

Polehampton C. of E. Schools Federation

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Polehampton C. of E. Infant School

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Polehampton
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Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

A Wonderful First Full Week of School!

We would like to say a huge thank you for being so supportive of all the many rules and restrictions we now have in school to keep everyone safe. We can see that everyone is getting used to it now - we do really appreciate your help – thank you!!

We completely realise that there is so much to read at the moment. We are always monitoring and reviewing our procedures so we might need to tell you about changes to improve the systems, as well as passing on information to you from the daily updates from the DFE and Local Authority. We are literally re-inventing the wheel about all aspects of school life – who knew we would ever need to write a whole page about arriving and leaving the school site! And... there is always a lot to say in September so please bear with us!

Contingency Plans for Absence or School Closures due to COVID 19

Schools are being asked to develop contingency plans to support the education of our children should children be absent due to individual family circumstances, local or national lockdown situations. We are busy on those now.

Individual Families Self-isolating

- If your child is well, but isolating due to symptoms in the household
 - **Day one**
 - Both schools – reading a book, write a book review, describe a character
 - National resources - [Oak National Academy](#), [BBC Bitesize](#) - you can search for year group appropriate activities on each platform
 - School resources - [Espresso Purple mash](#)
 - Their homework
 - Independent research about your class topic
 - Infants – reading reflections
 - **Day two onwards**
 - We will endeavour to get some specific work out for the second day – however, there are days when the teachers have meetings or training after school so have no additional time to send personalised work out. If you don't hear from us, see plans for Day one.
- If your child is self-isolating because they have symptoms, please let us know when they are well enough to work and we will begin sending work home.

- If your child is unwell unrelated to COVID symptoms, we will not send work home, as they will be ready to return when they are well again.

Bubble or school, local or national lockdowns

- We would return to the blended offer of work we had last term with added elements.
 - **Video conferencing sessions.** Last week, during our inset days, all our teaching staff received video conferencing training. We now want to do test sessions with the children in the week beginning 21st September, so we can try out our procedures should they needed. Parents, you will need to read the attached information thoroughly and complete the Forms online to show that you agree with the rules, that you will support your child as needed and give your consent to all the elements of our offer. We will not be able to let your child join unless you have given your consent. One Form for each child please.

For these initial test sessions, we will invite half the class to attend at a time. This groups are just for the test sessions. Don't worry if you can't attend – I'm sure we will need to repeat a lot of the technical points in our first few sessions, should we need to do this in the future.

- Blue Class parents – we will do the test sessions for your class a little later this term, as your children are so new to school.
- **Pre-recorded sessions** – in addition, we will pre-record mini-lessons or direct you to quality pre-recorded lesson, explaining particular concepts. These you can watch at the best time, pause and repeat as necessary.

Updates on New Rules	
Any COVID symptoms	Please remember that the whole household must self-isolate if anyone develops symptoms – siblings are not able to come to school until the test confirm a negative result. We are aware of the difficulty some people are having getting a drive through appointment or home testing kit. We have reported this back to the Local Authority. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested
Pavements and areas outside the schools	We've had a couple of phone calls from local residents asking us to keep to one side of the pavements when waiting to enter school – we are watching this closely and think it's going ok, but it's always good to remember to look after our neighbours.
Only one parent for every child	To keep the numbers of people in the playground down, can each child just have one parent collecting or bringing please?
Normal September Reminders	
End of day collection	Please remember to let us know of any changes to collection arrangements for your child(ren). If these arrangements will be for more than 'a one-off' please let us know by email.
Pupil Premium	The Government funds a grant for schools called Pupil Premium. <u>Pupil Premium</u> is money given to school to support the learning of pupils whose parents are in receipt of <u>one</u> of the following benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal credit • Income support • Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance • Income-related Employment and Support Allowance • Child Tax Credit, provided that you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit* and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 • The Guarantee element of the State Pension Credit If you think your child might be eligible, we will need you to enter your DOB and

	<p>National Insurance number on the School Lunch Registration form in order to make a check. We will write to you to inform you of the outcome. If you have not already completed one of the forms, please ask in the Office. If your circumstances change at any point, we can make another check at any time.</p> <p><u>All checks are completely confidential.</u></p>
Pupil Premium Plus	<p>From April 2014, schools in England receive the Pupil Premium Plus for children adopted from care or who left care under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) on or after 30 December 2005. Schools can also claim the pupil premium for children who left care under a Residence Order (RO) on or after 14 October 1991.</p> <p>In order for children to benefit from this additional funding, parents need to declare this information to schools and provide the relevant paperwork.</p> <p>Please do speak to Mrs Castell or Mrs Scott, so we can make the necessary additions to our records. <u>As with all pupil information, this will be done in complete confidence.</u></p>
Junior School – Free School Meals	<p>At the Junior School, all meals must be paid for. If you would like to apply for free school meals, please speak to the Junior School office and they will help you, <u>in the strictest confidence.</u></p>
Medication	<p>If your child requires any long-term medication (an asthma inhaler or an epipen/jextpen 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If your child is unwell and won't be in school, please call or email the school to let us know by 9.00am at the latest - Thank you.</p>
Forms for new children	<p>Please can parents return any outstanding paperwork to the office as soon as possible. We are still awaiting several emergency contact sheets; it is essential that we have this information should we need to contact you.</p> <p>Infant School – we are still waiting to see some birth certificates; please bring those to the school office as soon as possible.</p>
Cool Milk	<p>New infant parents; don't forget to register your child for free school milk up until their 5th birthday.</p> <p>If anyone else would like to register, in either school, please contact the office.</p>

Curriculum Meetings and Parents' Evening - information to be sent next week

This year, we will send out information that you can look at in your own time, as we can't hold our usual parent curriculum meetings in the halls. Teachers are preparing these for you now. Please look at them as it will help inform you about plans for this term, which will be helpful in advance of parents' evenings. Information about how we will arrange that will be sent out next week too.

Open Days for Prospective Parents

This year, we have a new approach due to current restrictions on visitors to school. We are going to pre-record a presentation and tour of the schools – this will be on our website shortly. We will then

hold virtual Q&A sessions which we will ask parents to sign up for. Those dates will be on our website shortly.

If you have any family or friends who might be interested in coming to our school next year, please do let them know how it's working this year and ask them to contact the school so we can have them on our list to send more information to.

Thank you to Infant School PTA – that means lots of current Junior Parents too!

Whilst we can't have parents inside the school at the moment, I thought you might appreciate a little virtual tour of the refurbished areas of the Infant School. So many parents were part of our fund-raising project, originally called "Raise the Roof", supporting our work and contributing to the funds. <https://vimeo.com/455562426>

Please see a newsletter from both schools' PTAs attached to today's newsletter.

Our New Website is Live

Please do keep this new web address for your future reference. Again, if anyone has any photos of children in uniform that you'd be happy for us to use on our website, then do send them in.

We would welcome feedback – did you find what you were looking for? Any suggestions to make it more user-friendly?

<https://www.polehampton.org.uk/>

Twitter Feed @Polehampton

Do follow us on Twitter – we will be asking for updated parent photo permissions soon, as we would like to include more pictures of children now we are back in school.

We hope you all enjoy a sunny weekend,

Best wishes,

Miss Ball, Mrs Scott, Mrs Medcalf, Mrs Castell and the Polehampton Team