

Polehampton News

Friday 2nd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID ISSUES

Parents' Evenings

We have so enjoyed meeting our first group of parents this week. We hope you have found it useful to meet this early in term – it's been good to talk together after being away from school for such a long time.

Thank you to our teachers for taking on this new way of doing things – another new thing for Autumn 2020.

We look forward to seeing everyone else next week. Tips and comments from this week

- You do not need the Zoom app on your device, though you might find it easier. Just go to Zoom.us and click Join a Meeting.
- When you put in the meeting room ID and the password, you will automatically be the waiting room. You should see a notice like this, so you know you are in the right room.

Please wait, the meeting host will let you in soon

Miss Ball's Personal Meeting Room

- The teacher will know you are there and let you in when they can start your meeting. If you arrive a few minutes early, that allows you time to sort out any technical issues
- We do need to keep to times as much as possible – we had a little over-running this week as is the case for face-to-face sessions.

However, as a parent who is waiting online, if you only see the message and can't see the actual people as you normally can, it might feel a little disconcerting to be waiting with no more information. However, if you do see the message above for your class teacher, you are in the right place, so please do continue to wait

- 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

Remote Learning Strategy – Please complete this survey if you haven't had a chance to yet

Thank you to everyone who has completed this survey so far – we'd very much appreciate all other responses so we can best tailor any future home-learning to our children's online circumstances. <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LPXXs6Pg00eiarnBIP0I9x3iBddUBYVCpavfI7uQekhUMEdENU1DNUtIWkZEWjFVR1dBOVkyTjND Ri4u>

OTHER SCHOOL MATTERS



Black History Month

In lessons and in assemblies we will be celebrating Black History Month this October. Quoting British historian, David Olusoga .. “Black History Month gives us a chance to explain to children why their classmates, why the people that they meet on the street, why their country looks the way it does. It’s not just about telling Black children where their ancestors came from, it’s explaining how modern Britain came to be the country that it is today.”

Check his [CBeebies Story time](#), telling the true story of Baroness Floella Benjamin coming to the UK from Trinidad.

I also believe that it’s essential that Black History is included in all our history and across the curriculum. When I was young, even when I was a young teacher, it was hard to find resources to teach that there were Black Tudors or Romans, that lots of Black people have invented amazing things, have been and are ground-breaking scientists, mathematicians, etc... It is important that our whole curriculum reflects the contribution of all people, so children can see themselves reflected in meaningful and successful ways and that we can all appreciate the possibilities and abilities within every one of us.

This sits so well alongside our value this term – **APPRECIATION**.

School Dinners – Thank you!

We had so many children having the school dinner choice – it did have an impact on timings but we got there in the end! We apologise if not every child got their chosen dessert – we don’t think Caterlink had anticipated such high numbers.

It will make such a difference to our infant school budget so we very much appreciate your support!

Parent Code of Conduct

At Polehampton, we want to create a safe, caring learning environment for everyone. We believe everyone sets an example to our children and that no one wants to feel threatened or worried when at school.

Please behave in a polite, respectful manner when on school site and when interacting with anyone in our school community.

For more details, please see our [Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and Visitors](#)

Term Dates for for 2020/21 and 2021/22 - see below

Harvest Festival Donations

Thank you for the kindness you have shown sending in donations to Wokingham Food Bank – it will be collected next week, so if you want to pop anything in on Monday, it won't be too late.

Do take a look at our Twitter feed for a photo of our infant collection.

Parental Permissions for Photographs – Please complete this survey

Thanks to everyone who has completed this Form. We do want to get busy with Tweeting, adding photos to our website and creating more videos to share with the wider community, so this information is essential so we know who we can include. Whilst we do have your previous consents, in light of the changes, we would very much appreciate you completing this new Form. Thank you

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=CSu_X5OHeEywH6Zk0moUG3azy8-K1VOgeoSsA6ZazVUQUQ4SFQyWFILU1ZRQTBQNIITMTYxU0VQRC4u

Walk to School Week - 5th-9th October

The Polehampton Schools are excited to be embarking on Walk to School week again from the week commencing 5th October!

We encourage you to walk to school with your children, and discuss how this is for helping us keep fit to keep fit and healthy, as well as reducing our carbon footprint with our fuel emissions!

Each class will have a Walk to School week sticker chart, where children who have walked will receive a sticker for it to track those who have walked. The winning class will be rewarded by receiving a non-uniform day!

We appreciate that some families live too far away to be able to walk to school, so if you would like to, we suggest driving most of the way and parking up around the corner so children can walk the last part of their journey.

