



Holywell News



Issue No: 158
July 2021

From Mr Simpson:



Dig Deep to Build High

When you dare to dream:
Dig deep to build high.
In the darkest moments,
Dig deep to build high.

Reach inside your heart,
Find hope, kindness and
love;
Follow the light
And soar high above.

Dig deep to build high
With the Lord's guidance
There's no limit to our sky:
Dig deep to build high.



STUDENTS

RETURN TO SCHOOL:

6th September 2021 – Year 5 only

7th September 2021 – Year 5 & 6 only

8th September 2021 – All Years in school

I never imagined when we started in September that we would still be 'digging deep' into our resilience and faith reserves to battle against Covid-19 as we approach the Summer Break.

Having been relatively 'unscathed' by the coronavirus, it has been both frustrating and devastating to have had our own mini-pandemic over the last few weeks. From about 10 cases through the year, we suddenly had 72+ cases in two weeks! In spite of our best efforts to stop the spread of the virus, we had to resort to remote-learning. This last weekend and Monday saw our first 'case-free' days since the start of July. Unfortunately, we have had subsequent notifications of some further cases today ... so although the 'circuit-breaker' has worked, we all need to continue to be vigilant. Some staff and students who tested positive for the virus have been absolutely fine (one student was still managing to spend time on the family trampoline!), whilst others have been hit much harder with throbbing headaches, tiredness and fatigue as well as the 'traditional' symptoms of a high temperature, persistent cough and loss of taste/smell)

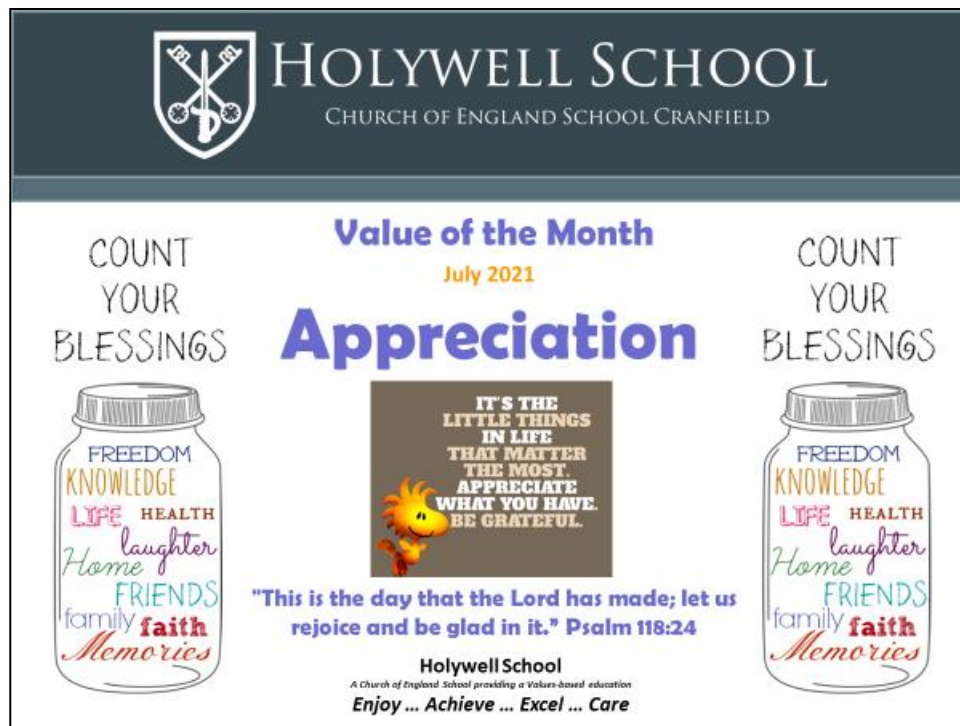
Throughout these challenging times, it has been our values of hope, kindness and love which have seen us through these dark moments. Students, staff and families have surprised us all with their resilience and optimism. Wonderful work has still been completed at home, we have 'improvised, adapted and overcome' challenges and, I have to say, in a very stressful day/week/month/year, the one thing which has sustained me and refreshed my spirits has been my lessons with my English group (whether on Zoom or in the classroom). They are a real tonic and they remind me of what a wonderful job I have as a teacher ... helping these amazing young people to learn. All of our students have been incredible throughout the pandemic and I thank them all for their hard work, their resilience and their adaptability. Here's hoping that 2021-2022 will be less of challenge and that we will be able to soar high again: "there's no limit to our sky".

