



Holywell News



Issue No: 163
October 2022

Mr Simpson's Headlines

Welcome to our first full newsletter of the year. It has been a very busy start to the school year and, after 7 weeks of hard work, I think everyone is ready for the half-term break! On this last day of half-term, it is time to reflect on the start of the year and to celebrate some of the highlights.

**HAPPY HALF-TERM
EVERYONE!**

**PLEASE REMEMBER
BOTH STAFF AND STUDENTS
RETURN TO SCHOOL ON
MONDAY 31ST OCTOBER**

Our Value of the Month is 'Service' and we have continued our theme of 'Being Brave' and 'Daring to be You' from our first-day worship sessions:



SERVICE October 2022

"Serve one another in love" Galatians 5:13

Dare to help.

Dare to do one helpful thing for someone else every day.

Dare to do something kind for someone else without being asked.

Dare to care.

Dare to serve rather than be served.

I am looking forward to working with the new team of Values ambassadors to devise the definitions and examples of values-in-action for the remainder of the year. I'm sure they will have some great ideas.



As well as the new Values Ambassadors, many of our Year 8 students have started in new roles of responsibility and they have already had opportunities to actively serve our community. We have Prefects, Values Ambassadors, English and Maths Mentors, Arts, Languages and Humanities ambassadors ... and, of course, our House and Sports Captains. The team of House and Sports Captains who helped out at our KS2 Tutor Evening have set an exceptionally high standard as we received many compliments from parents about how polite, friendly,

enthusiastic, courteous and helpful they had been. We certainly could not have run such a successful evening without their help. I was very proud as Headteacher and privileged to hear such lovely comments.



Our Maths ambassadors helped the Year 6s with some Maths challenges as part of a 'Maths-On-Toast challenge

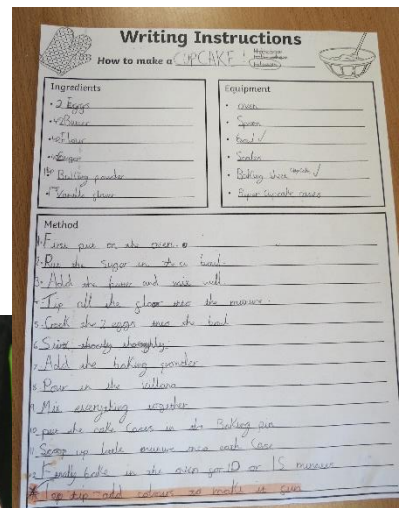


[\(https://www.mathsonttoast.org.uk/\)](https://www.mathsonttoast.org.uk/)

We have also been celebrating excellent work with Senior Leadership Commendations – it has been lovely to see some of the excellent work from students in a wide range of subjects – from Maths and RE and from History to DT with a bit of English and Art for good measure!



One particular curriculum highlight was Miss Norman's Year 6 English group. They had been working on instruction texts; in particular, recipes. They had all created recipes for Halloween cakes ... and they got the chance to follow their own instructions. I believe that the outcomes were delicious!!



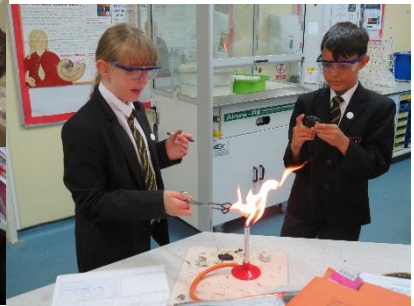
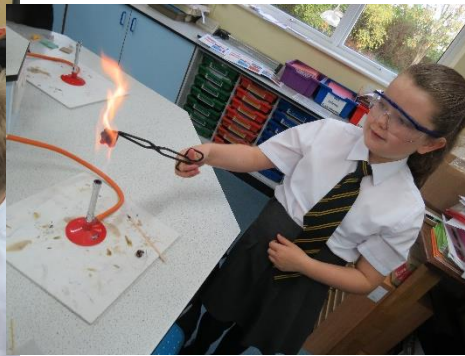
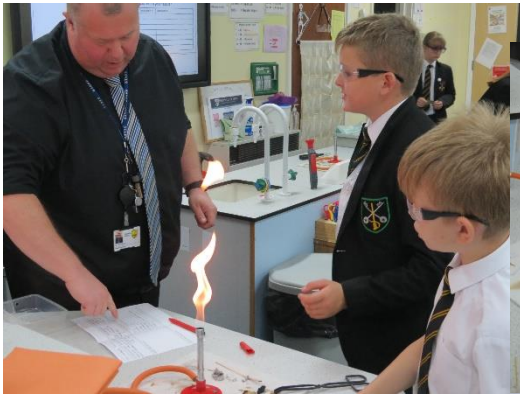


