

April Newsletter

FLOWING
STRENGTHENING
DEEPENING

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



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you are having a wonderful Easter Bank holiday weekend. Please don't forget that there is a training day on Tuesday and that we return to school on Wednesday 23rd April.

The last 2 weeks of the Spring Term were extremely busy for us, this included various Easter themed events culminating in a whole school service at St John the Baptist's Church. As well as this there were parents/carers evenings, sporting competitions, a wonderful year 3/4 performance of Snow White and an incredible performance from around 50 of the children at a Burgess Hall choir concert (see below information from Mrs Drysdale on this wonderful

event). I hope that the children finished the term with more than a little pride as well as some exhaustion. I know that both were the case for the staff.

As well as all this we've also been able to welcome to new additions to the Holywell extended family. Miss Fabisz's new son Henry was born on March 18th and Mr Turner now has a new daughter, Poppy, born on 29th March. Congratulations to both families.

Please see the below newsletter for information on last term's PE achievements, some community and safeguarding news as well as important information regarding dinner and breakfast club arrangements. Playground project fundraising information remains as a standing reminder and there are some updates in the dates section.

See you on Wednesday.

Yours sincerely

Paul Baddeley

Fabulous Holywell Choir performance at the Burgess Hall

We are hugely proud of KS2 choir for their incredible Burgess Hall performance at the end of last term!

They were committed, confident and sounded so beautiful, embracing the challenge of performing the most difficult pieces they've ever undertaken, with relative ease.

They were brilliantly behaved in both rehearsal and concert which required a good degree of both stamina and self restraint! We are so proud of them for representing Holywell and themselves so appropriately.

We would also like to say a massive thank you to Jo Lee, who arranged, managed and led the Burgess Hall trip for the Holywell Choir, creating a fabulous opportunity for the children.

Thank you Jo!



Holywell C of E Primary school
Milway, Needingworth, St Ives
Huntingdon
PE27 4TF



Headteacher
Mr Paul Baddeley

Active @ Holywell

Spring 2025

MOVE & THRIVE

In February, 19 children from Year 1 & Year 2 had a fantastic morning playing games together including Detective, Fruit Salad, Battleships and Dodgeball. They had lots of fun being active and working together as a team.

On a sunny day in March, 12 children from KS2 took part in some fun games including Bomb Ball, Prison Guards and Cats & Mice. The older children were really lovely with the younger ones and it was a super morning having fun being active.

DANCE COMPETITION 2025

On 20th March, we had a special Dance Assembly for the annual HSP Dance Competition. All the dancers were fantastic and very brave to dance in front of the whole school! In 2nd place were the Year 3 group and the winners were the Year 6 group comprising of Kacie, Dharma B, Leah-Big congratulations!



GIRLS BIGGEST FOOTBALL DAY!

On Friday 7th March, Holywell took part in the FA's initiative 'Made for this Game' which celebrates and encourages girls and women to play football. The girls came to school in their PE football kits and were able to play football on the field during lunchtime. Go girls!

PE POINTS—SPRING TERM

Big congratulations to the following children who were awarded the most PE Points in their class this term: Ash, Finley K, Daisy, Owen and Alaya; Elin, Billy and Grace; Dak, Harry and Luke; Holly, Henry and Theo; Beech, Isla, Lucy, Poppy, Harry, Eva and Harris; Cedar, Harry W and Freddie C.

CLUBS

Year 3 & 4 Gymnastics Club - During the first half-term, we had 15 children attending the Gymnastics Club. They worked really hard on improving and learning new gymnastics skills including jumps, leaps, rolls, balances and acro, some of which were transferred onto the small apparatus. They had fun using the large apparatus including the wall bars and the ropes. Well done all you wonderful gymnasts!

Year 2 Ballsports Club— After February half-term some of the Year 2 children attended the Ballsports Club. We played a range of different games including dodgeball, basketball, football and tennis. The children learnt some new skills and had fun playing together.

Girls' Football After School Club—The club continues to grow with more girls joining this half-term as every one was very grateful to Kirsty Robinson who is doing a fantastic job of coaching the girls.

Primary Sports Stars KS2 Basketball Club - Thank you to PSS for providing the KS2 children with the Basketball Club during the first half-term after Christmas.

Primary Sports Stars KS2 Gymnastics Club—Thank you to PSS for providing the KS2 with the Gymnastics Club after the February half-term.

