

FLOWING
STRENGTHENING
DEEPENING

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

Newsletter January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to a new term and a new year at Holywell. We hope that you all had a lovely time at Christmas and that the children are well rested and ready for their return. Apologies that you are only receiving this letter now, it was supposed to go out during the holidays but unfortunately I was somewhat blighted by technical issues, which involved losing the overall template amongst other things. It's a reasonably short letter although it does contain a detailed account of the term's PE news from Mrs Tyers, this has been incorporated into the newsletter in a different way this time and hopefully this will work more efficiently. There's also a report from our December's governor meeting and some important community notices about some very relevant meetings which are happening at other local school's in St. Ives which you might well be interested in attending. There's also the usual summary of upcoming key dates in school.

When we had our training day in school yesterday one of topics that we discussed was the merits of the Homework books that we have sent home at about this time of year previously. We always send these books home with Y6 and this has already happened but we've also been experimenting with sending them home in Years 2 -5. We decided at the meeting that it would be really useful for us to gather some parent/carer views on how valued these books are. We're aware that with online learning such as 'TT Rock Stars, and 'Spelling frame' as well as daily reading they may feel like an unnecessary burden. On the other hand they might be really useful to you. We need to make a decision next week about whether we purchase again for this year and therefore have created the survey linked below. If your children are in Years 2 - 5 please could you let us know your thoughts by clicking on the link and completing the survey. If you were able to do this by the end of the week it would be really helpful (7 short questions).

Yours sincerely

Paul Baddeley

[Homework book survey – Fill in form](#)

PE News

Please find below the latest PE news from Mrs Tyers. This is also available to view on the school Website.

<https://www.holywellprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Active+%40+Holywell+Newsletters&pid=81>

<iframe
src="https://1drv.ms/b/c/8bf08463cbb95717/IQsX8dkhX0DGSq1RSyDmz3nOAZE6NUEJy5izlMVMgq13RnE" width="98" height="120" frameborder="0" scrolling="no"></iframe>

Community Notices

Please find 2 posters linked below, these detail events taking place at Eastfield and Westfield School respectively. Holywell parents and carers are warmly welcomed to attend both of these events.

Further detail about the event at Eastfield School is below.

We are delighted to announce that our County Educational Psychologist, Janine Becker, will be running a parent coffee morning focused on Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA). The session is open to families from Eastfield Infant & Nursery School, Westfield Junior School, and Holywell Primary School and will take place on:

Date: Monday 19th January 2025

Time: 9:30am

Location: Eastfield Infant School Hall

Mrs Oliver, our SENDCo for all three schools, will also be in attendance.

The session will cover:

- *What is EBSA?*
- *Understanding your child's anxiety*
- *Exploring the functions of your child's behaviour*
- *How best to support your child*
- *Q&A*

The session is free, but we kindly ask parent/carers to complete the sign-up form so we can plan for numbers. [Emotionally Based School Avoidance session - with Dr Janine Becker at Eastfield School – Fill out form](#)

The event at Westfield concerns Smart Phones and children and is certainly a relevant topic. Every year we see the impact of Smart Phones on the children at school become more pronounced. It's an area where the school often needs to intervene as some of the anxieties and worries which can ensue bleed into school.

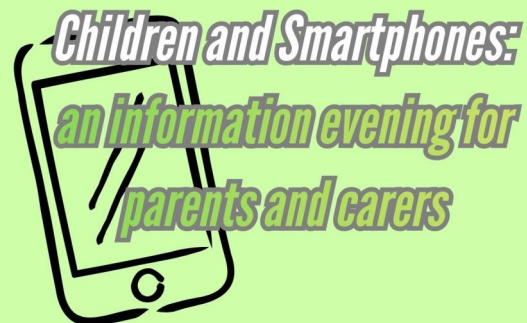
PARENT COFFEE MORNING

WITH EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

19th January at 9:30

Topics include:

- What is EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance)?
- Understanding your child's anxiety
- Exploring the functions of your child's behaviour
- How can you best support your child?
- Q&A



Guest Speaker: Amy Ruffell,
Cambridgeshire's Lead for Smartphone Free
Childhood

- Worried about your child's smartphone use?
- Wondering when they should have their first phone?
- Keen to chat with other parents and carers about phones?

Come along for an open, honest, non-judgemental conversation about the impact of smartphones on childhood.



St Ives

When

7:30pm: Thursday 29th
January 2026

Where

Westfield Junior
School, St Ives
PE275RG

Free Tickets:



bit.ly/SFC2026STIVES

Governors

At this half term's meeting we officially elected and welcomed our new Parent Governor Lindsey Congreve. We also co-opted Mark Hodge back onto the board (a previous parent governor) and confirmed his election as Chair of the Finance Committee. We had a discussion on the Pupil Premium strategy which had been completed by PB and is due to be published on the website. Governors asked questions and listened to answers around the impact of the spending and how it will be monitored this year. We also had a comprehensive discussion on cyber security, concentrating on staff and governor training and how robust the school's systems are. Reports were shared on the work of the Curriculum Committee and the Finance Committee and we also looked at the updates on and ratified the anti-bullying and behaviour policies.

Dates

New Dates In Bold

Tuesday 6th January - Spring term begins

Tuesday 13th January PM -Year 1 & Year 2 Intra PE Event

Friday 16th January - Launch of Virtual Dance Competition in Assembly

Monday 19th January - Young Voices Trip

Monday 19th January - Education Psychologist Coffee Morning at Eastfield School (See poster above)

Tuesday 20th January PM - Year 3 & Year 4 Intra PE Event

Thursday 22nd January - Willow Puddle Jump

Tuesday 27th January PM -Year 5 & Year 6 Intra PE Event

Thursday 29th January - Children and Smartphones information evening at Westfield School (See poster above)

Tuesday 3rd February AM - Year 3 & Year 4 Girls' Football Festival

Tuesday 10th February AM -Year 4 Gymnastics

Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February - Half Term (School Closed)

Tuesday 24th February PM - Year 6 Quicksticks Hockey Tournament

Thursday 26th February PM - 'A' Team Football Tournament

Tuesday 3rd March PM - Y6 NFL Flag Football Festival

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

Tuesday 10th March PM After School - Y5/Y6 Netball Tournament

Wednesday 11th March - Parents/Carers Evening

Thursday 12th March - Parents/Carers Evening

Thursday 12th March PM - 'B' Team Football Tournament

Tuesday 17th March PM - Reception & Year 1 Intra PE Event

Friday 20th March All Day - YDP Football Tournament

Tuesday 24th March All Day - NFL Flag Football Tournament

Friday 27th March - Last Day of Spring Term.

Monday 13th April - Teacher Training Day (School Closed)

Tuesday 14th April - Summer Term Begins