



Holywell News



Issue No: 184
March 2026

**REMEMBER STUDENTS
ARE BACK TO SCHOOL ON
TUESDAY 14th APRIL
HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY!**

Mr Simpson's Headlines



On our last day of term, we have had a wonderful convergence of celebrations with our fantastic Easter Service and Easter Day lessons and a simultaneous celebration of Eid. In times of worldwide conflict, it is comforting to know that we are one community at Holywell – respectful of each other's beliefs, traditions and viewpoints, striving to live in peace with kindness and care.



DRAW NEAR LIFE-GIVING HABITS FOR LENT

During our worship this term, we have been exploring 'Life-giving habits for Lent'. We have looked at Worshipping and Communion together, Prayer, Offering Service and Working Together. This week we looked at the spirit of Easter. Whatever your faith or belief, Easter is a time for reflection, reconnection and transformation. In the Christian tradition, the sacrifice of Jesus serves as a powerful affirmation of human value. In

Romans 6:6, Paul tells us, "We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with." The whole idea of starting anew and transformation is one which we can all embrace ... this might mean taking time over Easter to reconnect with friends and family, it might be about transforming that room that needs a make-over, or it might be a good time to transform yourself - set a new goal and aim to achieve something substantial by the end of the Summer Term; if something didn't quite work out ... time for Plan B!



On the theme of transformation, plans are really starting to take shape for our transformation to becoming a Secondary school. We have started working with our CBC-allocated contractor – Willmott-Dixon – and they are well underway with plans for both our future new building expansion and the mitigation buildings and works needed for September 2026. We hope to be able to share more details and designs with you in the Summer Term. Staff have been working hard at designing the new Year 9 curriculum and we are looking forward to being able to work with our talented students as we move into Year 9.

Reflecting back on this term it has been a long and busy term; as always, whenever there have been challenges and difficult situations, there has also always been a wonderful counterbalance in the successes and achievements of our students. We've had sporting successes, academic achievements and, a particular highlight for this theatre-loving headteacher, was the Year 8 Drama success in the Bedfordshire Drama Festival. More than the fact that



the students won the competition, it was the actual performance that was the real highlight – the students performed a 5-minute interpretation of ‘Lord of the Flies’; it was a superb piece of physical theatre. The commitment, focus and intensity of the performances from the whole company made for a dramatic, compelling piece of story-telling. It was everything I hope Holywell to be: inclusive, high-quality, team-focussed with everyone committed to being the best they could be whilst being proud to belong and enjoying the experience. A huge thank you to Mrs Gittens for leading the students in this endeavour. This is just one example of the fantastic support our students have from all of our staff – be this being coached in sport, music, or in the individual subject areas.

On Tuesday, we had a very varied evening of music – from the KS3 band performing Oasis to the recorder group; from a trumpet solo to a rapping duet; from Holywell Sings to Samba with a health dose of tenor horn, violins and guitars.



In the meantime, we have all earned a restful Easter break - make sure you rest, recharge and rest again.

With all best wishes
MG Simpson
Mike Simpson
Headteacher

Term Dates for this Academic Year 2026

SPRING TERM 2026

Term Ends: Friday 27th March 2026

SUMMER TERM 2026

Closure Day: Monday 13th April 2026

Term Starts for all students: Tuesday 14th April 2026

May Day: Monday 4th May 2026

Half term: Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2026

Term Ends: Friday 17th July 2026

Closure Day: Monday 20th July 2026

Dates are correct at the time of printing.

Please note that dates may differ from other schools.

**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
WEDUC Communications for School**



Please note that we use WEDUC to communicate with families.
We strongly recommend at least one parent/carer downloads the WEDUC 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 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 at least 4 weeks in advance** of the proposed absence 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.

SUMMER TERM TEST DATES 2026

**PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS DURING THE FOLLOWING
ASSESSMENT PERIODS:**

Year 6 - Key Stage 2 SATs

Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May 2026

All Year Groups – GL Assessments

Week commencing 8th June 2026

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.

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

School Caterers

Please note the School Caterers operate a cashless system, so no money is taken at the kitchen.
Please can parents regularly check the balance on their child's Parent Pay account via the ParentPay website: <https://www.parentpay.com/>.

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.

