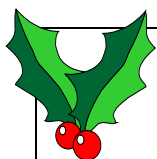




Holywell News

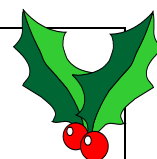


Issue No: 159
December 2021



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL - WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2022

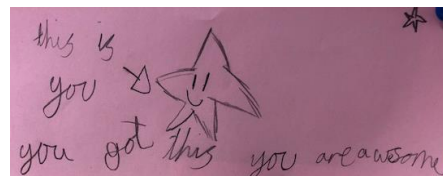


Mr Simpson's Headlines

We have made it to the end of term! It has been an incredible journey since returning to school in September. At the start of the year, my reflection was about 'finding a way' like holy water finds its way over obstacles, through challenges and joins together to create something greater and powerful. We have certainly had 'to find a way' through many difficulties and unexpected twists and turns. We have grappled with everything from dealing with a surge in Covid-19, Omicron, and vaccinations to settling into a new school or year group, taking on new roles, learning new things, adapting to wearing face coverings, coping with stressful situations, dealing with fall-outs, living our values, being the best we can be in community, and celebrating successes. Our Value of the Month is HOPE and, through the whole term, there have been little surprising acts of kindness which have provided that 'light in the darkness', that hope when things feel overwhelming.

Things that have given me hope this week include:

- Hearing 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' sung by an unaccompanied, solo student as I walked past the Macfarlan Room.
 - Unexpected gifts of home-made fudge and brownies – thanks to Abi and her mum; Georgia; and Tom
 - A wellbeing message to staff from a student ->
 - Seeing the delight on students' faces sharing Christmas lunch together.
 - Year 8 students coaching Year 5 students in Maths
 - A way forward to a difficult situation.
 - A thank-you from a parent.
- ... and this wonderful display from 5AJS:



The display includes their Christingles and origami hope stars. Each star has a hope for 2022 written inside them.

My HOPE for everyone in our Holywell community is that we all have a happy, healthy and harmonious 2022. Christian hope means trusting in the loving purposes of God: trusting that the foundations of the world are good because they spring from God. It means believing that, ultimately, we are destined to share in that

goodness because of what Jesus has done. Regardless of whether you are Christian, we can all still have that hope in what is good and that good will win through in the end.

This may be challenging and it may be frustrating, but if we all try to do the right thing, choose the right path, say the right words, then our hope for a right and just community, will become a reality. This is why we continue to instil in everyone in our community, the notion of peaceful problem-solvers; trying to recognise the perspective of others, whilst remaining understanding, kind and calm. As we approach the fourth Sunday in Advent, in which the fourth candle of Advent called the “Angel Candle” symbolizes peace, may we all find some peace during the Christmas break, taking time to be with family and friends and appreciating each other.



Living our values can be hard and in a recent review of the term, here are some comments from students as to which values are hardest to live? And why?

- Teamwork when not everyone gets on in the team
- Courage because sometimes it's hard to stand up to people
- All of them, because you have to work hard on them
- Forgiveness, as that can sometimes be difficult
- Respect, because you might be annoyed with someone

Respect will be our Value of the Month in January ... so we will have an opportunity to put this into practice .. hard as it may be!

... and finally ...

... a tremendous ‘Thank you’ to our Junior Worship Team and Year 5 choir for our in-school Christmas Service. We were so looking forward to visiting St Peter and St Paul’s with each year group to celebrate the Christmas season, however, we had to opt for a safer alternative and we filmed a service which classes watched today in their form groups. Huge thanks also to Mrs Purves, Mrs Gough and Mrs Bassett for creating, rehearsing and filming the service. Unfortunately, we are unable to share this with families at home as we don’t have permission to share images of all the students involved.



We sincerely hope that we will be able to hold our family Christmas service next year. In the meantime, please do visit our local churches over the Christmas period – they would be delighted to welcome you.

So, relax, switch off, stay safe and enjoy the Christmas break ... let’s hope the recent ‘surge’ of Coronavirus is short-lived, let’s hope it doesn’t seriously affect anyone in our community and let’s hope for a wonderful virus-free, peaceful and respectful 2022.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to a member of the school staff.

