Hello from Mrs Ings

I have recently been talking with staff about the work that pupils do at home with the support of their parents, and it is really clear that where parents do help their children with homework, carry out reading, spelling and helping them to learn number facts, those children are generally more confident in class and able to have a go at new learning and challenges.

Having had these discussions, and building on my belief that working in partnership with parents provides the best outcomes for pupils, I had a look at the research into this area. The vast majority of our parents are very supportive in helping their children to learn at home in partnership with us so I thought I would share some key points of the research with you to demonstrate just how important these partnerships are. Please have a look at the next page of the newsletter to find out about some of the research findings – if you would like to know more I am able to email a summary leaflet of the findings, which goes into more detail.

In short – thank you for all the help and support you give in working with us to aid your child’s learning, progress and achievement.

ON/OFF-SITE VISITS

Visits in and out of school take place to support the topic work the children are doing in class. The total cost of the visits is for the workshops and/or tuition as well as transport costs.

Y6—Warning Zone -Thursday 13th June. To support PSHCE curriculum and prepare the children for the transition to secondary school. Warning Zone is a unique, interactive learning centre for Y6 pupils in Leicester. They deliver relevant life skills such as understanding risks and consequences, peer pressure and personal safety both offline and online. Thank you to the Loughborough Rotary Club who funds half of the cost of this trip through their links with the Community. **The cost of this trip will be £10.20 per child.**

Y5—Vikings- Monday 1st July. This is an interactive experience consolidating our Vikings History topic. This is a valuable ‘first hand’ experience of Viking daily life. **The cost of this visit to school will be £6.00 per child.**

Y1—Lion Learners -Thursday 6th June. An inspirational experience for animal magic linking into the Summer Term topic in Science—Identification and Classification. **The cost of this visit in school will be £2.60 per child.**

YR—Twycross Zoo –Monday 20th May.* The children will be supporting their learning on animals and habitats. **The cost of this visit in school will be £14.90 per child.**

*With the introduction of universal free school meals, packed lunches will be provided for all KS1 children when going out of school on a trip. All KS1 children will be given a packed lunch on the morning of the trip, with a choice of tuna mayo, vegetarian cheese or mixed fruit jam sandwiches. The only ask from parents is that you send your child with a water bottle as we will not be supplying a drink. Thank you.

**These visits are now payable on ParentPay before 25th February.**
Principal findings from research into parental support of children’s learning in partnership with school

1. Parental involvement in a child’s schooling for a child between the ages of 7 and 16 is a more powerful force than family background, size of family and level of parental education and contributes to no less than 10% of variation in achievement.

2. Parental involvement has a significant effect on pupil achievement throughout the years of schooling.

3. Educational failure is increased by lack of parental interest in schooling.

In particular, a father’s interest in a child’s schooling is strongly linked to educational outcomes for the child.

Very high parental interest is associated with better exam results, than for children whose parents show no interest. Children with very interested parents progressed 15-17% more in mathematics.

In an experiment designed to assess the effects of parental involvement in the teaching of reading, research found that reading attainment was positively affected by parental support.

Research has indicated that no matter what the social class of their parents, participation in such things as visiting museums and going to the theatre and opera, when teenagers, has a positive effect on their earnings potential, educational attainments and civic engagement in later life.

Positive attitudes to homework are associated with positive attitudes at school.

The evidence further confirms that parents play an important role encouraging their children to spend time on homework and eliminating distractions such as watching television.

Father involvement in children’s education at age 7 predicts higher educational attainment by age 20, in both boys and girls

For boys, early father involvement protects against delinquency in later life. The involvement of fathers exerts an influence on children’s positive attitudes to school.

Research evidence clearly states that children’s progress can be hindered by lack of parental involvement.

In a study designed to test whether the educational performance of children was influenced by parents the research found that children were disadvantaged not by social class, but rather by lack of parents’ interest.

Where there was no report of parental interest there was a high rate of not obtaining qualifications after 16.
Spring Term Parents’ Evening
Tuesday 26th & Thursday 28th February

Online Appointment Booking open Monday 4th February for one week

We shall be holding our Spring Term parents evenings this year on Tuesday 26th & Thursday 28th February between 3.30 and 6.30pm. We hope that you will take the opportunity to come along and meet your child’s class teacher and discuss the work your child is undertaking.

