



# FLOWING STRENGTHENING DEEPENING

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

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that your children have been enjoying a well-deserved rest over this half term week. School has certainly been a busy place once again and although we have been somewhat affected by the high infection rates in the local area we have, on the whole, been able to have a busy and nearly normal half term. This has included the return of some school trips as well as local sporting competitions (more details on that below). We've also been able to begin work on some longer-term projects in school and this includes finally being able to make some progress on the KS2 library. You may be aware that the HSA provided us with significant funding for this last year and that we have been waiting for some furniture to arrive. The delivery was finally made earlier this month and with this in place as well as some books, which were also funded by the HSA the new library has finally begun to take shape.



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It is very early days yet and we anticipate that it will take us the course of the year to have a fully functioning library as we would like but it is a great start. Huge thanks to everyone involved including the HSA for the funding, Mr Gordon for leading the project and Mr Harland for the time that he has put into sorting the room out too. Since I took this photo around 2 weeks ago the room has continued to change and is improving all the time.

Another school project, which is in the offing, is to create an area of raised garden beds built so that the children will have a very accessible area in which to grow vegetables. Mrs Drysdale is leading this project and she has asked me to mention that we will need a good quantity of top soil to fill these. We have recently had a very generous donation of soil, for which we are very grateful, but are very keen for more if anyone can help.

On our last day before the half term ended we had to say a sad goodbye to Mrs Chapman, She is leaving us to work in a different sector and will be very sadly missed by pupils and staff alike. I know that many of your children will have been helped by her in one of her roles as a teaching assistant and a midday supervisor and I'm sure that you join with us in wishing her all the very best in her new venture. This change has meant that we have done some reorganisation in terms of some of the staffing in school. When we return after half term you may well notice that Mrs Mullee is now spending her mornings in the office, whilst Mrs Sharp will now be taking Mrs Chapmans place in the Year 2 classroom in the mornings. Mrs Mullee will also spending her afternoons taking on some of the pastoral work that Miss Sharp and more recently Mrs Barker have been helping the school with.

This letter provides me with a good opportunity to thank you all very much for your very kind contributions to our harvest celebration. We received far more donations than we had anticipated. The St/ Ives foodbank were extremely grateful when they arrived to pick it up and asked me to pass on their thanks to everyone who donated. The photo below shows what had been collected around half way through the week but it certainly grew beyond that by the Friday.



The Harvest was a wonderful example of our assembly theme for the half term, which was thankfulness. Next half term our theme will be trust, we will also be observing remembrance on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. Poppies and similar items will be on sale in school from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November and children will visit each class to collect donations for this. Please do send your child in with a donation if they would like to be a part of this.

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**News from the classes.** Below is a brief summary from each of the classes as to the sorts of things that have been going on over the past half term. Cedar's report was written by Jay and Caitlin and is a summary of the Y5/6 rugby tournament mentioned at the beginning of this letter. We are very pleased that we are able to involve the school in these types of opportunity once again. Next week this continues with a Y5/6 girls football tournament. Opportunities for younger children are on the way. As mentioned in a previous letter if you think you could help us with lifts to these events please do let us know, we would be able to help you with obtaining a DBS.



### **Cedar**

**Who?** – In the rugby tournament, there were 12 competing teams. Here are some of them, Brigden, Bury, Godmanchester, Holywell (us), Wyton, Kimbolton, Priory, Newton, Ermine, Cromwell, and St Helens. The year 5s and 6s competed.

**What?** – We went to a rugby tournament situated at the St Ives rugby club. We competed for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the A team and the B team tournament. Our A and C teams came 3rd. However, the B team did not follow. They came second.

**When?** – The tournament took place on the 19th October.

**Rules?** – The rules of tag rugby are as follows:

Each player must wear a tag belt with the belts in line with the seam of their shorts or trousers. If the opposition player takes your tag off you, you must pause play and pass the ball to your teammates. Each team must attempt to get the ball to the try line and place it down.



### **Beech**

This term we have really enjoyed learning and practising the violin and viola-it has been a real treat to be able to learn it! It has been interesting to learn how the strings work. We are very thankful for Margaret's generous teaching and time.

Our trip to West Stow was enjoyable as we were able to have a close-up look at real houses that the Anglo-Saxons would have lived in. The bus ride was also cool and we enjoyed singing on the way home.

It was nice to ride on the road with our friends during our week of Bikeability and learn how to ride safely. There was quite a lot of rain though and the rain clouds 'glitched out' and hovered over us.

The Tag Rugby tournament was fun because we were able to play against other schools in a sporting competition. Those of us who stayed at home had a good time too, playing in an intra competition- still competitive but with less pressure.

In school, it is good to have more space, now that we don't have to social distance. We've enjoyed our art, learning how to draw with one-point and two-point perspective. Science has been interesting, as we have been learning about the heart. We are fascinated by the cardiovascular system.

