



# Holywell News



Issue No: 173  
March 2024

## Mr Simpson's Headlines

This half term has been short but, nevertheless, packed full of activity, learning, challenge and creativity at Holywell.

**REMEMBER STUDENTS  
ARE BACK TO SCHOOL ON  
TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY**

In the midst of a hectic week, it was wonderful to take time out on Tuesday evening to go to the Music Department's Spring recital. From the opening notes of Nivain's excellent guitar solo, a calm descended on the audience of fellow students, family and staff; what followed was an absolutely wonderful and diverse selection of musical performances – some reflective, some joyous, some surprising and all incredibly special in their own way ... I was very proud of every single student – all of them showed great courage and enthusiasm in performing and they were simply the best example of what Holywell is all about.



It is hard to imagine that just under 2,000 years ago, Jesus was also taking time out to reflect on an eventful few days – He had ridden into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, had confronted money-lenders in the temple on Monday and on Tuesday avoided being captured by religious leaders before retiring to the Mount of Olives to be with friends. By Thursday and the Passover Feast, Jesus was meeting with his friends for the last time at The Last Supper before being betrayed and arrested in Gethsemane. This led to his Trial, Crucifixion and Death on Good Friday: the skies turned black and Jesus said, "Father, into Your hands, I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46). On Resurrection Sunday, we reach the culmination of the Easter events - the resurrection of Jesus being the most important event of the Christian faith. Christians believe that the resurrection proves that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah) and the Son of God. Everything he said and did was true. They also believe that the resurrection means Jesus is still with us and is guiding us every day. At Holywell, we have been reflecting on Jesus' courage to see through his mission; he

followed the plan and followed the path that was in front of Him. We have also been thinking about how easy it is to stray from the path and how easily some people are by the crowd around them. Whether you are of faith or not, we all recognize the values of kindness, respect and the responsibility we have to ourselves and others to make sure that the paths we take are the right ones. We can all aspire to show the same commitment to following the right path and seeing things through that we see in Jesus' story ... always placing others at the centre of our world, making sure that we support, nurture and do the best we can so all in our community can live life in all its fullness. Our Junior Worship Team, Choir and Year 8 Music Prefects did just this as they led today's Easter Services at the church, retelling the story of Holy Week as a Passion Play in their own words and music.



Have a wonderful Easter break.  
With all best wishes  
*MG Simpson*  
Mike Simpson  
Headteacher

# Staff News

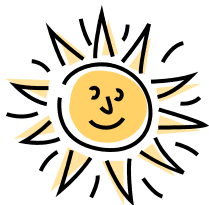
The following staff are leaving us at the end of this term:

- Mr Burnham
- Miss Potter
- Mr Selwood



We thank them all for their contribution to Holywell and wish them all great success in their future adventures.

After Easter, Miss Mayles will be leading the English team and we are delighted to welcome Mr Brown back to Holywell as part of the English department. Ms Agba and Mr Massiah will continue to cover ICT lessons. Miss Patel will initially be covering Miss Potter's timetable and tutor group with Mrs Purves returning later in May to cover until the end of the Summer Term.



## Summer Uniform

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

- Either continue to wear blazers, white shirts and ties.**
- 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).



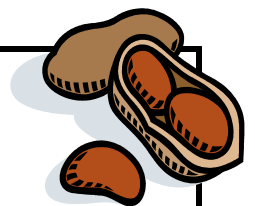
- As with school shorts, skirts must be pleated and just above the knee to just below the knee in length.
- Socks must be plain grey, black or white.
- Shoes are required as part of our school uniform.
- PE Kit to be worn on days when PE lessons are scheduled.
- No necklaces or bracelets are permitted unless they are part of your religious faith. One plain ring is allowed. Earrings - plain studs, only one in each earlobe – NB. these must be removed for PE/Games lessons. Nose studs are not permitted, except for religious purposes. These must be discussed directly with the headteacher. **Make-up is not allowed. Imitation, false or acrylic nails and nail polish are not allowed.**



## 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

## 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.

## Charity News

**Comic Relief:** The grand total of **£703.10** was raised towards Comic Relief from our Red Nose Day Mufti Day on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. (£457.10 from the non-uniform day and £246.00 from the sale of red noses / other merchandise).



# Payment for Uniform, Trips and Sundries

Please pay online whenever possible, with the link on our website.



[Tucasi \(Scopay.com\)](https://www.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](mailto: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](mailto:school@holywellschool.co.uk)

For web pages for the above please go to <https://holywellschool.co.uk/Parents>online payments>.



