



Holywell News



Issue No: 170
October 2023

Mr Simpson's Headlines



**HAPPY HALF-TERM
EVERYONE!**

**PLEASE REMEMBER
BOTH STAFF AND STUDENTS
RETURN TO SCHOOL ON
MONDAY 30TH OCTOBER**



This year, we are celebrating 50 years of Holywell School.



On Friday 20th October, we had a day of celebration activities in which we learned about the history of Holywell, we created collaborative artwork all based around the number 50 which will be part of a whole-school art installation, and we had cake! We had planned to do our annual Thrift Sponsored walk, however, the weather intervened and



we have had to re-schedule that until after half-term!

The first cohort of students joined the school in September 1973. Initially, there just below 100 students on roll and only 8 classrooms! There was an 8-period day – 40 mins each - and school ended at 4pm. Regular lessons included Maths, English, Science, Maths, PE/Games, Geography, History and RE but there was no PSHE, Drama, Art, Music, French, ICT or DT!

Today, we have 730 students, 34 classrooms (including Science Labs, specialist DT, Art and ICT rooms), a Gym and a Sports Hall. We have a 5-period day and lessons are 55/60 minutes each. The school day finishes at 3.40pm. Regular lessons include: Maths, English, Science, Maths, PE, Geography, History, RE, PSHE, Drama (in Year 7), Art, Music, French or German, ICT and DT.

There have been 5 Headteachers (Mr Morgan, Mr James, Mrs Chatt, Mr Haddon and myself), many teachers and many students! It is always wonderful to hear from former students and we

have already had some great anecdotes and photographs shared with us as part of our Art installation – if you have any stories or photos you are happy to share, please contact us via school@holywellschool.co.uk.

Throughout our 50 years, we have (and continue to be) proud to be a Church of England School – our Christian values driving everything we do so that all of our community can ‘Live Life in all its Fullness’. Our Value of the Month is ‘Thankfulness’ and I am thankful to all the students, staff and families for all we have achieved this half term. I am in the midst of a local production of the musical ‘Godspell’ and, being involved in the show, has helped me to reflect on how everyone has their part to play – in musical theatre, this involves the director, the musical director, the choreographer, the band, the performers, the lighting crew, the sound team, stage and set crew ... and the audience all working together to create a ‘live’ dramatic experience. In school, we all have a part to play too – the students’ ‘job’ in school is ‘learning’ and being learning focussed. All staff are involved in planning, preparing, delivering and evaluating our service to the students and families – all of us working together to be the best we can be in our local community so we can realise our school vision. This half term’s newsletter will give you a flavour of some of the amazing things students have achieved this half term ... and we are proud of all their achievements in, and out of school.

We have been refreshing our Values Boards. Students designed the Boards and our regular graffiti artist – Neil – helped to realise the designs. He worked with students from each year group – all of whom were chosen for their excellent work and attitude in the first few weeks of term.



We have also appointed our new House Captains, Sports Captains, Values Ambassadors and subject mentors. We look forward to these Year 8 students helping and supporting us throughout the year.



As part of our drive to maintain the highest standards possible, we are in the process of reviewing and enhancing our Behaviour for Learning Policy. More information will be sent out in the coming weeks with regards to this. We have already started to further utilise the messaging element of Satchel One and we hope that you have seen an improvement in how the school communicates with you as parents and carers. We are also continuing to develop the rewards our students can potentially receive for positive behaviour. This week all of the students who have received 50 House Points or more this half term were able to collect a hot chocolate and sweet treat from their Head of House. In addition, 32 students, randomly selected from those who had not received any negative Behaviour Points and had 100% attendance, were able to take part in an hour's session at Climb Quest in Milton Keynes – thanks to Mrs Butcher for organising! (See the report later in the newsletter)



Our new mini-bus has also arrived! We have an increasing number of sports teams and this new mini-bus will enable us to get even more students involved in a whole range of extra-curricular activities.



I hope we all have a restful half-term and I look forward to welcoming students and staff back for a brilliant second half-term. We have lots to look forward to.

Mike Simpson
Headteacher



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

Thank you

CLOSURE DAY

We remind parents that Holywell School re-opens after half term on
Monday 30th October (THIS IS NOT A TRAINING DAY).

