



Holywell News



Issue No: 167
March 2023

Mr Simpson's Headlines

As we end the Spring term, we have been '**Looking Back to Look forward**'!

This time three years ago, we had just started the first period of Lockdown and we were in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic. The slogan 'Stay at Home – Protect the NHS – Save Lives' was everywhere and we were starting to get to grips with home-learning, Covid-testing and social-distancing.

REMEMBER STUDENTS
ARE BACK TO SCHOOL ON
TUESDAY 18TH APRIL
HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY

If you want to move forward
often look back, otherwise you'll
forget where you came from
and where you need to
go



www.StatusMind.com

Dare

Dare to dream
Dare to believe
Dare to be
You

Choose the Holywell Way
Let the Holywell Spirit guide your path
Dare to be
You

Aim high
Dig deep
Dare to be
You

Wonderful, learning, unique You.

Never give up
Power through
Dare to be
You



Holywell School
A Church of England School providing a values-based education
Enjoy ... Achieve ... Excel ... Care

We weren't sure when the pandemic would end and it was difficult to even think that there may be some vaccine or antidote ... that's where faith comes in. As well as being our value of the month, **faith** is at the heart of everything we do – that ability to be optimistic and to trust that there will be sunshine at the end of a storm, that there will be a path even when we can't see past the curve in the road, that everything will be well. At the start of the academic year, I challenged everyone to 'Dare to Dream; Dare to be You' ... this week, I challenged the students to reflect on what they had achieved so far this year and what they might aspire to achieving by the end of the

Summer Term; have they dared to do something new or different? There have certainly been some amazing achievements this term across all aspects of the curriculum – in and out of school. We have had successes in sport, superb work produced in lessons, musical masterpieces, mathematical challenges, a Viking visitor, personalised, El Salvador-style crosses and many personal and group achievements.

Completing that next practical

Smashing that next assessment

Being word-perfect

Reaching the next level

Charlie AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

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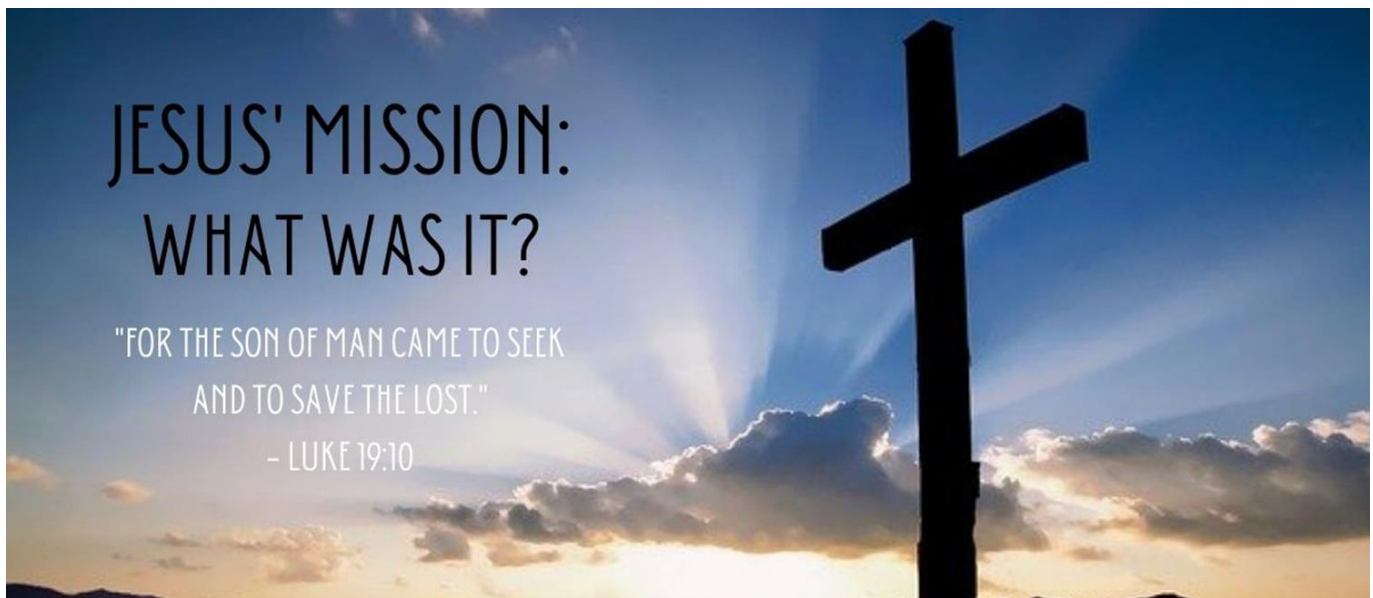
On Wednesday and Thursday this week, there have been some amazingly brilliant dramatic performances as the Year 8 Drama Option group have taken to the stage in a production of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". The show was directed by Miss Kirkup – her first production at Holywell. Miss Kirkup managed to find a way to let them all shine, be seen and be heard (that's real talent in itself!). I was really proud of every single person involved in the production (students and staff) and they really showed the Holywell spirit in their performances: joyous, accomplished, confident and supportive of each other – living life in all its fullness in action: they showed all of our values, truly were the best they could be and they did the show as a real performance community, working together to provide an hour of wonderful, creative storytelling. It has been a long term; the weather has been