Primary Sports Stars KS1 Multi-Sports Club - Mr Puckey has been continuing to run this club for the children in Year 1 & Year 2, providing them with the opportunity to take part in a range of different sports and games.

Primary Sports Stars KS2 Dodgeball Club - Mr Puckey and Mr Payne have had over 20 children attending the dodgeball club which is fantastic. A big thank you to them.

Youth Dreams Project—We were very fortunate to be offered a free taster session from YDP for KS2 Multi-Skills. Fourteen children took part in a range of activities including; hockey, sprinting, vortex throwing and target throwing. Thank you to YDP for this—the children really enjoyed the session.



Year 4–6 Mixed Football Squad—The football squad continue to train hard on Thursday lunchtimes to prepare for the matches and tournaments coming so later in the year.

Year 4–6 Girls' Football Squad—The football squad continue to train hard on Wednesday lunchtimes and are improving all the time! It's fantastic to see their skills developing!



Holywell C of E Primary school
Milway, Needingworth, St Ives
Huntingdon
PE27 4TF



Headteacher
Mr Paul Baddeley

Active @ Holywell

FESTIVALS AND TOURNAMENTS

We have had a busy Spring term with lots of children attending festivals, tournaments and competitions. A big thank you to the Herts School Sports Partnership, Youth Dreams Project (YDP) and Huntingdon District Primary Schools Football Association (HDFSA) for putting on many of these fantastic events. Also thank you to all the parents who have helped with transport to these events.

Year 6 Basketball Competition

In our first competition of the term, we took 7 Year 6 children to Hinchingbrook School to compete in 3 v 3 basketball. All the children were fantastic and played some super basketball with loads of baskets being scored! The 'A' team came 3rd overall. Big congratulations to all the children who took part.

KS2 Panathlon

In January we took 8 children from KS2 to the Panathlon Festival at the One Leisure Indoor Centre. They worked so well as a team, scoring points on a variety of sporting activities including table tennis, target throwing, bocce and basketball and came away with a beautiful medal. Well done to all of them!

Year 2 Multi-Skills Festival

Towards the end of January we took twelve Year 2 children to Sawtry Village Academy to take part in the Multi-Skills Festival. The children took part in a range of different sporting activities including golf, curling, cricket, NFL football and target throwing. They had super fun and all tried their best. Well done everyone!





Year 3 & 4 Football Festival

In February, we took 9 boys and girls from Years 3 & 4 to the football festival held at St Neots Football Club. The children played 4 matches, of 5, 6 and 7-a-side games. They were brilliant at sharing the pitch time and rotating positions and all played their hearts out. We managed to win a couple of games which was great too! Well done to all!

Year 4 Gymnastics Competition—2nd & 3rd place!

In February we took 13 Year 4s to the wonderful Huntingdon Gymnastics Club to take part in the newly formatted Rise Gymnastics Competition. The children learnt routines on the beam and floor and also performed a vault. They had all worked really hard practicing their routines and we were so proud of them performing them in front of other children and the judges. The hard work certainly paid off as the 'A' Team came 3rd and the 'B' Team came 2nd! We also had an advanced gymnast, Miles, who showed us his awesome skills in the advanced competition. Congratulations to everyone!

Year 6 Quicksticks Hockey Tournament—3rd place!

On a beautiful sunny afternoon, we took 12 Year 6 children to the One Leisure Outdoor Centre to take part in the Quicksticks Hockey tournament. We had an 'A' and a 'B' team who played in different groups. The children showed how hard they had worked in their hockey lessons with lots of goals being scored, fabulous passing and awesome tackling! The 'A' team came 3rd overall which was fantastic and the 'B' team did themselves proud too with 2 wins! Well done to all of them.







Holywell C of E Primary School
Milway, Needingworth, St Ives
Huntingdon
PE27 4TF



Headteacher
Mr Paul Baddeley

Active @ Holywell

FESTIVALS AND TOURNAMENTS

'A' Team Football Tournament—2nd Place!

On a lovely sunny afternoon, we took the 'A' Team football squad to Alconbury Primary School for the Spring Tournament. We played against St Helen's Primary School, Alconbury Primary School and Elton Primary School. We were undefeated with 2 draws and 1 win of 4-1! We came a very close second and had a fantastic afternoon of football. Well done to everyone!



'B' Team Football Tournament—3rd place!