## Vacancies at Holywell School

We are currently looking for

**Midday Supervisors and Cleaners.**

Please see our school website for further details.



# World Book Day 2024

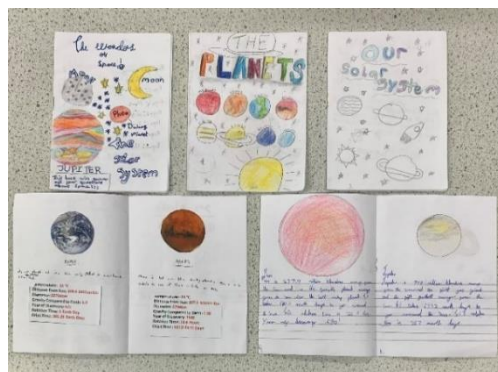
Our annual World Book Day provided an opportunity for Holywell to celebrate all of our favourite books. Recommended reads for over Easter include:



# 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 'Materials and their properties' topic gave Year Five the opportunity to investigate different materials and the properties they have that make them useful. Students built their own kite and investigated the strength of a strawberry lace!



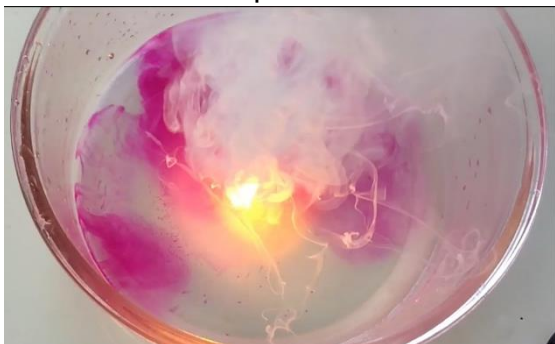
**Year Six** started the term learning about 'Electricity and circuits.' Students learned about the dangers of electricity and how to work safely. They investigated circuits and enjoyed using various components to build a steady hand game. In the second half of the term, we focussed on 'Healthy living'. In this topic, students learned about nutrients, balanced diets, teeth, the heart, pulse rates, and the effects of drugs. Needless to say, a huge number of students enjoyed learning about, and dissecting a heart!



**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 topics on 'atoms, elements and compounds', and '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 and the Science Department**



# MFL NEWS

It was a busy half-term in the MFL department filled with a variety of extra-curricular opportunities for all our students to get involved in. Let's start with congratulations and a huge WELL DONE to our March MFL celebrities.



## French Exchange

Students in Years 6 and 7 were excited to finally meet their French pen pals in Chaumont during an online session. Everyone had a chance to say hello and introduce themselves to their partner. Our students were very surprised to see that in France you do not have to wear school uniform. We are now looking forward to receiving a video about the French school.

## German Exchange

Students in Year 5 received a second letter from their pen pals in Hanover and we are now writing an Easter card back.

## Celebrate Speaking by British Council

During the month of February, students were encouraged to take part in the festival of languages organised by the British Council. The festival was about sharing a love of language and celebrating the diversity of people in the UK who speak a language other than English. Some of our students took part but sadly, we did not win. Nevertheless, everyone who took part received a little token of appreciation from the MFL department.



## Sustainable Cooking Competition Fitgreenmind X

Ruhani, Year 7 and Ana, Year 5 made the school very proud. They took part in the UK-wide *Sustainable Cooking Competition* organised by the Goethe-Institut London. The competition was







### *Easter Bouquet*

In almost every household the Easter Bouquet can be found in the beginning of spring. It usually consists of branches with blossoms or fresh sprouts. Usually the branches are cut on Holy Thursday and are put into a vase until Easter Sunday. The branches are decorated with hollowed eggshells. Parents paint and decorate the eggshells with their children several days before Easter.



### *Easter Brunch*

On Easter Sunday, German families traditionally come together for a big Easter brunch. A variety of buns and spreads are served, and painted boiled eggs are a must. In many families, children help painting the eggs and decorate them with patterns, such as bunnies or flowers.