Holywell School will have a **Closure Day** on
Friday 24th November.

**All term dates, including closure days, are listed at the back of this
newsletter.**

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, taking 'the odd day' here and there can have a HUGE impact on learning.

Emergency Contact Details

Please remember to inform the school office of any changes to your address or contact telephone numbers (even temporary changes). This is important, as it enables us to reach you in case of emergency. Thank you.



reach more parents
by weduc

“Reach More Parents” by WEDUC Communications from School

Please note that we use “Reach More Parents” by WEDUC to communicate with families. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that at least one parent / carer downloads the WEDUC app. We will be further developing our use of this app during the school year to communicate achievements, attendance and behaviour issues.

If parents/carers need an enrolment code, please email Miss Watson on awatson@holywellschool.co.uk who will be able to supply one. Thank you.

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.



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.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club runs from **8.00am to 8.45am** in term time, for just **£2.00 per day**.



If your child would like to attend on a regular basis, please ask the office for a letter.
We serve limited food, which can be purchased via your child's ParentPay account.

email: school@holywellschool.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you there.

Breakfast Club Team

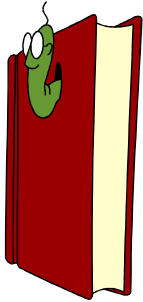
Essential Equipment

We are now stocking essential stationery items in the School Office.

Students may purchase a **pencil case** which contains the following items: **Handwriting pen, pencil, green, red and blue pens, dry-wipe pen and a 15cm ruler for £2.50** (see photo).

Stationery items are also available to buy individually. (Empty pencil case £1, other items 10p – 50p each).





Book Fair

We will be hosting a **Scholastic Book Fair** at Holywell from **15th November for one week**

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.

History and RE Department News



It has been a great start to the year in **History** with **Year 5** going on a walk around Cranfield to see how photos from the past compare to how things look in the present day. We have discovered why there are fewer chimneys, spotted dates on buildings and enjoyed looking at Burntwood Cottage – the oldest house in the village with timbers rescued from the great Fire of London!

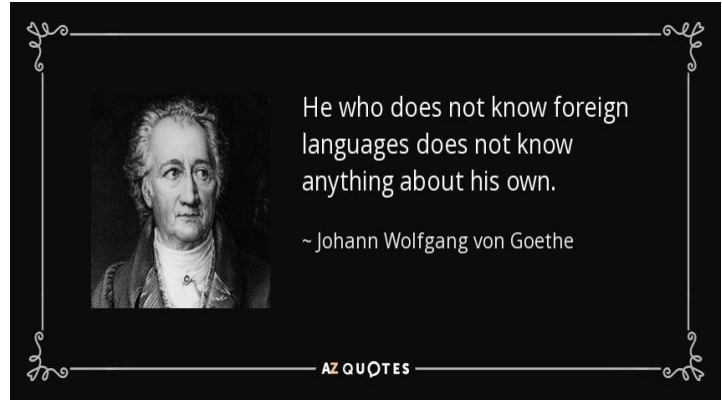
In **Year 6** students have been working on producing creative and informative empathy work on the Anglo Saxons for display. Our **Year 7** students have been enjoying finding out about the events of 1066 and how William I used dastardly tactics to instil fear into his subjects and rule them effectively.

Year 8 have produced some fabulous agrarian revolution booklets again this year, with fun and creative elements to appeal to a younger audience. They are now learning in depth about how different their lives would have been had they been working in a textile mill one hundred years ago!

The **RE department** has had a busy start to the year with **Year 5** enjoying discovering the hidden messages behind famous Old Testament stories such as Abraham and Isaac and Moses. In **Year 6** we have been learning about Jesus' teaching about love and peace and finding out how modern-day Christians have tried to put this teaching into practice in the modern world.

Our **Year 7** students have been immersing themselves in the Islamic faith and researching the 5 pillars of faith while **Year 8** have been grappling with traditional arguments for and against the existence of God. We hope this will help them to reflect on their own beliefs and emerge with a personal opinion backed up with solid evidence!

