

Dear Polehampton Families,

With the sun shining, the Spring springing and having a plan for schools reopening to all children, I think everyone feels a little lighter this week.

I know we are very happy to be busy planning for the return of our children on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March!



## Returning to school- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Whilst I'm sure there is a lot of excitement about 8<sup>th</sup> March, I would expect there to be lots of mixed feelings too. Your children have now been in another different routine for 2 months – whilst they are all coming back to classes and friends they know, we won't be surprised to hear they have worries about it.

This is an excellent article about how you might help your child – I would suggest doing these things, even if your child seems super happy about it all. For example, ideas like being in a good routine and having your favourite breakfast on the first day all seem very sensible to me!

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/family-life/back-to-school-transition-after-lockdown/>

## March Together Again Calendar

Please see the link above and attached a lovely calendar idea made by the wonderful people at [Elsa Support](#) . Super suggestions that will help your child get themselves ready to start back at school.



## Strategies for Mental Health

There is a new course for parents and school staff, developing our skills in supporting children's during emergencies and crisis situations. I know we have had a few conversations with parents, expressing concerns about their current behaviour at home at the moment. This course is one hour a week for 3 weeks and is free and comes with good recommendations.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/psychological-first-aid-for-children-and-young-people>



## Risk assessments - Keeping our children safe in school

I'm sure you might have some worries about keeping our children safe in school. We've been encouraged to stay at home and now we will all be back in classes with lots of friends. I want to reassure you that we will continue to follow all the guidance set out for school to follow, just as we have been for nearly a year now. Please see the attached overview of our restrictive measures for your information. Little has changed since last term, but it's good to read it all through again to remind ourselves of the routines and rules.



## Uniform

Please endeavour to wear full uniform from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Uniform does give us all the feeling of pride and identity. Uniform deliveries are still happening and most larger supermarkets stock all the generic things you need. However, as the definite announcement of 8<sup>th</sup> March reopening has only just been made and knowing how children spring up and feet grow, we do understand if everyone isn't wearing exactly the right thing, for example shoes – please wear sensible shoes if you don't have school shoes that fit and please wear clothes that are suitable for school.

All shops should open at Easter so that will be a good time to stock up on what else you might need to get.



Dear Polehampton Parents,

As a governing body, we are aware that the last year has been extremely frustrating and difficult at times for all in our school community. We understand that this continues to be the case for a number of families. As you will have found, the school is always happy to hear from parents – and to provide reassurance and advice when needed. However, as a gentle reminder, please can I ask parents to be conscious of the language they use and to always remain polite and respectful when communicating with the school. Anger and frustration will never be an excuse for rudeness and the school and its governing body are under no obligation to answer emails or phone calls that are abusive, persistent or insulting. Resolution of concerns will always be far more efficient when discussion is kept open, positive and friendly - and this is what we see with the vast majority of our parental concerns.

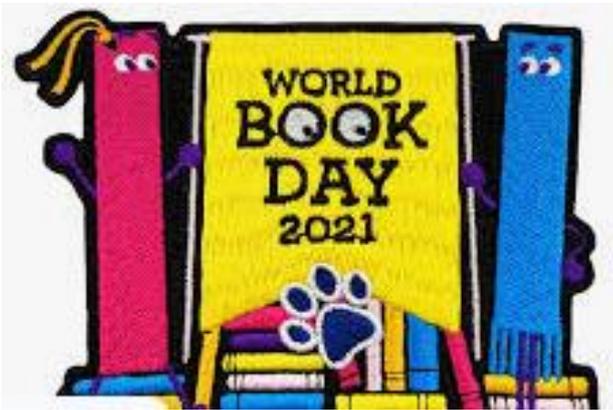
Many thanks for your help with this.

Kind regards  
James Smith  
Chair of Governors



### Parents' Meetings – these are all in the same rooms as the daily zooms

- **Infants** – it's been lovely to catch up with lots of parents this week and we look forward to seeing everyone else next week.
- **Juniors** – **deadline for booking your appointment is Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>** so please log on and book an appointment if you haven't done that already.
- There will be no zooms on the afternoons of our meetings
  - Blue Class – not on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March
  - Juniors – not on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> or Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March



### World Book Day News

Throughout next week we will be setting world book day activities. These will be included on Google Classroom, Purple Mash and Zoom.

In our daily Zoom on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March (Friday 5<sup>th</sup> for Blue Class), we're asking the children to bring along clues to a book. This could be a costume, a prop, a drawing or the book itself! We will then be able to guess and share what book they are representing and enjoy talking about books on World Book day!

**World Book Day Slide Show** - If your child would like to be involved in our World Book Day Slide Show, please do send in a photo of them dressed up, with their book or clue. They could send in a drawing or painting of their favourite book or character if they'd prefer. Please send photos or pictures to [together@polehampton-inf.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:together@polehampton-inf.wokingham.sch.uk) by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 9.00am

As we can't give out vouchers this year, please download one for yourself by using this link.

**World Book Day On-line Voucher** -This entitles you to a free World Book Day 2021 book, or £1 off a book or audio book. There are some great titles this year from some much-loved children's authors. Visit [worldbookday.com/books](http://worldbookday.com/books) for more information.

[https://www.worldbookday.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/booktoken\\_PrimaryUK.pdf](https://www.worldbookday.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/booktoken_PrimaryUK.pdf)



### **Assemblies on our Website**

We are still posting assemblies every week for children to watch at home. We have teachers and the church team leading assemblies as we would in school. Do take a look at recent ones or if you have an old favourite. Infants – don't forget the Friday assemblies celebrate birthdays too 😊

<https://www.polehampton.org.uk/page/?title=Assemblies%2C+celebrations+%26amp%3B+special+messages&pid=49>

### **Attachments**

- Restrictive measures
- Elsa Support – March Together Again Calendar
- Menu for 8<sup>th</sup> March

Best wishes for a lovely weekend,  
Miss Ball, Mrs Castell, Mrs Medcalf and Mrs Scott