

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

Update Letter 12-03-2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Friday afternoons are always good to reflect back on the week ... and this one has been quite a momentous week! We have been delighted to welcome students back to school and they have been an absolute joy!

It has obviously taken everyone a little while to re-adjust to school life: no more late starts to the morning, no more lessons in slippers and pyjamas and no more zoom lessons! It's been weird not having everyone on 'mute' – we can actually talk straightaway to each other! We have all had to acclimatise to more people and it has meant having to get used to sharing spaces with up to 30 other people again! In general though, students and staff have adjusted well and we are slowly returning to normal ... even with all of our Covid-19-secure precautions. If we all continue to follow the guidance and act responsibly, I am optimistic that the Summer Term may see more restrictions lifted.

Year 7 and Year 8 have been superb in terms of testing and we will continue with the final in-school tests on Monday and Tuesday. We have just received a supply of home-testing kits for Years 7 and 8 and these will be issued next week after the in-school tests. Test kits will be issued automatically to students who have had tests in school or who have completed consent forms. Students will be provided with two test kits (each with supplies for 7 tests) which should last for 7 weeks. If parents of any other students in Years 7 or 8 would like test kits, please email us at [lateraltesting@holywellschool.co.uk](mailto:lateraltesting@holywellschool.co.uk) and we will organise kits for you. As far as we are aware, there are still no plans for us to distribute home-testing kits for students in Years 5 and 6. Parents of KS3 students can also access test kits. These kits are not issued via school and there are three routes through which families can access testing;

- Community Testing Sites- the [3 local test community](#) testing sites are open 8am – 8pm
- Postal kits- by following the [ordering a home test kit online](#) link you can request a kit via the post
- Community Collect- following this [test site](#) link you can input your postcode and establish the site nearest you that can distribute kits. An eligible individual is able to collect 4 boxes of 7 tests, 28 tests in total.

There is one area that Cranfield families can help us with: we need particular help and support from parents and carers who collect their children at the end of the school day. As you are aware, we have no on-site parking at the end of the day. Our neighbours in Red Lion Close are all very tolerant and understanding, however, traffic in and out of the Close at the end of the day is a particular concern. We have had a number of 'near-misses' recently due to some unhelpful parking and driving. If you are collecting students at the end of the day, please park away from the school site and, if necessary, arrange to meet the children in the adjacent park.



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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Listening to Radio 1 as I was driving into work this morning, two of the DJs – Scott Mills and Chris Stark – were almost at the end of their 24-hour ‘Lolathon’ ... a 24-hour radio broadcast to bring smiles to people’s faces and to raise money for Comic Relief. They were talking about how we have all spent time focussing on our families and loved ones this year (quite rightly so) and that, as we start to come out of the pandemic, it is timely to think of others. We will be supporting Comic Relief as usual next Friday and we will try to raise some smiles in school (although it may be a little more understated than usual), but it is an opportunity to help and support others. This obviously resonates with our Value of the Month – Compassion. As much as we have been troubled, inconvenienced and hurt by the events of the pandemic, there are others who have been severely affected; as well as showing them sympathy, we can act on their behalf, try to ease their pain with a simple act of kindness, or make a small donation to a charity that will help them. We also have another opportunity to do this as we work our way through Lent – I hope your ‘Giving Jars’ are growing in terms of loose change. Just a small donation can make a huge difference. Today’s ‘40 Acts Challenge’ was to give someone a compliment ... you still have time to fit one in. I will take this opportunity to compliment everyone for coping so admirably with wearing face coverings. Please remember, if students are struggling with this and need an exemption, email us or call the office. Do watch out for face mask chaffing! (You may need to moisturise around the ears ... check that the face mask isn’t too tight, or try a different type of covering).

**COMPASSION, March 2021**

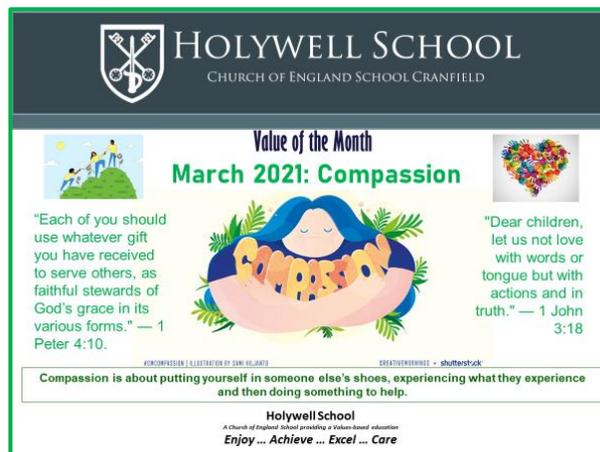
“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” Romans 12, verse 15.

Compassion means being sensitive to the feelings and experiences of other people and responding to them with warmth and care.

**As we return to school, we will need to respond warmly with smiles and kind words.**

**We must try to care for and support everyone especially those who have been sad and unhappy during the last few weeks.**

We could also show compassion for those outside our school community by raising money for Comic Relief and NHS Charities through our Lent Giving Jars



Thank you all for your continued support, understanding and positivity. Stay safe and have a good weekend – we look forward to seeing all the students again on Monday. Best wishes  
*Mr Simpson*

