



FLOWING STRENGTHENING DEEPENING

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

Dear Parents/Carers

After a very busy December, the end of the term is upon us. I hope that you have been able to get into school to watch one or more of the children's performances. Every class has been able to perform to an audience at least once in the last two weeks and children in the choir were able to perform at the carol service at St John the Baptists Church as well. It has made for a rather hectic, but very rewarding end to the term. We are extremely grateful to the two music specialists who are working with the school. Ms Lee is having a huge impact on our music provision, this is through leading whole school singing assemblies, upper school and lower school choirs and of course through working directly with children in Willow, Ash, Elm, Oak and Holly class each week in their music lessons. Her impact was very evident this month in both the KS1 nativities and the KS2 cabarets. Beech and Cedar class continue to work with Mrs Scourse and it was fantastic to hear all those violins and violas playing together for the first time at their cabaret.

Please find news from the classes below, as well as an update from Mrs Tyers our physical well-being officer and Mrs Edwards our computing teacher.

Wishing you all a very peaceful Christmas and a happy new year from all of us at the school.

Yours sincerely

Paul Baddeley

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



News from the classes.



Cedar

Since settling into their final year of Holywell, Cedar class have been working tirelessly in all areas of the curriculum, as well as being pivotal role models at the top of the school. We have been consolidating all areas of Maths and diving deeper into the depths of fractions, and even finding the time to carry out exciting investigations to explore concepts further (often involving delicious treats!). In English, we have studied rich texts and had very heated and balanced debates, which have then inspired our own discussion texts about controversial topics.

Our main study of focus throughout the curriculum has been of WWII; from exploded structural views of a Spitfire, to the geographical movements and powers of the Allies and Axis countries across the Asiatic-Pacific and European theatres. We visited Duxford Air Museum to witness first-hand how pivotal our local history was during the Battle of Britain and other contributions to the war. Cedar class have also had the opportunity for extra-curricular opportunities; from participating in the Year 6 English Challenge, to representing the school on the football and rugby pitches, bringing the B Team Champion trophy to our trophy case.

There is a lot more to delve further into for the final two terms of primary school life, so watch this space!



Global learning



Enterprise learning



Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural learning



Outdoor learning



Eco learning



Beech

Beech Class are looking forward to a well-earned break after a busy first term. Mrs. Okai has been wowed by our enthusiasm for learning and by all of the hard work we have been putting in during lessons!

We have been getting to grips with place value and learning about efficient methods to use when solving calculations involving the four operations in Maths. We have also enjoyed writing narratives from the perspectives of different characters and have drawn inspiration from the texts *Empire's End* by Leila Rasheed and C.S Lewis' much-loved classic *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

In Science, we have become experts on the cardiovascular system and have been detailing what we have learnt in our own reports.

We have been able to develop our sketching skills and have used watercolours and pastels to create our own works of art.

Our visit to West Stowe Anglo-Saxon village has been a real highlight so far and helped to bring our learning in History to life! We had a great time exploring the reconstructions of Anglo-Saxon houses and gained a better insight into Anglo-Saxon Britain.

In P.E, we have been working on increasing our levels of fitness and creating our own dance sequences using the theme of 'Eco-Warriors'.

We have been very proud of our football teams who have shown great resilience when representing the school in recent tournaments. They persevered while braving the cold weather and faced strong opposition as they played against more experienced older players!



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Holly

A busy start to year 4 for Holly class! We started with a wonderful Art Project where we recreated The Great Wave by Hokusai. This picture inspired the front cover for Kensuke's Kingdom which we will read in Summer Term.

After discovering the ins and outs of simple circuits, the children's knowledge was put to the test when they created Steady Hand Games in our DT project.

We enjoyed reading two books in English and have written our own adapted stories based on 'Journey to J'burg' and created adventure stories following inspiration from Enid Blyton's 'Famous Five'. We are proud to often hold the weekly reading trophy in our classroom. Lots of credit due to the efforts of each child in the class, it is certainly paying off with some keen readers emerging. JK Rowling, watch out!

A highlight this term was our trip to Peterborough Museum's 'Really Roman Day'. We had a super time becoming visiting the market and picking out jewellery for the Emperor's party. We made a swift exit after learning how Roman Surgeon's treat their patients!

In the run up to Christmas, we have loved learning some new songs for our Cabaret and have been incredibly lucky to have the wonderful Ms Lee imparting some of her musical talents upon us. We cannot wait to show you!





Oak

We've been very busy this term in Oak Class and we've covered lots of exciting topics!

In science, we have enjoyed learning about the digestive system. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning the different stages and we were kindly treated to a knitted replica of the different organs where we discovered how long the small intestines were when stretched out!

In history, we have been learning about Prehistoric Britain. The children were able to further their knowledge when visiting Flag Fen in Peterborough where they enjoyed looking at the Bronze Age site and listening to a story retelling around a fire in the round house.

We have read 'Anisha the Accidental Detective' and 'James and the Giant Peach' and completed writing tasks around these stories. We've linked our geography learning about rivers to write a report and wrote a recount about the digestive system.

In PE we have been created our own dances inspired by Ancient Egyptians and been learning how to play badminton.

The children have worked so hard this term and deserve a well earned break. Merry Christmas!



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Elm

No news from Elm class, as unfortunately Mrs Drysdale has been ill towards the end of term. We look forward to welcoming her back to school in January.