Dropping Off and Picking Up

We ask parents not to drive their vehicles onto the school grounds at the beginning and end of the school day. This is for safety reasons, due to the presence of large numbers of students and the school buses arriving and departing.

Please also drive carefully and considerately around the area of Red Lion Close, as students often dash across the road for their "lift" home without taking the usual care. Please also ensure that you do not block residents' driveways at any time.

Payment for Uniform, Trips and Sundries

Please note that we are now a cash-free school and request that payments are made online whenever possible, with the link on our website.

Tucasi (Scopay.com) For payment of the following:

- Ordering School ties / blazer badges
- Trips
- 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.

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT – A REMINDER

School Organiser (replacements via Scopay)
Green pen / Red pen / Blue pen / Black pen
Ruler
White board pen
Reading book
Bag (rucksack)
Coloured pens or pencils
Protractor

Handwriting pen
Pencil
Eraser
Pencil Case
Water bottle (labelled with name!)
Pencil sharpener
Calculator
Dictionary

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.
- 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** – Please remember that we are a non-smart-phone school. Smart phones are not to be brought on-site. The only students with permission for smartphones in school are those with medical conditions (eg. diabetics whose insulin levels need monitoring) or serious safeguarding issues. We are aware that some students need to be able to contact parents on their way to and from school (especially if travelling on school transport). Non-smart phones are allowed and students take responsibility for these. They are relatively inexpensive and easy to use. Some parents also like to track students – there are a range of tracking devices which can be used - everything from bespoke GPS trackers - eg. <https://www.ubeequeue.com/juniors-tracker/> to a more expensive Garmin watch or a FitBit. If smart-phones are found on-site, they will be confiscated and will need to be collected by a parent. Our full policy can be found 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.

World Book Day 2026



Students and staff enjoyed celebrating all things bookish during World Book Day. The annual door/window challenge returned as did the ever-popular book-swap. A wonderful day of reading was had by all.



Drama Department News



The Year 8 Drama option group took part in The Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama.

This was the first time Holywell had taken part in the competition. There were 5 schools in the category of 'Group Dramatic Scene' and Holywell came first!

The students performed a powerful extract from 'Lord of the Flies'. It was an ensemble piece and every member of the group performed with focus, energy and commitment. Congratulations to them all!

Music Department News

The Spring Concert took place on Tuesday 26th March.

Over 130 parents, carers and friends came to watch the performance and the range of talent and musical genres were incredible. We were all very proud of the students, many of whom were performing for the first time, or performing solos. Highlights for me were the guitar groups and the KS3 Band who did an impressive rendition of 'Stand by Me' by Oasis. We have already started planning the summer concert which will take place on **Tuesday 7th July** in the Marquee and we look forward to seeing lots of you there.



Easter Services



Congratulations to the choir and Junior Worship team who lead the four services at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Cranfield on the last day of term. They truly show the value of 'service' when they repeat the service four times to allow all our year groups to attend.

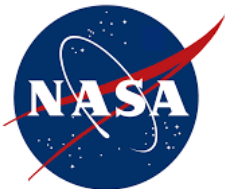


Science Department News

“ISS, this is Holywell School calling... do you copy?”

As many of you will remember, following his inspiring visit to Holywell School last year, we have proudly been tracking the incredible journey of Commander Jack Hathaway—from NASA astronaut-in-training to full mission selection.

We are thrilled to share that on **Friday 13th February 2026**, Jack achieved an extraordinary milestone by successfully piloting NASA's SpaceX Crew-12 mission to the International Space Station. This remarkable accomplishment marks the beginning of a nine-month mission in orbit, where he will be conducting vital scientific experiments and helping to maintain, repair, and service the ISS.



Thanks to the generous support of our partners at Cranfield University, our students were given a truly unforgettable opportunity: the chance to connect with Jack aboard the ISS via video link.



During this special session, students asked thoughtful and engaging questions, and Jack responded with enthusiasm, insight, and a genuine passion for space exploration.

We are especially proud of our students: **Aiva, Skye, Emmanuel, Rebecca, Maisie, Lillie, Wendy, Linga, Sanveer, Layla, Noah, Katelyn, Issabella, and Blake**. Your curiosity and confidence made the event truly memorable!



We look forward to continuing to follow Jack and his fellow crew members as they embark on this exciting adventure, inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, and explorers here at Holywell School.