awful; we have had lots of challenges ... but this moment of 'pure imagination' was a real tonic and an example of faith in action: the light in the darkness, lifting everyone's spirit at the end of term. We look forward to seeing what they all do next together? What will they 'dare to do' in the Summer Term?



"We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams."

If we look back further, we think of Jesus' Mission:



At Easter, we reflect on this huge task Jesus was given and the faith that he had in God to see it through. The faith that He then had in his disciples to spread the word and to teach Jesus' ways and values is the same faith He places in us today. Our Mission at Holywell is to 'Live Life in all its Fullness' which we have translated into our three key goals:

Live our Values

Be the Best we can be

In community.

So, how do we make sure that we don't give up? First, we need to acknowledge that it isn't easy to persevere and that everyone is tempted to give up; second, try to be strong and say no to people or things that are tempting you to give up; Third, remember that we can ask God or other people to help us at any time. Pope John Paul II once said "**We are an Easter People** and Alleluia is our song!" He was paraphrasing St Augustine. This simply means that even after Easter, we continue to try to live our lives positively,



thoughtfully and with a good perspective: *"We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love, that respects the "fundamental duty of love of neighbour."* We realize that joy is demanding; it demands unselfishness; it demands a readiness to say with Mary: "Be it done unto me according to thy word." ... we think that is highly possible. Let's work together to be Easter people – let's keep faith and be joyous. Have a wonderful Easter break.

With all best wishes
MG Simpson
Mike Simpson
Headteacher

Staff News

Sadly, we are saying 'au revoir' to some members of staff: Mr Fincham and Miss Hammond are both moving on to new challenges. We thank them both for all their hard work, commitment and support during their time here at Holywell. Mr Fincham has been a great asset to the English department and his love of books and all things English have really inspired his students. His work and support as Head of Year 7 have also been brilliant and we wish him every success for the future. Miss Hammond has been on a real journey with us at Holywell. She started as a Teaching Assistant and then added in being a form tutor to her role in school. She is studying to become a teacher and, over the last few years, has taken on some class teaching – we wish her every success as she continues with her studies.

After Easter, Mr Eames and Mrs Butcher will be looking after Year 7 and Year 8 (with some extra help from Mrs Purves). So, if there are any concerns which cannot be dealt with by form tutors, please contact Mrs Butcher (Mon, Tues, Thurs) or Mr Eames (Wed, Fri).

