



# Holywell News



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February 2022

## Mr Simpson's Headlines

As the half-term comes to a close, we have taken the opportunity to take time out of our usual curriculum to have a mental health day. The idea came from one of our students – Lily - and has been developed by Miss Stewart and Mrs Johnson. So, today, students have all had an opportunity to do something different. All students (and staff) had four different sessions during the day:

- Connect with nature and be active through our sponsored **Thrift Walk**
- Keep learning by trying something different through one of four **workshops (Laughology, Sport; Origami; Circus Skills)**
- Take notice of each other through a **Groundworks workshop**
- Experience **"The Lion King"** through the experience of West End actor – Hugh Maynard

... all whilst giving their time, words and presence to support each other, growing together.



We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to making the day such a success and we hope that these experiences will enable students to end the term on a positive note.



TALK & LISTEN,  
BE THERE,  
FEEL CONNECTED



DO WHAT YOU CAN.  
ENJOY WHAT YOU DO.  
MOVE YOUR MOOD



REMEMBER  
THE SIMPLE  
THINGS THAT  
GIVE YOU JOY



EMBRACE NEW  
EXPERIENCES.  
SEE OPPORTUNITIES.  
SURPRISE YOURSELF



Your time,  
your words,  
your presence



The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is "Growing Together". We are encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown and how they can help others to grow. It is always a challenge to learn something new. There are setbacks, disappointments and barriers which get in the way. We need to be determined, persistent and resilient enough to deal with each hurdle as a learning experience – I mentioned to students in assembly this week a quote I heard many years ago: "Let each day that passes be a lesson, not a rule". We are not

defined by one specific event or moment in time, but we need to be able to learn, do things differently and move on.

We have seen examples of such learning and development in the life stories of well-known people such as Mandip Gill (aka Doctor Who's companion – Yaz), presenter, youTuber and real-life doctor - Dr Alex George - and skateboarder and Team GB's youngest medallist – Sky Brown. You can hear their 'growth stories' via Place2Be's website <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/growth-stories/>.



We have been particularly inspired by the life story, learning and development of The Queen - particularly as she celebrates 70 years since her accession to the throne on 6 February 1952. The young princess became Queen at the age of 25 after her father, King George VI died. She was in Kenya when the King died and was at the beginning of a Commonwealth Tour alongside her husband of almost five years, Prince Philip. She had to learn quickly how to reign and be the monarch, the head of

State and the head of the Nation. Over the last 70 years, she has honed her craft as a "focus for national identity, unity and pride" She has given a sense of stability and continuity; officially recognising success and excellence; and supporting the ideal of voluntary service. We have been particularly inspired by this dedicated service given by The Queen during her reign, by her hard work and grace. We have added this to our challenge of the week, thinking about how we can support each other to grow together under each heading of our vision statement: 'Live life in all its fullness':



- Live our values:
  - Be Kind; Be Respectful; Be Tolerant
- Be the best we can be
  - Be like the Queen: serve others, show grace
  - Treat each other well
  - Treat ourselves well
  - Disagree well: be peaceful problem-solvers
- Build community
  - Support and build each other up

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and I wish you all a safe and healthy half-term.

