

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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*A Church of England School
providing a Values Based Education*

Update Letter 14-11-2022

Dear students, parents and carers

This update letter includes a reflection on **Remembrance Day**, something about our value of the month (Peace) and a reminder about some up-and-coming events over the next couple of weeks.

It has been wonderful over the last few days to see Holywell students – past, present and future – taking time to ‘remember’ – to remember past family members who gave up their lives in the First and Second World Wars, to remember the loved ones we have lost who served us and cared for us and to remember to say ‘thank you’ to everyone who works hard at home, at school or in our community to make our lives that little easier and happier. Over the last few weeks, students have been discovering letters in their register packs and speculating as to what they might be. The letters made up the word ‘REMEMBER’ which is the theme of this year’s Remembrance Day Art installation, masterminded by Miss Warren, Mrs Manning and the whole Art Team.



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Deputy Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs J Davies

Assistant Headteacher: Mr James Ulph – Senior Leader: Mrs M Purves – SENDCo: Miss Amanda Stepney

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The installation also includes several famous War poems. This is one of my favourites:

IN FLANDERS FIELDS.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place ; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe :
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch ; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*



*Punch
December 8, 1915*

John McRae



... and, as we stood at the Cranfield War Memorial on Sunday for the two-minute silence, a flock of larks swooped and flew in formation, each on taking the lead at different times, all flying safely off into the afternoon sun. We were well-represented in the parade and at the church service – firstly, there were our current students who carried and presented the wreath on behalf of the school (thanks to Edward, Oliver, Emma and Lucy); secondly, there were many Holywell students in the air cadets, the army cadets, the parachute brigade, the cubs,

brownies and guides. Some of our former students were also in the

ranks of these organisations – they have all grown up into great young people who are all doing well either at Upper School or College – it was lovely to hear Alvin doing one of the readings, to hear Charlotte play the Last Post (for the last time as she goes off to university) and to see Jack as flag bearer; thirdly, there were many prospective Holywell students – members of the Cranfield Academy Council were looking smart and looking forward to joining us in September. We were also well represented at the Wootton Remembrance Day parade where Mrs Purves and some of our Wootton students also laid a wreath on behalf of Holywell. We had our own 2-minute silence in school on Friday. After the 2-minute silence, a piece of music is played called the 'Rouse'. It was traditionally used to wake up the soldiers; in the act of remembrance it symbolises life after death and hope for the future. It was played superbly for us this year by Harry.



Value of the Month: Peace

Our newly-appointed Values Ambassadors had their first opportunity to write our Value of the Month Definition – some suggestions as to how students in school can demonstrate this particular value.



PEACE November 2022

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9

Show peace to other students and adults by being respectful and kind.

Show peace by talking problems out calmly and together.

Show peace by not shouting out in lessons.

Show peace around school by walking not running.

Written by Charlie, Erika, James, Maizie and Millie



Rev Isaac also has a lovely reflection on Peace – which is also being shared with Cranfield Academy as, for the first time, we have the same Value of the Month!

If you took a photo of me when I was 11 and you held it up against my eldest son, you'd think it was a photo of him. And the same is true of a photo of my dad when he was 11! Some people look just like their parents no matter how old they are. But what would it look like to look like God?

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus says: "Blessed are the peace-makers, for they will be called children of God." According to Jesus, it is not the super strong, but those who work towards peace who look most God-like. In bible language to be called someone's son is to be likened to them. So what Jesus is saying here is: 'like father like son'. He is calling upon those who follow him to follow him. To follow in his footsteps of peace. Jesus was, of course, the ultimate peace-maker. Through his death on the cross he gave up his life to be a 'peace-making sacrifice'. He made peace between humanity and God. But having this peace with God, was not the end of the story, but just the beginning. In Ephesians chapter two, Paul writes of Jesus' death: "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility."

And so, having received peace with God, we are to go on making peace with others. In this way we show our God-likeness. In this way we can be called 'children of God'.