Our sponsored walk was a great success and we raised an amazing £2,479. I had the pleasure of walking with Year 7 and we did the route in a record time! The money raised was for the PTFA who are hoping to raise funds towards the lease of a new mini-bus. We have a new PTFA committee and we are grateful to Mrs Himsworth and Mrs Cooke for taking a lead on this – watch out for future events – including the return of Hot



Chocolate days.

Year 6 have been developing their 'working scientifically' skills and got to put their practical skills to the test with an investigation into how different materials react with fire.



Year 5 have been exploring graphic scores in Music and coming up with some wonderful performances. They also had to nominate someone to conduct the whole performance!



We have continued to develop our community time work. Students have an extended 'check-in' on Mondays and Fridays and they have a Community Time focus session with their Tutor Group each week. Students develop their social skills and get to know each other in their tutor group communities. This half-term they have worked on developing their own 'commitments' for the



term, commitments which will enable everyone in the group (and in school) to learn effectively and 'be the best they can be'. We have also looked at what our values mean in practice and what we can do to show these values. This month's focus has also been linked to October's Black History Month with students exploring the life-story of Mary Seacole. Mary Seacole was born in Jamaica more than 200 years ago. This was during the period when many black people in the Caribbean were forced to work as slaves. Although Mary's mother was black, her father James Grant was a white Scottish army officer and Mary was born a 'free person'.



Mary set up the "British Hotel" behind the lines during the Crimean War. She described the hotel as "a mess-table and comfortable quarters for sick and convalescent officers", and provided care for wounded service men on the battlefield, nursing many of them back to health. Mary Seacole is a great role model. Her values of good citizenship (she always wanted to help the sick and wounded), entrepreneurship (her drive took her to the Crimea under her own steam) and achievement (she remains one of history's greatest figures) hold true today. Mary was reported to have been given a medal for her service and bravery during the Crimean War; unfortunately, historians now believe this to be inaccurate, although she is often pictured wearing medals. Students were challenged to design a service medal for someone in our school community who deserves recognition for their service. Students have recognised a wide range of people – from class colleagues to teachers, from office staff to the site team, from the kitchen team to members of our safeguarding and wellbeing team ... and everyone else in between- you may have even received one at home.

Reverend Isaac who is the rector in charge of St Peter and St Paul's Church in Cranfield has written a lovely reflection on 'Service' – he writes these reflections mainly for staff so they can help ground their work with students in biblical references .. they are always worth a wider audience.

Service is a central feature of Christianity. But in the past, before Jesus, all religions and philosophies taught that it was natural for the weaker of society to serve the stronger. For example, Plato, the father of all Western philosophy once wrote: "Nature herself intimates that it is just for the better to have more than the worse, the more powerful than the weaker. Justice consists in the superior ruling over and having more than the inferior."

So, imagine the shock and surprise when Jesus came, claiming to be God in flesh, and said: "I have come not to be served, but to serve." (Mark 10:45). The Creator of the universe came to earth not to be served by others, but to serve others. The Apostle Paul takes the example of Jesus and instructs the early Christian community to follow it. He writes: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant." (Philippians 2). Paul's point is clear, and pretty stark; if God humbled himself to take on the role of a servant, how much more should we be those who seek out ways of serving one another.

It has also been delightful to see a lot of Holywell students attending the every-growing and popular 'Rock Solid' Youth group at St Peter and St Paul's Church.



