

Holywell News

SIAMS questionnaire feedback focus edition

Summer Term Issue 17

April 2019

'Expanding our Horizons with Contagious Enthusiasm'

Welcome to the summer term. We hope you had some enjoyable family time over Easter. Children returned refreshed and eager on Tuesday looking ahead to the exciting opportunities this term will bring. This half term our focus in Collective Worship is **SERVICE**. A support document for use at home is also available on our school website.

A message from Mrs Matthews

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few days at Holywell School and my thanks to you for making me so welcome. I am looking forward to supporting the school during this term and working with staff at the start of the new journey as a stand alone once again.



Parent Governors - The deadline for any interested Parents and Carers was Tuesday 23rd April but due to the Easter break we have extended this until Friday 3rd May. Please do consider supporting the school in this vital role!



Good News we have been awarded the *Silver Arts Award!* You will have seen the increase to all arts education at Holywell over recent years. We aim to maintain this award and look to further develop arts education, aiming for the Gold Award. If you have any links with arts in general (art, design, music, drama, and creativity, cooking...) please do let us know. We would love to hear from you.

Curriculum - A focus on Geography - You may have been on a short/longer trip over the Easter break. Mrs Sweet challenged children to create a Journey Journal (issue 16). We hope to see some very soon.

Topics for the summer term – You will receive an overview of the summer term topic your child will be covering. Some of these topics will continue from the spring term as children need to study a particular period of History or specific aspect of Geography in more depth. Homework menus will also be sent home and expect to see these on the school website in the class information section.



Warm weather – We hope the lovely weather continues. Please make sure that children continue to bring in coats (named). All the 'lost property' from the spring term has been bagged up ready for the next Bags2School collection. Please also send in sun hats and ensure your child has sun cream applied before the start of the school day.



Water Bottles – there are still too many children coming to school without a water bottle. Please ensure your child has a bottle each day. Children are encouraged to drink regularly and refill at school when needed. Water bottles are also available to purchase from the school office for £2.50.

Morning routine – We are so pleased that there has been a significant improvement to the drop off in the morning with parents delivering messages to the person at the gate and not accessing the classrooms to speak to staff. Please be reminded that staff are working with the children at this time and cannot (even for a brief time) stop what they are doing. Thank you for your continued support. A reminder that the gate opens at 8.40 in the morning. Children come into school and start their morning routines. The gates will be closed at 8.55. After this time the gates are locked and your child will be marked as late in the register.

Be on time

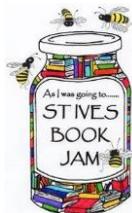


at five to nine

Keeping us Safe Near to School



Please continue to park further away and walk to school. Local Police are contacted if parents and carers are stopping on the yellow lines and zig zags with warnings and tickets were issued last term.



Book Jam – June 7th – 8th This is the 7th annual Book Jam and we are always delighted to be a part of this event. This year (as always) there is a writing competition. We would love for as many pupils at Holywell to enter as possible. Here is the scenario. **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** (may be shorter), 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 June 8th 2019. 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 5AD. Mark the envelope 'Book Jam Competition' and submit by **Thursday 2nd May 2019**. This year there is an exciting range of authors and workshops including Cambridge Cats (Fitz and Will), Jo Cotterill, Elys Dolan, Alison Limentani, Dr Michael Leach, Lion Learners, Matty Long, Gary Northfield, Pebbles Club and Julian Sedgwick. Booking for these events will open on 2nd May. If you have not been to The Book Jam before use <https://www.flickr.com/photos/138701403@N08/> to get a flavour of the event. See Mrs Nicholson who will have more details of this exciting event.

E-Books If you would like access to some fantastic eBooks, why not visit www.oxfordowl.co.uk (external link). There are over 260 free books for parents to read with their child at home with lots of ideas on how to support your child with reading.



