

# Holywell News

Spring Term Issue 5    March 2020

**FLOWING**  
**STRENGTHENING**  
**DEEPENING**

**LIKE A TREE FIRMLY PLANTED BY STREAMS OF LIVING WATER**  
**PSALM 1:3**

Dear Parents/Carers

It's usually around the end of the month when I write a newsletter and with the situation in school and the wider world the way that it is it seemed more important than ever to keep up that contact. It's a strange time to be a school leader when there is no school as such but what we do have and will continue to have is our school community and I hope that we can continue to work together, all be it in a different way, for the good of the children in these uncertain times.

To this end there are some attachments which we will be distributing alongside this letter. One of these is the contact email for the class teachers as well as myself. The intention in providing these email contacts is that you may have a specific learning enquiry about the work which has been set for your child or want to know how better to support or extend them. It's a way of opening up any dialogue about teaching and learning if this helps you, please don't feel obliged to use the contact, it's there if you need it. I would be very grateful if you would keep any messages to the teachers on the subject of your child's learning. For all other enquiries or issues please use the office email as usual or you can email me directly. Teachers will do their best to respond but this might well not be on the same day.

We're also including a list of useful learning links which you can access and I will also put this list on the school website. As you may well be aware a lot of online learning platforms are currently available for free at the current time and some have some excellent content. You may very well have found some of these for yourself but in case you are struggling we've tried to get some of the best in one easy list for ease of use. The first link has been put together by some of the local authority subject advisors and covers many aspects of the curriculum and is a really useful resource, not least because of the section on well-being. All this may feel like an overload and you may feel that there is more than enough to do with the packs and links that teachers have already provided. This is absolutely fine and everyone should go at their own pace and with what works for their family. As a school we're conscious that we want to provide the support and resources that you need but don't want this to be an overwhelming process, please just use the resources that you feel you need. We're aware of how challenging home learning might be for some families and I have also attached to this letter some advice about supporting home learning from The Key who provide some of our educational advice, it's a short read but should prove useful. We hope to provide more information about wellbeing ourselves in the near future and wanted to remind you that if you do have any concerns about your child's welfare during this period then school is still in a position to refer you to the right help.

There were three other pieces of news that I was keen to share with you all before our enforced closure and these are to do with the general life of the school when it is running as usual.

Firstly, you may or may not be aware that shortly after the half term the school received a SIAMS inspection. This stands for Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools, it is a little different to an OFSTED inspection in that it is more concerned with the Christian vision and values of the school and how this is lived out in day to day life. There is also more of a focus on collective worship and RE curriculum in this particular inspection. We were very pleased with the results and what they had to say about the school and I have attached the outcome to this letter for you to read, we will put this updated outcome on the school website too.

Secondly, we have recently changed the school catering contract. This was largely due to the fact that the caterers we were with changed the terms and so we felt that we had to look elsewhere. We were very impressed with the presentation from a company called ABM and they were awarded the contract to begin at the start of the summer term. It was at this point that we would have been communicating about this and hoped to hold taster sessions for you to come and try the food. As things stand we're not sure when the service will be available but we will keep things moving in the background so that this can begin as soon as the children return to school. We will be keeping our existing kitchen staff to run this new service, in the meantime I attach menus and a welcome letter from ABM, these were written some time before school closure was being talked about as a possibility.

Finally, I was very pleased that on the final Monday before we closed the school was able to appoint a new deputy head teacher to work alongside the staff and me from September. We had a very strong field and the process was very rigorous. At the current time, contracts are still being sorted out and it would be unfair to the successful candidate's current school to name them at this stage but I will say that I was delighted with the appointment and am very much looking forward to everything that this individual will bring to the school going forward.

Staff are continuing to use this time to look at the long term and are engaging in work that we can do now to make sure that the school is firing on all fronts when we resume.

I do hope that the children are a support and a source of joy to you at this time. As we left the school on Friday I reminded them all of our Christian values and how they can show these at home and do their bit to help.

To remind you these values are:

- Friendship and Compassion
- Generosity and Thankfulness – *including for helping with learning tasks.*
- Courage and Perseverance
- Honesty and Trust
- Respect and Service
- Justice and Forgiveness

When we said the school prayer together I also told the children that they could take this part of school away and bring it to their homes as home will be school for a while.

Lord Jesus Christ  
This is our school, let your light shine here.  
Let the rooms be full of joy.  
Let love be all around –  
Love for one another, love for all people, and love for you.  
Let us remember that, as many hands build a house,  
So many hearts build a school,  
Amen

Please do remind the children of these things if you get the chance and let them know that they are missed here and that we look forward to their return.

With our best wishes to you all.

Paul Baddeley