



FLOWING STRENGTHENING DEEPENING

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

Dear Parents/Carers

The dust has just about settled after an extremely busy second half of the summer term. It has been wonderful to welcome so many of you back into school again and to feel that connection with the community rebuilding. School has certainly felt very vibrant in these past few weeks and I think adults and children alike have ended the term absolutely ready for the break. This half term alone we have had the Well Dressing, the Y6 residential took place, there were excellent production performances from Reception, years 1 and 2 and years 5 and 6 (year 5 and 6 were also involved in Violin and Viola concerts to parents, which sounded amazing, thanks as always to Margaret from Cambridgeshire Music). We have also had a STEM week, which involved year 5 and 6 coordinating scientific experiments and challenges for the younger children, as well as visiting speakers from the parent body. We all really enjoyed a lovely Sports day a few weeks ago and the celebration of work evening happened very recently. Our new staff remarked on how welcome they were made to feel and enjoyed meeting those of you who were able to make it. There were also many special year 6 events in the heat of the last week of term, including their school barbecue, talent show assembly and service at the church. All of this culminated in a quite emotional final assembly on Wednesday as we reflected on some of the different departures this year.

In addition to all of the above there have been some wonderful HSA events in recent weeks too and we are very grateful for all the work that they put into the summer fair (I've just about dried off now), inflatable fun, father's day present room and the school disco.

Tel: 01480 462007 Email: office@holywell.cambs.sch.uk



Global learning



Enterprise learning



Outdoor learning



Eco learning

During the previous half term we had our art week and although most of these projects were completed during the week, some continued into this half term. One involved every child in the school decorating their own individual crosses. These have now been combined into a school Collaborative Cross which is proudly displayed in the school hall as a symbol of how our school is very much about what we all bring to it.



Pictured above are Mrs Eddy who had the idea for this project, Mr Barlow who made the individual crosses for the school and Mrs Harland who organised the art week and was involved with Mrs Eddy and Mr Harland in making the final larger cross.

Another project which was begun in the art week and which has developed slightly this half term is the butterfly art outside my office. This very much links to our links with the holy well and our ethos of Flowing, Strengthening, Deepening. The piece will very likely be called Water of Life; one of our most sung hymns and is a reminder of how Holywell School prepares our children for the next part of their journey. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, all the year six children were involved in decorating their own butterfly. Happily, many of the children leaving us this summer have younger siblings in the school and we look forward to continuing to work with you. We would like to say farewell to some families though, some of whom have very long associations with the school. All our best wishes to the Ahmeds, the Barnards, the Brooks, the Browns, the Culls, the Fergusons, the Fernandes, two different Grant families, the Hodsons, the Hussains, the Langleys, the Lawrences, the Parkers, the Podmores and the Wades.

Tel: 01480 462007 Email: office@holywell.cambs.sch.uk





We also said goodbye to Mrs Davies and Mrs Nicholson, both of whom were very touched by the gifts and well wishes they received from the whole school community. We know they will be very much missed here. Mr. Gordon has been confirmed as one of our school governors for September and I am delighted that our relationship with him will continue in this new way. More from the governors below.

Governance

Our school governors last met on the 14th July, below are 5 points from the meeting, which they would like to share with parents. Governors meet again in September and will review the school's development plan at this point.

1. Governors ratified Alex Gordon as the new local authority governor.
2. Governors thoroughly discussed safeguarding and were given a positive example of safeguarding in practice at the school.
3. Governors received positive news regarding KS2 SAT results.

Tel: 01480 462007 Email: office@holywell.cambs.sch.uk



4. Governors congratulated the school about the new water feature.
5. Governors discussed and agreed the draft School Development Plan objectives.

We also bid farewell to Linda Dingle, who has been a superb governor over the past 3 years, she departs with our sincere thanks for all her efforts on behalf of the school.

