correct email addresses and phone numbers! (NB. We have sent individual letters to the very few families we haven't heard from and we will keep trying!)



Update on the wider opening of school

Thank you to Year 6 parents who have completed the Parental Survey. If you haven't done this yet, I'd be grateful for your response. If it didn't arrive via ParentMail, please let us know. As stated in Friday's update, we will be operating our critical worker provision *only* for the first week after half term – if you need to access this, please let us know. Details of further places (for Year 6) to follow.

... and finally, some wonderful news ... Miss Warren had her baby on Friday – a little girl called Maevan. - both mum and baby are doing well and we look forward to seeing some pictures soon!

Have a good week – best wishes

MG Simpson

Mr Simpson