Department News



WINTER WARNING



Lessons: It is still cold outside so please can you continue to ensure that students bring the correct kit for their lessons - please see the PE kit section in the students' organisers. For lessons on the field, such as rugby, football and health and fitness, students will need football boots (shin pads for football) and long, black socks. Students should also ideally bring a spare top and bottoms to lessons, in case they get muddy.

Clubs: If attending a PE club, students should wear their normal school uniform to school and then change into PE kit before the club. If they have PE on the day of the club they are attending, students should wear their PE kit to school BUT bring spare kit to change into if there's a chance they could get muddy!

Basketball: Well done to the Year 7 girls Basketball team who won both of their games against RBA and Henlow to qualify for the County Finals to be held in January 2022. The girls played some fantastic Basketball despite only having a short training session together. We are very proud of you!

Many thanks for your continued support.

The PE Dept.

P.E. Clubs Timetable – Spring 1st Half Term 2022

	13:05-13:35	13:35 – 14:05	15:45-16:45
Monday	Y7/8 Girls Rugby (ME/MK) – Field* Y8 Boys Basketball (LG) – SH	Y5 Dodgeball (MK) - SH	Y7 Badminton (MK) - Sports Hall
Tuesday	Y7/8 Couch 2 5K (SM) – Field* Y5 Basketball (MK/EM)	Y6 Basketball (MK/ES) - SH	Y6 Badminton (MK) – Sport Hall
Wednesday	Y5/6 Rugby (JU/MK) – Field* Y7 Boys Basketball (ME) – SH Y7/8 Girls Football (CSI) – Field*	Y5/6 Girls Football (CSI/MK) - Field*	<i>Fixtures</i>
Thursday	Y7 Girls Basketball (MK/EM) Y5 Boys Football (LG) – Field* Y7 Boys Rugby (ME) – Field*	Y8 Girls Basketball (MK/ES) - SH	Y8 Badminton (MK/ME) - Sports Hall
Friday	Y8 Boys Rugby (LG) – Field* Y6 Dodgeball (MK) - SH		Y5 Badminton (MK) – Sports Hall

All clubs start W/B 10th January 2022

Permission letters for After School clubs are on the PE noticeboard (24 places only).

Reply slips have to be handed in to the register.

School Caterers



Please note the School Caterers operate a cashless system, so no money is taken at the kitchen. A small number of students are still bringing in cash for lunch. Please can parents regularly check the balance on their child's Parent Pay account via the ParentPay website: <https://www.parentpay.com/>.

If there are any difficulties with loading money onto the account, please contact the school office.



Holywell Eco Club

This term the Holywell Eco Club held an all school class competition to collect crisp packets in order to raise money for future environmental projects. They collected an unbelievable 10.6Kg which will be sent to Terracycle, with 5DS being the overall winner.

This is an ongoing project so please save your crisp packets and send them in with your children. Next term is Students V's staff!



Any brand of crisp packets



Another 'branch' of the Eco Club is the Gardening Club which has been busy planting bulbs for the Spring and adding some colour to our entrance as well as preparing the ground for our kitchen garden.

This term's aim was to get a plant in every classroom which we are on our way to achieving. If you have any tools, equipment or compost you are able to donate we would be very grateful.



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.



Science Department News

What a brilliant first term we have had in the science department at Holywell! It has been action-packed with students in all years embarking on their new learning journey.

In September, we welcomed our new **Year Five** students and they quickly settled into life at Holywell. Their year began with a focus on developing practical skills. It was wonderful to see the students estimating, measuring, and recording whilst carrying out lots of practical work – something we missed throughout the previous year. Our 'working scientifically' focus continued during our next topic where students excelled in modelling the three states of matter – acting as particles on the playground and organising themselves into the correct particle arrangement. Bravo! Year Five.

Year Six started the year learning about reversible and irreversible changes. They quickly developed observational skills looking for evidence that chemical reactions had taken place. Have you ever thought about why the statue of liberty is green? When the statue was constructed it was a shiny, golden copper colour. Over the years, the copper reacted with gases and water in the air to give liberty her '**green**' copper carbonate coating!

Bunsen Burner Licence

This certifies that

..... is able to carry out the following:

- ✓ name the different parts of a Bunsen Burner
- ✓ set up a Bunsen Burner correctly
- ✓ light a Bunsen Burner safely
- ✓ use a Bunsen Burner safely and adjust the heat of the flame

Therefore **can*** use a Bunsen Burner in Mrs Alcock's Lab.