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Ash

We have had a very busy half term and learnt lots! Their nativity has been something I am sure they are especially proud of! We have loved our Science unit this term and have learned all about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We were lucky because we had lots of different animals in school for the children to hold and learn about. In Geography we have been learning about our school and made a map of our forest school area. Phonics has been a key focus for us and the children are all improving lots in their reading and comprehension. In our recent writing lessons we have been using the skills we have learnt (question marks, exclamation marks and conjunctions) to write a letter to the Grinch to give back Christmas. Maths has been a fun part of our day and we have been learning about addition and subtraction within 10. Overall, despite the cold weather and long term, the children continue to make me proud and have been so resilient.



Willow

Willow Class have had such an amazing half term. We have learnt all our sounds in phonics and are now starting to read and write lots of little words. We have been very excited to take a reading book home to share with our families. We have been watching Numberblocks to help us with our maths and have enjoyed playing lots of number games. We have enjoyed Forest School each week and have started visiting the woods. There was lots of excitement when it snowed. As it was so cold, we got out the ropes and built some swings and wobbly bridges to keep us busy and warm. Earlier in the term we found out about Diwali. We painted some rangoli patterns and made some clay divas. This week we had candles lit again as we made a Christingle and had our own Christingle service in class. The highlight of the term has been practising all the songs ready to perform our Wiggly Nativity to our families. We made all our grown-ups so very proud of us and definitely helped spread some Christmas joy.



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Active at Holywell

Active Lunchtimes / Playpod

The much-anticipated opening of the Scrapstore Playpod happened at the beginning of the half-term. We have loved seeing the children develop their sharing and co-operation skills as well as build new friendships across the school.

We now have a designated area outside at lunchtimes for children to use different sports equipment such as soft balls, skipping ropes, hoops etc. As well as providing the children the opportunity to enjoy the equipment and hone their skills, it also encourages safe-play, spatial awareness and looking after the equipment.



Festivals and Tournaments

We took eight Year 5 girls to St Neots to compete in a football tournament. The opposition were tough and yet the girls were a joy to be with (singing and dancing on the side lines and sometimes even on the pitch!) They won the Schools Games Value Certificate for Determination which made us very proud.



A group of the Year 1 children attended a cricket festival in Sawtry. Thankfully it was inside as it was bucketing down! The children had a great time, practising their cricket skills against a number of other schools and represented our school wonderfully.

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We entered The Walters Cup - a knock-out football tournament for Years 3, 4 and 5. We held trials at lunchtime which were very well attended, and chose ten players from Year 4 and Year 5. The match was against Houghton Primary School and was very tough! We didn't win but Miss Fabisz and Mr Turner reported that we showed great resilience and perseverance, a credit to our school values. Thanks again to those parents who helped with transport for this event.

The Year 5s competed in a Mixed Football Tournament at One Leisure Outdoor Centre. We entered an A and a B team who represented the school really well. There was some fabulous football and teamwork and we were very proud of the encouragement and support the children showed each other.

We hope to continue our offering from the Hunts FA in the Spring Term with after school football clubs as well as a potential lunchtime School Squad practise.

After School Clubs

The netball club on Fridays for Year 5 and 6 has been going from strength to strength, with the children improving their skills and working well together in different teams. Some of the children have also had a go at umpiring which has been fantastic.

The multisports club on Mondays has seen both Year 1 and Year 2 children practising a range of different sports including dodgeball, basketball, football, cricket and tennis. It has been lovely to see the children expanding their knowledge of these sports and having fun together.

PE Points

The PE Points system has been in place since September and is a reward system for children demonstrating the School Values during, PE lessons, break times and at Forest School. The children are awarded with a sticker showing the value that they have demonstrated. The class at the end of the week with the most stickers is rewarded with a lunchtime activity of their choice. So far the children have played dodgeball, football, beat the goalie, netball and multiskills. The child at the end of the half-term with the most stickers is awarded the PE Points Superstar certificate. Congratulations to Maisie B for winning this last half-term!

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Computing

Bebras Challenge 2022

Bebras is an international initiative aiming to promote Informatics (Computer Science, or Computing) and computational thinking among school students at all ages. Computational thinking involves using a set of problem-solving skills and techniques that software engineers use to write programs and apps. The *Bebras* challenge promotes problem solving skills and Informatics concepts including the ability to break down complex tasks into simpler components, algorithm design, pattern recognition, pattern generalisation and abstraction.

This year, 2 children from Year 6 and 10 from Year 5 took part. They have been practising challenges at lunchtime with help from Mrs Edwards. The final challenge took place a couple of weeks ago and the results are in!

All of the children attempted all of the puzzles in the 40 minutes allowed, which is an achievement in itself! Some students did exceptionally well. Livvy L, Jackson M, Sarah E and Richie P from Year 5 all achieved certificates of distinction as did Hanna C and Darcy D-M from Year 6. This places them in the top 25% of the country, in their age groups. (Richie also narrowly missed being in the top 10% and a gold award by just 4 marks! – Next year hopefully)

Mrs Edwards is extremely impressed with the children's results and how resilient they were in attempting tricky challenges. She is looking forward to next year's challenge and hoping to offer the opportunity to Year 4 as well.

Governors

Governors recently met in November, five outcomes from that meeting are listed below:

1. Governors congratulated Mrs Okai for her work on the reading corner/library
2. Governors approved the staff pay awards and Pay policy
3. Governors scrutinised the Pupil Premium statement
4. Governors were presented with the latest attendance data.
5. Governors discussed the most effective way of monitoring

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Safeguarding

I'm pleased to say that Mr Turner has now completed his safeguarding lead training and joins Mrs Mullee and myself on the school's safeguarding team. All our information on safeguarding at school, is available on the website under the 'key info' tab. <https://holywellprimary.ovw9.devwebsite.co.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=59>

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