

# HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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## Update Letter 10-06-2020

Dear students, parents and carers



I hope that this letter finds you all well.

The pop-up thank-you card was made by Ollie and echoes the 'thank-you' I would like to say to all the staff who have worked so hard to make the changes to our in-school provision for Critical Workers such a success. We are looking forward to welcoming some Year 6 students next week ... and we are ever hopeful that we will see everyone soon.

If we do not see you face-to-face (socially distanced of course!), we hope we will see you virtually. This is all part of our continued, shared adventure into using technology to keep-in-touch and learn.

Mr Van Der Merwe has been working hard with our IT technician (Mr Morris) to set up facilities to extend our home-school learning provision. Here is his update:

*"As Holywell will not be opening up to Years, 5, 7 and 8 before the end of the Summer Term and, as only a limited number of Year 6 students and Critical Worker students will be in school, we are exploring different methods of enabling our school community to continue to meet together; albeit virtually and in different ways. To this end, we are exploring ways of moving our online learning forward.*



*We piloted our first "Zoom" tutor-group catch-up with 5TM on Wednesday. The catch-ups are designed to enable form tutors to spend some time virtually with their groups and allow students to get together with their class colleagues. 5TM said that the 'pilot' was a huge success. It was helpful for us to iron-out some key issues in terms of signing in and the logistics of co-ordinating a large number of participants. Ms Mollis was a natural in terms of hosting, Miss Fossey was a great co-host and Mr Ulph made sure that everyone was safe, able to be heard and able to be seen. You will receive a letter with instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting. We will aim to give you at least 2 days' notice before the meeting. Please keep an eye on your emails.*

*We will still be using Show My Homework as our main way of providing online lessons for students and staff are working extremely hard to provide creative and worthwhile lessons for all students. We are setting work which is freestanding and which students can complete at home. In addition to providing online lessons and work, staff are also now teaching students in school.*



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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In addition to the home-learning set so far, we have also created an online video hub where staff will publish assemblies, general information videos and even some virtual lessons. The main aim of the 'hub' is to provide content of a more general nature for you as a household to use and for the students to 'see' some of their teachers again. We will signpost/link students across to virtual lessons when they are created. The video hub will be an important 'add-on' to help our students with home learning and to keep us connected as a Holywell community. Making online video lessons is proving very time consuming and staff are having to learn new skills in terms of video recording and editing. We will do our best to create as many virtual lessons as we can, however, with the best will in the world, there are just not enough hours in the day to make regular videos for all subjects for all year groups.



The link to access the video site is: <https://sites.google.com/holywellschool.co.uk/holywell-school-videos/home> - you'll find our recent KS2 assembly, a new KS3 assembly from Miss Dell and Miss Norman and Mr Simpson's now infamous, induction video for students coming into school (not perfect, but a great try ... with an infuriatingly, catchy song at the end).

**Safeguarding:** As with all of our work, our main priority as always will be to adhere to safeguarding guidelines. The Zoom letter will set out our safeguarding regulations and actions to ensure everyone is safe during the Zoom call. The video hub is private and can only be accessed via the link. Please ensure never to give out the link or passwords to people outside of your class/group/school. The videos will only be of staff and, on the rare occasions that we might include students, permission / consent will be agreed beforehand.

Thank you for helping us navigate the new challenges to keep connected with each other.