We hope you enjoy the Walk to School week!

Best Wishes/Happy Walking,

Miss Trail, Yr4 teacher & Eco Counsel leader

Wokingham's travel and transport team would love it if parents recorded their journeys to school by this QR code.



Infant Parents

Fruit and Vegetable Animals

We have LOVED looking at everyone's fruit and vegetable animals today. Do take a look at our Twitter feed for super photos.

Junior Parents

Junior School Keep Active Challenge

I have really enjoyed hearing from children about all the walks (and runs) they have been doing after school and at the weekends. Inspired by their enthusiasm, we thought we could collate all their efforts and set ourselves a goal to collectively walk/jog/run 1000km before Christmas! If we can complete it, this is the equivalent of going all the way from school to John O'Groats in Scotland!

For the next few weeks, at weekends and in the evenings, we are asking children to record how far they have walked or run and to send in the distance they covered to school. Evidence of this could be photos of the children out and about, Strava-style maps or simply the word of the parent. Each week, we will add up the total number of kilometres that all the children have travelled to keep a running tally. A display at school will show children how far we have travelled and we would love to be able to illustrate it with photos of our active pupils.

This is entirely voluntary - it can be done daily, weekly, sporadically or never! We can't wait to see how they get on!

Mrs Newman, Year 3 teacher

Secondary Schools – Virtual Open Days and sessions to sign up to

The Piggott Senior School

The Piggott School's virtual open day went live on Wednesday! Do take a look at it here. <https://www.piggottschool.org/page/?title=Welcome+to+our+Virtual+Open+Evening&pid=53>
They are having two interactive webinars next week on Wednesday and Thursday which parents can sign up to on the web page.

Leighton Park School

Virtual tour <https://www.leightonpark.com/virtual-open-morning/>
A Virtual Open Evening taking place on Zoom on Thursday 15th October from 6.30pm which families from Polehampton CE Junior School can sign up for at www.leightonpark.com/visitus/.

Diary Dates – Autumn Term 2020

- Next week in green
- New or amended dates in purple

Date	Which school/year group/class?	Event	Times
Monday 5 th Oct	Both schools	Any final contributions for our Harvest Table – thank you!	

		Walk to school week – see above	
Tuesday 6 th Oct	Junior School	Parents' Evening 2	3.40-6.00pm
Wednesday 7 th Oct	Infant School	Parents' Evening 2	3.40-6.00pm
Thursday 8 th Oct	Blueberries & Peregrine Class	Parents' Evening 2	3.40-6.00pm
Monday 19 th Oct	Junior School	Individual and sibling (within the school) photos	
Friday 23 rd Oct	Both schools	School closed for staff training	
Saturday 31 st Oct	Year 6	Closing date for admissions for secondary schools starting Sept 2021	
26th - 30th October - Half term – school closed			
Monday 2 nd Nov	Infant School	Individual and sibling (within the school) photos	
Monday 7 th Dec	Both schools	Flu immunisations – more info to follow	
Friday 18 th Dec	Both Schools	Last day of term	
21st Dec 2020 – 1st Jan 2021- School Closed for the Christmas Holidays			
Monday 4 th Jan	Both schools	Schools closed for staff training	
Tuesday 5 th Jan	Both Schools	Term starts for pupils	

Term Dates 2020/21

Autumn Term 2020

School open to pupils - Thurs 3rd Sep to Fri 18th Dec 2020

- Inset days - Tuesday 1st & Wed 2nd Sept
- Inset day – Fri 23rd October
- Half term – w/c Monday 26th October

Spring Term 2021

School open to pupils - Tues 5th January to Thurs 1st April 2021

- Inset day Monday 4th Jan
- Inset day – Fri 12th February
- Half term - w/c Monday 15th February

Summer Term 2021

School open to pupils - Monday 19th April to Wed 21st July 2021

- Half term - w/c Monday 31st May

Term Dates 2021/22

Autumn 2021

School opens to pupils - Thursday 2nd September- Friday 17th December

- Inset day 1 – Wednesday 1st September
- Inset day 2 – Friday 22nd October
- Half term – Monday 25th – Friday 29th October
- Inset day 3 – Monday 1st November

Spring 2022

School opens to pupils - Wednesday 5th January- Friday 8th April

- Inset day 4 – Tuesday 4th January 2022
- Inset day 5 – Friday 18th February
- Half term – Monday 21st – Friday 25th February

Summer 2022

School opens to pupils - Monday 25th April - Thursday 21st July

- Half term – Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June