Mr Harland's Projects

I've already mentioned Mr Harland's work on the Collaborative Cross in this newsletter and he is also mentioned under item 4 of the Governor's points, or the water feature he has created for us in the Y6/Y3 courtyard is. We are very fortunate indeed to have such a hardworking and resourceful site manager as part of the team. No sooner had he finished the water feature in the court yard, (which again reflects Flowing, Strengthening, Deepening) than he began working on repurposing the wooden structure in the Y1 playground, some of you may have noticed it had disappeared but it is currently being rebuilt in an entirely different way. There are some photographs of Mr. Harland's work below.



Tel: 01480 462007 Email: office@holywell.cambs.sch.uk



School Development Plan

This was also mentioned under the governor's points, this year we plan on working on further developing our music provision, particularly in the lower years, as well as increasing fieldwork and investigation in key subjects. We will be looking to enhance our communication systems and also continuing to ensure that we are able to meet the mental and emotional health needs of all our pupils and staff. There will be emphasis on helping children to catch up on lost learning due to the pandemic and we will be looking at how we can expand out after school care provision.

Some imminent changes involve our playtime and PE provision. We have a new playground project called 'Scrapstore Playpods' which will launch in the second half of the Autumn term, a new shed which will support this provision should appear on the playground in the next week or two (information on the project itself will be shared next term). We are very excited that Mrs Tyers will now be with us full time and she will help to ensure that there are more active options on the playground too, ably assisted by our new Y6 play leaders who were trained towards the end of this term. Mrs Tyers appointment also means there will be a wider variety of school sports clubs on offer in the very near future (details of our newest club, which began a few weeks ago, is at the very end of this newsletter) and that we will have a more structured and organised approach to competing in competitions with other schools.

Local Authority Information

Vaccinations

As you will be aware, there is likely we will see an increase in cases of Covid-19 in the autumn. We will be providing guidance if needed in September. Vaccinations remain the best form of defence. I appreciate its late in the term but I would be grateful if you could share this with parents –

- [Outreach Vaccination for School Age Children](#) – details of session and how to book vaccinations
- [Frequently Asked Questions - 5 to 11 vaccinations](#) – for primary age parents.

New SEND Newsletter for Parents / Carers

Could you please share this link with parents / staff to our new SEND newsletter. You can sign up for future editions on the front page here - [Cambridgeshire SEND Update - July 2022 \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

E-Safety with thanks to Mrs Edwards

With the summer holidays approaching, children may be spending more time on their devices. Safer Internet offer tips, guides and advice for parents to keep your children safe online. With guides to a variety of technology including smart phones, smart speakers and tablets which provide useful information and advice of how to talk to your child about responsible use and what to do if something has worried or upset them.

The site also includes links to various blogs about a variety of subjects connected to E-safety, including a recent one about parental supervision tools becoming available on Instagram.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Tel: 01480 462007 Email: office@holywell.cambs.sch.uk



Information for next term

We begin with two teacher-training days on the 1st and 2nd September and look forward to the children starting back with us on the 5th. Next term I would like to start the school day at 8.45 rather than 8.50. This is to ensure that we are in line with the recommendations from the new government white paper, which states that schools should be open for six and a half hours each day. Accordingly, I will open the gates a little earlier at 8.35. Please note that although the gates will remain open after 8.45 this will be for the pre-school children who use the same gate but have a later starting time.

We are continuing to say that children should come to school wearing PE kits on PE days. Please can I ask you to ensure that this involves plain T-shirts in team colours and not football kits. Any jumpers worn should be the usual school jumper.

And Finally

Thank you so much for all your support as always, it's a great pleasure to work with such a committed as well as empathetic parent body. Farewell and good luck to all our departing butterflies and welcome to the new children and staff who will be joining this great school in September. We were lucky enough to receive a document in the post earlier this year. It dates back to 1975 and celebrates 100 years of the school at that time. It's a fascinating read both in terms of not only the school but also the village and I've attached it with this letter for you to read at your leisure. It's made me realise, we aren't far away from our 150th birthday, something to plan for. Have a lovely summer. Class news is below.