Also after Easter, we have some new staff joining us:

- Miss Craddock – our new Deputy Headteacher – will be joining us from a Secondary School in Bedford and she will be focussing on teaching and learning – helping us with our planning for transition to a Secondary School in the near future. She will be teaching Geography and PSHE.
- Dr Russell will be joining us to take over some of Mr Fincham's English classes.
- Miss Brumsden is returning after her placement in Bedford and we say a huge 'thank you' to Mr Whitfield for covering Music lessons (and 5TB) this term.



Summer Uniform

During the summer term (after Easter) students have the following two options re: uniform:

- a) Either continue to wear blazers, white shirts and ties.**
- b) Wear a white polo shirt (without a tie) and a blazer**

Shorts: School shorts are now an option all throughout the year ... however, we know that they are more popular in the Summer Term ... so just a reminder about style and length: The length should be just above the knee to just below the knee. The shorts must be plain grey tailored shorts (ie. no combat style shorts, skinny / cycling shorts, or shorts with pockets further down the leg; no designs / appliqué or stripes; no denims, cord, linen, combats or cropped trousers allowed).

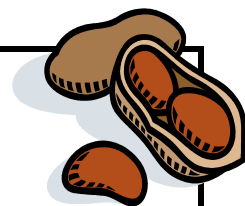


- **As with school shorts, skirts must be pleated and just above the knee to just below the knee in length.**
- **Socks must be plain grey, black or white.**
- **Shoes are required as part of our school uniform.**
- **PE Kit to be worn on days when PE lessons are scheduled.**

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** – If you are refreshing uniform, please make sure that the correct uniform is purchased. Make sure that shoes are shoes (no trainers)! Trousers and skirts should be grey and not black; skirts should be the correct length.
- **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.

ABSOLUTELY NO NUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS IN SCHOOL



Could everyone please be aware that we have several children and members of staff with **severe nut allergies**. If your child comes to school with a packed lunch, or just brings in snacks for break time, **please ensure that nuts are not included** in any shape or form (**including Nutella or Peanut Butter**). Your co-operation in keeping everyone safe at Holywell is greatly appreciated.

For those students having school dinners provided by AiP, please ensure you have completed their '**Special Dietary Allergy/Medical Meal Request Form**', available from the Kitchen.



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.



If your child is away from School

A telephone call, email or WEDUC notification is required on the first day of absence, before 8.30 am

Charity News

Comic Relief: The grand total of **£456.30** was raised towards Comic Relief from our Red Nose Day Mufti Day on 17th March 2023.



The new Reach More Parents App is here!

reach more parents
by weduc

Weduc has redesigned their App and it is now called: "Reach More Parents by WEDUC". There are major enhancements to the layout, accessibility, and general ease of use.

What do I need to do as a parent? If your phone has automatic updates turned on, there is nothing you need to do, as the app will update automatically on 03/04/2023. If you do not have automatic updates turned on, you will need to re-download the app from the App Store if you have an iPhone or the Google Play Store if you have an Android.

Can I still access the same features? Yes. The features you already use such as Newsfeed, Absence Reporting and Messaging are still accessible.

What's new? You can find a PDF document on your Weduc notice board which will give you a detailed breakdown of everything that has changed in the app.

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** 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 at least 4 weeks 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.

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.

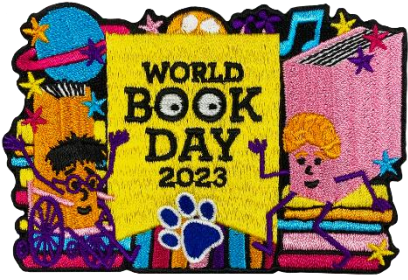


Parent Pay (Payment for tuck/school dinners)

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>.



World Book Day 2023

We had an absolutely fantastic week celebrating World Book Day 2023. There were lots of fun activities all week and even more so on the day! Thank you to staff and the children for dressing up and getting into the spirit of things!



The Masked Reader was a form time activity where staff at Holywell read the blurb of their favourite book. However, their face and their voice were in disguise! The children had so much fun guessing and the staff had lots of fun making this! Well done to 5EM for getting full marks!



