

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*

Update Letter 19-06-2020

Dear students, parents and carers

Year 6 School, Tutor-group Zoom Catch-ups and Marble-Runs!

This week saw the start of our Year 6 School with 47 students taking up our offer of 2 days in school. Students were very nervous when arriving at the gate ... but a greeting, reassuring words from their headteacher, a liberal squirt of hand-sanitiser and well-prepared teachers ready to help and support ... soon made all the nerves disappear. By breaktime, students were all immersed in learning: creating marble-runs, solving maths problems and writing about their ideal schools. Our Critical Worker students have also increased in number and they too are being challenged and taught by creative and dedicated staff. All of the work we are doing in school is the same as you will find online ... and in some areas, staff are learning with the students, just as parents are learning at home. It is joyous to have everyone learning new things together ... please keep sharing your work with us in school and via Show My Homework.

We are all looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school sometime ... but we will have to wait! We have had lots of questions about what will happen in September and the genuine answer is that we do not know yet. As I finalise this letter, Gavin Williamson is hosting the Downing Street briefing and is adamant that all students will be back in school in September - please be patient as we wait for further guidance over the next few weeks to see how this might be possible. The virus is still out there and, although several restrictions are being eased, we still need to be cautious and we still need to 'stay alert' to the risks and dangers. We will only open up school more widely when it is safe for everyone. So, keep working hard at home and let us know if there is anything else we can do to help.

One thing which has helped us to re-connect and 'check-in' on a lot of students is our Tutor Group Zoom calls. We have completed KS2 calls and we have started working our way through KS3 tutor groups. I had the pleasure of co-ordinating 7PG's Zoom Catch-up which was superbly hosted by Mrs Gough. It was brilliant to catch up with the students (even one student who is currently in Thailand with her family) and to hear what they have been up to: for example, Matthew has read all of 'Lord of the Rings', Sam has been looking after a litter of chinchillas (very cute), Issy has been occupied by looking after her new dwarf hamster, Jake has been creating games in Scratch and James has been making videos. Please note that we are only using Zoom for these catch ups at the moment and, although we know many of you are having music and sports lessons via Zoom, we don't currently have the capacity to provide 'live' lessons. Instead, we are adding more and more video lessons to our online video hub. Mrs Purves, Mr Crapnell and Mr Johnson have already provided great video lessons and the English team have started to realise their dreams to be storytime stars with live recordings of key texts for each year group! Have a look and keep checking for updates: <https://sites.google.com/holywellschool.co.uk/holywell-school-videos/home>.

Virtual Sports Challenge Week!

Next week is Virtual Sports Challenge Week! As Mrs Simpson says: "We're going BIG!". In lieu of our annual Sports Day, the PE team have come up with a series of challenges for students, parents, carers ... and pets! ... and we want EVERYONE to try something. There will be housepoints awarded for participation and extra awards for those performing the best in each other various challenges. Watch out for details appearing on Show My Homework and let's get the whole of Holywell taking part!




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

Someone who's already in training for virtual sports week is Calum. Try out his suggestions for target-practice:

Can you hit the target? 

Activities to do at home

Objects you can find around the house, rolled up socks, screwed up paper or paper. You are going to create a target similar to golf, where you go around the targets from a distance. Targets can be things like washing bins, jumpers, anything creative as you can.

Have set up your course. Take a photo and upload to this sheet, both of the course and one of you completing it.

Challenge your creative accuracy going. As teachers, we look forward to seeing what targets you create and which course is the best.

Make the activity harder: Make the target smaller, or step back and make the distance from your target harder to reach.

Make the activity easier: Make the target bigger and get closer to the target when it's your turn to throw.

Make Someone Smile

Mrs Gough has been setting some lovely challenges in PHSCE on the theme of 'Make Someone Smile'. In the village where Mrs Gough lives, people have been painting stones and leaving them around the village. When you find one you pick it up and move it to a new location. The stones have messages on them such as... 'Bee Happy', Big Hug e.t.c Every time Mrs Gough sees one it makes her smile. She challenged Year 6 to get the family together, paint a stone each, go for a walk together to leave them for someone to find. Make someone smile! Here are some of the amazing results:



... and here's a challenge for everyone to try: A gratitude letter

Think of someone who did something for you for which you are extremely grateful but to whom you never expressed your deep gratitude. This could be a relative, friend, teacher, or colleague. Try to pick someone who is still alive and could meet you face-to-face in the next week. It may be most helpful to select a person or act that you haven't thought about for a while—something that isn't always on your mind.

Now, write a letter to one of these people, guided by the following steps.

- Write as though you are addressing this person directly ("Dear _____").
- Don't worry about perfect grammar or spelling.
- Describe in specific terms what this person did, why you are grateful to this person, and how this person's behaviour affected your life. Try to be as concrete as possible.
- Describe what you are doing in your life now and how you often remember his or her efforts.
- Try to keep your letter to roughly one page (~300 words).

Next, deliver the letter! It's best if you can do a socially-distanced doorstep visit ... however, if physical distance keeps you from making a visit, post the letter or you may choose to arrange a phone or video chat.

Assembly from Rachel Foster

Here is the link to Rachel Foster's latest assembly – it's quite thought-provoking and all about taking time to breathe, pause and pray:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=FdJmk2QMTA8&feature=youtu.be#menu>

Have a good week and stay safe!
Best wishes from Mr Simpson