MFL News



On Tuesday 26th September we celebrated the **European Day of Languages** at Holywell School. European Day of Languages is an opportunity to celebrate all of Europe's languages. Every year, millions of people in Europe's member states and elsewhere organise or take part in activities to promote linguistic diversity and the ability to speak other languages.

At Holywell, this year, we celebrated the day with a lot of exciting activities which brought all our students and members of staff together to embrace the diversity and beauty of languages. Our students were encouraged to wear clothes to represent other countries. They were greeted by their teachers throughout the day in different languages. During tutor time, students learnt about a variety of languages and they took part in an exciting quiz.

Mr Simpson delivered an assembly to all year groups about the importance of learning another language. The MFL department offered an opportunity to students to hear from a number of universities how learning languages is a gateway to travel, getting a better paid job, improving your memory and becoming better at English. Students also learnt many facts about other countries through quizzes and booklets.

Poem by Olivia McMahon

Learning a language
Is like doing a jigsaw puzzle
Of a million pieces
With a picture that keeps changing.
It's like getting lost in a foreign city without a map.
It's like playing tennis without a ball,
like being an ant in a field of grasshoppers.
It's like being an acrobat with a broken leg,
An actor without a script,
A carpenter without a saw,
A storyteller without a middle or an end.



But then gradually
It's like being out in the early morning
with the mists lifting.
It's like a chink of light under a door,

like finding the glove you were looking for,
Catching the train you thought you were going
to miss,
Getting an unlooked-for present,
Exchanging a smile.
And then one day it's like riding a bicycle
Very fast downhill.

Thank you Danke Merci Gracias to
everyone for joining in and let's encourage all
our students to have a go and enjoy this
amazing life skill.



The MFL Team

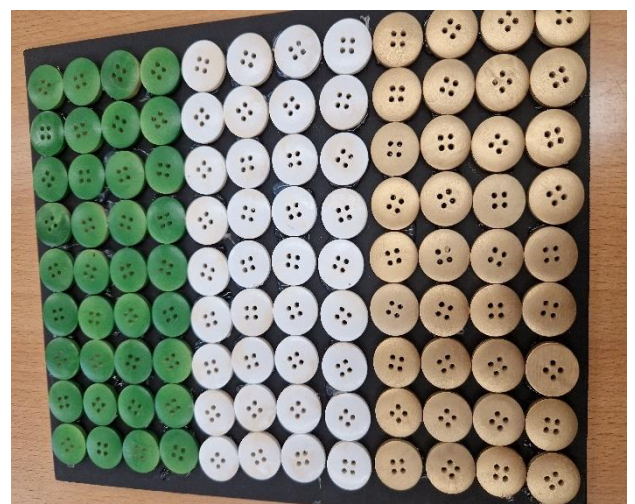
MFL Competition

The MFL department ran a very successful
European Day of Languages competition. To enter,
students had to make, paint or build something to
represent a flag or monument of Europe or a
European country.

Students have clearly worked extremely hard on their
masterpieces and they have put a huge amount of
effort into their entry.

On Monday 9th October staff members voted and after
much deliberation the winner has been announced:
**The Leaning Tower of Pisa created by Xuan in
Year 5.**

Joint second place is shared between **Lacey in
Year 5 for her Brandenburg Gate** and **Caitlin in
Year 6 for the incredibly imaginative Irish flag.**



Third place has been awarded to **Ruhani, Year 7** for the Regions of England presentation and **Ruairi, Year 5**, for the Leprechaun.



All students who took part were invited to a lunchtime special prize giving ceremony which included ice pops, snacks and sweets and, of course, lovely gifts.

Prize Giving Ceremony



On Friday 13th October, at lunchtime, the MFL department held a celebratory lunch for all students who entered our 'Make a monument' competition. Students were offered lunchtime snacks and ice lollies. First, second and third places were rewarded with very special prizes.

A huge THANK YOU and WELL DONE to everybody who took part. Watch the space for the next competition coming soon.

During the lunchtime party we also formally welcomed our **Language Ambassadors** to the department:

Isla, Sarah, Samuel and Max in Year 8

Huge congratulations to you all and we are looking forward to working with you this year.

The MFL Department



Music Department News



KS2 Rock Band

Following the success of the Key stage 3 rock band, we held open auditions for year 5 and 6 students to join the newly formed Key stage 2 rock band. There was a fantastic turn out with students auditioning on guitar, bass guitar, drums, keyboard and vocals.

