

Polehampton C. of E. Schools Federation

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Polehampton C. of E. Infant School

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Polehampton

CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Dear Polehampton Families,

Welcome Back to School

We are so excited to be welcoming all our children back to school very soon. Whilst we still need to have additional rules to keep everyone safe, it will feel just like Polehampton again, with everyone happy, safe, working hard and learning new things!

Do remember, that your child could be much more tired than usual next week. They will need to build up their school stamina again, for reading and writing, for listening in class, getting up and getting ready, following all the rules, etc...

We suggest that you start on the bedtime/getting up routines now so you all have time to adjust – we know bedtimes can change in the holidays and we might stay in our PJs slightly longer in the mornings 😊

As we said before the holidays, we will keep you up-to-date with all the adjustments we are making and any changes that need to be made along the way. Before the children return next week, we have two inset days where we can work together as a staff to ensure we are ready for the new term. Our agendas include

- Reviewing our Autumn term risk assessments
- Reviewing our provision to ensure we focus on
 - supporting children's emotional needs, exploring feelings around the lockdown through using our school values and ethos

- re-establishing school rules & routines within the current guidance
- assessing where the children are academically when they return so we can plan the most effective curriculum
- Training on video conferencing, should there be another lockdown at any point in the future

For now, we just wanted to remind you of a few things we mentioned last term. More details containing all our usual September information will come on future newsletters.

Full attendance for all	From 3 rd September we expect every child to be back in school – what a wonderful thing to say! If you have any outstanding concerns for your child, please do contact the school and we will be in touch to offer support.
Year group bubbles	We will be working as year group bubbles, which will allow us to continue with our cross class provision, such as spelling or phonics groups and allow friends in different classes to easily play together at break and lunchtime. Year groups can share spaces in side, such as hall time and lunchtime, and outside on equipment which will be on a rota.
Times of the day & entrances to use	See below for a copy of the information sent out at the end of last term. Your children will be told all about the routine for the day, as we will be staggering play and lunchtimes to reduce the number of children moving about at one time. As this is September, with new classes, the children will be ready to embrace these new routines. Lesson time will not be reduced as both schools will have a shorter lunchtime.
Use of the outside equipment	This will be on a weekly rota, so year groups can enjoy different equipment. No child can use the equipment before or after school.
Assemblies	We will be holding our daily assemblies and collective worship in class or as year groups in the hall. We won't be holding any larger gatherings such as whole school assemblies at this stage.
Parent Meetings	All parent meeting will be over the phone or via video conferencing this term –more information to follow.
Hygiene in school	We will continue with all procedures from last term, which include frequent hand-washing and additional cleaning. We will use the outside area for learning more than usual and keep windows open as much as possible to support respiratory hygiene.
After School club	Stephanie is working hard to devise measures to allow the After School Club to re-open. The planned opening date is Monday 7 th September. One key element of this provision is that children will remain in their year group bubbles. We will not be starting any of the other curriculum after school clubs at this stage.
Water bottles	An essential item for every child – named please. This will be used throughout the day including lunchtimes.
Pencil cases (juniors only)	Whilst we will provide all necessary equipment for your child, we will allow them to bring a pencil case to school again this term.
Clothes washing	Last term, we asked parents to send their child in with freshly laundered clothes every day – this in no longer required.

As always, our Governing Body will oversee all risk assessments, questioning and supporting our schools to be safe for everyone.

Playground Arrangements and Start & Finish Times for September 2020

The guidance for September requires schools to ensure that there are good social distancing measures on our sites.

- Please arrive and leave promptly – the doors will open at the times below and children are to go straight into school at that point.
- When you come to school, please take care to remain apart from other adults. Please keep your children with you – they can't run off to play with each other or on the equipment, I'm afraid.
- The equipment at both schools will be on a year group rota for use during the school day, so will not be available for use before or after school.
- The guidance requires schools to consider their sites and use staggered start and finish times to allow for better social distancing - we have devised these timetables which will allow for families with siblings in each school to collect and drop off in good time as well as reducing numbers on site in areas that are smaller.
- There is no difference in the time your children will be in lessons – we are making adjustments to play and lunchtimes as well, so their teaching time will stay the same.
- Please read the notes below for each schools' timetables and further instructions.