Stay tuned for more updates from orbit!





MFL News

Our Year 8 and Year 7 German students take on the GIMAGINE German Award!

Some of our Year 7 and Year 8 German students are embarking on an exciting journey with the GIMAGINE German Award, an online programme developed by the prestigious Goethe Institut. We are proud to announce that Holywell School has been selected to receive funding for this programme, making it completely free for our students. This initiative gives students a unique opportunity to further develop their German skills and broaden their global knowledge.

Successful participants will earn an official certificate from the Goethe Institut London, a prestigious accolade that can enhance university applications, CVs, and personal achievement in German.

Students taking part will:

- Complete interactive German Starter modules online.
- Extend their reading, listening, and vocabulary skills.
- Explore global topics to develop broader cultural awareness.

Holywell Students Spread Easter Cheer to French Pen Pals in Chaumont:



Our Holywell students have been busy creating a delightful selection of Easter greetings for their pen pal friends in Chaumont, France. With colourful designs, cheerful messages, and lots of creative flair, each card is a special token of friendship and celebration.

The students were thrilled to send their cards, imagining the smiles they would bring to their friends across the channel. This exchange is more than just a festive gesture—it strengthens the bond between our schools and gives students the chance to practice writing, creativity, and cross-cultural communication.

We can't wait to hear back from our French friends and continue building this wonderful international friendship. Joyeuses Pâques from all of us at Holywell!

Countdown to Our French Adventure!

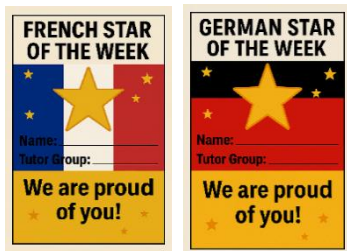


We can hardly contain our excitement as our Year 8 trip to France draws near! From the moment we arrive, it is going to be a whirlwind of unforgettable experiences. We are looking forward to sampling some of France's most unique culinary delights—yes, that includes trying snails and frog legs! But it's not just about food. We will also have the



chance to watch skilled bakers at work, witnessing the magic of French bread-making in action. And for a bit of fun and thrills, we will be visiting the legendary Parc Astérix, where excitement awaits around every corner. Important Reminder: Don't forget that all passports and paperwork must be handed in by **20th April** to ensure everything is ready for our trip!

MFL Star of the Week



Each week, the MFL Department celebrates outstanding students of French and German as our Stars of the Week!

This recognition is awarded to learners who demonstrate exceptional effort, progress, or enthusiasm in their language studies. Students may be selected for their active participation, creativity, or notable improvement and their achievements are proudly showcased on our department noticeboards. Keep an eye on the school's social media pages for posts featuring weekly certificates

and nominations. And if you are named a Star of the Week, you will also earn 5 House Points!

Languagenut Homework Club



All students are warmly welcome to attend our Languagenut Homework Club every Tuesday in Room 4, from 1:05–1:50pm.

This is a great opportunity for students to:

- ✓ Get support with their MFL homework.
- ✓ Use school devices if needed.
- ✓ Spend focused time practising independently on Languagenut.

Duolingo



duolingo

All French and German students have access to Duolingo. Their username and password details are recorded at the front of planners. We encourage students to access the app regularly to further develop their foreign language skills. Duolingo is an app and website that uses a gamified approach to language learning, with lessons that incorporate translating, interactive exercises, quizzes, and stories.

Watching Movies & Shows



Netflix, Amazon Prime or any other streaming service offer a variety of French and German films and shows with subtitles, helping language learners absorb the language naturally. Start watching your favourite films or shows with English subtitles, then switch to French/German subtitles, and gradually move to watching without them.

How Can Parents/Carers support language learning at home?

