

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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

Update Letter 22-05-2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I hope that you are all well ... we have made it to half-term!

Half-term arrangements

I have to say that the days have all blurred into one and half-term seems a bit of a strange concept now. Nevertheless, it is a time to pause and to take a break from home-school-work. Our home-school work will re-commence on the 1st June. If you want a family project over half-term, why not try one of the 'Patience' challenges mentioned by Mrs Donnellan in the Update Letter of the 1st May – challenges included: growing plants or salt crystals, completing jigsaws, baking (Mrs Selby's Spiced Apple Cake is at the end of the letter for you to try!), creating with LEGO (30-day challenges at the end of the letter). An interesting Art challenge is to re-create a famous piece of artwork – here are three examples:



Boticelli's Birth of Venus



Da Vinci's Last Supper



Magritte's Son of Man

You can either take the craft approach (like Ms Mollis) or (as I did) the DIY-photo approach! It was actually a great way to switch-off and it was a real challenge working out how to represent the original 'for real'. If you create something, email it to us at school@holywellschool.co.uk and label it 'Famous Artwork Challenge'.



In school, we are in the middle of a caterpillar watch! We have caterpillars that are patiently growing and moving into their cocoon phase. We are looking forward to seeing them transform into butterflies! Again, this is something you might want to try at home. For something very different, join Mr Crapnell and Mrs Vincent – they have been watching Ospreys through the Woodland Trust's 'Osprey-Cam':

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/osprey-cam/>

1st June and Wider Opening of School

As mentioned in last week's Update Letter, having conducted our risk assessment, we decided that it was NOT safe to open up the school further as per the Government's proposals and ambitions on the 1st June. Apart from the fact that we consider the risks are too great to have all of Year 6 on site, I did not want students, parents or staff to 'be on tenterhooks' waiting for Government confirmation on the 27th/28th May as to whether the five tests had been met. We will only have Critical Workers in school during the w/c 1st June.



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

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We have had a significant increase in requests for Critical Worker places for after half-term which will have an impact on our future plans and on our capacity to keep students safe on site. We will need to adapt our 'on site' provision to accommodate this increase.

We have surveyed Year 6 parents (thank you for the replies) and 67% of parents have said that they did not think school should extend places to Year 6. We have, nevertheless, proposed a model for Year 6 to come back for 2 days per week and 35% of parents surveyed were interested in taking this up. We will contact parents over half term to confirm interest in this model. Time-lines will depend on whether the 5 key tests from the Government are met at the start of June and whether we can staff and accommodate the model safely. We are working hard to put safety measures in place in line with Government and Union expectations – everything from ordering pedal bins to designing a whole new teaching plan and approach.

At the moment, we do not have any plans to open up places for Years 5, 7 or 8 beyond our critical-worker provision. There are no national proposals for Years 7 and 8 and it is not physically possible to accommodate Year 5 on site.

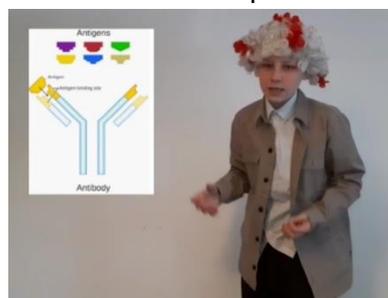
Assembly

Rachel Foster has released a lovely assembly to watch – this time on the theme of 'Made to be me': https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=mVdANv1v_DI

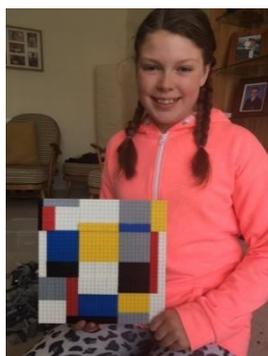


Home-school work and possible developments

We continue to be greatly impressed with the work students are doing at home. Madison did an amazing video for her Science project about what life would be like on the International Space Station – we were most impressed with the visual effects – how did she manage to make toothpaste float?!). James also produced a fantastic Science video in role as a wild scientist explaining how a vaccine works with brilliant visual effects.



