



Holywell News

Outdoor learning Focus

Spring term Issue 15

'Expanding our Horizons with Contagious Enthusiasm'

Thank you for sending back your SIAMS questionnaires – this year we received 49 returned questionnaires back by 15th March making 32% of our families (a slight decrease from last year's 55). It is however so helpful to receive any feedback so we can continue to reflect and improve on what we do at school. I will be collating these responses and will provide a summary after the Easter break. We have attached this again to the mail drop, so if you have not completed the questionnaire we would be very grateful if you could spend a couple of minutes. Thank you. SIAMS inspection focuses on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults. This involves looking at the school's Christian vision, the provision the school makes because of this vision and how effective this provision is in enabling all pupils to flourish. We employ a variety of strategies and styles appropriate to, and reflective of, our particular context in order to be distinctively and effectively Christian in our character and ethos. There is a new SIAMS framework and our visit is scheduled to happen in the autumn term. I have attended training on the new SIAMS framework and will be attending the Church School Conference later this term to find out more. We will be asking parents and carers to support us as we work on our mission that is to be rooted in the Christian Faith. Currently we have 'Expanding Horizons with Contagious Enthusiasm' and need to develop this more to reflect the Church School ethos. If you are able to support this work in the form of a working party, I would be delighted to hear from you. Please e-mail directly to head@holywell.cambs.sch.uk. Some of you are finding that you cannot respond directly to emails from our Mail Drop system, but I do check my emails very regularly. Thank you for any support and ideas around this.



Attached to this mail drop is the new lunchtime menu for after Easter. You will notice how we have added some filled baguettes to the menu. There are also some exciting new main course options. The menu is available on our website and can be downloaded. Head to the Parents and Carers tab.

Attendance



Whole school last term **96.67%**

Whole school this term **96.44%**

Whole school this year to date **96.58%**

The class with the highest attendance to date is Oak class at **97.21%**

Class with highest attendance this term is Elm with **98.32%**

Class with highest attendance this term to date is Oak **97.35%**

All boys this year to date **96.45%**

All girls this year to date **96.7%**

Highest attendance overall so far to date - Year 4 boys with 98.49% - congratulations!

Please remember to send in **doctors/dentist/hospital appointments** for our files. Any child with attendance below 95% is being monitored, so please do expect a reminder, a phone call or correspondence from the school. Sometimes families give a child that extra day off to finally get over something when they might be completely well enough to come back to school.

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/de/attendance-matters-a-parents-guide.pdf>



Drinking water at school <https://www.waterlogic.com/en-gb/resources/blog/is-your-child-drinking-enough-water-at-school/>

There are a significant number of children who do not have water bottles on a daily basis. If a child does not have their own water bottle, they have a cup and fill it from the tap but we notice they do not drink as much as children with water bottles. We encourage children to drink regularly and refill bottles after lunch (or earlier in the day if necessary). Please also name your child's bottle. We have dozens that have no name on at school.

Thank you for your support.



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS –

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.

ACTIVITY PASSPORT

When we are young, how do we know what we will like, what interests we will have and what challenges we might want to take on? It is important that children have the chance to try things out, to get a taste of the world around them, to see and do things that they wouldn't normally do, or go to places they wouldn't normally go and to meet people they wouldn't normally meet. These things are important because a world-class education is about much more than qualifications: it's also about your character and wellbeing.

We develop our character from taking on challenges and pursuing our interests, by doing things that are worth doing even when they are difficult and which may not give us an immediate reward. This new 'passport' of activities is launched by the Education Secretary to encourage more family time and help build children's character and resilience.

We have many enrichment activities across the curriculum that children have access to but we would also like to share this 'Activity Passport' that your child might like to work on each year at home. A link to our website to download this passport is here:
<https://www.horizonlearning.org/holywell-c-of-e-primary-school/our-learning/learning-resources/>

Alternatively, please pop into the school office to ask for a printed copy. A complete copy has also been attached to this week's mail drop.