← We held a Book Swap for both KS2 and KS3 which proved to be a huge success! Thank you to everyone who participated and we hope everyone got lots of new books to read, without a price!

The children and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters.



We had a huge variation this year: lots of Harry Potters, Wimpy Kid, Stanley Yelnats, BFG and Mr Potato Head!



Congratulations to the chosen winners for best dressed!

- Year 5 – Tom Hogben
- Year 6 – Joel Gilham
- Year 7 – Saoirse Woods
- Year 8 – Charlie Davies

Forms also decorated a window/door of their chosen Book Cover. Well done to 5AJS for winning. They recreated a fantastic version of *The Boy, The Mole and The Fox*. Amazing participation from the whole form class.



Well done everyone! Here is to World Book Day 2024! Remember, to keep reading!

Miss Mayles & Miss Kelly
KS2 and KS3 Reading Champions



From the Maths Department



Earlier in the year we reported that some of our students were taking part in the **2022 National Cipher Challenge** run by Southampton University. The students devoted time both in and outside of school learning about the practice and study of techniques for secure communication. It was lovely to see the fun they had and watching them explore a different side of maths to that which we usually learn in the classroom, and experiencing the elation of finally understanding a difficult cipher – a feeling that can be hard to beat! We hope the challenge also gave them a taste of how much more there is to maths and that the subject continues to amaze and excite.

With this competition being open to individuals up to the age of 18, our hope was that they might do well on the early rounds and that would spark a desire and prepare them for further achievement in future competitions. (This is a competition that students can enter as part of a school or by themselves. So hopefully, it is something that they will choose to take part in in future years, either individually, or working with others as part of a team). Thus, we are very proud of the progress that our students made, making it as far as rounds 5 and 6, being able to successfully complete a number of the challenges.

Our thanks and congratulations go to all the students who took part, namely, Emma Vaughan, Izzy Perrin, Amelia-Faye Parry, Isla-Jayne Harris, Harry Nicholas and Charlie Davies.

In addition, on the back of this competition, we started a Thursday lunchtime Code Club for students in Key Stage 2. This will continue after Easter, so any year 5 and 6 students are welcome to come along. Bring a friend, your lunch, and your thinking skills. Our experienced year 8 cryptographers will be on hand to help!

Ms Mollis

CODE CLUB

Caesar Cipher – a great way to practice the alphabet!

Room 16

Pig Latin – easy to learn, speak and write!

Decoder Wheel – use this fun tool to translate hidden messages!

Book Cipher – have fun decoding with your friends!

Ms Mollis

Morse code – learn the history and use your own chart!

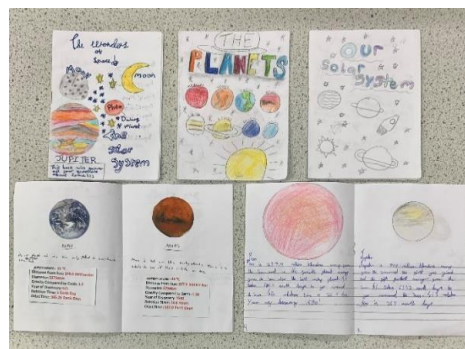
Thursdays 1:05pm

Invisible ink – delight as secret messages appear before your eyes!

Science News

As we come to the end of the spring term, we celebrate together and reflect on the experiences that have helped us to learn and grow.

Year Five began the term learning about many aspects of space. From the awe and wonder of the planets in our solar system to the phases of the Moon and much more! Our 'Forces' topic gave Year Five the opportunity to investigate magnetism, upthrust, friction and gravity. Students built their own gyrocopter and investigated the effect of air resistance.



Year Six started the term learning about 'animals including humans'. They took a close look at habitats, adaptations, and the classification system. Our 'Electricity and Circuits' topic quickly followed. Students learned about the dangers of electricity and how to work safely. They investigated circuits and enjoyed using various components to build a steady hand game.



