

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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

Update Letter : 6th December, 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Our value of the month is 'Thankfulness' and indeed, we are truly thankful that we have had relatively few Coronavirus cases at Holywell. Unfortunately, we have now had three cases in the last week (two this weekend). On Friday, I wrote to you about a teaching assistant who had had positive test and that led to us having to send home two Year 5 classes. We have subsequently been informed that one of the Year 5 students has also tested positive. As the student case is in the isolating bubble, there is no need for us to take any further action and I am sharing this information with you to keep you up-to-date and aware of the situation. Both the teaching assistant and the student have mild symptoms (and indeed, at the time of their tests, were both asymptomatic). We wish them well.

As mentioned in my communications on Saturday, we also had a part-time teacher who had a positive test. We had to ask 9 students in Year 6 to self-isolate as they were identified as close contacts. Unfortunately, although we had identified that no staff were deemed to be close contacts, the 'Test and Trace' App had other ideas. Late Saturday evening and early this morning, a number of teachers and teaching assistants have been contacted and advised to self-isolate. After a long discussion with Public Health, we have concluded that some alerts are linked to the positive staff cases and some are not related to cases in school. Nevertheless, these staff will need to self-isolate and we have enlisted the support of some of our trusted, regular supply teachers to help us while they are away. The regular class teachers will be setting work and keeping in touch with us and the students. We will do everything we can to maintain our high standards of lessons with the students until the end of term.

When students are self-isolating, we activate our remote learning arrangements. We use Show My Homework as our main communication platform for setting work and we are going to experiment with some Zoom lessons for the two classes which are self-isolating! Thank you for your understanding, support and flexibility with these difficult circumstances and we hope that we have no further cases this term.

In spite of Coronavirus, we are still planning a few Christmas-related activities before the end of term. The main activities are happening on the final two Fridays of this term:

Friday, 11th December

- Charity Christmas Jumper Day (in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital) - £1.00 (non-uniform bottoms! for those taking part)
- Christmas Lunch – normal lunchtime arrangements with the Kitchen offering only the Christmas lunch menu which will be 'Christmas Lunch in a baguette'. There will be an order form for students sent home on Monday with a quick return date of Tuesday, 8th December.

Friday, 18th December

- Free non-uniform day
- Normal lessons 1-3; Tutor Group-based activities lessons 4 and 5.
- There will be a pre-recorded Christmas Service to watch and (hopefully) a quiz to do in Lesson 4. Tutors will be planning Tutor Time and Lesson 5 with their tutor groups – this is likely to include a Christmas film.

We are hoping to record a Christmas Service with our Year 8 Chamber Choir and we are hoping to send out a link. This will be in place of our usual Family Christmas Service at St Peter and St Paul's in Cranfield. ... and speaking of St Peter and St Paul's Church, we are delighted to welcome Rev Isaac Pain as the new rector at the church. His Licensing Service takes place tomorrow night and we look forward to welcoming him to the Holywell community in the New Year.

With all best wishes



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Deputy Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss A Stewart
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs H Donnellan – Designated Safeguarding Lead / SENDCo: Mrs J Davies

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