

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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*A Church of England School
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Update Letter 28th February, 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

As I write this letter on a bright, fresh Spring afternoon, it seems that there is a spirit of optimism and hope in the air. Whilst we continue to observe the expectations and restrictions of Lockdown, we are all delighted that next week will be the last full week of Home-Learning for everyone. As we prepare for all students to return to Holywell, I want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to all families for all the hard-work, support, understanding, patience and adaptability you have all shown to enable students to continue with their learning over the last few months.

Tomorrow is the first day of March and is **St David's Day**. **Students in St David's House Team can come to school in their House colours and we would encourage students at home to do the same!** Here are five interesting facts about St David (thanks to the 'Visit Wales' website):

1. **He was born in a storm:** St David was born in the year 500,. According to legend, his mother St Non gave birth to him on a Pembrokeshire clifftop during a fierce storm. The spot is marked by the ruins of Non's Chapel, and a nearby holy well is said to have healing powers (another link to Holywell!).
2. **He was a fine preacher.**
3. **He was a teetotal vegetarian:** St David and his monks followed a simple, austere life. They ploughed the fields by hand, rather than using oxen, and refrained from eating meat or drinking beer. St David himself was reputed to have consumed only leeks and water – which is perhaps why the leek became a national symbol of Wales.



4. **He performed miracles:** The most famous miracle associated with St David took place when he was preaching to a large crowd in Llanddewi Brefi. When people at the back complained that they could not hear him, the ground on which he stood rose up to form a hill. A white dove, sent by God, settled on his shoulder.

5. **His legacy lives on:** St David died on 1 March – St David's Day - in 589. He was buried at the site of St David's Cathedral, where his shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages. His last words to his followers came from a sermon he gave on the previous Sunday: **'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.'** The phrase 'Gwnewch y pethau bychain mewn bywyd' - 'Do the little things in life' - is still a well-known maxim in Wales.

A Prayer for St David's Day:

Almighty God, on this special day for the people of Wales, we remember Saint David, your servant. We give thanks for his passion for the Gospel which helped to spread Christianity; We give thanks for his purity and simplicity of life which enabled his pursuit of Christian perfection; We give thanks for his gentleness, but clear spiritual leadership.

Grant that we may learn from him and respond to the words that are thought to be his last: 'Be steadfast, and do the little things'; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

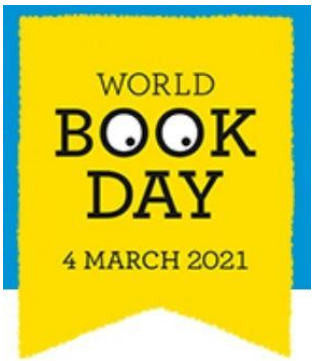


Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

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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WORLD BOOK DAY

4 MARCH 2021

World Book Day is this Thursday - 4th March

Just because most students aren't in school this week, doesn't mean we can't still do lots of activities based around the best thing in the world- BOOKS!! ... well that's according to Mr Brown. Mr Brown has put together a great selection of things to do on World Book Day and all links will be sent out to students via Satchel One listings for their Thursday English Lessons ... when we will pause our usual lessons and celebrate BOOKS!

On World Book Day itself, there will be a live session when students would normally have their English lesson- so watch out for the link that will be sent separately. The theme this year is 'SHARE A STORY' and staff will be sharing extracts from their favourite stories during the live lesson. It would be lovely for parents/carers to share their favourite stories too! There will also be a book assembly for students and parents to enjoy.



As always, we are giving out your £1 book vouchers which you can use to get a £1 book. The voucher is attached to the Satchel One listing.

Here is a list of all the activities available - they are all voluntary! You don't have to submit anything, unless you want to):

1. A special audiobook library- there are lots of amazing books in the virtual library that you can click on and listen to the entire book as an audiobook! (Also a virtual library of more challenging e-books for KS3)
2. Jeff Kinney talking about how he writes the 'Wimpy Kid' books for KS2 (Malorie Blackman and Patrice Lawrence masterclass for KS3) Watch the video, read the extract, then have a go at the activities
3. Frank Cottrell-Boyce and Steven Lenton talk about their amazing work for KS2 (Holly Smale masterclass for KS3) Watch the video, read the extract, then have a go at the activities
4. Chris Riddell- who illustrated 'Goth Girl' and lots of JK Rowling books- talks about how to do amazing illustrations. Watch the video. Look at the amazing drawings! Have a go at the workshop tasks.
5. There is a link below to a live WBD session on Friday at 10.30am. There are lots of famous children's authors sharing books and talking live about 'books and the real world'
6. The 'Book Island' challenge- can you work out which character lives on each island?
7. World Book Day Family quiz- if anyone at home is on face-book you can go to <https://www.facebook.com/yourlibrary> at 4.30pm on Thursday for a family library book quiz.

Extra Challenges- BIG PRIZES – entries to pbrown@holywellschool.co.uk

We also usually enjoy dressing up in incredible WBD costumes on the day at Holywell. Please feel free to continue the tradition! Dress up for the day! Go to the live lesson dressed as your character!

If you send Mr Brown a picture of you in your costume on SMH then he will enter you into the competition for BIG PRIZES!

We also usually do the 'Holywell Door Book Cover' challenge - where we decorate our classroom doors as book covers - if you can do an artistic version of your favourite book cover and send it to Mr Brown - you could be in for a BIG PRIZE.

Or, just send Mr Brown a picture of yourself reading in an unusual, interesting or peaceful place and you could be in for a BIG PRIZE!

There will also be a 'Guess the teacher' challenge with teachers hiding behind their favourite books ... more details to follow.

Return to School

Full details of our plans for students returning to school will be available on the Coronavirus page of the school website over the next few days. Most arrangements are as they were in September and I outlined the main 'tweaks' and additions in last week's update letter.

KS3 Testing

We have had quite a good response to our testing offer of three asymptomatic tests on site. We would like ALL students in KS3 to take part in this so if you haven't registered, please do.

We have also been made aware of a further offer for lateral flow testing for families. From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a student you can get a twice-weekly test. Tests are available in four different ways:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

Full details are available on this DfE help-page: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>.

Students who haven't had lateral-flow tests before have, understandably, been a little anxious – Miss Norman will be hosting some special Zoom sessions next week to answer questions and reassure students. Please note that students will self-administer their lateral-flow tests under the supervision of trained Holywell staff. There will be a booking system for appointments and details will be sent out to parents who have registered when we know final numbers on Monday.

You can still register – please let us know on or before Monday, 1st March (4.00pm), whether you would like to take up this offer of testing by completing a consent form; the easiest way to do this is using the online form available through WEDUC (it is best done on a PC). Click on the 'Forms' option and on the left-hand side, you will see 'Consent for COVID-19 testing). A WORD document is also attached along with further details of the test. The WORD document can be emailed to us at school via the dedicated email address: lateraltesting@holywellschool.co.uk. NB Parents of Critical Worker students who have already completed consent forms do not need to re-do the form.

Assembly Challenge: COMPASSION

As part getting ready for their return to school next week, there will be a challenge for all students as part of this week's assembly so watch out for details. We will also be launching our Value of the Month for March: COMPASSION.

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

Have a good week and stay safe.

Best wishes

Mr Simpson

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Value of the Month
March 2021: Compassion

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." — 1 Peter 4:10.

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." — 1 John 3:18

Compassion is about putting yourself in someone else's shoes, experiencing what they experience and then doing something to help.

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Enjoy ... Achieve ... Excel ... Care