Have a safe and restful Summer

Best wishes

MG Simpson

Headteacher



Our Value of the Month has been APPRECIATION.

Our Values Ambassadors came up with this definition:

Do not take either the big things or small things in life for granted.

Appreciate every moment because time flies quickly.

Appreciate what you have but remember that others may not have the same.

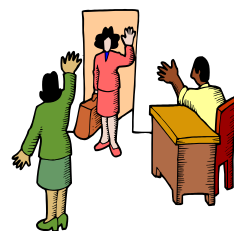
We certainly do sometimes take the small things in life for granted. At the end of term, we usually have trips, concerts, charity events, and a whole array of leavers' activities. Not this year! Hopefully, we will be able to reinstate all of these next year and we will enjoy them all even more! What we can do is appreciate all the wonderful moments we have enjoyed over the year. Have a look back at the newsletters from this last year, re-read the update letters and reflect on all the wonderful successes and moments.



Staff News

A huge 'Thank You' to all of our wonderful staff team ... and best wishes to staff who are moving on to new and exciting challenges:

Mr Crapnell (Subject Leader ICT)
Mrs Donnellan (Assistant Headteacher/Science)
Mrs Eatley (English/Maths)
Mr Evans (Science Technician)
Miss Dell (PE/Science/ICT Teacher)
Mrs Litchfield (Midday Supervisor/Cleaner)



Miss Norman (Head of KS3/English) is going on maternity leave and will be away for most of next year – we wish her well and we hope that everything goes smoothly!

New staff joining us in September include:

Mr Burnham (Subject Leader – ICT)
Mr Chauhan (Maths/DT)
Mr Colbourne (Subject Leader – Science)
Mr Fincham (English)
Mrs Kelly (Geography)
Mr Loose (Teaching Assistant)
Miss Mayles (English)
Mrs Morison (Teaching Assistant)

We wish all our Year 8 students 'Good Luck' as they start the next phase of their educational journey at Upper School.



Also leaving us this year are several students – including the Lasham-Lairds who are emigrating to Australia. Here are their reflections of their time at Holywell:

I think Holywell school is an amazing school and the staff within. I will miss the teachers that have taught me. It has been hard times because a huge chunk got chopped off because of a lockdown and that was annoying. I have enjoyed the fact that the school is huge and most of the lessons are fun. My favourite lesson was Art because we flew through a range of topics all of which I enjoyed. ICT was

amazing too because I learnt some shortcuts and ways to program things. But the best lesson ever was P.E because I got to have fun with doing exercise, so I always looked forward especially on the days of my P.E. Because I am moving, I won't be able to do any of the next level learning. There is a different type of curriculum in Australia. It has been a privilege to be and learn in this school. I will remember it well. I will miss my friends too because I am not going to see them again.

By Fletcher Laird | Year 5

I have learnt a lot whilst I have been at Holywell, and I am going to miss it here. I am going to miss the subjects like PE, DT and ICT. I will also miss my friends because they make me laugh. Whilst I have been here, I have enjoyed things like clubs and breaks and lessons. I have had an amazing time here and will miss it loads. Thank you for teaching me new things.

By Ellis Lasham | Year 7

At Holywell I enjoyed taking part in many different clubs like netball, choir, athletics and more. I loved learning things I had never heard of before and learning new skills in different subjects. I enjoyed all the subjects, it was amazing! I learnt many things including: how to sing, how to make a pendant, how to draw an illusion and to play badminton. I will miss the fun times I had in Holywell. I will miss teachers and friends a lot. Holywell has been amazing, thank you!

Skyla Lasham | Year 8

SCHOOL UNIFORM

PLEASE NOTE FOR SCHOOL TROUSERS AND SKIRTS – ONLY GREY.
ALSO ONLY PLAIN STYLING IS ACCEPTABLE.

