

NEWS

22nd December 2023 Issue 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 8th January

Staff Training Day

Tuesday 9th January

School resumes for spring term

Friday 16th February 2024

School closes for half-term at 3pm

Monday 26th February 2024

School resumes for the children

Wednesday 27th March 2024

School Closes for Easter holiday at 3pm

Monday 15th April 2024

School resumes for the summer term

PAF ASSOCIATION

Thank you so much to our PAF Association volunteers who have been a huge help this festive season. Through the PAF fundraising, each child in school received a lovely gift from Santa, who even took time out of his busy schedule to visit the children on Tuesday – thank you Santa! Not only did the PAF fundraising provide the gifts, but also a pantomime for the children to enjoy on Thursday. Treasure Island was a huge success and enjoyed very much by the children.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have sold raffle tickets, served drinks, wrapped gifts etc this festive season, your kindness is hugely appreciated by everyone in school.



MAKING LEARNING AN ADVENTURE

We have made it! With only 3 sleeps to go now.....

Christmas is finally here!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas performances, the children did **AMAZINGLY** well and thoroughly enjoyed all of their performance parts.

Thank you to staff too, these things do not happen without a huge amount of effort for which we are very grateful. Every child should have brought home a photograph of them in their costume and also with our special visitor who came to see everyone on Tuesday.



Thank you to everyone who attended our Festival of Light celebration and helped to make it the **HUGE** success it was. With crafting activities in each classroom along with wonderful items for sale in the hall which the children had made – it was a very special start to the festive season within school. It was a shame that the weather had alternate ideas and rain stopped our candlelit walk from going ahead; however, the children demonstrating their Indian dance routine for everyone more than made up for it!

Thank you to the PAF Association for supplying and serving mulled wine, mince pies, juice and biscuits to everyone who attended – it was very much appreciated on a cold, wet, wintry evening.

The Festival of Light takings on the evening were an amazing £1052.40 the profits of this once costs are deducted will go towards our fundraising efforts towards summer term activities and trips (hopefully!).



Why not follow our school Facebook page? Teachers and staff will often share some interesting events or lessons that children have enjoyed. Just search for @holywellschool on Facebook and a page with the school logo should appear.

Reception 2024 School Applications

Northumberland County Council portal for Reception School applications for September 2024 opened on 1st November 23 and closes on 15th January 2024. Please ensure you have applied for your child if required before this date:

https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

National offers day is Wednesday 17th April 2024 for first school places.

GOVERNOR NEWS – MEET THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS -Angela Hall

Why did you choose to be a governor at Holywell Village First School?

I live in the village and have over 10 years' experience as a governor in other schools which I wanted to bring to our village school. I also work across Seaton Valley Federation of Schools (our feeder schools for the children of Holywell Village First School) and have a role which involves working within the local community to support the children in those schools with opportunities both within and outside of the curriculum.

Together with the above and my strategic experience from working in schools and industry for a number of years means that I am able to work with and support our Head Teacher in doing our very best for our children.

What motivation / experience do you have as Chair that will benefit our school?

I have been a governor at our school for nearly two years now and have been Chair of the Resource Management Committee for over 18 months. I also have been Chair of a number of committees in previous governor roles at other schools.

During my many years in industry I have led and managed a number of strategic, operational and change management projects and have a wealth of knowledge in these areas which can be utilised in school.

This aside, nothing gives me more motivation than visiting school during the day and seeing the smiles on the faces of the children, their exceptional behaviour whilst they learn and them saying 'Hello,' as they enjoy their day in school.

What do you think is the most challenging aspect of being Chair could be and how will you seek to overcome this?

I enjoy being Chair of Governors and visiting school to see the many events that happen in school. Recently being at the Christmas performance was amazing and seeing the confidence of the young children and the joy on their faces when they saw their adults in the audience supporting them.

Juggling family life, work and attending school events and meetings is a challenge but one I relish and am more than happy to.

What have you or do you hope to achieve as our Chair of Governors?

I work closely with Mrs Brett to support her in the leadership of the school and will continue to do so to ensure that our school remains inclusive and supports all children who attend our school in their journey and their 'thirst for learning'

How do you help to build relationships within the school and between the school and the wider community?

Visiting school on a regular basis continues to build relationships with staff and attending parents' events gives me an opportunity to talk to those present. Living and working within the community means I am involved in a number of local projects and events.

Parking reminder:

We have received multiple complaints from our neighbours recently about inconsiderate parking and driving at speed within the streets surrounding school – please can we ask that all parents/carers are considerate when parking and careful when driving when coming to and from school.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT
MONDAY 8TH JANUARY SCHOOL
WILL BE CLOSED FOR TEACHER
TRAINING DAY.**

LOST PROPERTY ITEMS

We have an ever-growing mound of lost property in school because items are not named.

PLEASE spend time this holiday naming or initialling your child's uniform items as this helps us hugely when reuniting items with owners!

If you have lost items, please feel free to come to school and search through the mound of lost property upon our return after the holidays.



admin@holywell.northumberland.sch.uk



<https://www.facebook.com/holywell.school/>



Emergency Out of hours contact:
Emma-marie.reed@holywell.northumberland.sch.uk



FROM ALL STAFF AND GOVERNORS, WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE IN 2024.