Annabel has been very industrious and, as well as her amazing LEGO Mondrian artwork for Miss Milton, she took on a challenge to research and design a new £50 note:



Annabel's parents also recommended 'Century' – an online learning resource: <https://www.century.tech/> ... this was new resource to us, but also worth investigating.



Not to be outdone in school, Mrs Purves was successful in securing a special workshop sponsored by the BBC for an instrumentalist from the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra to do some virtual workshops with our critical worker students. They were treated some wonderful flute playing and a great challenge of working out which animal was being represented in musical extracts. Students also had an opportunity to ask questions of the flautist.

We have had a few enquiries about whether we are going to do 'live' lessons or whether we are going to use apps such as 'Zoom' to help students stay in touch. We have not used technology in this way in school before (and we have very limited resources). We are currently exploring possibilities and we will be experimenting with expanding our provision after half-term. We are looking to set up some Zoom tutor-group catch-ups and we are exploring everything from lecture-style, animated Powerpoints to YouTube assemblies and teacher challenges. As teachers, we're learning lots of new ways of working and trying to make sure we have everything in place to make things safe and efficient. In the meantime, we will continue our online provision through tasks set on 'Satchel One: Show My Homework'.

Communication App – WEDUC

Over the last term, we have been starting to use WEDUC – an App and online communication tool. From the 1st August, this will be our main communication tool with parents – we will discontinue using ParentMail. We will still be able to send email messages through WEDUC ... in fact WEDUC does everything ParentMail does ... and more! WEDUC provides many messaging features similar to other social media platforms such as instant messaging, newsfeeds, events calendar and a digital library. Many parents have already signed up for the service and, over the next week, we will be contacting parents who have not yet joined the service with enrolment details. We would be grateful if you could all sign up so that we can keep in touch with you more effectively ... and, hopefully, build up different ways of keeping in touch with what is going on in school.



School Travel Survey

'Sustrans' works with schools in Central Bedfordshire to help more pupils to walk, scoot or cycle to their school. They are a charity and are responsible for the annual 'BIG Pedal' event. A survey has been put together designed to help Sustrans and Central Bedfordshire Council understand the issues families face around the school journey and encourage more students to travel sustainably to school. They would be grateful if you could complete this simple online survey. It takes less than 5 minutes and the link is: <https://sustrans.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/cbc-schools-parent-survey>. There is a prize incentive for one lucky respondent who will win a £400 bicycle to suit their child!



Staff Update

We have two lovely additions to the Holywell community:



<- Maeven Warren-Rees was born last Friday. Miss Warren is well and loving being a mum already!

Thomas William Craffey was born on Wednesday.
->
Mrs Craffey is also really well and is looking forward to being able to share him with everyone at school.

We wish both mums and their new families lots of love and Holywell blessings.





...and finally ...

Thank you all for the lovely messages on Wednesday for 'Thank-a-teacher Day'. It was very humbling to read the kind words from both students and parents. I know that many staff members were very grateful for the individual messages and thanks received – they certainly cheered us all up during a difficult week. I am very blessed to have such wonderful colleagues at Holywell who support, care for and teach all of our students - all of us will always 'go the extra mile' to make sure everyone is able to be the best they can be.

I also want to say a HUGE thank you to YOU as parents and carers who have taken on this whole new role as home-learning teachers. You are all doing an amazing job too, often balancing your own work and commitments to make sure every child is learning. Keeping the children safe and healthy is the most important thing at the moment – please don't worry about anyone falling behind – we will catch everyone up. If you do have any worries or concerns – get in touch – talking through the challenges and sharing strategies will help – we can always talk with someone about anything – even if it feels awful or small.