We took 11 boys and girls from Years 4-6 to Westfield Junior School to take part in the 'B' Team football tournament. There were some tough matches but the team kept their composure and ended the tournament with a fantastic 3-1 win against St Helen's Primary School. Well done to all of them for their collaborative team work!



Year 6 Youth Dreams Project Football Cup

This was the first time Holywell had entered the YDP Football Cup and it was a fantastic event. There were 17 other schools taking part. We won our first match and got through to the Shield competition where we were narrowly beaten by Wheatfields Primary School 2-1. The children were fantastic and represented our school superbly. Well done everyone, especially Arlo who was voted our Most Valuable Player!



Year 3 / 4 Girls' Football Festival

On a beautiful sunny afternoon in March, we took eight Year 3 & Year 4 girls to St Neots Football Club to take part in this fun festival. The girls played 8 matches some of them for the first time, and their skills improved hugely. They were a pleasure to be with and played so well as a team, taking turns in goal, defence and attack. Super proud of them all!



Year 5 / 6 Netball Tournament—2nd and 3rd place!

In March, we took 15 Year 5 & Year 6 boys and girls to the annual netball tournament at St. Ivo School. The children played fantastic netball which was all down to their hard work and commitment to training. The 'A' Team came 2nd and the 'B' team came 3rd! Extremely proud of them all! Big thank you to Miss Castable and Kirsty Robinson for helping to coach.



Year 5/6 Cross Country Competition

On a beautiful sunny day after school in April, 16 budding runners from Year 5 & Year 6 took part in this annual competition held at Priory Park in St Neots. The children took part in a relay, each running 1200 metres. They all did so well and everyone of them completed the course and received a medal. Extremely well done to all of them!



Year 6 NFL Flag Football Festival

After Easter we took 16 Year 6 children to the NFL Flag Football Festival at One Leisure St Ives Cuddard Centre. After only 8 weeks of learning Flag Football in PE they did an amazing job, playing against other schools and scoring loads of touchdowns! Many congratulations to all those who took part!




School Dinners and Breakfast Club Changes



First the good news, Breakfast Club will now start 5 minutes earlier at 7.45, there is no change in the pricing .

The less positive news is that school dinner charges will increase next term from £2.80 - £2.95 per meal. This cost increase is not implemented by the school and is passed on direct from our catering providers who cite national insurance and national living wage increases as being the key reason.

For children who bring a packed lunch to school there is also a change. We will now be asking children to take home any waste from their packed lunch boxes and not to put it in the hall food bins. This is because there are now much stricter guidelines in place about school food waste. By law we have to have specific food waste bins which cannot have any packaging in them whatsoever. This is a part of a nationwide drive to make education settings carbon neutral as soon as possible and I expect to be providing you with more information on this project soon. We also think that is useful for parents/carers to see exactly what has and hasn't been eaten in a packed lunch box.

School Playground Project

We've had some kind offers from parents and carers about possible help with excavations and use of equipment and hope to be back in touch soon about these.

We are also working closely with the parish council and we are very hopeful that they will also be able to support us with the project. We are also enormously grateful for the support of the HSA and their fundraising efforts. Despite all this we are still some way short of the £40 000 target we need to complete the project. At the moment we will be able to complete the preparatory work and get a preparation surface down but won't actually be able to afford the playing surface on top of this. You may have already seen the QR code which can be scanned to help support with donations, I've also included this here.

And another link is here

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/holywellschool150thann>

Thank you if you are able to help or if you know a local business that might lend their support.



Community Notices



Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Countywide Online Workshop Offer

The EIFA team would like to present our newly updated workshops on a variety of parenting and family issues.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Sibling Rivalry	Wednesday, 23 April 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or	
Understanding and Responding to Challenging Behaviours	Tuesday, 29 April 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or	
Sleep	Thursday, 1 May 2025, 12:00-13:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or	
Online & Digital Safety	Tuesday, 20 May 2025, 12:00-13:00	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or	

If you have any questions about our workshops or the EIFA service in general, please contact earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Parent carer online hub

Third Wednesday of every month
10.00am-11.30am on Zoom

Are you caring for a young adult or adult with autism or an additional need?

Join our monthly online hub to chat with other parent carers who are caring for an adult family member.

- Time to chat and share experiences.
- Support and advice from carer advisors at Caring Together.
- Workshops and training - we will have occasional speakers come along to the hub.