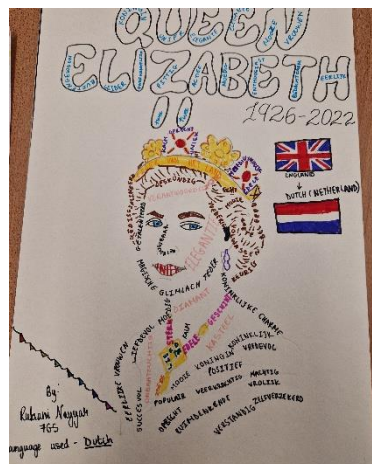
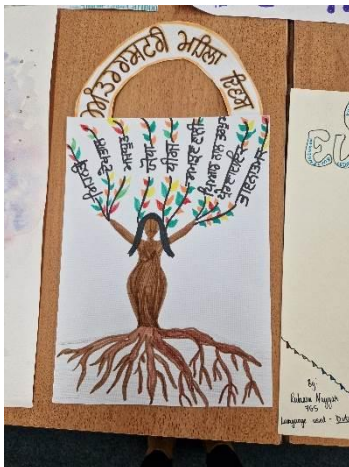


### *Easter Lamb*

In some parts of Germany, a lamb shaped cake decorated with chocolates and icing powder can be found on dinner tables during Easter.



## **Calligrams Competition**



To celebrate International Women’s Day (taking place each year on 8<sup>th</sup> March) students took part in a competition to design a foreign language calligram to represent a woman who they admire. Calligram is a word or piece of text in which the design and layout of the letters creates a visual image related to the meaning of the words themselves.

We received a number of exceptional submissions, making our decision incredibly difficult. The Year 5s winner is Maria who presented her calligram in an incredibly creative and imaginative way using Russian. Year 7s winner is Ruhani with her thoroughly inspiring and sublime piece of art in Dutch. Alisha won first place for Year 8s with her unique artwork in Hindi.



## History News

It has been a super busy term in History with **Year 5** immersing themselves in Greek culture, while our **Year 6** have been learning about the Vikings. As part of their homework, some students chose to make a model of a Viking longboat and they were really excellent! Also, Year 6 were lucky enough to have a special Viking visitor last week who arrived at school, in full Viking costume to show the students weaponry and armour. The students got to make a shield wall and scare the enemy with their battle cries before burying a dead warrior at the end of the session!



**Year 7** have embarked on their study of Tudor England in preparation for their visit to Tudor world next term and **Year 8** are currently learning about the horrors of the Transatlantic slave trade.

## RE News

**Year 5** students have been learning about the life of Jesus this term ending, appropriately, with his death and crucifixion as we move into Easter week. Our **Year 6** have been studying the religion of Sikhism, finding out about the 5K's, their belief in selfless service and how they worship at a gurdwara. **Year 7** students have been exploring the Christian concept of salvation and have ended their unit with a fun mock trial based around the disappearance of Jesus' body. They have been really engaged and there have been some heated testimonies from the witness box! Finally, our **Year 8** students have been learning about Hindu rites of passage and the interesting, flamboyant ways they celebrate coming of age and show commitment during wedding ceremonies.

Today (last day of term) students have been immersing themselves into the subject further with our **RE day**. As well as our annual Easter Service, lessons have focussed on the Easter story (including work around Leonardo DaVinci's painting of the Last Supper). Given the high priority and support Jesus gave to disabled people, we have also had a focus on disability awareness. Nathan – our external speaker – inspired everyone with his story. It has been an educational and fun day for everyone!



# Music Department News

Tuesday 26th March was the **Holywell Spring recital**. Students from all year groups performed to a packed hall. The line-up included solos, duets, string group, recorder group, year 5 samba group, year 6 ukulele group and a guitar group. It was a lovely evening and a real celebration of musical talent and enthusiasm. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and we look forward to welcoming an even bigger audience to our **summer concert** in the marquee on **Tuesday 9th July**. Save the date!

# EAL Department News

This term at Holywell School, we've had a few exciting events and one which we wanted to celebrate with our Muslim community was the Ramadan festival; this also marks the end of their fasting and, although this will happen during the school holiday, we wanted to share knowledge of this practice and what happens during the festival.

It's admirable to see quite a lot of our students are involved and dedicated to observing the practices and rituals involved during this time of self-reflection and self-improvement. Helping others and doing good deeds is an important part of being kind, giving your time and sharing what you have. The values remind them of people who are less fortunate than them, as well as thinking more about their actions. (The same values that we share here at Holywell School.)

Have a joyful festival celebration and enjoy your Iftar.

Eid Fitr Mubarak to our Muslim community.