Yours sincerely

Paul Baddeley

Tel: 01480 462007 Email: office@holywell.cambs.sch.uk



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 last half term.



Cedar

Y6 have had such a busy term.

We started with SATs in May. A bit of 'Just Dance' to relieve the nerves and then the tests completed with confidence and calmness. And then lots of amazing cakes eaten afterwards!

Hilltop was next – what a wonderful three days we had – a little holiday after a lot of hard work. The children ran, climbed, swam, swung, jumped, laughed, slept a little and encouraged each other in everything.

Science Day was also a lovely day where Y5 and Y6 led activities for the rest of the school. They were incredible ambassadors and explained the science behind them.

The performances of 'Alice – The Musical' have taken many hours but the dedication, perseverance and commitment of the Y6 children for both performances, was incredible. Seeing their confident acting, listening to their fabulous singing was a joy to behold! A huge thank you to parents who supported their children with learning lines, songs and providing amazing costumes.

The Y6 Leaver's assembly has just taken place in very hot conditions! It was such a treat to see all their varied talents and as always, children at Holywell always amaze us with their bravery to perform in front of each other and an audience.

A wonderful class – a wonderful year!



Tel: 01480 462007 Email: office@holywell.cambs.sch.uk





Beech

This last half-term has been the busiest yet!! A quick break to Hilltop for me and an athletics competition for the class. Then Science Week and everyone was magnificent in organising all of the rest of the school. We are very grateful to Oliver's mum for telling the class all about quantum computing! We also thank Tom and Harry's mum for all the information about medicine and all the books too. It was so good to have Sports Day with the whole school again and what a fabulous day it was. We owe thanks to Isabell's mum for showing us how to deal with first aid. The Well Dressing was beautiful and the play, with all your brilliant voices, fabulous. A shame you won't find out who won the Bowls Trophy until September. I wonder how many of you will have a go during the summer. Everyone worked well together on the Playleader training and I'm sure the whole school will enjoy their play times next year. Finally, with all the heat, everyone managed to keep their cool! Catching up with Natalie and all her Canadian news was a treat, but best not to mention how long her holidays are!



Holly

We have had a wonderfully busy half term in Holly class and have been learning a lot. In English, we've been writing our own Borrowers stories, building vocabulary around little and big things. We also spent some time creating our own books with the Kensure writing we did back in spring. In Maths, we've been working through shapes and angles as well as consolidating our knowledge on time. During science week, we have had two science days where we looked at different states and did some practical experiments to find out which changes of state were reversible and which irreversible. We also learned about classification and created our own classification keys with liquorice all sorts. We finished the year by completing the level 1 Bikeability course on the playground in preparation for level 2 in year 5.

Tel: 01480 462007 Email: office@holywell.cambs.sch.uk





Oak

It's been another busy half term in Oak Class. The children have enjoyed a fantastic Science Day and Sports Day -many thanks to Mrs Davies, Mrs Nicholson & Miss Fabisz for organising these amazing events.

Last week we enjoyed baking fairy cakes together for our delayed Design & Technology topic. The children designed and created an incredible variety of toppings and decoration combos, which looked delicious! We baked extra plain buns to sell at the school Fayre last Saturday. It was great to see so many children enjoying themselves with the icing and sprinkles...And of course the eating!

More recently, Oak class have been learning about simple pneumatics. They had great fun making a monster model, which lifts up when air is pushed through a plastic syringe and tube to inflate a balloon within.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration has been another feature of this half term. Having studied a selection of British Monarchs in our history lessons- we gained lots of insights about the role and how it has evolved over the centuries.

We have been very fortunate in our classroom, to be able to enjoy the sight and sounds of the new water feature created by Mr. & Mrs Harland in the small courtyard between Year 3 and Year 6. It was lovely to be able to share this experience with parents and carers at our recent celebration of work evening. It provides a tranquil space for children to think and work, and connects with the school's 'Flowing, Strengthening, Deepening' motto.