The importance of the partnership between parent and teacher cannot be over emphasised. This meeting is intended to give you the opportunity to establish that contact and express any concerns which you may have for your child’s education and also to hear of the progress which your child is making. Meeting times will be limited to 10 minutes per child and we would appreciate your co-operation in this. Should issues arise which require greater discussion we shall be happy to arrange a further appointment.

To book your appointment please use our online appointment booking system. This allows you to choose your own appointment times with your child’s teacher. It is important to book your appointment promptly to get a greater choice of appointment times. If you are unable to make either date due to prior commitments, please contact the School Office for an alternative appointment to be made.

Please visit https://holywellps.parentseveningsystem.co.uk

Login with the following information:

1. Parents Name (parent who receives the text messages)
2. Email address
3. Child’s First Name & Surname:
4. Child’s class (i.e. 1SB)

Attached is the parents guide on how to book your appointment if you are new to the school or need a refresher!

Please remember that we are a Nut Free school. Children must not bring any kind of nuts, nutty biscuits, chocolate spread that contains nuts, peanut butter etc. This is very important as we have many children with severe nut allergies. Thank you for your support.
School Governor Column

This month, we will be holding a selection process for the school’s new Headteacher. This is probably the single most important thing that I will have been involved in as a governor to date; it’s a somewhat daunting task, and a responsibility that all of us take very seriously.

The process will be a robust and rigorous one – two full days of practical tasks and interviews designed to assess the candidates’ suitability for the job from many different angles. It will undoubtedly be a tough and tiring couple of days for the candidates, but it is essential that we do everything in our power to ensure that we are able to make a well-informed decision at the end of the process about the best candidate for the role.

We have already sought input from all of the school staff about the specific qualities that they are hoping to see in our new Headteacher, and they have contributed many valuable insights that we will be bearing in mind throughout the process. The selection panel will also benefit from having the expert advice of another local Headteacher, who will be assisting us on both days.

Ultimately, we are committed to finding someone who can build on the highly effective leadership that has been provided by Mrs Ings, and who can work constructively with the rest of the school staff to preserve the many things which currently work so well at Holywell while offering a compelling vision for the school’s future.

The successful candidate will undoubtedly have big shoes to fill, but I’m confident that we can find the right person for the job, and I’m sure that the new Head, supported by our first-rate senior leadership team and excellent staff throughout the school, will lead Holywell successfully to the next exciting stage in its development.

Liz Chahal—Governor

Year 3 Roald Dahl Workshop

Year 3 had a great day with Vicky from Divergent Drama. The day was tailor-made to our English unit ‘Play Scripts’ and the focus on our key author Roald Dahl.

Our first session involved the ‘Roald Dahl Ugly Game’ - this was to get our bodies and facial expression working! Using 1 - 5, 1 being our normal lovely self and 5 being the ugliest face/position we could make!!

After this, we learnt about the parts of a stage and the related ‘stage craft’ vocabulary. Why not ask us about stage direction?

We were given part of a script for George’s Marvellous Medicine and in small groups, practised our parts and followed the stage direction on the script.

After lunch, we performed to each other with props! Finally, to end our day we created our own marvellous medicine using an enormous parachute as the mixing pot.
As part of our work with pupils on Growth Mindset, we try to build up Resilience, Resourcefulness, Awareness and Reflectiveness, and underlying all of this is developing children’s Independence.

Many tasks and activities, throughout the school day work on developing and building on children’s independence, and we hope this begins at home.

Many of our children when they have not brought something into school that they need that day say ‘my mum forgot to pack it’. We usually reply with asking the children to think about trying to organise their own belongings, so that all ‘mum’ (or dad or any adult helping at home) should have to do is check it.

To help, we have designed a daily checklist which you are very welcome to download and put on the fridge, in your child’s bedroom etc. to encourage them to think about what they need each day – hopefully this will help you too as it will hopefully reduce the amount of times you as parents have to come back to school after the start of day with something your child has forgotten.

Thank you Mrs Ings

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Look Who Dropped in to Holywell Today

Gary Farnfield, Community Fundraiser for Rainbows Hospice Loughborough, came to meet Holywell School Council this week, to discuss the work that Rainbows do and how the items that we deposit in the Rainbows Bins benefit the 410 children that they are currently helping.

He followed this with a very informative presentation to our whole school in assembly.