We've enjoyed reading the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and it has really inspired us to write more like C.S. Lewis. It's been amazing that we have been able to write our own stories with inspiration from the books-it has really expanded our creativity in writing.

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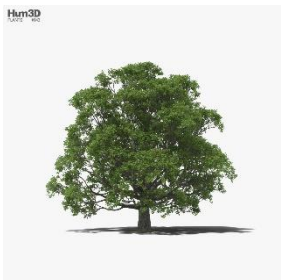


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### Holly

This half term in Holly class, we have enjoyed reading two books in English and have written our own adapted stories based on 'Journey to J'burg' and used Enid Blyton's, 'Famous Five' as inspiration for an adventure story. We have covered The Respiratory System within Science and the children loved looking at Earthquakes and Volcano in our unit on Plate Tectonics. Our first D.T unit was focused on simple circuits, as we will later look at Electricity, and we loved designing and building Steady Hand Games and becoming engineers in the process. We also looked at balances in Gymnastics and the children produced, rehearsed and performed a range of brilliant floor routines. A victory for Holly class this term was managing to win the reading trophy, taking it from Cedar for the first time, and multiple times after!



### Oak

The children have settled into Oak class really well and we have been pleased to welcome three new classmates. It has been lovely to see how independent and organised the children are becoming in Year 3.

We have learnt about rivers, prehistoric Britain and the digestive system already this half term. In November we are looking forward to our trip to Flag Fen near Peterborough to enrich our understanding of early settlements.

Oak class have been practising using the Times Table Rockstars sheets every morning this week. We have been focussing on revising the 2 times table and will recap the 5 and 10 times table before progressing to the 3s and 4s etc. The login details your child has been sent home with gives them access to their own Times Table Rockstars account where they can practise their skills online and against the clock. This is a great opportunity to develop their speed and confidence with multiplication facts, which underpins so much of our maths work.

Thank you for supporting your child with daily home reading. Oak class hope to win the weekly cup in Friday's assembly for the daily home reads in Key Stage 2 next half term!



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### Elm

Elm class have developed their authorial skills this half term and used some of our favourite texts as inspiration. The children have enjoyed writing their own versions of Flat Stanley or The Gruffalo and also seeing their favourite pieces of work on the classroom wall. We have also been learning about the human muscular and skeletal systems and children are now describing any first aid problems using scientific terminology! Eric, the Holywell skeleton model, made a six-week appearance in the classroom and even got a mention during afternoon registration time. We have also enjoyed researching and plotting the key features of our county on maps and exploring the features of Cambridgeshire on large OS maps in the classroom. We have designed and made swing sets in DT, learning about how to make structures stronger and fit for purpose. A fabulous start to year 2. Well done everyone!

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### Ash

Ash class have been extremely busy over the past half term! Our little Ash artists have been creating their very own Picasso self-portrait. Ash have also been scientists and learned all about the key internal and external parts of the human body as well as understanding the functions of our major organs. They can identify the five senses really well. In geography, they have been learning all about key human and physical geographical features and have identified these around the school. They also made a poster to encourage other children to take care of our school environment. We linked this geography to our English unit and decided to make a leaflet to give to our visitors detailing why Holywell is such a great school! Forest School has also played a huge part in our learning this term.



### Willow

Willow Class have had a really happy first half term at Holywell School. They are enjoying learning their sounds with the Phonic Fairy and are starting to read and write lots of little words. They are doing Forest School each week, cooking mud pies, climbing trees, finding bugs and toasting marshmallows. They have made lots of new friends and are embracing all the exciting learning and activities in Willow.

Thank you very much for reading this half term's newsletter. I'm very happy to receive suggestions on the sort of content you would like to see included as we look to develop this. I hope you have a very enjoyable final weekend of the break as families and we look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday. Please read on for some additional notices.

Yours sincerely

Paul Baddeley

### School Governance

I recently wrote to you about a vacancy on the governing board for a parent governor, to remind you the closing date for nominations is **Monday November 1<sup>st</sup>**. I did make an error in terms of the communication and I wanted to draw your attention to this. My letter read as below:

*. However, the governing body is particularly seeking parents with knowledge/skills/experience in finance*

Whilst it's true that financial skills and experience are always welcome, I had used the template from a previous letter and hadn't changed the wording here. This time we are also particularly interested in nominations from parents who have an interest/experience of Early Years and/or well-being. Apologies for this mistake.

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## Safeguarding

As a school, we have a duty to protect children from all forms of sexual harassment or prejudice and have to take the view that this is something, which happens between children in all school settings. If you are aware that this is something your child has experienced in school please do let us know so that we can tackle it. You can talk to any member of staff; but to remind you the designated safeguarding leads in school are as follows:

Paul Baddeley

Alex Gordon

Katherine Mullee.

E-safety is also a very current consideration in safeguarding children and we hope to be able to share some bespoke resources with you soon. In the meantime, thinkuknow remains an excellent resource for all parents and carers.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

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