By incorporating these simple habits listed below, parents/carers can make language learning more interactive, enjoyable, and effective at home! 🚀

- ✓ **Make Vocabulary Stick** – Encourage your child to make regular use of the *Languagenut* and *Duolingo* apps to support their language learning. Both platforms offer fun, interactive activities that help build confidence, strengthen vocabulary, and boost independent study.
- 🎧 **Immerse in Listening** – Suggest listening to podcasts, music, or watching TV shows in French/German to improve comprehension and pronunciation.
- 🗣️ **Practice Speaking** – Engage in simple conversations using basic phrases, even if you are not fluent. Consistent practice builds confidence!
- 📖 **Encourage Reading** – Borrow or buy books, magazines, or graded readers in French/German to make reading enjoyable and accessible.
- 📅 **Create a Study Routine** – Set aside regular time for French/German homework and revision to maintain consistency.
- 🎬 **Explore Culture** – Watch films, documentaries, or YouTube channels like *Easy French / Easy German* to connect language with real-world contexts.
- ❓ **Be a Quizmaster** – Help your child review vocabulary, grammar rules, or key phrases by quizzing them in a fun and engaging way.



Choosing your GCSE subjects is an exciting step. French or German could open doors you haven't even imagined yet! Studying a language is more than just learning to speak. It is about discovering new cultures, boosting your confidence, and standing out to future employers and universities. Whether you are passionate about travel, interested in international careers, or simply want a challenge that is both fun and rewarding, GCSE French or German could be the perfect choice. To help you and your child explore what studying a language at GCSE really involves, check out this short

video from our exam board Pearson Edexcel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bplJmebh4XI>

It gives a clear overview of the course content, assessments, and the amazing benefits that come with language learning. Don't miss the chance to unlock a world of opportunities! Why not consider French or German as part of your GCSE journey?



P.E Department News

Y8 Boys Football – County Semi-finalists!

Following the boys coming 2nd in the Redborne Partnership league, they are now waiting to play their semi-final match against Bedford Borough opponents!

KS2/KS3 Girls Football



The KS2 girls have also had a great season, with the team currently unbeaten and qualifying for the league final. This will be against RBA in the Summer term. With still a couple of games left to go, the KS3 girls are also unbeaten but fingers crossed they can remain unbeaten and challenge for the league title like their KS2 counterparts. Hopefully we will give you more good news in the next newsletter!



Y7 Boys Rugby

The Y7 team were experiencing their first season playing 12-a-side rugby and performed with much effort and energy. After finishing 3rd in their pool they will now play Arnold in a 5/6 place playoff.

Y8 Boys Rugby



The Year 8 Rugby team has had an outstanding season so far, winning 3 out of 3 matches. The league final will be Holywell V RBA which will hopefully be a fantastic match. Well done to all those boys who have played, including stand out performances from Tom Marshall and Joshua Massey.

KS2 Rugby

The KS2 rugby team put on a resilient display at this year's Rugby Tournament hosted by Alameda. Arriving with the most inexperienced squad the school has ever fielded; the vast majority of the squad never having never played in a competitive fixture, we had no way of knowing how we would perform in a competitive tournament.

Competing against strong opposition, our squad of inexperienced players showed incredible teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship throughout the afternoon against more experienced and well drilled opposition.

A very heavy initial defeat to Alameda (8-0), made the scale of our task very clear to the whole squad. The team went on to show a lot of bravery and resilience in our next fixture, losing 4-1 to Parkfields. The disappointment of the defeat mitigated by the thrill of Frankie Perrin scoring the team's first competitive try with some mazy running before showing a lot of pace on the outside.

That proved the highlight of our afternoon losing to Arnold 7-0 and then Etonbury 4-0. Whilst the team was initially disappointed their courage to keep playing, giving one hundred per cent, against much stronger opposition was a credit to the school.

Special mention goes to Josh Moore's desire to keep running, Jacob Bishop and Henry Fuller for their direct ball carrying and Frankie and Zac's mazy running. The work rate and tackling of Joshua Welham and Linga Nyasulu to run up and make tackle after tackle, after tackle was an inspiration. Well done to the whole squad who can be rightly proud of their positive attitude that was summed up perfectly by Henry when someone asked how they got on: "We didn't win, but we had fun".

Please do make us aware of any sporting success your child has outside of school – they could feature in the next newsletter or on our social media pages!!