(‘SKINNY’ FIT TROUSERS, OR STYLISTED SERIES OF BUTTONS ON TROUSER FRONTS
ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE)

| GIRLS' UNIFORM | | BOYS' UNIFORM | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Blazer | Black | Blazer | Black |
| House Badge * | For blazer | House Badge * | For blazer |
| Skirt | Plain <u>grey</u> , below the knee | | |
| Trousers (optional) | Plain <u>grey</u> – not cords, denims, leggings | Trousers | <u>Grey</u> , not cords or denims |
| Jumper/Cardigan | Plain <u>grey</u> , 'V' necked | Jumper | Plain <u>grey</u> , 'V' necked |
| School Shirt | White | School Shirt | White |
| School Tie * | Black and gold clip-on | School Tie * | Black and gold clip-on |
| Socks | White, grey or black, (No trainer socks) | Socks | White, grey or black, (No trainer socks) |
| Tights | Plain black or grey | | |
| Shoes | Black, heels no higher than 4cm; no boots or trainers | Shoes | Black, no boots or trainers |
| Coat | Any <u>plain</u> style | Coat | Any <u>plain</u> style |
| SPORTS | | | |
| Games skirt/skort | Plain black | Rugby Shirt | c/o Price & Buckland |
| Shorts/Joggers/leggings | Plain black | Shorts/Joggers | Black |
| Polo shirt with school logo | c/o Price & Buckland | Polo shirt with school logo | c/o Price & Buckland |
| Zippered Fleece / Mid Layer | Black with school logo | Zippered Fleece / Mid Layer | Black with school logo |
| Base Layer (optional) | Plain black | Base Layer (optional) | Plain black |
| Socks | Knee length black and short white | Socks | Knee length black and short white |
| Trainers | Appropriate for sport | Trainers | Appropriate for sport |
| Football boots | | Football boots | |
| Shin Pads | | Shin Pads | |
| Gum Shield | | Gum Shield | |

*Items marked with * are available from school*

Hairstyles

It should be noted that the school does not accept highly fashionable or extreme haircuts, or severe styling and colours. **Hair should not be cut shorter than a no 2.** If you are in any doubt about the validity of a hairstyle, please contact the school **beforehand**.

Jewellery and Make-up

To avoid any dangers or loss or accident to the wearer or other student, expensive items must not be worn. No necklaces or bracelets are permitted unless they are part of your religious faith. One plain ring is allowed. Earrings - plain studs, only one in each earlobe, these must be removed for PE/Games lessons. Make-up is **not** allowed.

PE Kit for PE Days

After consultation with students, parents and staff we have decided to keep our Covid-19 policy of requiring students to come to school in PE kit on their timetabled PE days. To help try and make sure that everyone has the correct and most appropriate kit for PE lessons in September, please see the list above of kit that is required throughout the school year.

Students might also wish to bring spare kit in with them, in case they get wet/muddy during their lesson.

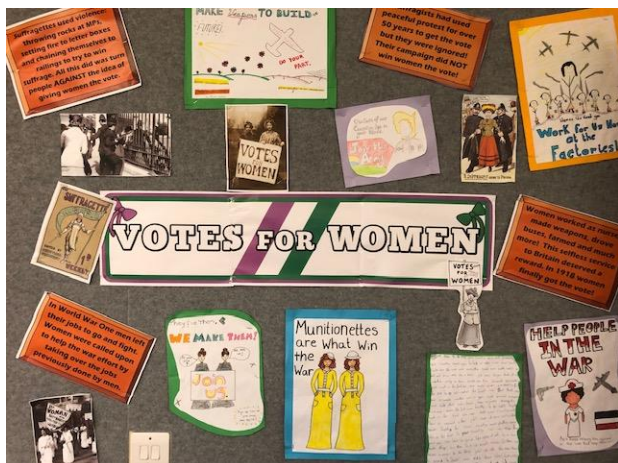
On PE days, students will be required to wear Holywell logoed tops and/or a coat, if required, into school.

We will be increasing our provision of extra-curricular activities in the new school year and of course we will be encouraging as many students to attend as possible (A club timetable will be available in September). If your son/daughter has a club on a non-PE lesson day, they will need to come to school in their normal school uniform and then get changed into PE kit at the start of lunchtime.

We very much appreciate your continued support for the PE department and hopefully we will be able to see some of you at fixtures in the near future.

History Department News

We have had a busy term this summer, despite going back to home-learning. The Year 5's have really enjoyed learning about the Romans and made some super creative work on life in Roman times. Year 6 started the term learning about crime and punishment through the ages and had great fun discovering the cruel torture and punishment methods and made some lovely booklets about the witch craze! Year 7 moved on from the Tudors to look at the Stuarts, finding out about the English Civil war and the execution of Charles I. They were particularly horrified to learn how Cromwell banned Christmas, and more importantly football – especially as we were in the middle of Euro 2020 at the time!



