

Polehampton News

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



Returning to school- Monday 8th March

Parents, we want to say a big thank you for all the effort you have put into the remote learning work this term. It will have made such a difference to your child's learning and confidence to return to school next week.

Next week our priorities are safety and wellbeing. Whilst there are no new rules for the children from before Christmas, we will go slowly again, a little like a September, to remind everyone where they should be and what they should be doing. We will be supportive if they forget, with gentle reminders, so they remember what to do. There will be lots of time to play with their friends, to talk and socialise. That is a big part of what they have been missing.

Given all their hard work at home recently, we have having a week off home-learning next week!! Of course, we still want the children to read every day 😊 Also, you will soon receive a separate email from Miss Bond and Miss Davis regarding the Royal Academy's Young Artist Competition so you could always give that your attention next week.

Getting ready to start back to school - Ideas for over the weekend

Gentle preparation is key to a good start back next week.

- If you haven't already, set your alarms/bedtimes back to school time now so Monday isn't a shock!
- Get their uniform & school bag ready
- Take a walk to school on the route you'll do on Monday morning
- Chat about things they are looking forward to so they can build up happy anticipations
- Listen to any worries they might have - reassure where you can and let us know if you think it would be helpful
- Chat to their school friends over the weekend – what are they going to play together on Monday?

Happy memories of this remote-learning/lockdown phase?

It is good for our mental health to "open" or "close" experiences in life. For example, goodbyes and hellos are useful rituals to help us adjust to change. Whilst so much of the recent time could have been tricky, I do hope there are a couple of things you can remember with a smile from this time. Framing experiences honestly but with a more joyful viewpoint, even little silly things like eating breakfast on zoom sessions (we know some of you have been doing this!!) can help to make better memories for the future. This all helps build their resilience for future change. See the attachment which you might want to use to capture some happy memories.

Social Stories and stories for returning to school

Do take a look at our newsletter page – we've added the Returning to School story that we sent our earlier this week to that page. Also, social stories that might help any child who would benefit from talking through routines in a bit more detail.

PE days

We still want our children to wear their PE kits on PE days please. Here's a reminder of the days for each year group.

Blue	Bells – Thurs / Berries - Fri
Yr1	Tues & Wed
Yr2	All - Monday / Purple – Thurs / Yellow – Fri
Yr3	Mondays
Yr4	Wednesdays
Yr5	Tuesdays
Yr6	Thursdays

Lateral flow tests for all households and bubbles of school pupils and staff

Just a reminder that all households and bubble of school pupils (so all our parents) can access lateral flow tests now.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

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

We hope you found the meetings useful – we know the teachers have found it so helpful, with the children about to return to school. If anyone hasn't meet with their teacher yet, please contact the office to arrange that as soon as possible.

Juniors –we have one more session with parents next Wednesday, so see you then.

World Book Day News

We had such fun yesterday – we were so impressed with the effort everyone had gone to. Whilst this is all good fun which is great way to motivate us all to read more, we believe there is a serious side to reading. There is good research that shows regular readers have better wellbeing. The joy of being able to go on adventures, learn new facts or explore feelings through reading and discussing books is always a positive - at the moment, I would say it's an essential part of life. Snuggle up with a good book – treat yourselves and know you are investing time in creating good habits for your children.

World Book Day Slide Show – Do send us pictures or photos of your child dressed up as a book character to together@polehampton-inf.wokingham.sch.uk by Monday 8th March at 9.00am. We can't wait to see everyone's pictures all together.

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 for more information.

https://www.worldbookday.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/booktoken_PrimaryUK.pdf

Infant School - The Masked Reader and other World Book Day Fun!

Did you guess all the Masked Readers this week – here is the [Reveal Video!](#)

A huge thank you to all the staff who joined in as readers or singers in the "Pick up a Book" lip syncing video. All the videos are on our website – [Story Time with Teachers](#) page.

Year Six Secondary School Offers

We are aware that, very sadly, not all our children have been offered their first choice, or indeed, any of their choices, this year. It would be helpful for us to understand if this is the case for your child, so we can be supportive of their feelings in school. Do email us to let us know if you haven't done so already.

We do know from past experience, that there is always some movement on the admissions lists. Parents might not accept their offers, which frees up places for those further down the list. We appreciate that uncertainty is hard to manage, particularly during these already difficult times.

Please be aware that we have been in touch with our local primary schools, as we know children in other schools have been affected, to explore what we could do to raise our concerns that local children are not

able to get into their local secondary school. Whilst admissions to secondary school is not within our responsibility, we are very keen to do all we can to support our children and families access good schools locally. I met with our Chair of Governors this week and discussed the matter and will work with our governors to keep this issue on the Local Authority's agenda.

Junior School Fencing

You will notice that we have had some fencing put up across the field. This is because the clean-up work from the flooding last month is taking longer than expected. Fortunately, we have extensive grounds at our school, so space needed to accommodate our bubbles will not be compromised at all.

PTA news

Our hardworking PTAs are doing another collection. They will be in Loddon Hall Car Park on Monday 29th March from 8-9am, so do start collecting for then.

Attachments

- Post lockdown worksheet
- Covid restrictive measures for school – this was on last week's newsletter.

Have a restful weekend, so everyone is ready for back to school on Monday - we can't wait to see you!

Miss Ball, Mrs Scott, Mrs Medcalf and Mrs Castell