Signed:

Date:



*This licence will be revoked immediately if the student is unable to fulfil the above conditions

The highlight of the first term for many students in Year Six was earning their Bunsen burner licence! To achieve this important milestone, students had to demonstrate a secure understanding of safety in the lab, set up a Bunsen burner correctly, light it safely and use it to investigate the burning time of various materials. An anxious time for some transformed into confidence and we were thrilled with the effort shown by all students.

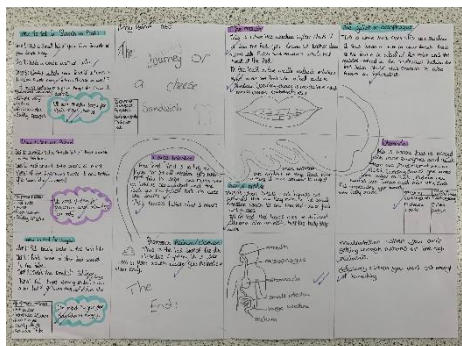
In **Year Seven**, we began the year studying cells and life processes. Students made fantastic cell models and developed their knowledge and understanding of cell structure and function. Using the department microscopes inspired many students as we zoomed into the magical microscopic world!



Year Eight thoroughly enjoyed our Health and lifestyle topic at the beginning of the year.

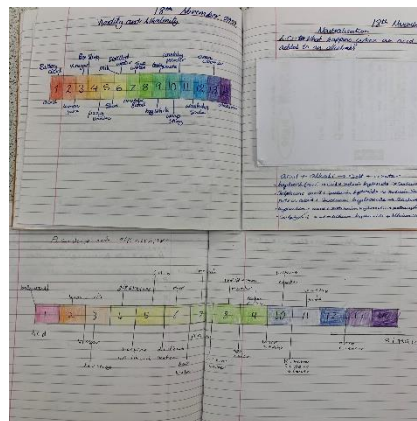
Studying

diet and nutrition, food testing, and the digestive system made learning relevant to everyday life. There were many inspired pieces of work showing the 'Journey of a cheese sandwich'!



The highlight for many students was our work on acids and alkalis.

Chemistry always provides the 'Harry Potter' moments, the magic of reactions! Testing various substances with different indicators produced a rainbow of colours and an appreciation of the acidity and alkalinity of everyday items.



Year Eight have also been learning about static electricity and circuits. Hair-raising! Electrifying! They applied their knowledge of circuits by designing and building a steady hand game.



As we end our first term, we look forward to the exciting learning opportunities in the new year. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!

Holywell Science Department

Preparing for snow??

Please remember a few key points of how the school handles this.

We work extremely hard to stay open – including having our own mini-snow plough! However, if the weather does overwhelm us and it is decided to close the school before the start of the school day (eg. in the event of severe weather conditions), we will notify you in the following ways:

- by message on WEDUC
- on the school's website (www.holywellschool.co.uk)
- on the Central Bedfordshire Council website using their 'State of Schools' (SOS) system:

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/95/schools_portal/569/online_resources

- Via the local radio station (BBC Three Counties (95.5 or 103.8 FM / www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties)

It is usually when Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Transport departments deem the roads too dangerous for buses to run and cancel transport that we decide to close the school. In the event of us closing, we contact the bus companies to ensure that they do not bring students into school.



Art Department News

Year 5 – Toy sketches

Year 5 have been developing their drawing skills focusing on some of the formal elements of art such as; tone, line, shape, form and texture. They have used these skills to sketch some incredible final pieces this term. Well done Year 5!

We are looking forward to seeing what they can do with colour in the spring term!



Year 6 - Land Art



Year 6 have created some outstanding art work in the great outdoors this term. Their work has been inspired by the artist Andy Goldsworthy and their visit to Wrest Park earlier in the year. We have seen some great use of a variety of natural materials, very interesting forms and bright vivid colours. Well done Year 6!



Year 6 - Land Art



Year 7 - Clay Masks



Year 7 have spent two lessons working with clay to created their final mask design. They have spent weeks developing their designs inspired by the bold, expressive facial features of Gargoyles, Sugar Skulls, Greek Masks and The Green Man. This inspiration has created some incredibly original designs this term!

Great work Year 7!

