

# HOLYWELL SCHOOL

Red Lion Close, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0JA

Tel: 01234 750381

Email: [school@holywellschool.co.uk](mailto:school@holywellschool.co.uk)

Website: [www.holywellschool.co.uk](http://www.holywellschool.co.uk)



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Update Letter 09-02-2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

As we start our last week of this half-term, it's amazing to reflect back to January and to think about what we have all accomplished in that time. As a community, we have navigated our way through all sorts of challenges: from Zoom to Covid-secure schooling; from remote-learning to critical worker provision; from setting up a testing facility in school to dealing with cases of Covid-19. It has been a difficult and trying time for some; for others, it has been an opportunity to keep family close. Some families have been hugely affected by the pandemic (emotionally, health-wise, financially) and others have been largely untouched. Everyone is doing their best and, on behalf of everyone here at Holywell, we'd like to thank you for everything you've done to support the students during this time. We do not yet know whether students will return to school at the start of March, whether it will be for all students or for specific year groups – we are hoping to have everyone back in school as soon as possible and we await the outcome of the next Government review. Keep strong and keep in touch.



Keep going.

That's all you have to do, ever.

You really don't have to be amazing, or fierce or beautiful or successful or good.

Just keep going, please.

Slowly is fine.

Crawling is fine.

No feeling is final.

Except hope.

GLENNON DOYLE



## **Safer Internet Day – TODAY - Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

During the pandemic, we have seen the power and positive side of the internet and remote technology. Safer Internet Day this year is an opportunity to think about how we use this technology and the theme of the day this year is: An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world. It is so easy to search for information using 'Google', 'Internet Explorer' or one of the other many platforms, but not to check the reliability of the source of the information. There are some assemblies which we will be watching in school – you might want to check out these

at home too: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/search/node/assembly>. There are 3 assemblies to choose from for different age ranges (ages 3-7, 7-11, and 11-18). PSHE lessons this week – live and virtual – will also be exploring these issues.

On the Safeguarding page of the school website you will find our new 'Online Safety Guides for Parents'. It has four sections:

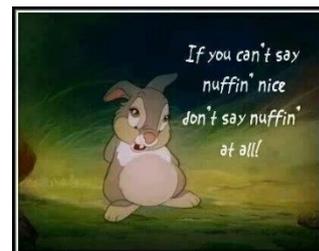
Keeping Safe Online

Support with popular Apps

Social Pressures

Gaming and Devices

Another aspect of keeping everyone safe online is to ensure that everyone is respectful and kind to each other online. We have heard of a few incidents during lockdown of some unpleasant behaviour online and through social media. A good gauge of whether or not to post something or to do something is to consider if this is something you would like done or said to you – if it's not something you would appreciate ... then don't do it. Another way to think about it, is to think – is this something that would make my family proud? Again, if not, don't do it! When I was young, my parents always told me to apply the Thumper rule: "If you can't say nuffin' nice, don't say nuffin' at all". I think that's still a good rule for all of us to use.



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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In the Update Letter of 28-01-2021, I mentioned some board games that might be good to play together as a family. Mr Hillard also likes playing board games, and with half term coming up, he has put together some recommendations you might like to try!



Here are a few ideas of **board games** to try. You will not find the likes of Monopoly or Uno here; hopefully you'll see a title you didn't know before. While the list could have been endless, I have tried to limit it to games that are affordable, fun to play and that are appropriate for the Holywell age range (and their adults).

**Best for: Overall fun!**

**Sushi Go** (2-8 players) – Players grab the best combination of sushi that they can as the cards move round. Each turn a player chooses one card to keep and then passes their remaining cards to the left. They repeat this process until all cards are taken and scores are added at the end (for example, 2 tempura cards = 10 points). There is also **Sushi Go Party** which adds new dishes and a menu/scoring mat.



**Best for: Teamwork**

**Forbidden Island** (2-5 players) – Players work together to move around a sinking island to collect the four treasures before the island sinks! Players can pass each other treasure cards and must work together to 'sure up' the tiles so they don't sink and cut one of them off. The island deck works against you to flood the board, adding to the tension toward the end of the game. There are varying difficulties and card layout can be randomised for good replay value. **For a little more complexity try Forbidden Dessert.**



You may prefer: **Codenames Disney** (4+ players) – Players team up and the 'describer' must get their team to choose certain Disney characters from a grid using only one word! If their team chooses the other team's character they hand points away! This version has written names and pictures to make it accessible for younger siblings as well.



**Best for: Games on the go (and value for money)**

**Love Letter** (2-4 players) - Players attempt to deliver a love letter to the Princess while keeping other players' letters away. The game features simple rules and is quick to learn. Each player starts with one card and every turn you pick a new card up and play one of your two cards, following the effect on that card. The aim is to be either the last person in or the person with the highest number left. Each round is pretty quick so there is little waiting time if you are out.

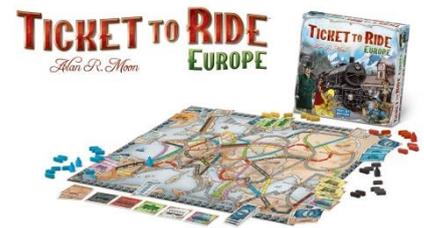
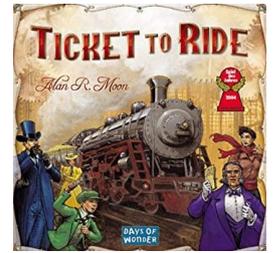


For a Marvel re-theme, check out **Love Letter: Marvel Infinity Gauntlet** version (2-6 players). One player is Thanos and the others are the Avengers. All vs 1.



**Best for: Eating up an hour or two**

*Ticket to Ride - (2-5 players) – Players compete to complete train routes for points... it is more fun than it may sound! Each round you draft cards of different colours and can use them to lay down tracks between cities. Each track laid scores points and if you manage to connect certain cities you score bonus points. There is also a little fun in placing a track where you know your opponent wanted to, forcing them to rethink their strategy. Don't do it too often though, any routes you don't complete give you minus points at the end. There are a huge number of variants. I would recommend **Europe**, or the original **USA**.*



We're hoping that this will be the first in a series of recommendations of things to do ... let us know if you have a list waiting to be shared!

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore. This quiet, gentle, wise and inspirational man has been such a beacon of positivity during Lockdown and his legacy of care and determination to help others will live long in our memories. There are so many amazing stories and quotes to inspire us, but on the day of the news of his passing, 3 Counties Radio broadcast the last interview he did for the station with Justin Dealey in November 2020. In the interview, Sir Tom left us with this challenge:

*“If you could give somebody a little smile, you might get a smile back. So, it's worthwhile, wherever you go, have a little smile at somebody – it won't hurt you and I'm sure it won't hurt them, but I think, as a world, if we can smile at one another, things will get better.”*



As we make our way through the week, let's keep smiling and trying to support each other.

Take care, stay safe and keep in touch.

*Mr Simpson*