We have slightly revised our rewards system, thanks to a consultation led by Mrs French last Summer. In discussion with students, we now have more HousePoint rewards:

50 HousePoints = Tuck voucher

100 HousePoints = Holywell Pen

200 HousePoints = 200-hundred club – time to ‘chill out’ with friends and Heads of House.

We have regular House Group meetings and our four Heads of House (Miss Mayles [St Andrew], Mrs French [St David], Miss Martin [St George] and Mr Johnson [St Patrick]) lead House Worship.

Our new Year 5s have settled in really well and we’re just starting the process of looking at applications for 2023-2024 ... students will be helping out at our Open Evening on Wednesday 2nd November – full details on our website.



... and that’s just some of the highlights of the half term – I haven’t mentioned the brilliant Year 7 trip to Kingswood or the Year 6 trip to Wrest Park as they have features of their own later in the newsletter!

I hope we all have a restful half-term and I look forward to welcoming students and staff back for a brilliant second half-term. We have lots to look forward to.

Mike Simpson
Headteacher

A huge thank you to our Local Estate Agents Cranes on the generous donation of £200 to our school on behalf of a client.



If your child is away from School

A telephone call, email or WEDUC notification
is required on the
first day of absence, before 8.30 am

Thank you

CLOSURE DAY

We remind parents that Holywell School re-opens after half term on
Monday 31st October (THIS IS NOT A TRAINING DAY).

Holywell School will have a **Closure Day** on
Friday 25th November.

**All term dates, including closure days, are listed at the back of this
newsletter.**

Attendance and Holidays in Term Time



Parents / Carers should be aware that under current government guidelines **we can NOT give permission for any holiday in term time.** Holidays will be classed as **unauthorised absence** for your child. There may, however, be events that a student takes part in out of school which require him / her to miss a school day – we will continue to consider that sort of request. However, it is clear that the government and external authorities will want a very persuasive argument for us to be allowed to record any absence as a permitted time out of school. **No leave will be authorised during the first two weeks of the school year or during exam periods.**

Parents/carers wishing to apply for leave of absence are required to fill in a **Leave of Absence Application Form in advance** and before making any travel arrangements (available from the school office and to download from the school website). We always take a reasonable, supportive approach to requests (especially with regard to fines) however, taking 'the odd day' here and there can have a HUGE impact on learning.

WEDUC Communications from School



WEDUC is the web-based messaging app we use to communicate with home. Designed with parents in mind, Weduc is a flexible and user-friendly mobile app that is perfect for keeping the whole-school community, up to date.

From emergency notifications and school messaging, to student attendance and payments for school trips, Weduc brings all the tools needed to communicate with parents/carers into one single platform. If you haven't signed up or need help downloading the app, please contact us at school for further information (school@holywellschool.co.uk ... and put 'WEDUC' in the title line).

We STRONGLY RECOMMEND that at least one parent/carer downloads the WEDUC app.

If parents/carers need an enrolment code, please email Miss Watson on awatson@holywellschool.co.uk who will be able to supply one. Thank you.



Emergency Contact Details

Please remember to inform the school office of any changes to your address or contact telephone numbers (even temporary changes). This is important, as it enables us to reach you in case of emergency. Thank you.

Payment for Uniform, Trips and Sundries

Please pay online whenever possible, with the link on our website.

Tucasi (Scopay.com) For payment of the following:

- **Ordering School ties / blazer badges**
- **Trips**
- **Early risers/breakfast club** (booking form must also be completed on Weduc)
- **Lost or damaged library books**



If you have not previously logged in to Tucasi you will need an access code from the school. Please email finance@holywellschool.co.uk for this code.

If you are unable to pay online we have the facility to pay by credit/debit card in person at the school office or via telephone. If you are unable to pay online or by card please contact the school office.

Parent Pay (Payment for tuck/school dinners)

Please remember to check your child's Parent Pay account balance regularly.

You can set up to receive a reminder email when the account credit goes below a certain level. To do this log in to your parent pay account>communication>alert settings>balance alerts> under threshold set an amount and tick email alert. Once the credit goes below this level you will receive an email reminder to top up the balance.

