

# Polehampton News

---

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It feels like Autumn now, doesn't it? We needed coats & brollies on gate duty for the first time this week! Please do send your child in with a coat every day, as we want to be able to go out for some time every day.

## School Matters affected by COVID-19

### Parents' Evenings

Next week we have our first parents' evenings on Zoom. Just a couple of reminders to keep it all going smoothly

- Please check your child's book bag for appointment times.
- Please arrive in the meeting room a few minutes early – the teacher will admit you when they are ready
- Please use the meeting room ID and password that we sent home for the pupil Zoom sessions.
- If you have a job share class, please check which room you need to attend.
- We will send home some work so you have a chance to see how they are doing in these first few weeks.
- Please keep these books very safe and return them for lessons the next day
- If you need more time to talk, then the teacher will make another time so we don't fall behind for other parents
- Do let us know how it goes and we will reflect too. It's a first for all of us and whilst we are probably all used to Zoom or similar in our personal lives now, it's a new approach for parents' evening given that we can't have everyone in school right now.

### Zoom pupil checks this week

We have been so impressed with our pupils on Zoom this week – seeing your smiling faces after school has been great fun!! Whilst we actually hope we don't need this facility, it's good to know we have it, just in case!

A couple of reminders

- **This is voluntary**, so don't worry if you couldn't make it or can't if we do this regularly. It would be part of an offer we make should we have another lockdown. The home-learning will be available to everyone, not delivered through Zoom – our main aim with this is for a social check in with each other.
- **Please make sure you have the child's name up as you join.** You will need to check this EVERY time. I couldn't get in one session because my name had changed back to "Head" so the teacher wouldn't let me join!! We think a couple of people might have missed the session this week because of that.
- **We need a parent name on the consent form (at least 24hours before your first session)**, so we might contact you if we don't have that – we can't let your child join until we do.
- **Remember the room with be locked so be on time.** I have been jumping in and out of different rooms this week and missed a couple because the teacher had locked it.
- **Children need to be in a shared family room**, not in their bedrooms.
- No fancy backgrounds please.
- **Year 6** – sorry all the codes didn't arrive with you – we will repeat your sessions again (same children at the same times of 4.15pm or 4.45pm) on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

### Please respect each other's space beyond the school gate

Whilst we can see that the playground social distancing is going well, we are receiving reports that the journey to and from the infants/juniors can be busy and not everyone is remembering to keep children beside them and keep space between families.

Let's please help each other to keep safe and be kind, even if we feel some frustrations about how it's going.

### **Teacher/parent communication**

As we have less time to talk at home time these days, we appreciate that parents are emailing teachers more. We will get back to you; our aim is to reply within 48hours – teachers are in class all day with a shorter lunchtime (now) and have meetings most days after school.

### **School Meals**

We have had a couple of questions about when/if we will be starting hot school dinners. Whilst it is my preference to have hot meals on offer, having packed lunches has allowed us to start the term with more straightforward systems in place, easily allowing us to maintain year group bubbles at lunchtimes without too much disruption to the learning space in the classrooms. We said that we would start slowly this term, with our focus being on safely returning every child to school, in their classes, with their teaching staff – as we've said, we are delighted to have our children back in school. We have been really impressed with the variety and quality of the lunches this term.

I understand some schools have started hot meals but I believe they have different a catering company to us. Our offer from Caterlink is currently packed lunches. Next week, however, you will notice that Caterlink are offering a hot option on Thursday, which will give us all a chance to assess how this works. I know they are also looking into ways of easily delivering hot food to us which can be easily distributed into the bubbles. Also, as we said last term, every school's set up is different, with different staffing arrangements, numbers of children, hall sizes, etc...

As with all our current COVID secure practices, we will keep this under review as the term progresses as we would very much like to have hot meals available for every child.

### **Remote Learning Strategy – Please complete this survey**

Should children be off school due to self-isolation or lockdown, the government has made it clear that children must engage in learning at home, whereas last term, it was all optional. As we continue to develop our remote learning strategy, we want to know from parents how much access our children have to technology at home. Please complete this online Form so we can best tailor our provision to our families' circumstances.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LPXXs6Pg00eiarnBIP0I9x3iBddUBYVCpavfI7uQekhUMEdENU1DNUtIWkZEWjFVR1dBOVkyTjNDRi4u>

### **Trips This Year**

We were delighted that our Year Six children were able to do this trip this week– we were all outside so it was possible in these times and so important to support their learning for the Rivers topic. Thank you to the staff for all the additional precautions to ensure we were all safe.

Unfortunately, it is unlikely that we will be doing any other trips for the foreseeable future. However, we are busy researching venues that are now offering online trips, so we might be able to access places that weren't previously available to us. Everyone is being very creative this year!!

### **Individual Photos later this term**

Just so you know, we will be doing our individual photos this term – we know this is such an important keepsake to have of your child's education. We have consulted the companies to review their COVID risk assessments and are happy with their arrangements. Sadly, we won't be able to offer the before school siblings slot we usually have at the Infant School.

### **NHS COVID-19 App**

Information leaflet about the new app is attached to today's newsletter.