Open the Book – we are extremely lucky to have our Open the Book team who visit us each Tuesday to share Bible stories with the children. **We celebrate 20 years of Open the Book** going into schools this year. 20 years of Open the Book is also the theme of this year's **Patronal Festival** at Holywell Church in June. More details will come soon, but we are hoping that as many children as possible will be able to attend the service on the Friday evening as thanks to the team who volunteer their time each week.

Contacting members of staff – just a reminder that when contacting a member of staff, whether it is to make an appointment, or just with a query, please ensure that you do so through the main office (office@holywell.cambs.sch.uk) and not directly to a personal staff email. This is so we can make sure that if an appointment etc. needs to be organised/changed we are aware of it.



SIAMS (Statutory Inspection for Anglican and Methodist Schools)

Thank you for your feedback to the SIAMS questionnaire that was sent out in February. A full break down of % can be found on our website.

- 98% agreed + there are a set of clear and explicit Christian values.
- 98% agreed + that the school teaches Christian values that help children to develop
- 100% agreed that the school enables my children to develop morally socially
- 96% agreed + that the school provides opportunities for the cultural development of children
- 100% agreed+ that the school has high expectations of behaviour which reflect its Christian values.
- 87% agreed + that Collective Worship is important in the life of the school.
- 96% agreed + that children are given opportunities for prayer and reflection in school.
- 94% agreed + that children have a good knowledge and understanding of Christianity.
- 97% agreed + that children have a good knowledge and understanding of other world faiths.
- 98% agreed + that their child/ren is progressing well in Religious Education (RE)
- 100% agreed + that the staff of the school promote Christian values.
- 98% agreed+ that there are good partnerships with the local Church
- 98% agreed + that there are good relationships with the local community

These are all of the additional comments from parents and carers in the questionnaires that were returned:

Besides the assemblies held in school, the school is highly proactive at promoting faith. There is a new prayer room facility and throughout the year there are events e.g. bring in a cross or bring in a Christmas decoration. 'Open the Book' is a weekly occurrence. Pupils learn about other religions through their studies e.g. Islamic traditions in Year 4. The newsletter and other electronic communications frequently mentions events or information regarding the Christian Ethos of the school. Every Remembrance Day the parade meets for a service in the school hall to start the day. The foyer of the school and displays in the school hall strongly reflect the Christian ethos.

The local vicar and local representatives of the church (e.g. Open the Book) attend special assemblies in the school. I am very happy at how the faith is represented in the school. I attend two church services a month with my daughter. I also feel the school is completely inclusive of all major faiths.

Multiculturalism/world religions and picking out common moral approaches is something that could be developed further.

Holywell is a fantastic school which supports its students so they achieve their greatest potential. The pastoral care is exemplary!

We are very fortunate to have a supportive local church, with 'Open the Book' and regular visits to the church.

The children regularly get to attend church and every assembly involves an aspect of Christian Worship and Biblical learning.

I love the introduction of the Prayer Space – it has further developed my children's understanding of Christianity as a World Religion and led to some surprising conversations initiated by my children about Religion on a larger scale.

Christian values are evident in the everyday life of Holywell School. Children are encouraged to 'live' those values and they are able to see them in actions as staff model them effectively and appropriately. We really enjoy seeing how much the children are learning about other faiths giving them the opportunity to compare with Christianity. We also think that the excellent behaviour standards are partly due to the high expectations which are supported by the Christian ethos and beliefs. Thank you so much for all your hard work.

This school teaches good Christian morals and values reinforcing them in the school day and exploring them well.

The children enjoy 'Open the Book' assemblies. They also like walking to the Church for various services and the tasks they are given when they are there.

I would actually prefer if it wasn't a religious/church school at all.

My child is singing her school prayer every day at home, she is asking/talking more about God. She wrote a letter to one of her little friends saying 'God will always be in your heart' – what a lovely influence the school has on her. Thank you.

I disagree with some (of the statements) as I feel the Year 1 students are still in the early stages of learning RE, so a sound knowledge is not there yet. I have no doubt this will develop through the years.

Could not have chosen a better school. Thank you for all your hard work. It is a blessing that our daughter is part of this great family (Holywell).