For queries with regards to Parent Pay please email:
school@holywellschool.co.uk

For web pages for the above please go to
<https://holywellschool.co.uk> Parents>online payments.



ABSOLUTELY NO NUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS IN SCHOOL



Could everyone please be aware that we have several children and members of staff with **severe nut allergies**.

If your child comes to school with a packed lunch, or just brings in snacks for break time, **please ensure that nuts are not included** in any shape or form (including Nutella or Peanut Butter). Your co-operation in keeping everyone safe at Holywell is greatly appreciated.

For those students having school dinners provided by AiP, please ensure you have completed their '**Special Dietary Allergy/Medical Meal Request Form**', available from the Kitchen.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club runs from **8.00am to 8.45am** in term time,
for just **£2.00 per day**.



If your child would like to attend on a regular basis, please ask the office for a letter.
We serve limited food, which can be purchased via your child's ParentPay account.

email: school@holywellschool.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you there.

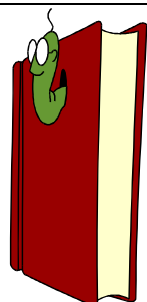
Breakfast Club Team

Essential Equipment

We are now stocking essential stationery items in the School Office.

Students may purchase a **pencil case** which contains the following items: **Handwriting pen, pencil, green, red and blue pens, dry-wipe pen and a 15cm ruler** for **£2.50** (see photo).

Stationery items are also available to buy individually. (Empty pencil case £1, other items 10p – 50p each).



Book Fair

We will be hosting a **Scholastic Book Fair** at Holywell from: **16 - 23 November**

There will be a wide range of books suitable for all students with an opportunity to view them during the week. The Book Fair will also be open to all children at lunchtimes. The usual reservation and order arrangements will apply.

Gardening Club

In the Kitchen Garden, we've been picking the vegetables that survived our long hot Summer holiday, including an enormous butternut squash, sweetcorn, tomatoes, beetroot and beans, as well as providing sunflower seeds for the birds. Now it's time to prepare the soil for the next season but we still have some Autumn carrots and Christmas potatoes in the ground. The Gardening Club are busy planting bulbs for next Spring to brighten up the front of school and we've also been looking at the improved biodiversity the garden is bringing to the school grounds.



News from the Maths Department!



This year, for only the second time ever, we have some Holywell students taking part in the National Cipher Challenge. We last entered a number of students three years ago, just before Covid hit, with great success, so were very pleased that, yet again, following an invitation to enter, a number of our students put themselves forward, 'Daring to do!', and accepted this very difficult challenge.

The National Cipher Challenge has been run by the University of Southampton Mathematics Department since 2002 and since then has attracted a number of fans. These include two Foreign Secretaries; the media scientists Adam Hart-Davis and Simon Singh among others. Many past competitors have gone on to careers in cyber security and others have followed other paths using the mathematics and other skills they learned tackling the fiendish challenges.

These last few weeks, two teams of Year 8 students have been preparing for the challenge using resources in their lunch and home time to teach themselves decryption methods and have started to decipher passages written in code. There are nine weekly challenges in total. The first was released on the 6th October, and they are now on their third, having successfully completed the first two challenges.

It was said by Niels Ferguson, one of the leading cryptographers of his generation, that cryptography was "just about the most fun you can have with mathematics". We agree with that sentiment and, with a little encouragement, hope that the Cipher Challenge will convince some of our students too.

In particular, I would like to thank Harry Nicholas and Amelia-Faye Parry for taking on the responsibility of captaining our two teams. They have been involved in setting up and registering the teams and are responsible for ensuring their team's submissions are made before each deadline. We wish all those involved every success in this new endeavour and look forward to updating you later in the year.

Ms Mollis

PE Department News

Boys Football

3 Year groups have played their league games during this half-term, with the Year 5 team and various B teams, due to complete fixtures either side of Christmas. Results have been mixed for all of our teams this year. The Year 8 team struggled in the early season but finished strongly with a 6-1 win against Parkfields, after being 1-0 at half-time. The Year 7s beat a strong RBA team 2-1 but lost 4-1 when travelling to Pix Brook. Games are still to be completed against Etonbury and Alameda. The Year 6 team have shown the most progress this season and while results haven't gone for them, Mr Jones has been delighted with the commitment shown by the boys.