Take care over 'half-term'

All best wishes

MG Simpson

Mr Simpson

Mrs Selby's Spiced Apple Cake

This is one of my favourite cake recipes. It's so easy to make and tastes delicious. Eat a slice cold with a cup of tea or serve hot with custard or ice-cream ☺

Ingredients

Serves: 16

- 500g apples, peeled and finely chopped
- 200g butter, softened
- 250g caster sugar
- 4 eggs
- 300g plain flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 100g chopped walnuts (opt)



Method

Prep:15min › Cook:1hr › Ready
in:1hr15min

1. Cream butter, sugar and eggs in a bowl until creamy. Mix together flour, cinnamon and baking powder. Add to batter. Fold in chopped walnuts and apples.
2. Preheat oven to 180 C / Gas 4. Pour batter into a greaseproof paper lined loaf tin or cake tin and bake for about 60 minutes.

LEGO 30 day challenges

30 Days of LEGO Play

Follow the instructions for each day. The only rule is to have fun and use your imagination!

Day 1		Day 2		Day 3		Day 4	
You were hired by an amusement park to create a new roller coaster.		NASA needs you to build a new rocket.		Your parents want to build a new home and they want you to build it.		Hollywood hires you to build a movie set for a new Star Wars movie.	
Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	
You enter a contest to build the world's tallest tower. Will you win?	You are stuck on Mars and need to build a new ship to get home.	Ford hires you to create the toughest pick up truck in the world.	You and 4 friends are stranded on an island. Build a boat to find a way home.	Captain Hook needs a new pirate ship and wants you to build it.	You and your friends decide to build a tree house.	Prince Charming hires you to build a castle for him & Cinderella.	
Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	Day 15	Day 16	Day 17	Day 18	
Dr. Who hires you to build a new TARDIS.	You are asked by the President to build a new monument to George Washington.	Mr. Hilton hires you to build a new hotel.	There is a circus in town. Build a place for the performance.	Help your fellow pioneers build a wagon to make it across the country.	Build the fastest car around and join the big car race.	Do you wanna build a snowman? Get in the winter mood and build a snow scene.	
Day 19	Day 20	Day 21	Day 22	Day 23	Day 24	Day 25	
The city wants you to build a bridge to connect one side of the town to the other.	Pizza party! It is up to you to make a pizza for all the guests.	You are hired to build a brand new hospital.	The fence is broke and the dog keeps escaping. Build one he can't get out of.	You are now in medieval times. You are commissioned to build a jousting arena.	The local bank keeps getting robbed. Build a safe no one can crack.	Design and build your dream bedroom.	
Day 26	Day 27	Day 28	Day 29	Day 30			What was your favorite day?
You are elected ruler. Build a flag for your land.	Aliens are invading and you need to build a war robot to defeat them.	The aliens have taken over. They are impressed by your robot. They want you build one for them.	You are hired to build a house entirely out of yellow Legos.	There is blizzard. You will need to build a snowmobile.			

30 Day LEGO Building Challenge

Build a Roller Coaster 1	Build A Town 2	BUILD A ROCKET SHIP 3	Build the world's tallest tower 4	Build An Airplane 5	BUILD THE PERFECT PIZZA 6
Build a ROBOT 7	Build a Boat That Floats 8	BUILD A CASTLE 9	Build a horse 10	BUILD A MAZE 11	Build a Picture Frame 12
Build A Train 13	Build A Venus Fly Trap 14	Build a Unicorn 15	Build a Pirate Ship 16	Build A Scene From Your Favorite Book 17	Build An Ice Cream Truck 18
BUILD A DOG HOUSE 19	Build A Flying Saucer 20	BUILD A SPORTS ARENA 21	Build A Water Park 22	Build A Shark 23	Build a Bridge 24
BUILD A TREE HOUSE 25	Build Your Name With Bricks 26	Build A Dragon 27	Build A Historical Scene 28	Build A Monster 29	Build an instrument 30