The hub is free to attend for parent carers living in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough.

To find out more
0345 241 0954 • hello@caringtogether.org • caringtogether.org
To book visit <https://parent-carer-online-hub.eventbrite.co.uk>



Circle of Security Parenting Group

An 8 week attachment based programme for parents and carers



- Would you like to connect with your child more easily?
- Would you like to better understand your child's emotional world by learning to read their emotional needs?
- Would you like to enhance the development of your child's self-esteem?
- Would you like to support your child's ability to manage their emotions?

Tuesdays, 1:00 – 2:45 pm

Dates for 2025:

- May: 20th
- June: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th
- July: 1st, 8th, 15th
- Optional session*: 22nd July

Creche available for the duration of the programme.

*Optional session after the completion of the programme for parents/carers to attend with their children. You and your child can participate in activities based on "The Invisible String" to enhance the connection with your child. Every participant will receive a free copy of "The Invisible String" book to take home.

For more information contact
Clare: 07858 160015 or
Zuzana: 07546300898



Huntingdon Nursery
Ambury Rd,
Huntingdon
PE29 1AD



Come and join us for Circle of Security Parenting programme, based on decades of research about how to support and strengthen a secure parent and child relationship.



Healing Connections:

Supporting and strengthening parent and child relationships

- Would you like to connect with your child more easily?
- Would you like to help your child develop more secure attachment?
- Would you like to manage tricky behaviours with more confidence?

Attachment informed
45 min sessions on Thursdays
9.45-10.30 am & 10.30-11:15 am

23rd January 2025
6th February 2025
6th & 20th March 2025
3rd April 2025
15th May 2025
12th & 26th June 2025
10th July 2025

Come in and talk to us!

We can provide an open ear and help with challenges on your parenting journey by helping you to strengthen the relationship with your child.

Huntingdon Nursery
Ambury Rd,
Huntingdon
PE29 1AD

www.cambridgeacornproject.org.uk

For more information and to book your session:
Clare: 07858 160015 or
Zuzana: 07546300898.







Safeguarding



We have heard again from the parish council that the parking issue outside of the school and in associated side roads is getting increasingly worse.

In the interests of child safety please could I remind everyone to park responsibly and in a way which is respectful of the residents living nearby who require access to their properties. Harris Crescent is reported as a particular issue.

It's come up in computing lessons that a number of children sometimes play with people they don't know online.

Please can see the information below which will help you to check the privacy/parental control settings.

Roblox

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

Minecraft

<https://www.minecraft.net/en-us/article/parental-controls>

Fortnite (Whilst this is a 12 rated game and therefore shouldn't be played by primary school aged children we are aware that many do and in the wider interest of their safety have included this information too).

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/fortnite-battle-royale-parental-controls/#:~:text=receive%20playtime%20reports%3A-Step%201%20%E2%80%93%20From%20the%20main%20menu%2C%20select%20the%203%2D,email%20associated%20with%20the%20account.>



Dates



New Dates In Bold

- 22nd April - Training Day
- 23rd April - Summer Term Begins
- **24th April- Flag Football Tournament Y6**
- **29th April - Y1/2 Girls' Football Festival**
- 5th May - Bank Holiday
- **6th May - Y3/4 Orienteering Festival**
- **7th - 9th May - Y4 Residential Thorpe Woodlands**
- **13th May - Y3/4 Tri Golf**
- **12th - 15th May SATS week Y6**
- **13th May 150th Year Assembly with Bishop of Huntingdon**
- **19th May -24th May Art Week**
- **22nd May - 150th Year Celebration Playground Party (More information to follow)**
- 22nd May - Last Day of First Half of Summer Term
- 23rd May - Training Day
- 26th - 30th May - Half Term

- 2nd June - Second Half of Summer Term Begins
- **18th - 20th June - Y6 Residential Hilltop**
- 25th June - Sports Day Carousel (Morning) and Picnic
- 26th June - Sports Day Races (Afternoon)
- **28th June - HSA School Fair 150 Theme**
- 2nd July - Reserve day for Sports Day Carousel (Morning) and Picnic
- 3rd July - Reserve day for Sports Day (Afternoon)
- **11th July - End of Year Reports to Parents/Carers**
- **18th July - HSA Summer Disco (TBC)**
- 22nd July - Summer Term Ends.