



Holywell News



Issue No: 166
February 2023

Mr Simpson's Headlines

It seems such a long time ago since we returned back to school early in January for our Community Day! The day gave tutor groups the opportunity to find out about each other and to connect. The rationale was simple:

- We need community.
- We want community.
- Community is good for us.

There were formal sessions exploring the concept of community and less formal times where students could get to know each other (and their tutors) through games, conversations and community time.



5SMa and 5EM created wishing jars and planted seeds which they hope will grow as their wishes become a reality!

Our Value of the Month for January was 'JUSTICE'. The Values Ambassadors came up with the following definition of justice:

Justice means fairness in the way people are dealt with.

Think before you speak or do.

Listen to people's point of view for balance.

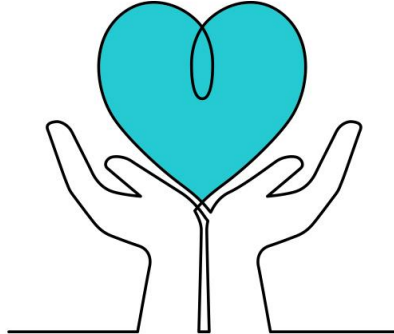
Everyone deserves the right to be treated fairly and equally.

Don't judge a book by its cover.

Little did we know, that when we wrote this definition, we'd have days of industrial action. Thank you for your support during the first strike day – it was all much appreciated! Although the main disagreements with the Government are to do with staff pay, the NEU have also pointed out that school budgets have had to bear the brunt of these pay settlements. Fortunately, we have a healthy budget ... at the moment. We hope that the Government listen and provide us with a good budget with which we can continue to

educate and enthuse students. If the other planned strikes go ahead, Holywell will be closed to students on 1st March and 15th and 16th March. We will confirm closer to the time.

Our Value for January is HUMILITY. Being humble is quite a difficult concept, but it is all about knowing our own value, but not undervaluing others, trying not to be greedy or selfish, but working in community, not getting too big for our boots but rather 'bigging up' others.



“do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
Let each of you look not only to your own interests but also to the interests of others”
Philippians 2: 3-4

Here is 7EV's interpretation of what humility stands for:

H– is for helping others without the need for praise or thanks

U– is for using your talents and for being the best you can be without being boastful

M– is for making mistakes and learning from them

I – is for the importance of working together

L– is for listening to advice as you don't know everything

I – is for showing an interest in your friends, giving them praise and encouraging them

T– is for taking help when its offered. Don't be too proud to ask for help

Y– is for you first, me next

Several very humble students have been to see me to share their wonderful work during the course of the half-term – including Callum, Alice and William:



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

MG Simpson

Mike Simpson

Staff News

This half term we say 'au revoir' to Mrs Manning. Mrs Manning has been our Art and DT Technician and she has supported many students with their work in Food, Textiles and Resistant Materials. She has been a wonderful form tutor and has also worked as a cover supervisor. She is leaving to take on a new role as a driving instructor and has already met up with some ex-Holywell students 'behind the wheel'. We wish her every success for the future.

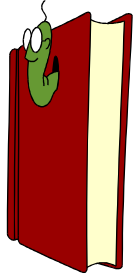
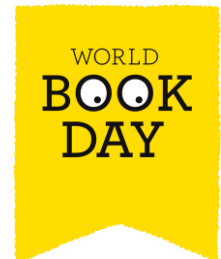
Some staff are also moving into new roles next half term – Miss E Lau will be taking on the role of Art/DT Technician and Mr Meek is our new Inclusion/Behaviour Coach.

As part of her professional development, Miss Brumsden is on a 6-week placement at a local Upper School and will be back with us at Holywell after Easter.

World Book Day 2023

World Book Day is on Thursday 2 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



Book Fair

We will be holding a **Travelling Book Fair** at Holywell from **8 – 15 March**

There will be a wide range of books suitable for all students with an opportunity to view them during the week. The Book Fair will also be open to all children at lunchtimes. The usual reservation and order arrangements will apply.

Students will be able to use their £1 World Book Day voucher on any book worth £2.99 or more.

Comic Relief – Red Nose Day – 17 March 2023

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

We have ordered a supply of this year's red noses and they will be on sale in the Library at £2.50 each.



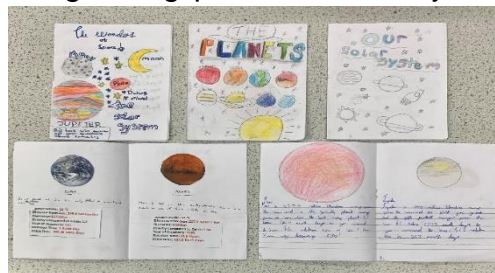
Science Department News

The first half term of 2023 has passed by in the blink of an eye! The Science department has been a hive of activity with lots of interactive learning taking place. In January, we welcomed Mrs Bradbury to complete our team of experienced Science teachers.