Did you know that it costs £6.2 million to keep Rainbows Hospice running for 1 year? They get funded less than 20% of that from the UK Government, meaning that there is shortfall of nearly £5 million pounds per year! So please take this opportunity to have a good clear out at home and send in any items listed (bagged) over the next two weeks, to deposit into the Rainbow Bins at school reception. Our winning total last year was 201 bags, beating all other schools, but a school last week collected 240 bags, so we have a good target to aim for!

Mr Stephenson & Holywell School Council
Where’s it Bin? 2019
Monday 28th January - Friday 8th February

We’re supporting Rainbows again this year with their collection campaign, “Where’s it Bin?”. Please have a sort out of your unwanted items. Let’s try and beat last year’s winning total of over 200 bags.

Our Bins don’t want your rubbish!

They would however love:
- Clean Clothing
- Shoes
- Household Linen
- Unwanted Gifts
- Jewellery
- Accessories
- Books
- Bric-a-brac
- Toys
- Mobile Phones

The bins will be located at:
School Entrance
Outside Office

Items in a plastic bag please.

For more information please contact Holywell office staff or Mr. Stephenson.
Rehearsals are well underway and it’s looking like it will be another cracking show this year. However to make it a truly great affair please kindly help us with the following:

**RAFFLE PRIZES** – Can you donate any chocolate, wine, unwanted gifts etc.? If so, please drop them in the box in the school entrance. All donations gratefully received as a well-stocked raffle really does make a HUGE difference to how much we raise.

**BACKSTAGE CREW** – Can you help change scenery, hand out props, or assist the lighting/sound team? No experience required, you’ll be fully supported and only need to attend all 3 shows and 2 rehearsals! This is lots of fun - all are welcome but we find Dad’s particularly enjoy getting involved in these backstage roles.

**BUY TICKETS & COME SEE THE SHOW!** We’d really, really, love to celebrate 3 sell-out shows! The cast are totally brilliant, there are jokes and costumes galore, fantastic music and lighting effects, PLUS we do it all on the BIG fancy stage woo-oo and...a family ticket for 4 still costs less than a large Dominos pizza - result!

This year’s show is a 90’s themed spectacular – how many songs will you recognize?

**Programme Design Competition** – A huge thank you to everyone who entered. It’s going to be hard to choose a winner as they were all so good! We will contact the winner via their book bag and also announce the winner on the PSA Facebook page so keep an eye out!

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**WATCH OUT for HEADLICE!!**

Could you please inform your child’s teacher or School Office of any instances of Headlice. The Health Authority recommend we do not send out notification letters unless numerous cases are reported in one class over a number of weeks.

Please check your child’s hair regularly:

a) wash hair with ordinary shampoo in usual way
b) apply hair conditioner
c) comb with wide tooth comb to get rid of tangles
d) comb with a nit comb (detector comb)
e) rinse hair

If headlice are found, comb every two days using conditioner for two weeks (this is to break the headlice cycle). Please do not forget that adults can be carriers of headlice so parents and/or adults in close contact with children also need to wet comb their hair.

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**Snow**

We will endeavour to keep the school open wherever possible but it is dependent upon staffing.

Should Holywell have to close due to heavy snow or if there is a delay in opening,

- We will contact you via our text messaging service (have your mobiles on from 7am)
- We do not inform Radio Stations!
- Please do not ring the school.

Mr Lewis will undertake some snow clearing to allow for paths to the building, care will still be required as paths will still be slippery.

**Should Loughborough College close, the Before and After School Clubs will not operate.**

Children are to come straight into school from 8.45am onwards should heavy snow fall.
Dates for the Diary 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Half Term</td>
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<td>Swimming 3CL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leavers Service Y6 parents</td>
<td>12 July</td>
<td>9.30am Y6 Parents invited</td>
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Dogs Trust going 'Bark' to school!

Sarah brought her lovely dog Lyra into school last week to teach our pupils how to be ‘Dog Smart’!

They taught us lots of really interesting facts about dogs and how to look after them, understand them and stay safe around them.

They did different assemblies for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils and a workshop with Foundation pupils too.

You can find out more from: [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk)

And download a really helpful parents’ guide at: [https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/factsheets-downloads/bds%20parents%20leaflet.pdf](https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/factsheets-downloads/bds%20parents%20leaflet.pdf)