Anti-Bullying Week: Reach Out

Students have the opportunity to put their peaceful-problem-solving skills into action this week as we join other schools and groups all over the country to support Anti-Bullying Week. Anti-Bullying week is an annual UK event, held in the third week in November which aims to raise awareness of bullying of children and young people, in schools and elsewhere, and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it. It started in 2002 and has since grown to become a significant event in the calendars of children, families and schools with an estimated 80% of schools in the UK taking part reaching over 7.5 million children and young people.



Sometimes, things go wrong and, as in all communities, there are times of disagreements, conflict and disharmony. We always seek peaceful solutions to difficult situations and aim for reconciliation and forgiveness. Where there are issues, we deal with these as unique incidents and act firmly and fairly to resolve the issue. We do however, make a distinction between disagreements, conflict and bullying. We take bullying seriously and have a zero-tolerance to bullying behaviour. We believe it is

everybody's responsibility to deal with incidents of bullying in line with our Anti-Bullying Policy, when they occur. At Holywell School we use the following definition of Bullying:

Bullying
is behaviour which is:
intentional and targeted,
deliberately designed to be hurtful
and repeated systematically over a period of time.

There is also often a power imbalance generally based on unequal power relations in bullying relationships, whether real or perceived.

This is the Anti-Bullying Alliance's 'Call to Action' for this year:

<Bullying affects millions of lives and can leave us feeling hopeless. But it doesn't have to be this way. If we challenge it, we can change it. And it starts by reaching out.>

<Whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, let's reach out and show each other the support we need. Reach out to someone you trust if you need to talk. Reach out to someone you know is being bullied. Reach out and consider a new approach.>

<And it doesn't stop with young people. From teachers to parents and influencers to politicians, we all have a responsibility to help each other reach out. Together, let's be the change we want to see. Reflect on our own behaviour, set positive examples and create kinder communities.>

<It takes courage, but it can change lives. So, this Anti-Bullying Week, let's come together and reach out to stop bullying.>

This week, staff and students will be taking time to talk together and to reach out to each other. We're aware, that sometimes, there is not enough time to talk and equally, not all students are happy or ready to talk. This week in our community time, staff and students will be exploring ways in which we can help and support everyone in our community to be courageous, confident empowered to 'reach out' about anything.

Very often, individuals can be targeted for the things which make them unique so, as an antidote to that, we are holding an **Odd Socks Day on Tuesday** to celebrate diversity and the fact that we are all different – let's celebrate our differences and be proud to be our unique selves. On **Friday**, not only is it a '**Children-in-Need**' **Non-uniform Charity Day**, but it is also **Friendship Friday** – we will be encouraging students to think about how they can say 'thank you' to their friends ... or how they can make a new friendship.

.. and please remember that we need to 'reach out' and support each other too. We still have some limited spaces available for the workshop being hosted on Tuesday (11.15am -12.45pm) at our new termly Parent/Carers Coffee Morning here at Holywell.

Please get in touch with Mrs Johnson, our Family Support Worker to book on or ask any questions. jjohnson@holywellschool.co.uk

You could also think about how you could either support each other at home this week or support staff in school ... a little message or a note, a secret delivery of chocolate, a cup of tea, a slice of cake, a thank you ... we all need to be seen – so let's take time to really appreciate each other.

... and that's a perfect cue for me to say 'Thank you' to you for your continued support of your child/children at Holywell and of everything we're doing at Holywell. Have a great week and a peaceful month!

Mike Simpson
Headteacher



HOLYWELL SCHOOL
PARENT/CARER DROP IN

TERMLY OFFER
We are looking to set up a Coffee Morning Parent/Carer Catch up Each Term.

Our New initiative starts NEXT WEEK:
TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER
11.15AM @HOLYWELL SCHOOL

Autumn Term:
FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST:
Workshop 1

Understanding Anxiety
with Chloe Lovell: Fully Qualified Play Therapist

www.clearrivertherapy.com

To book your place contact Mrs Johnson
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