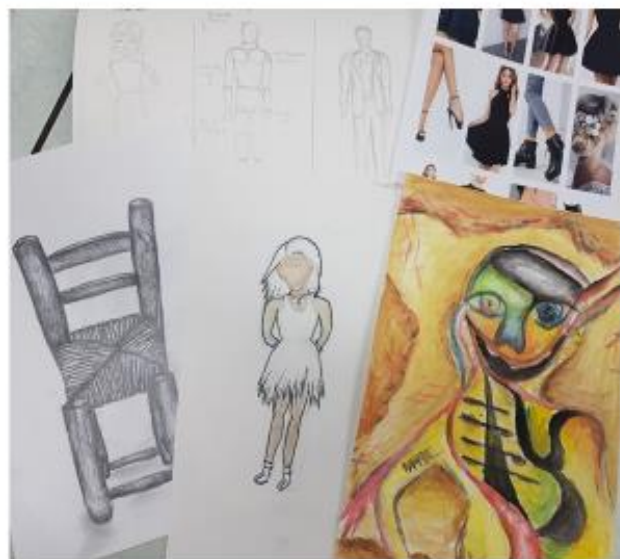


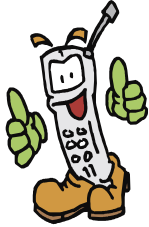
Year 7 - Clay Masks



Year 8 – Fashion Illustration

Year 8 have been working towards producing their final fashion illustrations. They began with looking at the human form and how to sketch it using 'the head' as a measure. They then produced two artworks to inspire their final piece; a painted response to an artists work and a pencil sketch of an everyday object. Their challenge is to incorporate these imaginatively into their final piece. We cannot wait to see their final collections of work in the new year!





If your child is away from School

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

The Office Staff prepare the official registers and need to know the reason for **all** absences. It is therefore important that they are made aware of absences and they will inform your child's Form Teacher.

Please could parents remind students to report to the office if they arrive at school after registration. Students leaving school during the day, for whatever reason, must also use the front entrance to the school and sign out.

Payment for Uniform, Trips and Sundries

Please pay online whenever possible, with the link on our website.

Tucasi (Scopay.com) For payment of the following:

- **Ordering School ties / blazer badges**
- **Trips**
- **Early risers/breakfast club** (booking form must also be completed on Weduc)
- **Lost or damaged library books**



If you have not previously logged in to Tucasi you will need an access code from the school. Please email finance@holywellschool.co.uk for this code.

If you are unable to pay online we have the facility to pay by credit/debit card in person at the school office or via telephone.

If you are unable to pay online or by card please contact the school office.

Parent Pay (Payment for tuck/school dinners)

Please remember to check your child's Parent Pay account balance regularly.

You can set up to receive a reminder email when the account credit goes below a certain level. To do this log in to your parent pay account>communication>alert settings>balance alerts> under threshold set an amount and tick email alert. Once the credit goes below this level you will receive an email reminder to top up the balance.

For queries with regards to Parent Pay please email:
school@holywellschool.co.uk

For web pages for the above please go to
[https://holywellschool.co.uk/ Parents>online payments](https://holywellschool.co.uk/Parents>online payments).



History Department News

In History **Year 5** have been finishing their introduction to history by learning about Cranfield. They really enjoyed their walk around the village, spotting changes and continuities.

Year 6 have also finished their unit on the Anglo Saxons and have definitely changed their initial opinion of the Saxons as bloodthirsty warriors! Most have recognised that this period of British history does not deserve to be termed the Dark Ages.

In **Year 7** we are continuing our look through medieval history having visited Mountfitchet Castle. We are learning about how effectively medieval kings dealt with the church, the nobles and the peasants. The term has ended with a look at the vicious murder of Thomas Becket and we move on to look at 'bad' King John next term.

The **Year 8's** are still exploring the Industrial age and have just been making some fabulous causal links between a small invention like the safety lamp in mining to the discovery of electricity and its impact on the modern world.

Mrs French

From the R.E Department

In R.E. many **Year 5's** were able to have a fun lesson making Jewish artefacts from recycled materials and their creations were really super. They move on to look at the life of Jesus next term.

Year 6 students have been looking at Jesus' teaching on love, forgiveness, peace and wealth and have seen how Corrie Ten Boom and Mother Teresa [among others] have put his teaching into practice in their lives.

Year 7 have immersed themselves in the study of Islam and have contemplated the problems Muslims may face in fulfilling the requirements of their religion when living in a non-Muslim country.