	13:05-13:35	13:35 - 14:05	15:45-16:45
Mon	Y7/8 Girls Rounders (SM/MK) - Field	Y5/6 Mixed Cricket (MK) - Field	KS2 Mixed Multi Sports (MK) - Sports Hall
Tues	Y7/8 Mixed Cricket (ME/ZI) - Sports Hall	Y7/8 Girls Sport & Wellbeing (ES) * *Invite Only	<i>Rounders Fixtures</i> <i>Cricket Fixtures</i>
Weds	Y7/8 Mixed Flag Football (ZI) - Field		<i>Athletics Fixtures</i>
Thurs	Y7/8 Mixed Athletics (ME/CSI/MK) - Field	Y5/6 Mixed Rounders (MK) - Field	<i>Rounders Fixtures</i> <i>Cricket Fixtures</i>
Fri	Y5/6 Mixed Athletics (ZI/ES/MK/ME) - Field	Multi Skills - Y5/6 Mixed (MK)* *Invite Only	All Years Mixed Badminton (MK) - Sports Hall

R.E Department 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.

We have finished the term with our annual RE Day. This year we have explored the events of Palm Sunday, turning the tables in the temple on Tuesday, the way Jesus showed service by cleansing the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper and how Jesus found comfort through sharing his burdens with God in the garden of Gethsemane. After a short but busy half term we are all looking forward to coming back, refreshed and ready to begin our new topics of learning!

History Department News

It has been a super busy term in History:

Year 5 immersing themselves in Greek culture and learning about how they are still influencing us today!

Year 6 have been learning about the Vikings and their scary battle tactics and amazing longboats.

Year 7 have embarked on their study of Tudor England and have enjoyed acting out imaginary scenes about the break with Rome.

Year 8 are currently learning about the horrors of the Transatlantic slave trade.

Year 5 News



Earlier this year, we took 60 Key Stage 2 pupils on an educational visit to Woburn Safari Park. During the trip, the children enjoyed the Road Safari, accompanied by expert insights from one of the parks knowledgeable keepers. They also experienced a private sea lion show featuring a variety of impressive behaviours, as well as an exclusive visit to the giraffe house.



Although the weather was drizzly, the children thoroughly enjoyed the day. After lunch, they even had the opportunity to spend some time playing on the slides, which added to the overall experience.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Woburn Safari Park for making this visit possible. Thank you to the marketing team for the Tiger gift at the end for all 60 children. It was truly a memorable experience for the children, one they will cherish for years to come.



@lottiescrumb supplied up with 20 Bento cakes to decorate in celebration of International Woman's day and Mother's Day.

There was lots of fun, creativity, icing and thoughtful effort put into making a special gift for someone at home to show appreciation for all the hard work they do day in and day out.

YEAR 5 TRIP TO HAZARD ALLEY!

17TH MARCH 2026

The Safety Centre is the world's first interactive, immersive and memorable safety education charity; the centre specialises in teaching children, young people and adults about how to stay safe, about understanding risks and how to avoid accidents using realistic learning experiences.

HOLYWELL SCHOOL



<https://www.safetycentre.co.uk>

Hazard Alley, Kiln Farm, MK

What happened on the trip? >>

Students split into groups of approximately 8 and taken on a tour of the Safety Centre. Each tour will last two hours. They were led by friendly volunteer tour guides through 12 scenarios, looking for hazards to develop skills and strategies to keep themselves safer.

What did we learn? >>

Every student was given the chance to report the accident/incident to 999 and ask for the correct services to support. Some students were very nervous but by the end, showed fantastic confidence!

What was memorable? >>

- The train track
- The smoke in the house
- Calling 999
- Screaming before doing the recover position
- Being in the fast food shop
- Being told off for walking in the road



<https://www.safetycentre.co.uk>

Hazard Alley, Kiln Farm



<https://www.safetycentre.co.uk>

Hazard Alley, Kiln Farm, MK

YEAR 5 TRIP TO HAZARD ALLEY!

17TH MARCH 2026

**HOLYWELL
SCHOOL**

Thank you to all the staff that supported the trip, to Hazard Alley for having us and the volunteers too! We interviewed some children after the trip - this is what they had to say!

Ada, 5CS

I thought the trip was amazing. I am thinking they could add a moving train but I loved it. 5 star review. My favourite part of the day was calling 999. I had to report that someone had broken their leg and they needed an ambulance! Thank you to the volunteers.

Harrison, 5ZI

It was an amazing trip and I did not realise how fun it was going to actually be. My favourite part was the knife crime. I did not realise that being a bystander in a knife incident, could have prison time. I loved the quizzes and loved how we got to go up close to the lorry as it was so hour! Did you know that a 30mph car, it would take 23m to slow and and come to a hult? You must make sure to wait for all cars to stop, before crossing the road so they have definately seen you!