Firstly, we would like to thank and congratulate every student who took the time to audition. They were all superstars!

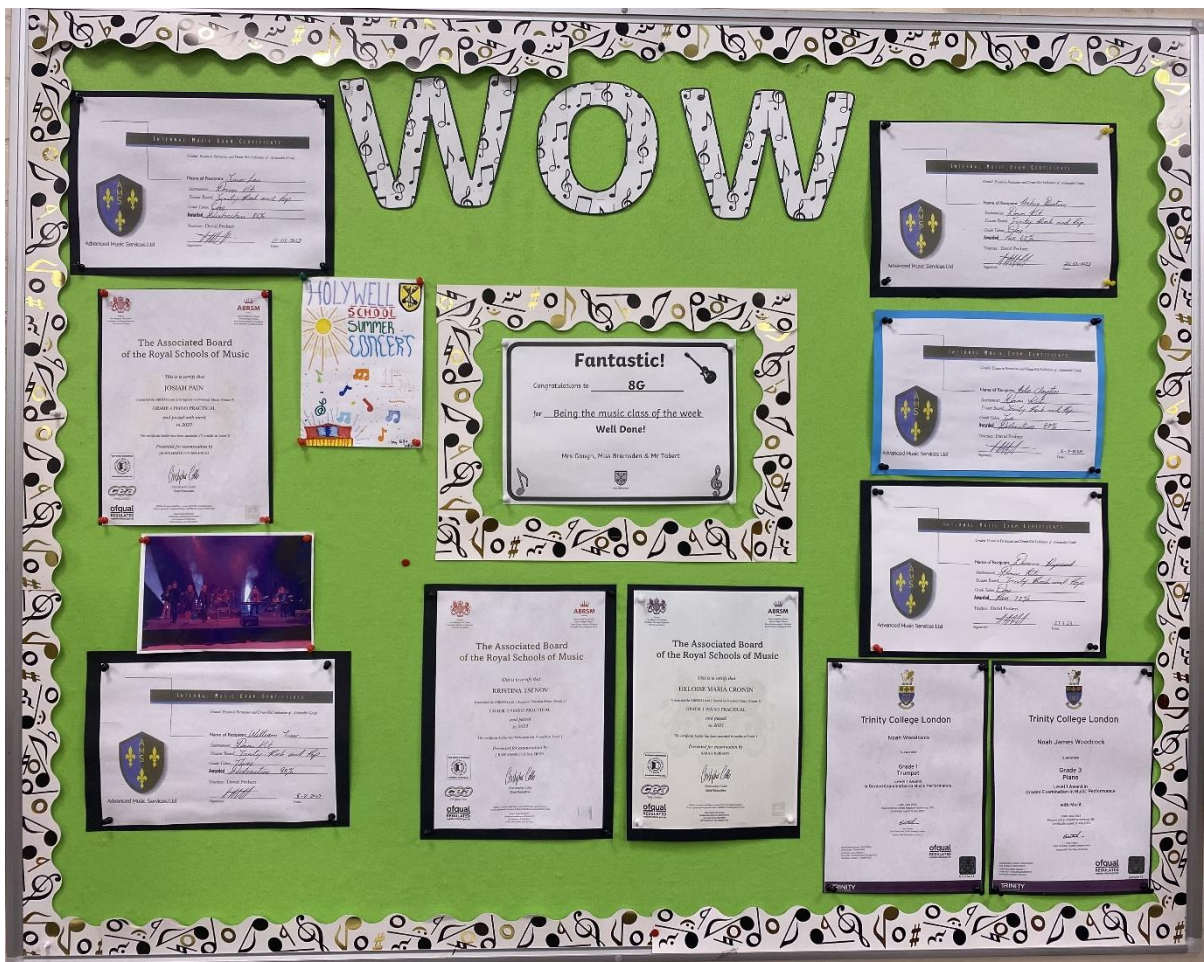
After lots of thought and deliberation the following students have been chosen as the band's founding members:

- ★ Drums – Ano (5AJS)
- ★ Lead guitarist – Archie (6JS)
- ★ Bass guitarist – Rhys (5NC)
- ★ Keyboards – Alfie (5KP)
- ★ Vocals – Ava (5NC) & Issy (6JS)

The band have already started rehearsals and we look forward to seeing their progress during the course of the school year.