Year 8 have ended their study of the nature of God with a personal discussion on whether or not, based on their learning this term, they believe God exists. Next term they will move on to explore the colourful and fascinating religion of Hinduism.

Mrs French

Charity News

Christmas Jumper Day



Our Christmas Jumper Day Fund-raising this year was in support of Holywell School P.T.F.A. We raised **£518.17**. Thank you very much.

Non-uniform days are a simple way to raise money and to make a HUGE difference. Wonderful generosity Holywell. Thank you very much.

Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal

On Wednesday 8th December, ten of our Year 8 students visited the Samaritan's Purse depot, ready for some hard work for the benefit of the charity.

We were set to work straight away, given our own working station and 2 very large pallets of shoe boxes ready for checking. Our job was to check all boxes that had been donated, ensuring the presents were appropriate for the age of the child, that there was no food inside and all liquids were removed in case they burst during transit to Russia.

The children were a real credit to themselves, the school and their families. They worked solidly for three hours, taking only a short break for a festive treat. Their dedication to getting these boxes sorted for those children less fortunate was second to none. A second group headed out on Tuesday 14th December. They didn't quite manage to beat the record of 2452 boxes set by the first group ... in the second group's defence, the charity actually ran out of boxes! They were very grateful for the help from both groups.

Well done everyone!

Miss Stewart



From the English Department

Year Five

Year Five have been enjoying the wonderful Michael Morpurgo novel- 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. They have produced some incredible informal letters and descriptive writing, including writing from the perspective of an orang-utan! We are now getting started on our 'Passion for Poetry' unit.



Year Six

Year Six started the term with their work around WWI and our highly enjoyable visit to Wrest Park. This culminated in some really impressive narrative writing called the 'Soldier's Story' describing the journey of a WWI soldier from the trenches to recuperation at Wrest Park. There are some amazing examples from each group on display in the entrance hall.

We then looked at writing some high-quality non-fiction in the form of balanced arguments: we looked at questions such as 'Should students have to wear school uniform?' and 'Should KS2 students have screen time limited to one hour per day?' We are now well underway with reading a superb contemporary novel- 'Journey to the River Sea' by Eva Ibbotson.

Year Seven

Year Seven began with an immersive creative writing unit based around creating their own fantasy world. They have then enjoyed the hugely popular Louis Sachar novel 'Holes'. They have learnt about the historical background of racism in America in the late 19th century and written in variety of styles including letters, newspapers and factual reports. We will move on to looking at persuasive speeches in the new year.

Year Eight

Year eight have worked very hard on two main units this term. The first was 'Gothic Horror' where they looked at classic and modern 'gothic' stories. They then wrote their own spine-chilling tales of terror!

This half-term has been dedicated to Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. They have read the novella, written some super persuasive letters calling for the cancellation of Christmas and are now writing some very impressive essays. Our next unit is the gripping contemporary novel- 'Stone Cold' by Robert Swindells.

Homework and Independent Reading

As I am sure you will have noticed, English homeworks are now almost entirely based around reading tasks. There has been a great response from students and the vast majority are completing their reading each week.

If I could just ask you to make sure that they are completing these tasks at home- which would also include at least 20 minutes each day reading either independently or to an adult. All the evidence shows that nothing has a bigger impact on child's academic achievement than regular reading for pleasure!

Have a wonderful Christmas

Mr Brown, Head of English



PRACTICAL REMINDERS



- **Hydration Guidance:** All students should have a water bottle (labelled) and they are encouraged to take regular sips during the day.
 - Bottles must be anti-spill bottles - NOT GLASS - with sports tops
 - Water bottles should be carried separately from school books and library books
 - Water bottles are not allowed near electrical equipment
 - Water bottles and drinks must be for personal use only
 - Teachers have the final word in lessons as to when and if they can be used
 - Bottles must contain still WATER! Flavoured still water or sugar-free squash is also an acceptable alternative, however, water is best! (Fizzy drinks – including sparkling water drinks or power drinks – are not allowed in school.)
- **Uniform** – In order to represent our community appropriately it is important that our pupils wear the correct school uniform with pride and look well presented at all times. Below is a reminder of our school uniform and expectations. PE Kit should only be worn into school on days where pupils have PE. If you are refreshing uniform over Christmas, please make sure that the correct uniform is purchased ready to be smart in January. Make sure that shoes are shoes (no trainers)! Trousers and skirts should be grey and not black; skirts should be the correct length – ie. BELOW the knee.