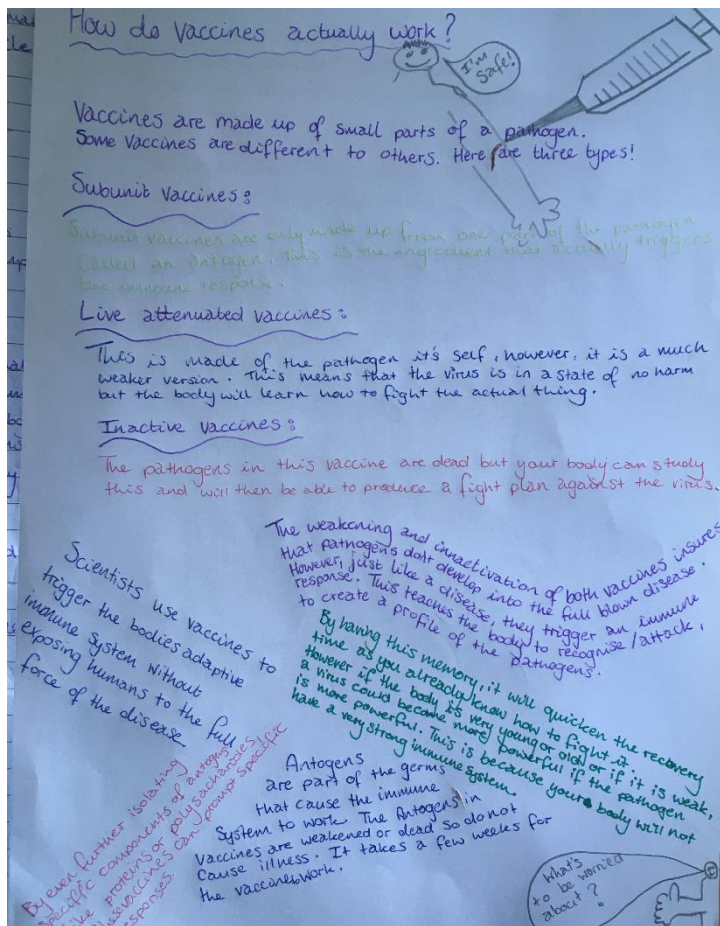
### **General expectations about home-learning**

In general, we've had some excellent feedback about the work set so far. We have tried to take a measured and reasonable approach to the work we have been setting. No one expects parents/carers to act as teachers, or to provide the activities and feedback that a school would: your child's education is still our responsibility and we are planning:

- achievable work for your child to do
- ways to give them feedback on their work
- ways to check on their overall progress

Please check the work set on Show My Homework – we've had a few challenges from parents about the amount of homework set and this has given me the opportunity to sample some of the great things being given. A wide range of quality work is being set as evidenced in some of the lovely work we've seen – from Josh's pop-up card to Skyla's amazing artwork, from Will and Jack's super science to Oliver's award-winning poetry:





## Burping Ghost

Jack the burping ghost loved beans. His mum gave him beans for every meal. He had a best friend called Bob who always farted. Like his friend he too loved beans. The best friend went to the same school, it was a strange, peculiar school as you can imagine.

One day when waiting to go home, Jack accidentally burped the bus away after eating two cans of beans! So Jack and Bob burped and surfed their way home.

When he got home his mum told him off for burping the bus away because lots of children were left there stranded!

As school closure extends, the DfE have slightly changed their stance on home-learning over the last week and we have adapted our approach slightly too. There is now a clear expectation that **all** students do some home-learning. All work set by Holywell staff is suggested work. Feel free to complete the work as it is set, to adapt it or even create your own work. We will do our best to 'catch everyone up' when we're all back and we will fill in any 'gaps'.

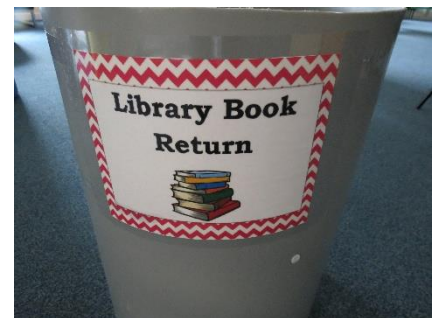
Alternative work is available through the DfE-recommended sites and resources (eg. BBC Bitesize / Oak Academy). For details, have a look at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>.

If you need more work, ask through Show My Homework. You can also message through the App if you need anything ... or if you just want to catch up! These are the links to the recent DfE guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-secondary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

With regard to feedback, most of the work we set is designed for self-assessment – with answers either provided at the time the work is set or the week after. Where students are set extended and/or written tasks, we are providing some brief feedback when this is submitted online ... we are not giving grades for work or effort, but we always strive to provide some personal feedback.

### Library books AMNESTY!

We have hundreds of library books which need returning before the end of term – so, a plea from Miss Watson: *please bring back your books!* We have a book container in the school entrance where you can return your books (especially if you're on your daily walk around Cranfield!). We would be really grateful if Year 8, in particular, could return any books they have ... hopefully you have all finished reading the books you took home at the start of school closure!!!



**Thank you for your continued hard-work home-schooling, for your continued patience and for your continued support in these most difficult of times. Keep safe, keep in touch and keep hopeful.**

**Best wishes – Mr Simpson**