With all best wishes

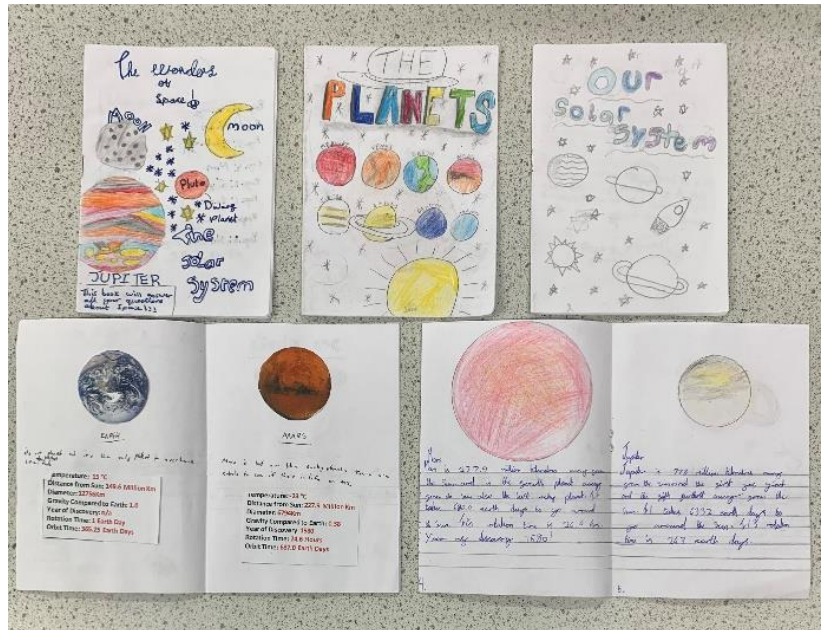
Mr MG Simpson



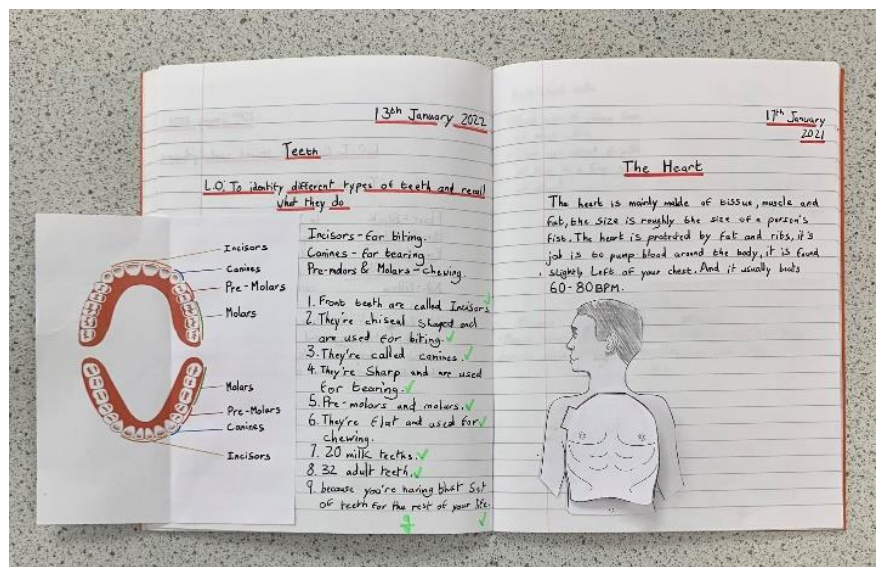
# Science Department News

It has been a busy half term in the Science department with lots of fabulous learning taking place.

**Year Five** have been inspired by the awe and wonder of the universe. They have been learning about many aspects of space, from the planets in our solar system to the phases of the Moon... Waxing Gibbous anyone? Check out the following website to discover the current and future phases of the moon [Moon Phases Calendar | Moonphases.co.uk](https://www.moonphases.co.uk)



**Year Six** have been learning about 'animals including humans.' They have taken a closer look at the human body, diet, teeth, the circulatory system, components of blood and pulse rate. A topic not for the faint hearted as we dissected a lamb's heart!



**Year Seven** have been investigating the properties of light, reflection, refraction and the rainbow. Many were fortunate to dissect a real eye and 'see' for themselves all the different parts of the eye that they had been learning about in lesson. A fabulous example of bringing learning to life at Holywell.

**Year Eight** have been focussing on energy. From the formation of fossil fuels and their importance in the industrial revolution to our modern-day thirst for energy. Students explored the development of renewable, alternative energy resources as a way of becoming more sustainable. A really important area of study – I'm sure you'll agree!

**British Science week** is fast approaching (11-20<sup>th</sup> March 2022). The theme this year is 'Growth'. Look out for some interesting competitions! **Mr Colbourne**

# Year 8 Trip - January 2022

## A Christmas Carol at the Old Vic Theatre

It seemed as if it had been many years since we'd been outside of school for a school trip. Shackled by Covid restrictions, we had felt trapped in school and were desperate to throw off our shackles to take our learning outside of the classroom.

BUT FINALLY..... The day came when we were released from the confines of our cages for a night out in Ye Auld London Town. The streets were simply bursting with magic and joyous carollers invested in the spirit of Christmas! The Houses of Parliament were glowing and gleaming beautifully, and in the distance, the chimes of the glorious, enchanting Big Ben could be heard, as wonderful as a nightingale's midnight melody.

