

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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

Update Letter – 30th November, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I hope that this letter finds you all well at the end of November – our month of Peace. We are about to start December where we see the end of Lockdown #2. Once again, our value of the month is rather apt – it is “Thankfulness”. We have much to be thankful for: vaccines on the horizon, reductions in the number of Coronavirus cases and a reducing R-number ... all concepts which would have seemed rather alien this time last year.



In order to keep us all safe and well in school, the school plan and risk assessment will be updated in line with the latest government guidance for schools after lockdown. For clarity and as a safety precaution, we will adopt measures associated with Tier 2 and above. Here is a brief list of some key expectations:

- Face coverings: Face coverings must be worn when entering the site and between lessons. All students need to see their face covering as a vital part of their school uniform. We expect all students to have a face covering and we would prefer these to be re-usable face coverings. It is reasonable to assume that staff and young people will now have access to face coverings due to their increasing use in wider society, and Public Health England has made available resources on how to make a simple face covering. We will have a supply of re-usable face coverings which can be purchased for £2.00 (please make payments via Scopay - our online payment system available via the school website - <https://holywellschool.co.uk/online-payments/>). Where anybody is struggling to access a face covering, or where they are unable to use their face covering due to having forgotten it, or it having become dirty or unsafe, we will have a small contingency supply available to meet such needs. In line with DfE guidance, no one will be excluded from education because they are not wearing a face covering, however, it is everyone's responsibility to each other to have and use a face covering.
- Hand-sanitising and extended cleaning regime: We will continue our hand-sanitising regime at the start of every lesson along with our additional cleaning across the school for frequently touched surfaces and rooms shared by different year groups.
- Attendance: All students are expected to attend school unless they are showing symptoms of coronavirus (or indeed, if they have any other illness, which would normally require students to stay at home). Where students have to self-isolate, we will provide access to our remote-learning provision. If you are unsure as to whether students can attend school, please refer to our FAQs document: Scenarios - Covid-19 A Quick Reference Guide For Parents (<https://holywellschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Covid-19-A-Quick-Reference-Guide-For-Parents-Holywell-School-September-2020.pdf>).



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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- Equipment: Students must have their own equipment and must not borrow equipment from friends. We will continue not to use lockers for the foreseeable future, so it is vital that students have a comfortable and suitable bag for carrying their equipment.
- Uniform: Full uniform is expected at all times. Please ensure that all clothing is labelled with the student's name. On days when students have PE, we will continue the practice of them wearing PE kit. Please ensure they have a coat/jogging bottoms – especially when it is cold.

We have made a few adjustments to arrangements as we are entering the Winter months and, most notably, from Monday, 30th November, we will not be using the field for KS2 recreation. We have revised our arrangements so that students will be accommodated in our main playground / MUGA / recreation areas. We have also reviewed our grouping policy and, whilst we will maintain consistent groupings for most students, there will be some changes to Maths groupings and some English groupings in January to enable us to support students in need of additional support and/or extension.

Our students continue to delight and surprise us with their thoughtfulness too. One of our Year 5 students – Isla – has been doing some amazing fundraising outside of school. Isla decided she wanted to do her own fundraising and chose to challenge herself to do The Keech Hospice, Big Scoot, Bike and Trike event. To complete this event, Isla had to go out on her bike 100 times between June and October. Isla, however gave herself an additional challenge and said that in these 100 rides, she wanted to do 500 miles! The weekend before half term Isla successfully achieved this challenge raising over £1000, receiving a certificate and medal as a physical reward but the greater reward was her own confidence and perseverance of which, her family, was immensely proud. We are also really proud of Isla's achievement in school as it demonstrates so many of our Holywell values in action ... and well-deserving of a Headteacher Award! We are always delighted to hear about students' achievements outside of school, so please keep us up-to-date – you can get in touch with form tutors.



One aspect of school life we all need to be thankful for is the wonderful teaching which is going on in lessons on a day-to-day basis. Staff have been brilliant in adapting the curriculum to ensure that students get the very best teaching in these most extreme of circumstances. Here is one example of the wonderful work students have been producing in Technology from Annabel ----->



As we start Advent, our lovely friends at St Peter's and St Paul's (with some help from Rachel Foster) have ensured that Christingle happens as usual this year. Rachel has created a lovely service (which you can see via this link: <https://youtu.be/nRmjsgj04W4>). The church (in collaboration with Cranfield Co-op) has very kindly donated materials for Year 5 to make Christingles. We set up our own 'Christingle pack production line' with Phoebe, Clara, Julia, Amelie, Ruby, Evangelina, Saoirse and Niamh.



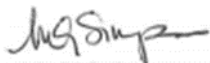
We continue our Tutor Group Catch-up phone calls over the next two weeks with Tutor phone calls for Year 7 and 8 students. These are in lieu of our Tutor evenings and are designed as a pastoral 'check-in'. There will be some brief feedback from English and Maths teachers and, if there are any particular updates from other subject areas (ie. great achievements and/or concerns), tutors will also have a note from subject teachers ... otherwise, students are doing really well! We are exploring how we will be able to do our Spring Term Subject-based Parent/Carer meetings at the moment and, it is likely, that they will be done virtually via a video-based platform.

We are also delighted to welcome back Miss Stewart from maternity leave. Mrs Donnellan and Mrs Davies have done a brilliant job covering Miss Stewart's responsibilities during this time and I thank them both for all their support and hard work. Mrs Davies will remain on the Senior Leadership Team moving forward and she will be sharing the Designated Safeguarding Lead role with Miss Stewart.

With this letter, we are sending out our annual Ofsted-style Parent/Carer survey based on the Ofsted ParentView questions. We always appreciate your feedback and suggestions. This year, we have added in a few of our own questions pertinent to our Covid-19 arrangements. Thank you in advance for your support with this. We are doing the survey electronically this year, so it should be quick and easy to complete. As ever, if there is anything you would like to raise directly with us, please use our informal and formal routes.

... and in the spirit of our value of the month – I encourage everyone to think about what we can be thankful for. When faced with challenges and hardship, it is easy to forget that we still have much to be thankful for: the love of our families; the care of friends and strangers; the laughter and kindness from unexpected sources; the light in the darkness; the warmth of music and silence; the comfort of a warm blanket or duvet on a cold frosty night. When I am having a difficult day, counting my blessings, always helps to put things in perspective ... have a think about what your blessings might be. Thank you for your continued understanding and support in these challenging times.

Best wishes



Mr Simpson