Year Five have been inspired by the awe and wonder of the universe; learning about space, our solar system, our planet and the moon. In addition to



producing some amazing fact files about the planets, many students had the opportunity to model the planets using papier mâché. Creativity was in abundance and we can't wait to see the final display in the STEAM room.



sinking and air resistance. They even made simple gyrocopters to investigate the effects of air resistance on falling objects.

There has been an electrifying buzz in Year Six lessons. Students have been learning about electricity and circuits. From simple circuit symbols and diagrams to the effects of series and parallel circuits on components. Many students made their own 'Steady hand Game' to



show great application of their new-found knowledge. A **huge** thank you must also go to Mrs Sillett who successfully completed the gruelling 3 Peaks Challenge back in the Summer. She kindly donated the money raised to the Science department and we used it to upgrade our old circuit equipment, giving the students a much better learning experience. THANK YOU, Mrs Sillett!

Year Six have also been learning about habitats and classification. Some beautiful habitat presentations are on display in Lab 2. Students were amazed to see the special adaptations of the African Gerenuk and Asian Snub-nosed monkey!

Year Seven began a rotation of learning centred around the topics of 'Light', 'Reproduction', and 'Atoms, Element & Compounds'. This enabled them to learn three different Science disciplines (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) in one term.

Year Eight have been reinforcing and developing new practical skills this term. Their learning has been centred around the topics of 'Energy', 'Separation techniques' and 'The periodic table'. Our approach to teaching and learning is always reinforced with excellent practical exploration. Our students really benefit from practical work that enables them to focus their thinking on the scientific content of the lesson. Bravo! Year Eight.

Mr Colbourne & The Science Department

Year 8 Trip - January 2023

A Christmas Carol at the Old Vic Theatre

A Christmas Carol was an amazing experience and everyone who came enjoyed it. It was the first day back after the Christmas holidays so the timing was perfect! We all came together in the Mac Room to eat the start of our packed lunches and gathered into groups to get on the coach, after that we climbed on the bus and set off.

An hour and a half later, we arrived at the Old Vic theatre, everyone very chatty and excited. We climbed up a couple flights of stairs, to get to the upper seats overlooking the entire stage. Everyone found their places, and there were a few people handing out free mince pies and oranges. The people who were serving these were good fun because they threw oranges to where we were sitting, of course we all tried to catch some, and we watched the show.

The show was very accurate to the book, and we all watched amazed. All three ghosts appeared, and we saw the emotions of Scrooge and the other characters. In the interval, we were allowed to buy ice-creams and eat the rest of our packed lunch if we wanted, a few of us got ice-creams and some of us got cups of water. The ending was great, as they pulled down some sheets and rolled down oranges and potatoes (I think fake) to show a massive feast. The show was ended by an amazing song of silent night played by all the characters with tiny Tim carrying a tiny bell for the last note.

We headed home by coach, everyone tired by then, as it was 11, to meet our parents back at school. The whole thing was amazing!

Abigail Ireland 8EK



Year 5 Author Visit - Ross Montgomery

Last Wednesday we had a famous author, Ross Montgomery come into our school. I was excited as soon as I woke up. I ran to school wondering what we might do with Ross. The first lesson was English and in it we first read two of his books: The Midnight Guardians and The Chime Seekers.

I liked the Midnight Guardians. Then it was time to meet him in an assembly. He read the whole of Year Five the Chime Seekers and then we asked him some questions. One of the things he told us was that his first book took him 4 years to write and he had to send it to 52 publishers before it got published. The second one is that he had to choose 266 titles for the Chime Seekers before Ross' publisher said yes to one.

After the assembly, it was break time. Me and my friends talked about what book we were going to get at lunch. After break, instead of going to lesson three me and my friend Finnley went to the workshop to do some writing with Ross.

When we were there we had to imagine that we had been locked in school and sucked through a portal hidden somewhere and when we opened our eyes we would be in a

haunted version of the school. We had to write notes about the haunted library and what it looked like. After that it was 4th lesson.

When it was lunch I rushed with Finnley to the library to buy a book and get it signed by Ross. I got the Midnight Guardians and Finn got The Chime Seekers. For the rest of lunch we read our books and they were really good and I then had another author that I really liked.

By William Bland 5HSH

A big thank you to everyone who gave voluntary donations towards the visit and also to the PTFA for their generous support.

English Department

Year 5 Maths – ‘Racing to School’ Trip

The Huntingdon Maths Trip was fantastic! I loved everything we did. My favourite part was watching the horse racing, as it was so much fun! We did many maths activities and were able to walk on the track that they race on. It was fantastic - everything was! **Hana**

The Huntingdon Trip was great fun! The activities that we did were also fun, we got to see places that the public could not go and see. We went to the Weighing Room to see where the jockeys get weighed to see what horses they could ride or how much weight should be added. The good thing was that it was all about one of my favourite subjects - MATHS!