Our Year 8's have been looking at electoral reform and the female suffrage movement and we have had some divided opinions as to whether or not the suffragettes were justified in using militant methods to gain publicity for the cause. They produced some creative and eye-catching propaganda posters to persuade women to support the war effort in WW1 which are also on display in Room 27 - their lasting legacy to the school. Good luck in Upper School, Year 8's and I look forward to seeing the rest of you fresh, well rested and ready to take on new challenges in September!

Science Department News

This term, students have been busy finishing off outstanding units of work and revising ahead of their assessments at the end of the year. We appreciate the hard work and effort students have gone to whilst preparing for these and have enjoyed seeing them get competitive with the revision games along the way.

The Science department also appreciates the hard work and effort that students (with lots of support from home!) are again putting into their home-learning. We hope that you have enjoyed the zoom quizzes and choice tasks to keep you busy but also bring the year to a close.

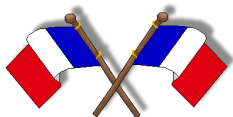
Miss Blissett and her band of helpers (staff and students) have been busy growing vegetables in a 'trial year' of our new vegetable plot. It needed a lot of preparation work to break fallow ground (thanks Mrs Austin for kindly lending your rotavator!) but the results speak for themselves. We currently have a small crop of courgettes, runner beans, sweetcorn, lettuce, broad beans and tomatoes doing very nicely (without any fertilisers or pesticides). Well done to all involved!



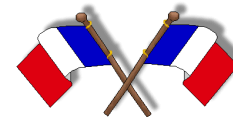
If your child is away from School

**A telephone call, email or WEDUC notification
is required on the
first day of absence, before 10.00 am**

Thank you



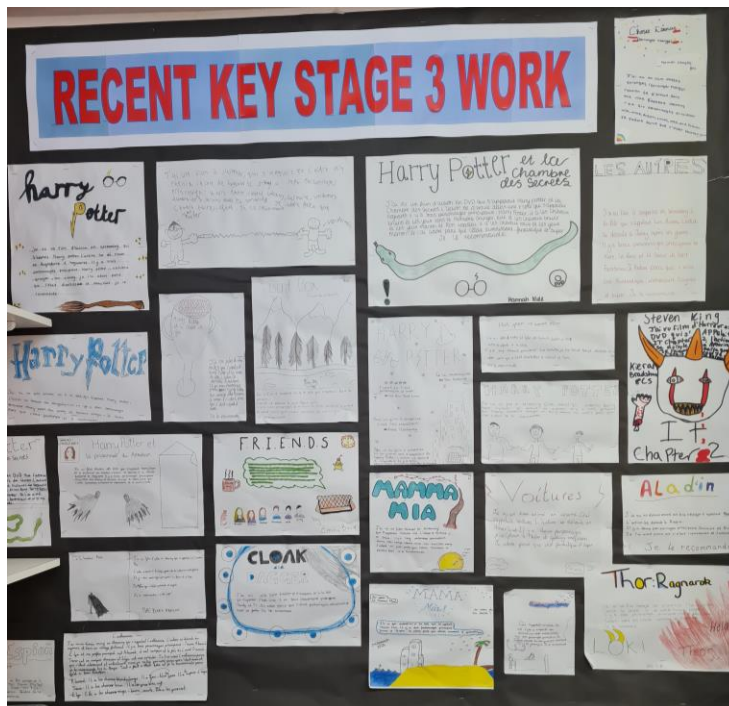
French Department News



It has certainly been an interesting year for the French department. We normally spend a lot of time singing in our lessons, so it has been rather strange, with restrictions meaning that we have to stay silent and just listen to the music rather than joining in! It's been a similar story as far as speaking activities are concerned.

That said, focusing on writing skills has given us some great opportunities to produce some very eye-catching classroom displays, some of which you can see here.

One of the highlights of the year for many students was towards the end of the summer term, when we were finally allowed to sing! Lots of the children learnt a song about the French national football team called "Ramenez la Coupe à la Maison", coinciding with the Euro 2020 tournament. (Many were too shy to sing it on camera, though!)