Year Seven started the term investigating the properties of light. It was an interesting topic that gave insight into the processes of reflection and refraction. Many students were fascinated to learn about how the eye works and were fortunate to dissect a real eye! Their learning journey continued with a topic on reproduction. Here the students considered the miracle of life. A sense of awe and wonder developed as we learned just how special life is.



Year Eight began the term learning about energy resources. 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! Many were excited to move onto our chemistry topics 'The Periodic Table' and 'Separation techniques. Practical investigation is at the heart of our science curriculum and the students were delighted to experiment; looking for trends in the reactivity of elements.

We look forward to the summer term and continuing our learning journey together. Happy Easter!

Mr Colbourne & The Science Department

History Department News

We have been super busy in History this term as Year 5 have immersed themselves into Greek history and learned about the bitter rivalry between Sparta and Athens! Their historical skills have been developing really well with many gaining excellent scores in their end of term assessments.



In Year 6 we have now completed our topic on the Vikings. The students really enjoyed the visit from Ash, in full Viking regalia! They got to handle weaponry, see artefacts and learn more about the skills and lifestyle of the fascinating group of people.

Our Year 7 students have begun learning about the Tudors and have been fascinated by the story of Henry VIII and his divorce from Catherine of Aragon and marriage to Anne Boleyn!



Several Year 8 students took part in an overnight visit to Ironbridge earlier on in the term, visiting Blists Hill where time has stood still and actors talk about their lives, in authentic costume. Students got to experience education Victorian style in a special workshop and soon realised their life at Holywell is not so bad after all!

We also visited the Enginuity museum where students enjoyed learning about the mechanics of the revolution in a fun, hands-on way! We have now moved on to start our new topic on the Transatlantic Slave Trade.



RE Department News

Our Year 5 have been exploring the life of Jesus including some key pieces of teaching and miracle stories. They have learnt a lot about symbolism and why believers claim Jesus was the son of God.

In Year 6 students have studied Sikhism and gained a detailed understanding of the history and practices of this most modern world religion.

Our Year 7's have embarked on a unit entitled 'Salvation' that explores Christian beliefs about heaven and hell and how Jesus' death is believed to have saved mankind.

Finally, students in Year 8 have explored the ancient and very culturally diverse faith of Hinduism, learning about their rites of passage and comparing them to those within the Christian faith.

Music Department News

Diary Date: Summer Concert - Tuesday 7th July

All the extra-curricular groups will be performing and there will be some highlights from curriculum Music lessons too.

Year 7 students have been enjoying learning a style of Samba called 'Samba Reggae'. They have learnt to perform a main groove, write their own patterns and perform them independently in groups.

Key Stage 3 Battle of the Bands

The newly-formed school band called '9 Lives' took part in Battle of the Bands at Redborne Upper School. The event was organised by Inspiring Music and the band were expertly coached by Mr Tabert and Mr Probert. They performed the Beatles classic 'Twist and Shout'.

Despite not winning the event they put on an excellent performance and all pupils involved were a real credit to the school. Their next public performance will be at the summer concert in July and they are already rehearsing hard.



From the Art Department

Year 5

Year 5 have completed their Matisse inspired cut outs this term. They have really considered their composition and their use of shape and space!



Year 6

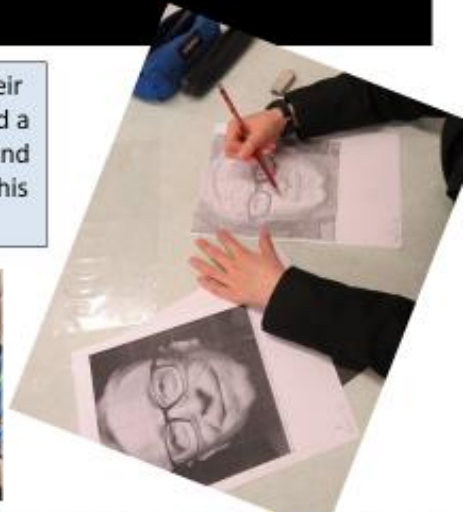
Year 6 have almost completed their 'SATs Monsters', an illustration that expresses their emotions for their upcoming SATs.