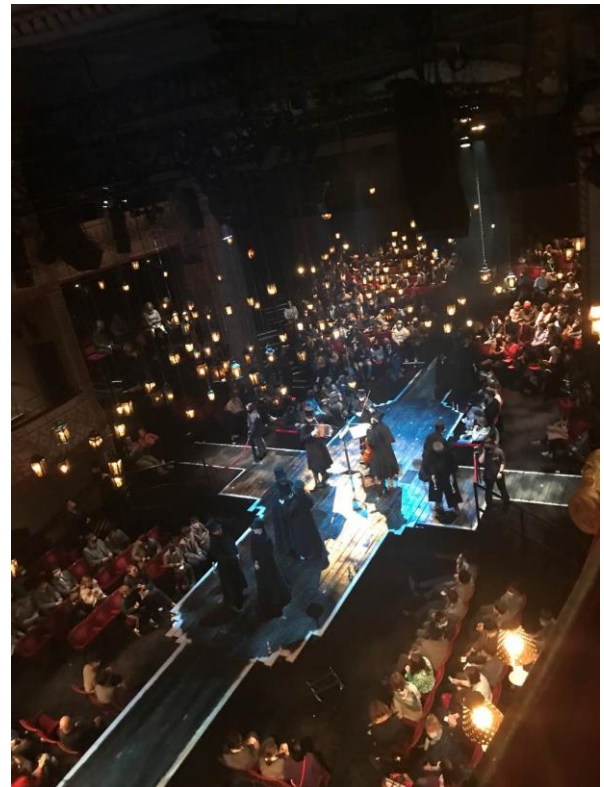
After an hour or so, the coach came to a sudden halt, and there lay the spectacular Old Vic; simply radiating with magnificent glory! We all couldn't contain our excitement, due to the joy we all shared. We stepped into the wondrous theatre, where the atmosphere was filled with Christmas spirit! The building was bursting with all of humanity, and the stairs stretching out endlessly as we climbed up. Finally, we arrived at the top of the gallery, where we found our seats. After several carols, the stage darkened, and all form of conversation was silenced. The play had begun.

It was a mystical, wondrous event! Snow was sprinkled upon us, oranges thrown, songs sung and Christmas spirit shared!



The book we had read in our English lessons was brought to life with melody and magic, an experience that would never be forgotten. Stephen Mangan was wonderful as Scrooge and we were all particularly impressed by Fred - the Nephew.

The play was brought to an end, and exhausted, we all gradually made our way onto the coach, tired but happy and inspired, for long journey home.



Written by Isabella, Holly, Andra and Harriet





# News from the PE Department

**Y7 Girls awaiting County Final date...** Well done to the Year 7 girls' basketball team who won their Partnership tournament and are eagerly awaiting a date for the County competition!

**Y5/6 Girls Table Tennis** Well done also to the girls' table tennis team who managed to win their Partnership tournament and then finish 5<sup>th</sup> in the county tournament!!

**FOOTBALL BOOTS!!** If you have any pairs of football boots at home that are no longer required (but in good condition!) then please send them into school and the PE department will put them to good use! Thanks, in anticipation.

**Promote your team...** If you would like your club/team to be promoted at school to encourage others to join, then please send details to [mkotur@holywellschool.co.uk](mailto:mkotur@holywellschool.co.uk). We have a lot of eager students who want to start playing more sports outside of school.

**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' planners. 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!

Once again, the department would like to thank students, parents and carers for their continued support throughout the half-term. **The PE Dept.**

## P.E. Clubs Timetable – Spring 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term 2022

	13:05-13:35	13:35 – 14:05	15:45-16:45
<b>Monday</b>	Y8 Boys Basketball (SW) – S/Hall Y7 Boys Rugby (ME) – Field Y5/6 Dance Club (SMa) – Gym	Y5/6 Couch 2 5K (MK) – Field	Y7/8 Badminton (MK) - Sports Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	Y7/8 Couch 2 5K (SMc) – Field Y5 Basketball (EM/MK) – S/Hall	Y6 Basketball (ES/MK) – S/Hall	Y5/6 Badminton (MK) – Sport Hall <i>Fixtures</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Y5/6 Rugby (JU/MK) – Field Y7 Boys Basketball (ME) – S/Hall	Y7/8 Girls Rugby (ME/MK) – Field	<i>Fixtures</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	Y7 Girls Basketball (EM) – S/Hall Y8 Boys Rugby (SW) – Field	Y8 Girls Basketball (ES) – S/Hall Y5/6 Girls Football (CSI/MK) - Field	All Years Table Tennis (MK) – Gym <i>Fixtures</i>
<b>Friday</b>	Y7/8 Girls Football (CSI) – Field Y5 Dodgeball (MK) – S/Hall	Y6 Dodgeball (MK) – S/Hall	

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



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

Reply slips have to be handed in to the register.



