

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are open to all children!!

Yesterday was such a special day, with all our children returning to school – I don't remember smiling so much for weeks, months...! Well done to all our staff for working so hard to get ready for this re-opening to all children.

Our new Blue Class children look so excited and ready to start on Monday, having enjoyed their "stay and play" sessions yesterday and today. We can't wait for you to join the fun!!

Our Federation Newsletter

As we still have so many joint school messages, we will continue with one newsletter for now. Where they are different messages, we will clearly label them on the newsletter or send out school specific information as necessary.

New Systems for this term

Across the school day, we are busy embedding our plans. We need to let everything run for a while, to see how things work best as we get used to them. I am so impressed with how our children are learning the new systems. In lots of ways, children are used to this in September, as they start their new classrooms, new fire exits, which toilets to use, coat pegs, etc.... so actually, it's been good timing to start back in September.

Thank you for all your support with our new systems.

For now, it would be most helpful if

- You arrive promptly, not too early or too late, at the time allocated to your child. This should help with not congregating too much around our entrances and exits. As we all get used to the times, what time you need to leave home to arrive, I'm sure this will all become much easier.
- We have put in one-way systems in some areas and lots of staggered times to create a flow of people in the same direction. You do need to pass people, please wait and allow for social distancing – thank you.
- Whilst it is so nice to see each other, to chat and catch up, we do ask that you do socially distance at these times and move along promptly. Advice given to schools included encouraging parents to move along, so thank you for your help with this.
- Please can only one parent bring or collect each child or siblings. This will reduce the number of adults.
- ALL children must be collected by an adult or a responsible older brother or sister.

Key information from DFE to pass to Parents

In order for our community to protect itself, we need everyone fully engaged with all our guidance.

COVID Symptoms

Should any pupil or someone in their household or someone you have asked to collect your child display symptoms, **they should not enter the school grounds.**

These symptoms are

- a high temperature 37.8 or over
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Testing

- We strongly advise you to take a test if you have symptoms. To get a test, go to
- <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>

Please inform us immediately about the results of any tests.

If anyone in your household develops symptoms, then everyone else must take protective measures - see current guidance for households

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

- If someone tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- If someone tests positive, they should follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

NHS Track and Trace Process

All families need to be ready and willing to take part in the NHS Track and Trace process – this will support everyone in keeping safe and allow the relevant information to be available so PHE can make effective decisions.

- Booking tests – see above
- Providing information about recent contacts, etc.
- Self-isolating if necessary

Any Absence

- Please inform the school of any reason for absence – we require as much information as possible now, whether your child is displaying COVID symptoms or not, so please be aware that the admin staff may ask you for additional information. We wish to reduce the spread of any germs to reduce all absence after such a long period of lockdown. For example, 48 hours after any sickness and diarrhoea is essential.

Parents' Evenings

We are doing parents' evenings earlier for this term so you have a chance to catch up with your child's class teacher sooner, after such a long break from regular schooling. So our dates are

- Most Infants – Wednesday 30th September and Wednesday 7th October
 - Blueberries - Wednesday 30th September and Thursday 8th October
 - Orange Class – Thursday 1st October and Wednesday 7th October
- Most Juniors – Tuesday 29th September and Tuesday 6th October
 - Peregrine Falcons – Tuesday 29th September and Thursday 8th October

This year, parents' evening will be on Zoom as we can't bring parents into school at the moment. We will send home our usual appointment request forms shortly.

Other Important Reminders	
No nut school	Please remember not to include any nut products in your child's packed lunch as we are a no nut school. This is due to the very extreme allergic reaction that some children may experience if they come into contact with nuts – thank you for helping to keep our children safe.
Other Allergies	Please remember other allergies we have in school – broad beans/fava beans and anything containing menthol . Please do not send your child in wearing henna .
Water Bottles for All	As we can't use our water fountains at the moment, this is particularly important. A named sports water bottle is best.

First Aid notes	Please check your child's book bag daily – we send home notes for bumped heads, nose bleeds or other incident such as wasp stings. We would always call you if we felt it needed your immediate attention.
Bring a coat every day	As our weather is so unpredictable, please do now send in your child with a coat every day. Where we are eating outside, it's good for them to sit on too!
PE kits to be worn on PE days	Please see the Stop Press that went out on Wednesday about every child wearing their PE kit on their PE days – this will reduce the amount of time children are in corridors and/or looking for lost pieces of kit/uniform. It will also reduce the close contact needed to support our younger children in changing.
Breakfast and After School Clubs	Both clubs start back next week – we have met with Stephanie and agreed some new systems to ensure everything is safe for our children. Whilst less parents seem to need or want this facility at the moment, we know for some parents this is an important part of your child care arrangements.
No mobile phone	No child should bring a mobile phone into school, or any other electronic devices. This includes any kind of smart watch that can go on the internet or take photos.
Medicines in school	If your child requires any long term medication (an asthma inhaler or an epipen/jext pen to be kept in school), please can you bring into the school office as soon as possible . Please check the dates to ensure they are still usable. If your child requires any short term medication this can be given to your child at lunchtime (provided paperwork from the office has been completed) and kept in the fridge (if required) at school whilst needed. We would remind parents that we can only administer medication that has been prescribed by the doctor, not over the counter medicines, such as Calpol or Piriton.

One more thing that made us smile today – **we started our buddies today with Zoom!** So if you have a year 3 or yr6 child, do ask them all about it. :-)

We all hope you have a wonderful weekend – have a rest and be ready for our first full week!

Best wishes

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