Creativity
takes
courage.
Henri Matisse



Year 7

Year 7 have almost completed their Celebrity portraits. They have used a grid and a viewfinder to support and develop their drawing skills with this challenging task!



Year 8

Year 8 have created their Gaudi inspired sculptures and this week have glazed them ready for firing in the kiln! These colours will be vivid and the surface will have a glass like quality once fired.



Year 8 Option



PE Department News

Y5 Football (Captain Joshua Massey): We can now confirm that the Year 5 boys football team are indeed League winners after winning their last 2 league games to remain unbeaten through the whole season! A MASSIVE well done!



Y5/6 and Y7/8 Girls Football: Since half term, the girls have been involved in a series of fixtures against many other Redborne Partnership schools. After 2 resounding 4-0 victories in their opening matches, the Y5/6 team finished an excellent 3rd overall, drawing and losing their final matches. The Year 7/8 team are still in the process of finishing their fixtures.

Y6 Boys Rugby (Captain - Ciaran Lines): The Y6 team were involved in the annual partnership tournament, played over an afternoon, at Alameda. They were involved in some extremely close games, twice missing out on a draw by a single try. It was really pleasing to see the progression made throughout the tournament and everything bodes well for next season when they play 12-a-side, in a proper league.



Y7 Boys Rugby (Captain - William Turner): So far, the Y7 team has played 2 matches – a 4-1 defeat to Henlow and more recently a 2-1 loss to RBA. The performances from the group have been excellent, especially considering the awful weather conditions in the RBA match.

Y8 Boys Rugby (Captain - Zack Redpath): The Y8 team has been in superb form so far this season, picking up where they left off last year, with 2 resounding

9-1 victories against Alameda and Parkfields. We are currently waiting to see who our opponents will be in the Partnership final.

Lucy Vaughn in Y5: recently had a weekend to remember at St George's Park - England Football's home training venue. She was coached by some of the England coaches and her team was helped by Lucy's sister, who assisted them. They were playing a year up from her normal age group, playing in the under 11s. Lucy also managed to meet a Leicester City player (Ryan Bertrand). She slept in rooms where England players stay and ate where they go to eat, even using their hydro pool. What an amazing experience!! Her team came 2nd in her group, so they got a medal!



Another student tasting sporting success is **Caleb Widger** in Year 7. Over the last 3 months Caleb has participated in 2 Order of Merit Winter Series (one for his golf club Bedfordshire and one which is organised by Bedfordshire County). Each consist of approximately 10 x 18 hole matches with an average of 15-20 competitors. Caleb won the runner up Order of Merit using the top 4 cards using the handicap system (to do this he won one (Pavenham), came 2nd (Beds & County Championship Course) in one and 3rd in two events (Dunstable Downs and John O Gaunt) and he actually won the Dunstable Downs event! He was also entered into the Order of Merit and Division 2 Leagues at Bedfordshire Golf Club (Stagsden). Caleb won the Order of Merit and Division 2 League at the club 2 weeks ago and was highlighted in the Club's newsletter. Caleb has worked really hard to bring his handicap down from 54 to 32.7 over the last year and has won these Order of Merits because he consistently has played under his handicap (around 28). As if that wasn't enough, he has also achieved a hole in one on a 165 yard Par 3!! Well done Caleb!



Please do make us aware of any sporting success your child has outside of school – they could feature in the next newsletter!!

As always, we would like to thank all those students who have attended clubs and represented the school this half-term. We would also like to thank all the parents, carers and spectators for your continued support of the department; it is much appreciated! Roll on the summer sports!

The PE Dept.

Happy Easter!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



SPRING TERM 2023

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:
TUESDAY 18TH APRIL 2023**