FAMILY LENT CHALLENGE 2019

We have **4** fish so far... Hopefully as many generations as possible can be involved in the making of these fish. The fish can be made from any materials and be no larger than 30 cm by 15cm (roughly the size of an A4 piece of paper) but can be smaller. These will be displayed near our school fish.

If you have made any, please send them into school. Please also see the last pages of the newsletter for more involvement within the local community to support elderly people.



- Year 5 thrilled the audience at their final performance at the Cambridge Corn Exchange on 13th March.
- Behaviour was commented on again as being 'exemplary' when we were visited by a team of scientists from Public Health England last week
- We have many grandparents who are able to visit some classes during Lent. Thank you
- We raised **£189.23** for Comic Relief
- Our 'Book People' Book Fair was successful. School will benefit from commission to purchase more books for class libraries
- World Book Day was a triumph. A photograph appeared in the local paper. Children loved sharing books together.
- Our Black Oak tree (near the main entrance gate) will have some work carried out (finally!) over Easter, so expect it to look a lot thinner in the branches when we return!
- Melanie from AGE UK visited us during Collective Worship this Monday to explain more about the charity and is looking into supporting us to develop 'Pen Pals'.
- Willow Open Week was a great triumph with 20 family members attending throughout the week. Thank you for sharing some of the learning with us in your child's class.
- Our annual Piano Recital was wonderful. Such a pleasure to see pupils who have been learning for more than a year and what amazing progress they have made. Children were very nervous but had a wonderful audience supporting them. Thank you for attending.
- Our Book Crew have run a successful competition, with winners being announced last Friday.
- <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/play-and-win/competitions/> check out this website for many games to win and competitions to enter with fabulous prizes! As we say in school – you've got to be in it, to win it'



Outdoor learning focus. How have we used the outdoors for our learning so far this year? Below is a snap shot of outdoor learning at Holywell so far this year:

Why learn outdoors?

Outdoor Learning is a broad term that includes: free flow access to outdoor play in the early years, school grounds projects, environmental education, recreational and adventure activities, personal and social development programmes, expeditions, team building, education for sustainability, adventure therapy ... and more. Outdoor Learning does not have a clearly defined boundary but it does have a common core. **Outdoor Learning is active learning in the outdoors**

In Outdoor Learning pupils learn through what they **do**, through what they **encounter** and through what they **discover**. Pupils learn about the outdoors, themselves and each other, while also learning outdoor skills. Active learning readily develops the learning skills of **enquiry, experiment, feedback, reflection, review and cooperative learning**.

The **LEARNER** is at the heart of our mission to use **Outdoor Learning** so that children are **RESPONSIBLE** and care for their environment and belong to their local community, are **CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS** and gain independence and confidence through their outdoor experiences, are **SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS** and are

motivated and enthusiastic learning to the best of their ability outdoors and are **EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS** able to apply critical thinking and transfer skills across learning in all spaces and places.