Evie, 5NC

This trip was fun! It felt like a real life situation. I have learnt to always be careful. I have also learnt about what to do if someone gets hurt. My favourite park was the lake because we actually saw the fishing line touch the wire and someone needing help because they were drowning! Thank you Mrs McCann for organising.

Louisa, 5ZI

It was a fun and entertaining trip. It felt I was actually in a dangerous situation. My favourite scenario was the 'smelly alley' which taught us to always take caution when going to places and through routes we have not been before. It smelt really bad! I really enjoyed how the centre made the dangers in the houses and how we had to pick them out!



www.safetycentre.co.uk

Hazard Alley, Kiln Farm, MK

<https://www.safetycentre.co.uk>

Hazard Alley, Kiln Farm, MK



TRANSFORMING
YOUNG LIVES
SINCE 1922

ROCK UK, FRONTIER CENTRE

11th - 13th February

On the 11th February, we set off for Rock UK Frontier Centre after a morning of lessons. With 100 excited children ready to step out of their comfort zones and enjoy time with their peers, we began our short journey to Northamptonshire. Spirits were high among the children and the staff too (despite a few early starts!).

Upon arrival, we settled into the lodges and enjoyed lunch before tackling the challenge of making beds. For some, this was straightforward; for others, it proved a little trickier! Thankfully, our team of supportive staff were on hand to help.

The children then jumped straight into a wide range of activities throughout the stay. These included high ropes, the leap of faith, zip wire, rock climbing, archery, Mission Impossible, biking, the maze, and Above and Beyond. There were also opportunities for supervised free time, where children could visit the shop, explore the grounds and enjoy games together. A special thank you goes to Mrs O'Reilly, who kindly brought along the games on Wednesday evening after work, after they were accidentally left behind at school. Thank you!

The food was excellent, with plenty of variety to suit all tastes. Breakfast included cereals and toast, while lunches and dinners offered options such as jacket potatoes with various fillings, pizza and chips, spaghetti and a selection of salads. There was also fruit available at every meal, along with treats like flapjack and cake for dessert.

The shop proved very popular, so much so that by Thursday it had been thoroughly "raided"! Stocks of sweets had to be replenished and by Friday there were no soft drinks left before our departure.

Evenings were filled with a variety of activities. We were fortunate to have exclusive use of the sports hall on both nights, where football matches took place. Other options included a movie room, pool, games, and plenty of time for chatting and socialising. Karaoke was a particular highlight, with many children enjoying singing along with their friends.

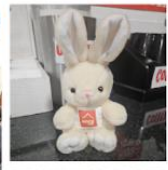
The weather was mostly kind to us, although Friday brought rain, wind and colder temperatures. As a result, there were certainly some muddy shoes and clothes to deal with at home, we hope the children helped with the cleaning!

Most importantly, everyone returned safely, with no one (and nothing!) lost along the way. We consider that a great success and a truly memorable trip for all involved.

A huge thank you to the team of staff that supported: Mrs Butcher, Mrs McEwen, Ms Lau, Mrs McKellar, Mrs Brumsden, Mr Brown, Miss Caldwell, Mrs Sillett, Mr Lawes and Miss Kotur. A big thank you to the team at school that helped with cover to enable us to go. Also not forgetting a big thank you to the parents and carers for paying and trusting us with your children! We hope they had a great time!



ROCK UK, FRONTIER CENTRE
11th - 13th February





Holywell Safeguarding Newsletter

MEET THE TEAM

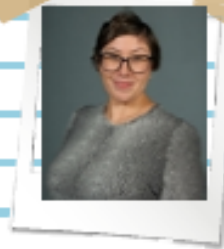
March 2026
Issue: 10



**Mrs Stewart-
McAlpine**
Deputy Head & DSL



Mrs Johnson
Family Support / Deputy DSL



Miss Collins
Student Support /
Assistant DSL

Welcome to our Safeguarding Newsletter.

We are hopeful you will find it useful.

The Safety and Wellbeing of our students are a priority to us! We hope that we can connect you to local and national support, if you need it for you and your families.

Our focus this edition of our newsletter is looking at support for our students sitting the SATS this coming May.