Eva



News from the PE Department

Y5 Netball Team: The girls have remained strong as a team and have worked tirelessly for each other showing massive improvements each week in training and matches. They have demonstrated in games some fantastic strong defensive work and movement through the court to the goal. We are very proud of the commitment to training and matches and the ongoing improvements they have shown individually and as a team. Keep up the good work girls!



Y5 Boys Football: The Year 5 football team have started the season extremely well, winning 6 from 6 games, putting Holywell in 1st place with 2 games remaining against 2nd place Etonbury and Pixbrook. The boys have played great team football with moments of magic throughout the games, whilst being extremely hard to break down in defence. All players have worked extremely hard during training sessions and continue to represent Holywell and our school's values throughout all fixtures.

KS3 Badminton Tournament: Eight students travelled to Henlow on Friday 24th January to represent Holywell in the KS3 Partnership Tournament. Despite most of the squad being Y7, the boys managed to finish an excellent 2nd place with the girls doing one better and finishing joint 1st – what an achievement!! Well done John B, Luke P, Santiago B, Kaiden C, Abbey PW, Olivia V, Mariam A and Holly J.

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, gumshields for rugby) and long, black socks. Students should also ideally bring a spare top and bottoms to lessons, in case they get muddy. HOODIES ARE NOT ALLOWED!


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!

P.E. Clubs Timetable – Spring 2nd Half Term 2023


	13:05-13:35	13:35 – 14:05	15:45-16:45
Monday	Y5/6 <i>Gymnastics (SM)</i> – Gym Y8 <i>Badminton (ME)</i>	Y7/8 <i>Gymnastics (ES)</i> - Gym Y7 <i>Badminton (MK)</i> - SH	Y5/6 <i>Badminton (MK)</i> - SH
Tuesday	Y5/6 <i>Rugby (ME)</i> - Field Y7/8 <i>Girls Basketball (ES/MK)</i> - SH	Y7/8 <i>Boys Basketball (ZI)</i> - SH	Y7/8 <i>Dodgeball (MK)</i> - SH
Wednesday	Y6 <i>Basketball (MK)</i> - SH Y8 <i>Boys Rugby (ME)</i> – Field	Y5 <i>Basketball (MK)</i> – SH	
Thursday	Y5 <i>Badminton (MK)</i> – SH Y7/8 <i>Capture the Flag (ZI)</i> - Field	Y6 <i>Badminton (MK)</i> – SH	Y7/8 <i>Badminton (ME/ZI/MK)</i> - SH
Friday	Y7/8 <i>Girls Football (MK)</i> – Field Y7 <i>Boys Rugby (ZI/ME)</i> - Field	Y5/6 <i>Girls Football (MK)</i> - Field	Y5/6 <i>Dodgeball (MK)</i> - SH

From the Art Department

Year 5



Henri Matisse



Year 5 have used their knowledge of the colour wheel and mastered the art of colour blending with paint!
These wonderful paintings will be used to create a Matisse inspired 'cut out'.

Year 6



Year 6 have been busy developing their ideas for their final SATs Monster illustrations. Their monsters will represent how they are feeling about SATs. They are learning how to use their sketchbook as a visual journal, exploring with ideas, as well as being successful.



Year 7



Inspired by the artist Arcimboldo, Year 7 have created some crazy face collages and then had the challenge of trying to replicate their collage in a painting!

It really tests their observational drawing, colour mixing skills and their brush control!



Year 8

Year 8 completed their fashion illustrations at the beginning of this term.

These examples really show how imaginative and talented our pupils are!

Well done Year 8!



CALUM GRANT



BEA BARTWEL



KATE NASH



PEARAN BADDILLY



NICOLE ELTB



TERRI WOODMAN



THOMAS HORNER



EVIE SIMMS



ARIGAIL DELAND

Year 8 Option



If your child is away from School

A telephone call or WEDUC message is required on the first day of absence, before 9.00 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



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, 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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



SPRING TERM 2023

Half Term – Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February
End of Term – Friday 31st March

SUMMER TERM 2023

Closure Day – Monday 17th April
Term Begins – Tuesday 18th April
May Day – Monday 1st May
Coronation Bank Holiday – Monday 8th May
Half Term – Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June
End of Term – Friday 21st July

Please note that dates may differ from other schools

SUMMER TERM TEST DATES 2023



Year 6 Students - Key Stage 2 SATs

Tuesday 9th May - Friday 12th May 2023

All Years - GL Assessments - Maths and English

Week commencing 5th June 2023

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS AT THIS TIME



**A REMINDER THAT STUDENTS
RETURN TO SCHOOL ON:
MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2023**