EYFS	Pupil attend Forest School each week and are lucky to have their own outdoor areas that is used every day. We have many visitors from other schools attending our Forest School sessions and take ideas back to their own schools. Children work in teams, develop confidence, take safe risks and support each other. As children go all year round, they see seasonal change and wonder at the things they see growing each week. They ask questions and want to find out more about the world in which we live. Children bring this wonder back to the classroom and often want to continue their learning in the Willow outdoor area, in class and school grounds.
1	Have continued with Forest School sessions from Reception. Children have created wobbly bridges to improve strength and balance, have developed team work by building dens together and working to solve problems. Children have also kept a reflective diary after their visits to Forest School. Children used the trees outside to create bark rubbings showing texture for their planets linked to their space topic. Health and Safety was discussed near Bonfire Night so children could keep themselves safe.
2	Have been carrying out lots of maths work outside including using chalk to partition numbers in large format on the playground. This also helped children improve their number and place value skills. Improvements for children's understanding of 'comparison' was effective when children found sticks and used the language of comparison to compare lengths. Children have improved their understanding of place by using compasses. They also improved their awareness of what they can see by looking carefully at what lies at N, S, E and W. Writing outside was a real hit with children improving their use of commas by writing lists of all the things they saw. Elm have also been very creative linking work in RE and creating the Star of David out of sticks when studying Judaism
3	Have loved their time on the field and round the fire pit. They have improved their skills of identification linked to 'living things' in science. A range of scientific apparatus was used including pooters, magnifiers, identification charts and collection tubs. These children have also been learning more about compass directions and loved creating 'Holywell Henge' linked to their Stone Age topic. The class had to solve a problem as a whole class working in a big team to safely move large logs. More science learning happened at the local park when children focussed on forces that allows the playground to be such fun. They recorded their findings using the 'Seesaw' app on the iPad. Oak children were also developing their rhyming structure and ability to use '?' accurately.
4	Started off the year by revisiting Forest School with Mrs Harland and identifying plants and animals that live in this habitat. Team working skills are also being developed to solve problems and work cooperatively together. They had great fun as part of their 'Potion's' topic to make their own and develop descriptive language collecting a variety of things to create them. As the term moved on, they started to develop some complex skills to design a winch, swing and wobbly bridge by using ropes and considered how to stay safe. Angles and shapes were discovered in the playground giving a real meaning to where these shapes are found in the real world.
5	Children loved visiting the local allotments which inspired their 'Allotments Strike Back' song making it to the final of the Sing for your School competition and children enjoyed performing at The Cambridge Corn Exchange on 13 th March 2019. They have also been developing our school allotment since and are collecting bottles to re-create our bottle green house. Pupils loved visiting Wicksteed park to test out a range of bags to discover the perfect material for a Helter

	Skelter mat, used the swings to find out about forces needed to speed up and used all their knowledge to create their own rollercoasters back in class. They have been battling plastic pollution around the school grounds and raising awareness through various campaigns
6	Used the warm sun of autumn to inspire some poetry writing in the school grounds. Science learning also saw children creating their circulation system on the playground identifying the chambers of the heart. During their WW1 topic, children took part in a competition to design an aeroplane that would travel the furthest. They have improved their understanding of angles and all 8 compass directions have been identified with descriptive language used to describe what is at each point in the school grounds.

Plans for the rest of the year:

- ✓ As a school, we are committed to continuing to find creative ways to inspire children using the outdoors to inspire and embed deep learning every week
- ✓ Continue developing our allotment area
- ✓ Re-string the environmental loom so children can use this during lunch/play time
- ✓ Tidy up the Year 1 and 2 outdoor area and develop specific areas within it
- ✓ Mrs Harland continues to work with the Forest School Steering group and support staff at school to develop their Forest School skills.

If you have any areas of specialism, expertise, and resources or even if you have a good idea that would work in our outdoor area, please do let one of the teachers know.

Thank you



Eco learning

ECO Awareness



We are collecting plastic bottle tops to replace the bottle top art on the wall outside After School Club. The theme will be plastic in the oceans. We need as many as possible in as many different colours as possible. Milk tops and plastic bottle tops please.



So many batteries have been sent in. Children have all over Easter to continue collecting these, so please ask family members. There is a large collection tub in the main entrance. Your child will have brought home a small box to collect batteries in. Each pupil who lets The Big Battery Hunt know how many batteries they have collected will be entered into a prize draw.

Prizes include – A class trip to a sustainability Centre, 3 Years 'MyMaths' subscription, up to £4000 worth of school equipment, vouchers, iPads and more. **Deadline for Batteries to be brought back to school - 25th April.**



Earth Hour is the world's biggest switch off event and each year, millions of people take part. Around the world, people switch off their lights and organise events to show they care about the future of our planet. Save the date and join us as we switch off our lights at **8.30pm - Saturday 30 March 2019**.