Celebrating Success

The Music WOW board celebrates the success of students in and outside the classroom. Please let us know and if your child has a recent Music exam certificate that they would like displayed on the WOW board.



Music Clubs

Day	Club	Time	Room
Monday	Keyboard Club String Group	1:30 1:30	8 30
Tuesday	Key Stage 2 Choir	1:30	1
Wednesday	KS3 Rock Band	1:30	1
Thursday	Key Stage 3 Choir Recorder Club	1:30 3:30 – 4:15	1 1
Friday	Key Stage 2 Rock Band	1:30	1

Forthcoming Events

- Steel Pan Workshop for year 5 – Thursday 23rd November
- Christmas Service - Thursday 14th December 6pm
- KS2 Choir performance at the 02 in London – Monday 29th January

Instrumental Lessons

There are still places available for instrumental lessons. Please contact pgough@holywellschool.co.uk for details of how to enrol. We currently offer lessons on piano, guitar, keyboard, singing, violin, cello, double bass, bass guitar, flute, clarinet, bassoon, trumpet and trombone.

Year 6 at Wrest Park

Wrest Park – English and Art Trip- September 2023

We were very lucky to go to Wrest Park and it was a very cool experience. Wrest Park is a huge manor with big gardens surrounding it. It was used for wounded soldiers in WW1. I learnt that Baron Auberon Lucas owned Wrest Park but did not use it, so he lent it for the wounded soldiers to stay while they got better. It was really good to see where all of the soldiers rested as well as where they healed.



The manor was beautiful and luxurious and the gardens were very well looked after. It looked very expensive! The huge lake was lovely and the underneath of the pavilion was super cool. I was so amazed!

Wrest Park really helped my soldier story because I got to experience what they had, all that time ago. When I came back, I had a picture in mind because I'd seen it in real life, which really helped.

by Edie Jarvis and Eva Ireland

Art at Wrest Park

During the Wrest park trip, Year 6 students created works of art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy. Andy Goldsworthy is an artist from Scotland. He makes sculptures and other works of art out of natural materials: like wood, leaves or stones.



PE Department News

Boys Football

3 Year groups have played their league games during this half-term, with the Year 5 team and various B teams, due to complete fixtures either side of Christmas. Results have been mixed for all of our teams this year. **The Year 8 team**, despite losing their first game 6-1, they have playing some outstanding football at times. Recent victories against Pix Brook and RBA have been well deserved and we hope they have an equally impressive end to the season.



Mr Eames

So far, **the Year 7 team** have played 3 matches and fought brilliantly in them all, although they on the wrong side of 2 narrow defeats but they did pick up a point in an enthralling 4-4 draw against Parkfields. Game One was away at Pix Brook with Thomas as player of the match and Game two was at home with Jack S as player of the match. We have 2 games left and are looking to pick up 3 points in as many as possible.

Mr Jones

The Year 6 football team have had a great start to the season so far, winning two games and losing one. Putting Holywell in 2nd place with one game remaining against Alameda. The boys have played great team football and individually have been fantastic, showing great determination and resilience when needed. All players have worked extremely hard during training sessions and continue to represent Holywell and our schools values throughout all fixtures.

Mr Inskip

Girls Netball

Well done to the year 8 Netball team who have been committed to representing the school, together as a team, since starting with us in year 5. As they have now played their final league game, we would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication whilst representing Holywell to the best of their ability. The PE department are extremely proud of everything they have achieved, individually, and together as their own community.

Ms Stephens

Y7/8 Table Tennis Partnership Tournament

Holywell hosted the Redborne Partnership table tennis tournament on Friday 13th October. We entered 2 boys teams and one girls team.



The girls played well, but unfortunately overall losing by just 5 points to a strong Pixbrook side! Connie, Heloise, Ruva and Krissy gave an amazing effort, leaving them in 2nd place.

The KS3 Boys Team faced a tough three opponents, beating Marston Vale & Pixbrook to get a place in the deciding final.