Y5/6 Table-Tennis Partnership Tournament

Holywell hosted the Redborne Partnership table tennis tournament on Friday 14th October. We entered a boys' and girls' team, with the girls managing to come 2nd! Well done to all those students who took part.



Girls Netball

Congratulations to the Year 8 Netball team. They are so far undefeated after drawing their first game away at Etonbury 4-4, winning against Henlow at home 5-3 and then securing a further win against Pix Brook, away 7-3. They have all worked extremely hard in their PE lessons and during lunch time training sessions. Well done to the girls and keep up the good work.

Y8 Rounders Final

After the cancellation of the original Rounders Partnership finals, due to the heatwave last summer, Holywell travelled to RBA to see if they could become Partnership winners. Despite an excellent performance in both innings, the girls lost by 2 rounders.

Y7 Rounders Final

We went across to RBA to play the rounders semi-final which was previously meant to be played in Year 6. Although we just fell short of a place in the final, we came home with a Bronze after a close match. Both fielding and batting were excellent with some great rounders being run in and some amazing catches/fielding to stop the opposition from scoring. The team should be proud as they all played brilliantly.

Promote your team...

If you would like your club/team to be promoted at school to encourage others to join, then please send details to mkotur@holywellschool.co.uk. We have a lot of eager students who want to start playing more sports outside of school.

Lessons:

It is starting to become a little cold outside so please can you ensure that students bring the correct kit for their lessons - please see the PE kit section in the students' planners. For lessons on the field, such as rugby, football and health and fitness, students will need football boots (shin pads for football) and long, black socks. Students should also ideally bring a spare top and bottoms to lessons, in case they get muddy.



Clubs:

If attending a PE club, students should wear their normal school uniform to school and then change into PE kit before the club. If they have PE on the day of the club they are attending, students should wear their PE kit to school BUT bring spare kit to change into if there's a chance they could get muddy!

The department would like to thank students, parents and carers for their continued support throughout the half-term.

The PE Department

PE Clubs Timetable – Autumn 2nd Half Term 2022

	13:05-13:35	13:35 – 14:00	15:45-16:45
Monday	Y6 Netball (ES/HL) - Sports Hall Y7/8 Girls Contact Rugby (MK/ME) - Field		Y5/6 Netball (MK) – Sports Hall
Tuesday	Y5 Netball (EM/MK) – Sports Hall All Years Running Club (SM) - Field	Y7/8 Netball (ES/MK) - Sports Hall	Y7/8 Badminton (ZI/ME) – Sports Hall All Years Table Tennis (MK) - Gym
Wednesday	Y5/6 Contact Rugby (JU/ME) – Field Y7/8 Table Tennis (MK) – Gym	Y5/6 Table Tennis (MK) – Gym Y7/8 Capture the Flag (ZI) – Field	<i>Netball Fixtures</i>
Thursday	Y8 Badminton (ME) – Sports Hall Y5 Boys Football (ZI) - Field Y5/6 Girls Football (MK) - Field	Y5 Basketball (MK) – Sports Hall	Y7/8 Dodgeball (MK) - Sports Hall
Friday	Y6 Badminton (ZI) – Sports Hall Y7/8 Girls Football (MK) - Field	Y7 Badminton (MK) – Sports Hall	Y5/6 Dodgeball (MK) – Sports Hall

If you wish to attend an after-school club, please take a permission letter from the PE noticeboard.

Year 6 at Wrest Park

Wrest Park – English and Art Trip- September 2022

On Thursday 15th September Year 6 went to Wrest Park, it was such an amazing trip!

On the way to Wrest Park the bus ride was a bit noisy, with lots of singing and chatting, but good fun. When we arrived, we got separated into different groups, and then made our way into Wrest Park.

The English groups made their way into the mansion, the rooms were absolutely stunning, the ceilings were decorated with gold and had paintings of women with



babies. We looked up at the ceiling and imagined we were a wounded soldier from WWI waking up at Wrest Park. After we entered the library, there were books from the 1700s.