Many thanks to all the parents and carers of Oak children for their continuous support this year. Your children have been a great class to teach!

Finally, Mr. Gordon & Mrs Eddy-Mulcahy would also like to thank parents for their most kind and thoughtful gifts, which are much appreciated. .

Tel: 01480 462007 Email: office@holywell.cambs.sch.uk





shutterstock.com · 329742758

Elm

What a busy last half term we've had! Here are our highlights.

In June, we enjoyed an amazing trip to Audley End House and Gardens where explored the house and servants quarters, finishing off with a wander round the impressive formal gardens – a happy day for us all to remember. We loved taking part in our Holywell Science Day. A big thank you to the children in Years 5 and 6 for demonstrating and running some inspiring experiments, which really engaged us all. Elm class children worked so hard with Ash class to polish a performance of the 'You are Special' musical. The staff involved were so proud of all the children for taking on such an ambitious project with such gusto and promoting the important themes of inclusivity, celebrating uniqueness and individualism. Well done everyone – it was superb! We enjoyed finishing our last art project of sculpture, with everyone producing a miniature human figure – all very unique. The hot weather certainly assisted with the rapid drying process required to get them painted and glazed in time for the Celebration of Work! The Celebration afternoon was great fun and it was lovely to see children enjoy showing adults around and sharing their work together.

Mrs Sharp, Mrs Besley and I have all really enjoyed teaching Elm class this year and wish everyone a very happy and settled transition up to Year 3. We will miss you all but look forward to seeing you in Key Stage 2.



Tel: 01480 462007 Email: office@holywell.cambs.sch.uk





Ash

Ash class have had an extremely busy last term. We are most proud of how hard they worked on their school play and their beautiful singing! The children loved our Great Fire of London day this term and had lots of fun acting it out in a drama lesson (not with real fire!). We have been learning all about materials in Science and have learned all about healthy eating in PSHE. Mrs Purell and I will miss Ash class and we are very proud with how hard they have worked all year. The children really enjoyed their move up morning with their new teacher and I know they will have a fabulous time in Year 2.



Willow

Willow class have had an exciting time looking after peacock, painted lady and emperor moth caterpillars. We had to be very patient as they got fatter and fatter then finally made their cocoons. When the butterflies hatched, we went onto the field to let them go. It was so magical watching them fly away. We made lots of collage caterpillars and enjoyed listening to the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. We did some super writing too, using all the sounds we have learnt this year.

The children were very excited to put on their Jack and the Beanstalk play. They amazed us with their singing, acting, remembering all their lines and looked fabulous in their costumes. They were inspired to put on a play after watching the Year 3 and 4 children performing Peter Pan.

Willow class have been really kind and helpful as they supported all the new children visiting from pre-school. They were very excited too when it was their turn to visit Miss Kirton in Ash Class. They all came back very happy and excited for their new challenge. We will miss them all very much but wish them all luck as they move into Year 1.

Tel: 01480 462007 Email: office@holywell.cambs.sch.uk



Gardening Club and our School Allotment

Our Holywell Gardening Club and allotment is up and running!

From an idea hatched last year, three raised beds have been built and filled with top soil and planted and cared for by a team of pupils and teachers over the late Spring and Summer term. The club has been involved with seed sowing, making and painting clay cane toppers and lots of weeding. They have been supporting others with knowledge, as well as endlessly watering over the sunny weeks of the summer. They've learned about what constitutes a weed and what is not, learning how to plant a young plant in the ground and have revived an old rotary composter which is now in action.

We were delighted to achieve the RHS School Gardening Award – Level 1 and have the Level 2 award in our sights.

We'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of the early allotment with their generous donations of plants, equipment, top soil and enthusiasm. One of the strengths of the project is that it is a team effort, which brings people together outside – a delightful combination.



Tel: 01480 462007 Email: office@holywell.cambs.sch.uk