If you have a topic you would like us to cover, or you are in need of support, information or advice, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of the team!



In order to support our students, Holywell has been offering additional SATS support during afternoon registrations.

There are a number of websites that have relaxation and calming activities to support children who are struggling with pre-SATS worries,

Here are a couple listed below,

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/help-your-child-beat-exam-stress/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>

<https://charliewaller.org/mental-health-resources/supporting-your-child-with-exam-stress>

Useful support websites specific to SATS:

<https://www.sats-papers.co.uk>

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2026/03/ks2-sats-2026-what-parents-need-to-know/>

2026 KS2 SATs Exam Timetable

DATE	EXAM
Mon 11 th May	Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation (Paper 1) Grammar, Spelling & Punctuation (Paper 2)
Tue 12 th May	English Reading
Wed 13 th May	Maths Paper 1 (Arithmetic) Maths Paper 2 (Reasoning)
Thu 14 th May	Maths Paper 3 (Reasoning)



How You Feel Matters

Getting support in Central Bedfordshire

Central Bedfordshire

IT IS IMPORTANT TO TALK: Try talking to the school/college mental health support, a counsellor, doctor, friend, family or another trusted adult.
IF SOMEONE TALKS TO YOU: Help them get help and get support yourself if you need it.



Need some information?

How do you get help?



Everything OK?

Everything OK is a website designed to help you find the help and support you need when you've got questions about your thoughts or feelings.
www.everything-ok.co.uk

CHAT HEALTH

Service for young people to confidentially ask for help on a range of issues.

Talk to a school nurse chathealth.nhs.uk TEXT: 07507 331 450

School Nursing Service

Providing support on a range of issues, 1-1 virtually or in school.

bedslutonchildrenshealth.nhs.uk/services/bedfordshire-and-luton-0-to-18-health-visiting-and-school-nursing-service

TEL: 0300 555 0505

SHOUT

Free, confidential, 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope. www.shout.org
TEXT: SHOUT to 85258

BEDFORD OPEN DOOR

Free, confidential counselling for young people aged 13 to 25.
www.bedfordopendoor.org.uk
TEL: 01234 350385

SORTED

Free, confidential counselling for children and young people aged 5 to 25. www.sortedbedfordshire.org.uk
TEL: 01582 859435

RELATE

Free, confidential counselling for children, young people, couples and families. www.relate.org.uk
TEL: 01234 358350

CHUMS

Mental health and emotional wellbeing service for children and young people. chums.uk.com
TEL: 01525 853926

SAMARITANS

If you want someone to talk to, they listen, do not judge and do not tell you what to do.
www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/contact-samaritan/
TEL 116123



Do you need urgent support?

Need more help?



Call 111 Option 2 - 24/7

A free helpline for people of all ages who need urgent mental health support. Young people can talk to a CAMHS professional directly who can arrange additional support.

IN AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 999

CAMHS - Emotional & Behavioural Team

Provide assessments, support and treatment for children and young people up to the age of 18

NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE CAMHS

www.ebft.nhs.uk/services/north-bedfordshire-camhs
TEL: 01234 693301

SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE / LUTON CAMHS

www.ebft.nhs.uk/camhs/where-we-work/south-bedfordshire-luton-camhs
TEL: 01525 638613

Primary Care Access Service PCAS

You can also access support via PCAS; ask your GP to refer you to the Primary Care Access Service for mental health support.



Holywell Support this Half Term

At Holywell we have been fortunate once again this half term in accessing some excellent wellbeing support for our students from outside agencies both one-to-one and in small groups.



Holywell has been lucky enough to continue our relationship with a qualified boxing and wellbeing coach and with the Boxing Saves Lives organisation. We have been able to offer group sessions with a group of students in Yr. 6.



The Mental Health Team (MHST) at CAMHS - this half-term they have been supporting a number of our students and we are looking at them facilitating some group work with our students in the summer term.

We have been able to welcome the CHUMS team for a group intervention called TACTICS (a wellbeing intervention including sport), who have supported a group of our Yr.5 students.

Holywell School is now LIVE across Social Media Pages



@HolywellCoE



Holywell School
Bedfordshire



@Holywellcoe



Please like/follow to receive updates

www.holywellschool.co.uk