

# Holywell News

Spring term Issue 13

February 2019

## 'Expanding our Horizons with Contagious Enthusiasm'

### Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings

It was a pleasure seeing you at Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings this week. The teachers were delighted to share such good progress with you about your children. This has been a very productive term with many exciting things happening. Learning continues next half term where children will change topics. This information will come out to you the first week after half term. You will have seen our new 'Lost Property' display. This will be emptied and bagged up at the end of each half term, so please do check. We cannot return things that are not named. Currently we have water bottles, shoes, hats, gloves, clothing, coats and plastic snack containers. They will not be there after half term.

We have had to make alterations to the term dates that were published last week. We are sorry but there were errors with the number of allocated school dates. Local Authority guidance states there should be 190 days open for children with an additional 5 days outside of these dates for training. We have made these adjustments. Please see the dates that are now correct on the school website in the parents and carers section.

The IEB have asked that you fill in the behaviour questionnaire sent last week. They would like these returned by 4<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you.



Please see the additional letter regarding attendance from Jonathan Lewis – Service Director. Recently we have received a number of requests for absence during term time. These are not authorised. We monitor attendance closely and will be working with the Local Authority. The Government also encourages local authorities to use

enforcement action to address irregular school attendance, unauthorised term-time leave, including family holidays taken during term time and late arrival at school. Where necessary and appropriate we will issue Penalty Notice fines and pursue prosecutions through the Magistrate's Court. I have been waiting around longer at the gate in the morning to scoop up last minute families. The gate should close at 8.55am, so this will be happening after half term. If you arrive after this time, please enter through the main office, where your child will be marked as late. Further details on school attendance can be found here <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-&-learning/education-your-rights-and-responsibilities/non-attendance-and-the-law/>

**Do you still need paper copies sent from school?** We send out news and information through our email system and are trying to reduce the amount of paper we use. If you currently receive paper copies and can move to the e-mail system we would be very grateful. Please inform the school office of this change. Of course come into the office to sign permission forms and collect for the odd copy of things if you need to. Thank you for your support with this.



Choir – was happening at the same time as the early part of Tuesday Parents evening. Parents commented on how lovely the singing was and did not realise that children would be singing modern songs thinking they would be singing lots of hymns. If you would like your child to come along on a Tuesday until 4pm for a trial session (KS2 pupils), please do let us know. If they would then like to join there is a small charge of £1 per week.



Books coming home – thank you for sending your child's books back at the start of this week. We nearly got a complete set! Thank you also for completing the slips. Mrs Davies and Mrs Nicholson will be looking at these and will report back in a future newsletter.



You will have noticed that you cannot respond to the emails that are now being sent from our system. If you wish to contact the office you will need to start a new email. This also supports the office staff from having to look in separate places for emails to forward to various staff.



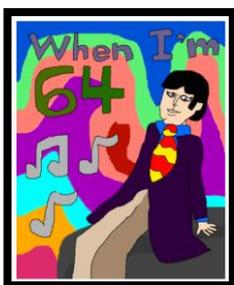
We have set up a folder (kept in the main entrance) of useful parental guides to help keep your children safe online. These are always posted on our Facebook page on Wednesday, and they will be added to the website in E-Safety soon. If you would like to take any copies, please ask Mrs Sharp and she will be able to help you.



Year 5 have been very busy gardening in the allotment and thank you to the parent volunteers who are helping them make their growing space look amazing!



### LENT CHALLENGE 2019



The theme for this year's Lent Challenge is 'When I'm 64'. We are delighted to be thinking of all ages in and beyond our community. The whole school challenge will begin in March and take us up until Easter. Each week children will be working on a range of tasks and challenges. In the meantime, if any of our parents and carers have any links to any care homes or know of useful links then please do contact your child's class teacher. Last



year families took part in a 'design a cross challenge'. We received over 70 crosses from individuals and families that were in the main entrance hall for over two terms. This year we will run a similar Family Challenge but to create a **fish**. Hopefully as many generation 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.





- Year 5 are through to the final of Sing for your School and will be performing at Cambridge Corn Exchange on 13<sup>th</sup> March
- We received a lovely letter from the DfE congratulating us on being in the top 1% of schools that ensured children were meeting or exceeding the national standard for writing. Well done children and staff for such hard work.
- We have successfully submitted our Arts ark case study following two years of in-depth arts work. We will hear news of any awards later in the year.
- One of our children has been awarded a prize for an entry to the CAYAC <http://cambsyoungartists.org/> and will be surprised at a presentation over half term. We look forward to sharing more of this news after half term.
- You will have received a short mid-year report about the progress your child has made so far this year along with attendance and personal targets to achieve. We hope you found this useful.
- The online booking system has been a success so we will continue using this for all events. An email invitation will be sent to specific classes inviting you to book on.
- Thank you for signing up to Parent Pay. We are finalising moving information from our old system but this should be completed very soon. We are hoping to be as cashless as possible. Thank you for supporting this.
- Attached to this mail drop is our termly sports news and World Book Day/English newsletter. As a school we take part in so many events. Thank you to the many volunteers who support us in so many ways. Enjoy reading the newsletters.

**Have a peaceful and restful half term.**

**Mrs Macdonald**