Against a very strong Alameda side, just 3 points separated the final score and Holywell Boys secured a place in the County Finals!

Amazing effort from everyone who played. Congratulations to the 4 boys: Santiago, Ellis, Luke and Caleb!

Miss Kotur and Miss Lau



Special Mentions:

Archie Laverty in Year 7 has achieved his black belt in karate. He had to do a 3-hour practical exam and months of training. He started when he was 6 so this is a massive achievement for only 5 years of study. Massive congratulations!!



Caleb Widger has recently been awarded 3rd place in the Order of Merit Silver Division for the Shires Tour, coming top in his age category. As a result of this he has been chosen to represent the Shires Tour in Northern Ireland next year at the Champion of Champions World Junior Golf Championship in July. There are 30 countries participating and around 300 entrants. What a fantastic achievement!



Congratulations to **Holly Wilton** in Year 8 who was successful at the recent county netball trials, gaining a place in the 2023/24 squad.



Arsenii Korzun has also won this impressive trophy during a swimming competition...well done!!

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. We have a lot of eager students who want to start playing more sports outside of school.

Lessons:

It is starting to become a little cold outside so please can you 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!

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

The PE Dept.

PE Clubs Timetable – Autumn 2nd Half Term 2023

	13:05-13:35	13:35 – 14:00	15:45-16:45
Monday	Y5 Mixed Netball (EM) – Sports Hall Y7/8 Mixed Capture the Flag (ZI) – Field	Y7/8 Girls Basketball (ES) – Sports Hall	
Tuesday	Y5/6 Mixed Contact Rugby (JU/ME) – Field All Years Mixed Running Club (SM) - Field	Y7 Girls Netball (ES) – Sports Hall	
Wednesday	Y7 Boys Basketball (ME) – Sports Hall	Y8 Boys Basketball (ZI) -Sports Hall	<i>Fixtures – Netball</i>
Thursday	Y6 Mixed Netball (HM) - Sports Hall Y5 Boys Football (ZI) – Field	Y7/8 Girls Football (MK) – Field	Y5/6 Mixed Basketball (EL/MK) – Sports Hall
Friday	Y5/6 Girls Football (MK) - Field All Years Girls Netball - Attacking (ACr) – Sports Hall	Y7/8 Mixed Table Tennis (MK) – Field	Y7/8 Mixed Dodgeball (MK) – Sports Hall Y5/6 Mixed Table Tennis (EL) - Gym

Climb Quest Climbing Trip

We were offered an amazing experience at Climb Quest Milton Keynes on Monday 16th October.

It was a rewards trip for 32 randomly selected children (8 in each year group) with 0 behaviour points and 100% attendance.

The students absolutely loved their time and one of our students faced his height fears and pushed himself to his limit!

Thank you to Mrs Butcher for organising this for us!



Eco Club

Eco Club are working hard to achieve the Plastic Free Schools Award this year. They have completed a litter pick, sorted the contents and worked out that the majority of the collected rubbish could have been recycled! Most of the plastic that students bring into school is 'Single Use Plastic' this means that it is used once and thrown away!



Students surveyed 100 students who bring in a packed lunch and found that on average each child brings in 2.5 pieces of SUP with their lunch. Eco Club will be launching a campaign after Half Term to try to reduce this.



Gardening Club

Our gardeners came back from Summer to find some oversized courgettes, lots of delicious sweetcorn and bundles of potatoes and tomatoes. They are now clearing the beds and getting ready for the winter.



HOLYWELL SCHOOL – DIARY DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Half Term – Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October

Closure Day – Friday 24th November

End of Term – Wednesday 20th December



SPRING TERM 2024

Closure Day – Wednesday 3rd January

Term Begins – Thursday 4th January

Half Term – Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February

End of Term – Thursday 28th March

SUMMER TERM 2024

Closure Day – Monday 15th April

Term Begins – Tuesday 16th April

May Day – Monday 6th May

Half Term – Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May

End of Term – Friday 19th July

Please note that dates may differ from other schools

SUMMER TERM TEST DATES 2024



**Year 6 Students
Key Stage 2 SATs
Monday 13th May - Thursday 17th May 2024**

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS AT THIS TIME