**Mrs Busuman**



# PE Department News

## **Y5 Football (Captain Stevie F) – County Semi-finalists!**

Following some excellent performances in the league games at Redborne Upper School, the Year 5 boys have had a fantastic season starting off strong, winning against Arnold 2-1 and Alameda 1-0. We then came up against a strong Robert Bloomfield side. It was 0-0 at half time but they had the edge in the second half, beating us 3-0. Parkfields was next and after going down 1-0 at half time the boys showed excellent courage and determination to come back and win 2-1, and carried on the momentum beating Robert Bloomfield B in an amazing 3-0 victory. Currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place we faced up against 4<sup>th</sup> place Pixbrook, and after a close first half, the boys pushed on to win the game 2-0. With two games to go we played Etonbury, and we had to beat them to confirm top 2 and qualify for County Finals. The whole team put in an outstanding performance and put Etonbury under pressure throughout the first half but it was still tied 0-0. With our season on the line the boys stuck together and continued attacking as a team and eventually the dead lock was opened. With great game management and team effort we came out on top to win 1-0. Our last game of the season was against Woodlands and in another great team effort, the boys won 7-1 to secure 2<sup>nd</sup> place and a place in the County Finals.



On Friday evening, the team managed to overcome Bromham 5-3, in the semi-finals, after extra-time...massive congratulations...roll on the final!!

## **Y6 Football (Captain Joshua M) – Also County Semi-finalists!**

Following their excellent performances in the league, the boys also qualified for the County semi-finals (season report in last newsletter). Unfortunately, they were just beaten by a very good Bromham Primary team. Well done to everyone that played.

## **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 some resounding victories, they are waiting to see if they have managed to qualify – fingers crossed!

The year 8 Girls finished the league winning their last two games both 3-0 against Etonbury and Pixbrook. Goals were from Darcie W (3), Daisy W (2) and Holly J.

## **Y7 Boys Rugby (Captain Ciaran)**

The Y7 team were experiencing their first season playing 12-a-side rugby and they did not disappoint. After 2 comfortable victories against Arnold 8-3 and Parkfields 6-1, they lost the district final against a strong RBA team to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

They should be very proud of their efforts and all the team showed great sportspersonship and determination throughout all the games. Throughout all 3 games Liam scored 5 tries, Harry P x 3, Kamai x 2, Jamie x 2, Ciaran x 1, Harry M x1, Luke x1 and Thomas scoring a try too.





## Y8 Boys Rugby (Captains William T/Ollie S)

So far, the Y8 team has played 2 matches so far – a 8-2 defeat to Arnold and more recently a 2-0 victory over Parkfields - 2 tries from Finnian near the end of the match capped off a fine team performance. Our final pool match was against a formidable opposition in Alameda. We had a very depleted squad and alas, there was no fairy-tale ending, with Alameda winning quite comfortably. Overall, the performances from the group have been excellent, and the progression is very evident...well done!

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

After Easter, we will be taking part in our more traditional summer sports, such as cricket, rounders and athletics...the good news is that no extra equipment (such as shin pads) is required. However, please ensure your child has got plenty of water with them for all PE lessons.

As always, we would like to thank all those students who have attended clubs and represented the school this half-term - please see the new Clubs timetable attached. 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 Department**

### PE Clubs Timetable - Summer Term (First Half)

	13:05-13:35	13:35 - 14:05	15:45-16:45
<b>Mon</b>	Y5 Mixed Rounders (SM/MK) - Field	Y7 Girls Rounders (ES) - Field KS3 Boys Badminton (MK) - Sports Hall	Y5/6 Mixed Dodgeball (MK) - Sports Hall
<b>Tues</b>	Y6 Mixed Rounders (HMc) - Field		<i>Athletics Fixtures</i>
<b>Weds</b>	Y7/8 Mixed Athletics (ME/ES) - Field	Y5/6 Mixed Athletics (ZI/ME) - Field	<i>Rounders Fixtures Cricket Fixtures</i>
<b>Thurs</b>	Multi Skills - KS3 Girls (CSI/MK)* *Invite Only	Multi Skills - KS2 Mixed (MK)* *Invite Only	<i>Rounders Fixtures Cricket Fixtures</i>
<b>Fri</b>	Y8 Girls Rounders (CSI) - Field Y7/8 Mixed Cricket (ME/ZI) - Sports Hall	Y5/6 Mixed Cricket (MK) - Field	Y5/6 Mixed Badminton (MK) - Sports Hall





# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## SPRING TERM 2024

**End of Term – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

## SUMMER TERM 2024

**Closure Day – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

**Term Begins – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

**May Day – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

**Half Term – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

**End of Term – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

*Please note that dates may differ from other schools*

## SUMMER TERM TEST DATES 2024



Year 6 Students - Key Stage 2 SATs

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

All Years - GL Assessments - Maths and English

Week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024

**PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS AT THIS TIME**



**A REMINDER THAT STUDENTS  
RETURN TO SCHOOL ON:  
TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