RE Department News

Our Year 5 students have been finishing a busy year by learning about how believers worship God in different ways. They have been focussing on pilgrimage and studying lots of famous sites, such as Lourdes in France. The Year 6's have spent the term stranded on a desert island outside of space and time and have developed their own community from scratch! As the story unfolded they had to research naming ceremonies, coming of age ceremonies and weddings from different religions and cultures before creating their very own. Although it was a real shame that our own Holywell mock wedding could not take place this year, I am sure everyone thoroughly enjoyed this unique way of learning about religious rites of passage!

In Year 7 students have been learning about racism and discrimination and many have come up with their own thoughtful and often very specific ways of ending racism forever! If only we could put them in power and give them a chance to put them into practice! Year 8's have been completed their RE at Holywell by studying the history of Christianity including the importance of Pentecost, the Great commission and how and why the Christian church split into so many denominations. This is a topic which is designed to prepare them for their journey into Upper school and, for many, their GCSE course. We wish them well and hope everyone has a well-deserved and enjoyable summer holiday.





Emergency Contact Details



Please remember to inform the school office of any changes to your contact details. This includes **change of your home address, telephone numbers** (even temporary changes) **and doctors' details**.

This is very important, as it enables us to reach you in case of emergency. Thank you.

Attendance and Holidays in Term Time



Parents / Carers should be aware that under current government guidelines **we can NOT give permission for any holiday in term time**. Holidays will be classed as **unauthorised absence** for your child. There may, however, be events that a student takes part in out of school which require him / her to miss a school day – we will continue to consider that sort of request. However, it is clear that the government and external authorities will want a very persuasive argument for us to be allowed to record any absence as a permitted

time out of school. **No leave will be authorised during the first two weeks of the school year or during exam periods.**

Parents/carers wishing to apply for leave of absence are required to fill in a **Leave of Absence Application Form** in advance and before making any travel arrangements (available from the school office and to download from the school website). We always take a reasonable, supportive approach to requests (especially with regard to fines) however, taking 'the odd day' here and there can have a HUGE impact on learning.

WEDUC Communications from School



Please note that **we no longer use Parentmail.** We now use **WEDUC** to communicate with families.

We STRONGLY RECOMMEND that at least one parent/carer downloads the **WEDUC app**.

If parents/carers need an enrolment code, please email Miss Watson on awatson@holywellschool.co.uk who will be able to supply one. Thank you.

Central Bedfordshire Council Summer Activities

Central Bedfordshire Council have advised us that the Holiday Activities and Food Programme will be running over the Summer holidays. **The programme is for children aged 5 – 16 eligible for benefits related free school meals.** If your children are eligible for free school meals and would be interested in these activities, please follow the link below:

<https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/xfp/form/249>

This link will take families through to a registration page and once registered and in receipt of a HAF number they will be able to progress to a booking page where they can find out about the range of activities on offer and book activities with providers directly.

All activities are free for children eligible for Free School Meals.

Partners in the programme this year include 4YP, Barton Kids Club, Bedford Blues, Bedford Creative Arts, Dawn to Dusk, Grand Union Housing, Full House Theatre, FUN, Holiday Active, Kids in Action, Kidz Zone, Inspiring Music Service, Leighton Buzzard Sports Partnership, Woburn Safari Park and Youth Offending Service.

There is a wide range of activities on offer from holiday and youth clubs, to creative arts and music activities and sports. Children can take part in a range of different activities, have fun and make friends and have a healthy lunch. **Activities will be booked on a first come first served basis.**

For any questions please get in contact with Michelle Hart on 0300 300 5762 or via email michelle.hart@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Support for children, young people and families over the summer holidays

Please share the following information and posters, signposting children, young people and families to available services and support during the summer holidays, on health and wellbeing:

- **Kooth** is a confidential, on-line counselling and support service for children and young people aged 11-19 years living in Bedfordshire (please see the [poster](#))
- **ChatHealth** is a confidential text messaging service for 11-19 year olds in Bedfordshire, led by the School Nursing Service, offering emotional support and health advice - **TEXT: 07507 331450**
- **Parentline** is a confidential text messaging service for parents of 0-19 year olds in Bedfordshire, led by the Health Visiting & School Nursing Service, offering advice and support to parents and carers on a range of issues, including emotional health – **TEXT: 07507 331456**
- **Bedfordshire Children's Community Health Services Health Hub:** Advice is available from a duty Health Visitor or School Nurse – Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm on telephone **0300 555 0606**