Infant School

Arrival

- 8.45am - if you have one child in either Yellow, Green or Bluebells Class
- 9.00am - families with infant or junior siblings in any class
- 9.15am - if you have one child in either Purple, Orange or Blueberries Class

Collection

- 3.00pm - if you have one child in either Yellow, Green or Bluebells Class
- 3.15pm - families with infant or junior siblings in any class
- 3.30pm - if you have one child in either Purple, Orange or Blueberries Class

Which gates/doors to use?

As the infant grounds are quite narrow by Blue Class and we have more families with little ones and buggies, we need to reduce the number of people cutting through the school and create more of a one way system.

- Year 2 and Blueberries Class – please arrive and leave via the gates on London Road - keep to the left and follow the arrows. You can leave bikes/scooters by the fence in the Yr2 waiting area.
- Year 1 and Bluebells Class – please arrive and leave via the gates on Hermitage Drive. Please arrive down the pedestrian path and leave via the driveway. Bikes/scooters left alongside the fence on the field.
- **Green, Blueberries and Bluebells** will leave and enter via the class doors. **Purple** and **Yellow** class will enter and leave via the Yr2 entrance. **Orange class**, please line up, socially distanced, by the office to drop off and collect your child. You will then leave through the gate by the office windows and beside the large hedge.
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A few parents will need to cross through the playground to drop children at different sides of the school – you may cut through the grounds. Everyone else, please help us by keeping to the gates for your class –thank you!!

Junior School

You must keep to these times. Children cannot enter the site early - the gates will be locked. Please supervise children yourself until the times below.

Arrival

- 8.45am - if you have an infant sibling
- 9.00 - if you have only junior children

Collection

- 3.00pm - if you have an infant sibling
- 3.15pm if you have only junior children

Which gates to use?

- You can use any gates as we have much more space here.

Mornings

- Years 3 & 4 – you may bring your child onto the playground in the morning.
- Years 5 & 6 – please say goodbye at the gates in the morning. Parents with infant siblings to drop or collect – you may cut through the playground.
- All children to enter the school as they arrive, rather than play and wait for the bell

Afternoons

- Every child must be collected by an adult or a responsible older sibling from the playground.

Quarantining after a holiday

If you have been away abroad, please ensure you keep up-to-date with countries on the quarantine list. If your child cannot return to school next week because of quarantine restrictions, please email us to confirm

- where you have been
- when you return to the UK
- when your child will be ready to start back to school

Conversion to Academy Status

I am delighted to inform you that as on 1st September 2020, both our schools will convert to academy status and join the Keys Academy Trust (KAT). You will soon receive a welcome letter from the KAT.

We have been working closely with the KAT for over a year now, benefitting from shared training and expertise to support the development of our provision. Please be assured that you will notice very little difference to your child's day to day experience, as the KAT are very keen for schools to retain their individual identity and character.

Please see our new website to find links to the KAT and more information about their work.

New Polehampton Website

We are so pleased to be ready to launch our new website for the start of term – we will have one website for both schools. It is getting its final “go live” checks and should be ready for next week! We will send you the link when it is “Live”, although there will be a link from our old sites to the new one. We hope you find it a useful resource to access all you need to know about school. We have transferred most things over from the old website, so take some time to scroll through it and find your way around.

As with any online platform, it can change and evolve – we would welcome any feedback as we can make tweaks and changes to suit your needs.

Thanks to all the staff involved in getting this up and running for us – a particular mention goes to Mrs Lloyd who has worked tirelessly to get it right and ready for our schools.

One thing that will need doing later this term is photographs of our pupils; we couldn't do that before of course. We have pencilled in a date with a photographer for later this term so it will look even better in time.

Can you help?

We would love to have photos of children in their uniform & PE kits on our uniform page. We want to show the various options we allow, so we envisage having several photos there. I know September is a time when lots of families take new school term photos. Do send us in yours if you are happy for them to go on our website. Full length pictures on a plain background would be ideal – thank you!

Think U Know - Returning to school: 7 tips to help your primary-age child cope

To make their transition easier, [here are seven things to consider if your child is returning](#) – or preparing to return – to the classroom.

We can't wait to see you next week!

Miss Ball, Mrs Castell, Mrs Medcalf, Mrs Scott and all your Polehampton Team