Do you have any budding writers or poets at home age 10 or 11? - Betjeman Poetry Prize 2019. The Betjeman Poetry Prize annual creative writing competition inspires children and young people **to read, write and perform poetry**. The competition is open to 10-13 year olds in the UK and Ireland, who are invited to write a poem on the theme of 'place'. **Deadline: 31st July 2019**. You can find more information on how to enter on our Betjeman Poetry Prize page. <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/education/poetry-competitions/>

Festival of Code 28th to 31st May 2019 Histon & Impington Junior School

Over the half-term holiday week, May 28th to 31st inclusive, we will be hosting a 4 day event - Festival of Code, Cambridge. This event is aimed at young children with an interest in building a product of their choice – e.g. a website, computer game or app, while a pool of mentors with relevant tech skills will help them with the tool and tech skills they need to achieve this. At the end of the event they will showcase what they have achieved to a panel of judges.

Parents and children can subscribe to the mailing list by writing to festivalcodecam@gmail.com.

Here's the Buzz in 2019

The SEVENTH bi-annual **Children's Book Jam**, will be held in the St Ives Corn Exchange, on **Saturday 8th June 2019** from 9.15 am to 4.30 pm.

Following the huge success of our previous Book Jam events, ACE – Friends of St Ives Corn Exchange once again host this event to encourage literacy and imagination in children.

Full details of events planned will follow, to include:

- **FREE** workshops for children to work with published authors and illustrators
- Author signing sessions
- A group of talented illustrators will be working in the main hall, to inspire imagination
- Books for sale
- Area for young children enjoying their first books
- Appearances during the day by book characters
- Colouring table
- Competition prize giving
- Tea shop for snacks and drinks
- **FREE** admission

And much more, for all age groups
See overleaf for story writing competition details

For more information please see our website stivesbookjam.com or contact Ros Pascoe email bumble.bookjam@btinternet.com 01480 467094



ST IVES BOOK JAM RETURNS ON 8th JUNE 2019

We are again pleased to announce this year's story writing competition:

The journey of my yogurt pot (or any other piece of rubbish that you might choose).

Write a story about your chosen piece of rubbish and the adventure it goes on when it is discarded. Let your imagination go wild.....

There will be four year-group categories to the competition:

- Reception
- Years 1 and 2
- Years 3 and 4
- Years 5 and 6

The stories should be no longer than 750 words, and the reception year entries may include pictures.

There will be three prizes for each category of book tokens to the value of £40, £20, and £10, which will be presented at the Book Jam event, in the St Ives Corn Exchange on 8th June 2019. (See overleaf for details)

The stories must be submitted in an envelope with your name, year group, address and telephone number or your email, to The St Ives Corn Exchange, The Pavement, The Old Riverport, St Ives, Cambs PE27 6AD. Mark the envelope 'Book Jam Competition' and submit by 2nd May 2019.

For further information please go to our website: stivesbookjam.com or contact Ros Pascoe: bumble.bookjam@btinternet.com or phone 01480 467094.

This is an ACE – Friends of St Ives Corn Exchange Initiative, in collaboration with Cambridgeshire Libraries, and Heffers of Cambridge.

Lent Challenge information...

Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge 2019

Our focus for the Lent Challenge is positive inter-generational relationships. We are supporting a local charity, Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which works in the community to support older people, their families and carers.

Can you and your school community help Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with a gift?

1. Time



- Can your school make time to meet with older people in your community?
- Can you contact an older relative more regularly?
- Can your parents, grandparents, community members or governors share their time and offer 1 hour a week to visit a lonely or isolated older person at home? Read more: www.ageuk.org.uk/cambridgeshireandpeterborough/our-services/sharingtime/

2. Talents

- Be kind and consider older members of your community.
- Organise skill-sharing sessions with elderly people.
- Publicise your school events to a wider audience
- Take part in The Big Knit: www.ageuk.org.uk/cambridgeshireandpeterborough/activities-and-events/big-knit/
- **LIKE** our facebook page and **SHARE** our posts www.facebook.com/AgeUKCAP/
- Promote our services – take a look at what we do on our website: www.ageukcap.org.uk

3. Treasures

- Donate wool to the Big Knit
- Donate a bag of clothes to your nearest Age UK shop.
- Make a donation: www.mydonate.bt.com/charities/ageukcambridgeshireandpeterborough



Did you know we offer FREE information and advice, giving support to older people and their carers, often at very difficult times?