### **Useful NHS site to check – is my child too ill for school?**

A handy site for advice on all childhood illnesses within the context of COVID. It should help with any decision making about sending your child to school.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

## OTHER SCHOOL MATTERS

### **Parental Permissions for Photographs – Please complete this survey**

As we have a variety of platforms now, we need to update our parent permissions for photographs. Whilst we do have your previous consents, in light of the changes, we would very much appreciate you completing this new Form. Shortly, we will be taking pupil photos for our new website and including children on our Prospective Parents video, so this information will be really helpful. Thank you  
[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=CSu\\_X5OHeEywH6Zk0moUG3azy8 - K1VOgeoSsA6ZazVUQUQ4SFQyWFILU1ZRQTBQNIIITMTYxU0VQRC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=CSu_X5OHeEywH6Zk0moUG3azy8-K1VOgeoSsA6ZazVUQUQ4SFQyWFILU1ZRQTBQNIIITMTYxU0VQRC4u)

### **Next Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October – School Census Day**

Please note a change in menu.

Pork sausage in a hot dog roll or Vegetarian sausage in a hot dog roll *** Chips *** Vegetable sticks *** Chocolate cake (Fresh fruit will be available for children with allergies)
--

We would encourage as many children to take up this offer for two reasons.

- Part of our Infant school budget is determined by the numbers taking a school meal on Census Day.
- The other reason this year is that it will be useful to see how a hot meal works, so larger numbers will give us a good chance to do that.

### **Changes to our Governing Body**

At our Local Governing Body meeting on Monday evening, our Chair, Caroline Harrison and our Vice-Chair, Sarah Pickard stood down from their positions. Both Caroline and Sarah have served as Governors for many years, leading the Governors in many recent years. The Schools have benefited from their dedicated leadership and their many hours of service. We thank them for their intelligent, good humoured approach to the many challenges faced by schools over the years.

Fortunately, two of our current governors stood for these positions and were elected.

Our new Chair is James Smith - he's been a Polehampton governor for 10years and been chair of our finance committee for many of those.

James had two children go through our school – they are both at Piggott Senior School now.

Anna Lippett is our new Vice-Chair. Anna has been a governor for two years now, and chair of the School and Community committee for the past year.

Anna has two children, who are now both at the Junior School.

We thank them both for volunteering to take on these responsibilities for our schools.

### **Water bottles**

Children should only have water in their water bottles – not squash – Thank you!

### **Flu Vaccines – Nasal Spray**

This year, we have been given the date of 7<sup>th</sup> December for the nasal spray flu vaccines. Given the current situation, we have asked for an earlier date, but have only been put on a waiting list for a new date.

<b>Infant Parents</b>	<b>Junior Parents</b>
<p><b>Fruit and Vegetable Animals</b> We haven't forgotten!! Next Friday, we would love everyone to send in an animal made of fruit or vegetables. We will upload lots of photos to Twitter so you can see the fun!</p> <p><b>Milk bottle tops</b> We are collecting milk bottle tops to make place value maths resources. Please can you keep your blue, red and green bottle tops and pop them in your child's book bag for us to use at school. Thank you!</p>	<p><b>Tucasi Payments</b> Please remember to top up your payments on Tucasi if your child is having school meals at the moment.</p>

### **Junior News - House and Vice-House Captains Elections**

Well done to everyone who stood for these important positions this year. As we mentioned in assembly today, there are lots of other responsibilities to try for if you would like to offer your time to help the school in other ways.

Congratulations to our new House Captains and Vice-Captains – we thank you in advance for the work you will do to this year for our school.

	<b>Captains</b>	<b>Vice Captains</b>
<b>Chiswick</b>	<b>Emma Beards &amp; Charlie Mann</b>	<b>Lauren James &amp; Harry Denham</b>
<b>Loddon</b>	<b>Charlotte Neaves &amp; Ryan Jones</b>	<b>Imogen Platt &amp; Cameron Dawes</b>
<b>Stanlake</b>	<b>Ruth Zalcmán &amp; Sam Fenny</b>	<b>Gabriella Fear-Bettis &amp; Archie Craddock</b>
<b>Penn</b>	<b>Imogen Dinsdale &amp; Dexter Hollidge</b>	<b>Lola Lippett &amp; Ryan Shepherd</b>

### **Staff vacancy**

We are currently advertising for a temporary part-time lunchtime controller at the Junior School and for ad hoc lunchtime staff at both schools.

Please see our website for more information. <https://www.polehampton.org.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=69>

### **ChildNet - Online resources for parents and carers – see leaflet attached**

Childnet have a dedicated area to support parents and carers with information on key online safety topics, advice and activities to share with your child <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

### **Harvest Collections and Celebrations**

We will be celebrating Harvest in school this year, as always. St. Mary's Church Team have sent us a wonderful video to watch in school. We would very much welcome donations to our harvest tables. We have joined with St. Mary's Church to collect for the Wokingham Food Bank.

[See their current needs here.](#)

Have safe and happy weekends, everyone!

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

## Diary Dates

Next week in green

Date	Which school/year group/class?	Event	Times
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Year 6	Zooms checks after school	4.15 or 4.45 –see previous notes
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Junior School	Parents' Evening 1	3.40-6.00pm
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Infant School	Parents' Evening 1	3.40-6.00pm
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Orange Class	Parents' Evening 1	
	Both Schools	Change of menu for School Census	
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Infant School	Bring your Fruit and Vegetable Animals!	
	Both schools	Contributions for our Harvest Table please	
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Junior School	Parents' Evening 2	3.40-6.00pm
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Infant School	Parents' Evening 2	3.40-6.00pm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Blueberries & Peregrine Class	Parents' Evening 2	3.40-6.00pm