Then we left to go into the gardens, we walked to pavilion, there were beautiful swans swimming gracefully across the water. We entered the building, it was pretty dark but there were some windows. As we went upstairs to the attic we could see through a window, the pavilion and mansion. After that, we walked to the baths, they had so many beautiful flowers and plants. Then we walked all the way around Wrest Park until we got to the green house which was growing oranges and shiny red apples. After that we had a stop for lunch.

In the afternoon, it was the art section. We returned to the pavilion with Miss Milton and made some amazing sketches of it; we focused on shape and size. When we finished, we went to Mrs Warner and made our way to the bridge, made art work inspired by Andy Goldsworthy: he makes art out of nature and so did we! After all of that, we walked over to Mrs Jeavons and made some triangles out of sticks and hung them up on the trees. It was all super fun!

When we got together we got on the buses and made our way back to school. The bus ride was less noisy than when we went there but singing still happened. When we got back to school we went to our English classes and talked about our day until home time. It was fantastic and we wish we could do it again!

by Maya Sominka and Charlie-Jake Sinfield

Wrest Park Artists



Year 6 created artwork made from nature during our day trip to Wrest Park. These were inspired by the artist Andy Goldsworthy. Pupils collected, sorted and arranged materials to create these wonderful sculpture.



HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Year 5 have been busy learning history skills whilst finding out about the history of Cranfield village. Most groups have already undertaken a walk around the village to compare old photos with what exists today. The last two groups will hopefully be able to go the first week back.



In Year 6 students have immersed themselves in Anglo-Saxon history and produced a creative writing piece for display based on one aspect of Anglo-Saxon life.

Year 7 students have just completed their first 'essay' style question explaining why William I won the battle of Hastings. All the students worked really hard on this and many produced some excellent work!

Our year 8 students completed some amazingly creative pop-up style booklets about the agrarian revolution and we will be rewarding some of them for their great efforts next half term. They have now moved on to look at the industrial revolution and are learning about the many harsh and cruel realities of life in an industrial factory.



RE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Our Year 5 students have been learning about key Old Testament stories such as creation, Abraham and Isaac and Moses and the Ten Commandments. They are moving on next half term to look more closely at the Jewish religion.

In Year 6 students have been analysing the teachings of Jesus that relate to love and peace. They have learnt about conscientious objectors and how Christianity influences actions of humans in the world today.



Our Year 7 students have been learning all about Islam and are completing an extended piece of work based on the 5 pillars of Islam.

In Year 8 students are embarking on a detailed examination of evidence for and against the existence of God. Later in the term they will be debating this evidence and forming and defending their own ideas based on what they have learned. We are hoping to host a debating competition to end the unit with prizes for the winning debate team! Watch this space for further details!

Year 7 Residential Visit

Earlier this term 125 year 7 pupils had a 3-day residential visit to an outdoor adventure centre. Here pupils were able to challenge themselves and enjoy working as a team. They enjoyed activities such as zip wire, leap of faith, fencing, shelter building etc. All had a great time developing greater relationships.



HOLYWELL SCHOOL – DIARY DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2022

Half Term – Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October

Closure Day – Friday 25th November

End of Term – **Friday 16th December**



21st October – Charity Non-uniform Day

16th November – Yr 6 SATS Information Evening

18th November Children in Need Charity Non-uniform Day

7th December – KS3 Tutor Evening

9th December – Christmas Jumper Day

SPRING TERM 2023

Closure Day – Tuesday 3rd January

Term Begins – **Wednesday 4th January**

Half Term – Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February

End of Term – **Friday 31st March**

SUMMER TERM 2023

Closure Day – Monday 17th April

Term Begins – **Tuesday 18th April**

May Day – Monday 1st May

Half Term – Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June

End of Term – Friday 21st July

Please note that dates may differ from other schools

SUMMER TERM TEST DATES 2023



Year 6 Students
Key Stage 2 SATs
Monday 8th May - Thursday 11th May 2023

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK HOLIDAYS AT THIS TIME