

HOLYWELL SCHOOL

Red Lion Close, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0JA

Tel: 01234 750381

Email: school@holywellschool.co.uk

Website: www.holywellschool.co.uk



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*A Church of England School
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Update Letter: 02-12-2022

Dear parents, carers and students

Here we are at the start of December and the **Advent** season. Advent has four key themes: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. On Monday, we explored '**Hope**' and I challenged everyone to think about their 'hopes for the week'. Students and staff were all hoping for a variety of outcomes of the England v Wales match in the World Cup ... I think we can all say that it was a 'good' match all round and that there was so much of which everyone involved could be proud. Other 'hopes for the week' included:

- Hoping that Year 6 would do well in their practice SATs
- Hoping to see grandparents
- Hoping to pass a Maths test
- Hoping that everyone does their best in school
- Hoping to jump 70cm on a horse
- Hoping that Mrs Warner has a great week before going on maternity leave (and she did!)
- Hoping to catch up with family and friends
- Hoping that everyone stays safe and well.



We have just concluded our focus on '**Peace**' as a value of the month and in our worship, we reflected on what we do and where we go when we need some peace. Coming from the North-East of England and specifically, having been close to the North-East coast, the sea always grounds and provides me with a sense of calm and a great deal of perspective. We have been encouraging students and staff to think about places of calm and comfort – especially when feeling anxious, stressed or tired. Where do you go as a family? What do you do? This may be something to think about and to take time to actively plan into a busy schedule. We're all rushing around (especially in the run-up to the festive season) and it is good to go somewhere

that helps you to recharge and switch off for a while – I find an afternoon at the cinema or in a theatre is another way to de-stress.



It has continued to be a great '**joy**' to catch up with students who have done superb work in their lessons.



Headteacher: Mr MG Simpson MA, NPQH

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

Assistant Headteacher: Mr J Ulph – Senior Leader: Mrs M Purves – SENDCo: Miss A Stepney

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The final theme of Advent is **'Love'** – not romantic love, but rather personal affection or attachment – being part of a community and caring for each other. At this time of the year, we consider God's love. God revealed His love through sending His only Son Jesus Christ to save us all: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Whatever your belief or faith, this act of compassion can inspire us all to dare to do something brave and bold to help others, to see things from someone else's perspective and to actively seek to help those in need. Our Value for the Month is **COMPASSION** and our Values Ambassadors have tried to explain this abstract concept as simply and as clearly as possible:



"Compassion is about putting yourself in someone else's shoes, experiencing what they experience.

Compassion is noticing someone is hurting or in need and doing something to help them."

So how can everyone in our Holywell Community show compassion? Here are 4 simple things suggested by the Values Ambassadors:

Pay attention to how people are feeling and ask how you can help.

Make sure people are OK - check in regularly with each other.

If someone's on their own, go and talk to them.

Be kind - Be respectful.

Smile.



Our **PTFA** have certainly brought lots of smiles to school this week with their wonderful **Hot Chocolate treat days**. From Tuesday to Friday at break-time, a group of parents has come into school to sell Hot Chocolate ... with marshmallows of course! This is all to raise some extra funds for school and it has been greatly appreciated.



... and in terms of raising funds, we managed to raise a marvellous £532.10. There is one further non-uniform day this term – and that is next **Friday 9th December** which is our **Christmas Jumper Day**. It is an optional charity non-uniform day and we suggest a £1.00 donation – all funds raised will go to The King's Arms Project – a local charity tackling homelessness, displacement and isolation in Bedford and beyond: <https://kingsarmsproject.org/>.

Next **Friday 9th December** also sees the return of our **Family Christmas Carol Service**. This is being hosted at St Peter and St Paul's Church and will begin at 5.30pm. Due to capacity at the church, tickets are limited to 4 per family and details of how to book places will be sent out early next week.

Our **huge thanks to some members of staff who are leaving us at the end of term** for new challenges. We have some long-standing members of staff who are leaving and we are grateful for everything they have done to support us all during their time here at Holywell. Our best wishes go to Mrs Davies, Mr Ulph, Mrs Brightman and Mrs England. There will be more in the end-of-term newsletter. We will miss you all and we thank you for all your hard work and service to Holywell.

... and finally, we are looking forward to a fantastic last two weeks, full of joy, love and compassion. Watch out for the end-of-term newsletter and stay safe.

Mike Simpson
Headteacher