Free Maths Workbooks



White Rose Maths has teamed up with the supermarket Morrisons to give primary students a series of exciting and **FREE** workbooks to use at home. These colourful and engaging workbooks are perfect for revisiting and practising work that children have covered earlier in the year, or to prepare them for the new school year ahead. Parents and carers can collect the books from 26 July onwards at any of Morrisons' network of stores nationwide. All they need to do is to call in at the 'Children's Little Library' in their local Morrisons store during their regular shop, and collect their free copies! Families are welcome to take one free copy per student from Y1 to Y6. The workbooks contain a link to the answers, too.

<https://whiterosemaths.com/morrisons/>

Our Vision and Focus for 2021-2022 is ...



Live Life in all its Fullness

We choose to

...live our values

...being the best we can be

...in community.

Focus 2021-2022

Live life in all its fullness

Live our Values



Be the Best we can Be



In Community



Holywell School
A Church of England School providing a values-based education
Enjoy ... Achieve ... Excel ... Care

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club runs from **8.00am** to **8.45am** in term time,
for just **£1.00 per day**.



If your child would like to attend on a regular basis, please ask the office for a letter.

We serve limited food on a pre-order basis.

email: breakfastclub@holywellschool.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs Playle and Team

Thank you, Mrs Donnellan !

Mrs Donnellan joined Holywell on the 24th January 2000 ... so that's 21 years of knowledge, experience, inside information, local history and community links. Mrs Donnellan is a wonderful Science teacher, she led Year 5 for many years and is now our Values champion. She has closely and fiercely supported our disadvantaged families and led the work to support them through the pandemic with technology, food and a regular 'check-in'. Mrs Donnellan's attention to detail is amazing and she will be missed greatly. Mrs Donnellan is all that epitomises the 'heart' of Holywell – caring, listening, supporting, challenging, helping, advising, warm, supportive and she not only lives life in all its fullness, but she also enables us all to do the same. We wish Mrs Donnellan much happiness in her retirement and we want to say a huge THANK YOU!



Thank you, Mr Crapnell,

Mr Crapnell joined Holywell in September 2014 and he has enthused students about IT ever since. He now says it is time 'to hang up his mouse'! From coding and programming to using spreadsheets and paint packages, Mr Crapnell has helped 8 years' worth of students to be able to use and access IT. He has been an amazing

form tutor and he helped us all through the pandemic to resolve out IT issues and challenges – even learning new skills like video-editing to produce tutorials for learning (his YouTube channel was full of brilliant videos, 'buzzing' with hits and likes). Mr Crapnell is also a keen photographer and he is responsible for many of the wonderful images on our website – for which we're very appreciative. Mr Crapnell is also a keen walker; his next challenge is to climb Ben Nevis! ... and in typical Mr C style, he has asked us all to think about our next challenge – what will you do next? Thank you, Mr C and good luck with the climb.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Please also check the Online Calendar on the School Website
which will be updated with new events**

| | |
|---|--|
| 22nd July 2021 | End of Summer Term |
| SUMMER HOLIDAY | |
| 2 nd & 3 rd September 2021 | Staff Training Days |
| 6th September 2021 | Year 5 students only in school |
| 7th September 2021 | Year 5 and Year 6 students only in school |
| 8th September 2021 | All students in school |
| 23 rd September 2021 | Wootton Upper School Open Evening |
| 25 th – 29 th October 2021 | Half Term |
| 26 th November 2021 | Staff Training Day |
| 17 th December 2021 | Last day of Autumn Term |
| 5 th January 2022 | Students return to school |
| 14 th – 18 th February 2022 | Spring Term half-term |
| 1 st April 2022 | Last day of Spring Term for students |
| 19 th April 2022 | Students return for summer term NO YEAR 6 HOLIDAY OR OTHER ABSENCE AT THIS STAGE OF THE YEAR |
| 2 nd May 2022 | May Day Bank Holiday |
| 30 th May – 3 rd June 2022 | Half Term |
| 22 nd July 2022 | Last Day of Summer Term |

**The Headteacher, Staff and Governors of
Holywell School would like to wish you a
very happy, safe and well-deserved
summer holiday!**