# Holywell School Eco Club Update

**Eco Club** is currently putting together a presentation to share with Governors explaining the outcomes of their EcoSchool Environmental Review. They have just sent 10kg of crisp packets off to Terracycle and continue to collect crisp packets to raise money for Eco Club.

In February we expect to receive some gardening equipment from points collected by Morrisons shoppers and we are still collecting Coop points, parents can request they be given to the school through the Coop website which will run until the end of the school year.

**Bird watching Club** has also been a hit and they have taken part in this year's Big Bird Watch. Any donations of bird feed or feeders would be very welcome!

As Spring approaches, we are seeing our October bulbs starting to grow, we planted a daffodil meadow and some pretty planters at the front of school. As always, we are looking for donations of gardening equipment, gloves, trowels, compost, seeds, plants etc. **Gardening Club** will be back after Half Term.





# Preparing for snow??

Stranger things have happened and many of us remember snow falling at Easter ... so, 'just in case', here's a reminder of 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](http://www.holywellschool.co.uk))
- on the Central Bedfordshire Council website using their 'State of Schools' (SOS) system:

[http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/95/schools\\_portal/569/online\\_resources](http://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](http://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.



## If your child is away from School

**A telephone call or WEDUC message 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.



## 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



Attendance in school is a huge national concern at the moment in these Covid-19 times and the government is insisting that we follow up absences – especially when the percentage attendance falls below 90%. Where students are absent due to Covid-19, this does not count against their attendance percentage, however, Covid-related absences are not always covered. Whilst we remain sympathetic in these challenging times, we do have to follow procedures. Parents / Carers should be aware that under current government guidelines **we can NOT give permission for any holiday in term time** – even

when they have been deferred as a result of Covid-19. 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, there are an increasing number of families taking ‘the odd day’ here and there ... this is having a HUGE impact on learning.

## Did you know.....?

- There are 175 non-school days a year, 175 days to spend on family time, holidays and visits.
- Being 5 minutes late every day means 3 lost days a year of your child's education.
- Arriving after the register closes, without a valid reason, is recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Getting your child to school really matters.

If your child's attendance during the school year is .....	Your child would have lost approximately.....	Your child would have missed approximately....
95%	9 days	50 lessons
90%	19 days	100 lessons
85%	29 days	150 lessons
80%	38 days	200 lessons
75%	48 days	250 lessons
70%	57 days	300 lessons
65%	67 days	350 lessons

**Absence = Lost Learning**





## Holywell School Vacancies



Please call for application packs or apply online on our website:  
[www.holywellschool.co.uk](http://www.holywellschool.co.uk)

### **Midday supervisors - £9.62 per hour**

Come and work for two days or more per week between 1.05pm and 2.05pm

### **Cleaners - £9.25 per hour**

Working to keep our school clean

Work between 1 hour & 2.5 hours per night, term time only between 4.00pm and 6.30pm  
(Overtime hours available during school holidays)

### **Clerk to Governors**

See the advert on our website

## Paying for Food



**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.

## Comic Relief – Red Nose Day – 18 March 2022

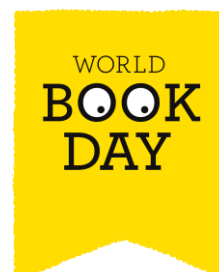
We look forward to another day in school when our pupils have a great deal of fun whilst thinking seriously about helping others who are very much less fortunate than ourselves.

**We have bought in a supply of this year's red noses and they will be on sale in the Library from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at £1.50 each.**



## World Book Day 2022

World Book Day is on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Students will be receiving a £1.00 World Book Day voucher, that can be used in exchange for one of the World Book Day books, or £1.00 off a book valued at £2.99 or more. For more information they can visit [worldbookday.com](http://worldbookday.com)



Miss Watson

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## SPRING TERM 2022

**Half Term** – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February

**End of Term** – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April

## SUMMER TERM 2022

**Term Begins – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**May Day** – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

**Half Term** – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

**End of Term** – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

*Please note that dates may differ from other schools*

## SUMMER TERM TEST DATES 2022

### Mock Tests

**Year 7 & 8 Maths mock** - week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> March

**Year 6 SATs mocks English and Maths** - week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> March

**Year 5 Maths mock** - week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> March



### Year 6 Tests

**Key Stage 2 SATs**

9 May - 12 May 2022

**GL Tests**

Week commencing 13 June 2022

### Year 5 Tests

**GL Tests**

Week commencing 13 June 2022

### Year 7 Tests

9 June – English GL

10 June – Maths GL

### Year 8 Tests

9 June – English GL

10 June – Maths GL

**PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS AT THIS TIME**