We also provide services offering practical and social solutions to support independence and wellbeing and to enable people to live well and safely at home.

Please help us to reach more older people and their carers to let them know we are here to help.

#NoOneShouldHaveNoOne

#LentAHand

PLEASE CONTACT US ON 0300 666 9860 OR EMAIL infoandadvice@ageukcap.org.uk

In addition to the Lent Challenge, AgeUK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have an additional challenge for us, entitled **'Sharing Time'**. At the moment, in our Diocese, there are 197 elderly people who have requested a volunteer to come and visit them for one hour a week, for a chat, some company and contact with another adult. Whilst we know that children would not be able to participate in this scheme, perhaps some parents, grandparents, church members or governors might consider engaging in this courageous advocacy, offering the gift of their time once a week to benefit an elderly member of the community. See below for the list of areas, towns and villages, where elderly have registered an interest in a volunteer coming to visit. Perhaps through the Lent Challenge, we can also reduce this number of people. Just one volunteer from each school in the Diocese of Ely would reduce the list by 43%! Full training is provided alongside the usual DBS checks. For more information, please also contact Andrew Morris andrew.morris@ageukcap.org.uk

Please let us know if you have volunteered in any way.

Sharing time waiting list on next page...



SHARING TIME WAITING LIST

<u>Hunts Area – 16 on the waiting list</u>	<u>Fenland Area – 37 on the waiting list</u>	<u>East Cambs Area – 23 on the waiting list</u>	<u>Cambridge City – 62 on the waiting list</u>	<u>South Cambs – 59 on the waiting list</u>	<u>South Cambs – cont...</u>
Huntingdon – 7	March – 4	Sutton – 1	North – CB4 – 29	Sawston 11	Comberton 1
Ramsey – 1	Wisbech – 7	Ely – 8	Central – CB1 – 17	Hardwick 2	Caldecot 1
Eynesbury – 1	Chatteris – 3	Witchford – 1	Cherry Hinton – 9	Bar Hill 3	Impington 4
Eaton Ford – 1	Coates – 2	Isleham – 1	Trumpington – 3	Cambourne 2	Histon 1
Earith – 1	Leverington – 4	Soham – 7		Linton 2	Willingham 2
Sawtry – 2	Friday Bridge – 3	Bottisham – 2		Fulbourn 3	Over 3
St Neots 2	Tydd St Giles – 5			Ickleton 2	Waterbeach 1
					Melbourn 2

Great Paxton – 1	Elm - 1 Doddington – 1 Wimblington – 1 Whittlesey – 5 Parson Drove – 1	Littleport – 3	West – CB3 – 2 East – CB5 – 2	West Wickham 1 Whittlesford 3 Foxton 1 Duxford 2	Grantchester 1 Gamlingay 1 Swavesy 2 Elsworth – 1 Cottenham – 2 Meldreth – 1 Arrington – 1 Papworth Everard – 1 Stapleford – 1 Haslingfield – 1
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For more information about Sharing Time, visit:

www.ageuk.org.uk/cambridgeshireandpeterborough/our-services/sharingtime/



Worth . Strength . Purpose

Shine

Mondays 1.00pm to 2.30pm

7, 14, 21 May (not running in half term)

4, 11, 18 June

at **Huntingdon Youth Centre**

Shine is a self-esteem course for women with an inspirational, practical and experiential approach to learning. The course is based on three key concepts; worth, strength and purpose. Limited crèche spaces available.

For more information or to book a place please call 01480 372700 option 1

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/child-and-family-centres