UNIFORM	
Blazer	Black
House Badge*	For blazer
Trousers	Plain grey, not cords or denims
Skirt	Plain grey, below the knee
Jumper/Cardigan	Plain grey, 'V' necked
Shirt	White
School Tie*	Black and gold clip-on
White polo shirt	Summer term only
Socks	White, grey or black (No trainer socks)
Shoes	Black, no boots, trainers or heels higher than 4cm
Coat	Any plain style
SPORTS UNIFORM	
Rugby Shirt	Black/Gold reversible
Shorts	Black
Skirt	Black
Sports shirt	With school logo
Socks	Knee length black and short white
Trainers	NB. not basketball boots
Football boots	
Track suit	Optional – black
Shin pads	Optional
Towel	Optional

Items marked with * are available from school

- **Chewing Gum** – Chewing gum is **not** allowed and should not be brought into school.
- **Mobile Phone Policy** – Reminder that we are a non-smart-phone school. Smart phones are not to be brought on-site. Non-smart phones for communicating with parents out of school hours are allowed with a permission slip and are the responsibility of the child. If smart-phones are found on-site, they will be confiscated and will need to be collected by a parent. Full policy on the website.
- **Behaviour – To / From school and on the buses** – we expect the same high standards of student behaviour on the bus and walking to and from school. Students should also make sure they are behaving safely at all times – eg. seat belts on, walking a safe distance away from the pavement, not crossing in front of vehicles, etc.
- **Haircuts** – Keep it professional! No fashion cuts, no lines or patterns, no colours, nothing shorter than Grade #2.
- **Essential Equipment** - Having the right equipment in school is essential to pupils demonstrating that they are ready to learn and taking their lessons seriously. Whilst we understand that everyone forgets things from time to time, we're seeing an increasing number of occasions where pupils are not bringing any, or consistently missing key pieces of equipment into school. We'd like to therefore take this opportunity to remind pupils that it is their responsibility to ensure that they have the correct equipment in lessons and that they come into school ready to learn. We've updated the list of what is essential below and would appreciate your support in ensuring that pupils come to school with the correct equipment.
 - Their school organiser
 - A reading book
 - A blue or black handwriting pen
 - A red pen
 - A green pen
 - A 15cm ruler
 - A whiteboard pen
 - A mini whiteboard (NB. all students were provided with a mini whiteboard at the start of the academic year – students are responsible for replacing that one if they lose it. There is an emergency whiteboard page in the school organiser)
 - A glue stick
 - Colouring pencil(s) in a case
 - Eraser
 - A pencil Sharpener
 - A protractor
 - A scientific calculator (Year 7 & 8 Only)



CHRISTMAS WISHES

*But Mary treasured all these words
and pondered them in her heart.
Luke 2.19*



'At the heart of Christmas' is the Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2021. It is also a challenge to each of us to ponder in our hearts – as Mary did – what the extraordinary events of the first Christmas might mean for us now and in the years ahead.

In 2020, many of us experienced a Christmas when so many of the ways we traditionally mark the season were suddenly denied to us. This year, of course, we hope and pray that many of the familiar experiences that help Christmas come alive return to our homes, our churches and communities.

'At the heart of Christmas' was also the theme for this year's Christmas Card Competition. The winning design has been made into our official Holywell card. The winning design was a fusion of the work of Ava-Rose and Alice.



Hope at the Heart of Christmas and Kindness, Love, Health and
Happiness in the New Year
From all the students and staff at Holywell School

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



AUTUMN TERM 2021

End of Term – Friday 17th December

SPRING TERM 2022

Term Begins – Wednesday 5th January

Half Term – Monday 14th February to Friday 18th February

End of Term – Friday 1st April

SUMMER TERM 2022

Term Begins – Tuesday 19th April

May Day – Monday 2nd May

Half Term – Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June

End of Term – Friday 22nd July

Please note that dates may differ from other schools

SUMMER TERM TEST DATES 2022



Year 6 Students

Key Stage 2 SATs

Monday 9th May - Thursday 12th May 2022

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS AT THIS TIME



**A REMINDER THAT STUDENTS
RETURN TO SCHOOL ON:
WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2022**

