

# Polehampton News

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Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## COVID MATTERS

### **Assemblies on our Website**

At this time, when children might be off school due to COVID related reasons, we will publish a weekly pre-recorded assembly for them to enjoy, so they continue to feel part of school life. Assemblies are always a focus for discussion so do watch along with your child so you can chat afterwards; if you can't watch along, ask them to summarise their main thoughts about the ideas explored to you later.

- The assembly section of our website is under the heading "Children".

### **Parents' Evenings this term – how was it for you?**

Thank you for coming along to our parents' evenings over the past two weeks. If we haven't managed to speak to you yet, please do contact your child's class teacher to make a time. We have a 2 minute [parent feedback Form](#), so we can gather your thoughts about how it went – we'd very much appreciate your feedback.

### **A Quick Guide for Parents – COVID Absence**

Wokingham have created their own guide for parents, looking at different health scenarios and what you should do – see attached.

## OTHER SCHOOL MATTERS

### **Walk to School Week**

We have been very impressed with all our walking children this week – more on who's won the non-uniform day next week!

### **Top Tips to support your child with Reading at Home**

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning. This handy leaflet by the Education Endowment Foundation gives 7 top tips for parents – they wrote it to support families during lockdown, but actually it's full of good advice for every day and in case we have another similar situation.

- The reading section of our website is under the heading "Key Information", then "Curriculum"

### **Milk Bottle Tops**

Thank you for all the bottle tops we've received so far – we'd love to have more if you are still collecting!



### Photo Permissions

Thank you so much for your speedy response completing the photo permissions – we now have nearly every child's permissions completed.

We hope to have some lovely photos from the website photographer session on Wednesday – weren't we lucky with the weather that day? We will let you know when these photos appear – apparently, it will take a couple of weeks to finalise that process. Not everyone will be featured but we have a range of platforms now, so I'm sure you will spot your child at some point soon!

### Church Team News



### **This Little Light – Lantern Night - Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October, St Nicholas Church, Hurst: 5-6.30pm**

This year, more than any other, the church team want to offer families an opportunity to celebrate light, not darkness on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Whilst we can't host a Light Party, we're inviting you to visit St Nicholas church to collect a lantern to decorate at home. Inside your kit you'll also find some tasty treats! You'll be able to pop-up your battery-powered lantern straight away and test it out on a short walk through the church yard on your way home. Along the way there will be lights, messages and activities to enjoy together as a family. To book your lantern kit, please visit: <https://lantern-night.eventbrite.co.uk>.

### Infant School News

#### Harvest Celebration

Our years 1&2 children had a sunny Harvest celebration outside today. Sitting in our year group bubbles, we enjoyed listening to our Yr 1s perform the Little Red Hen (do as them to show you at home!) and our Yr2s recited a lovely Harvest acrostic poems written by each class.

### **First Zoom Assembly**

Do ask your child about our first Infant School Zoom assembly – it was very exciting to be able to wave at each other today!

### **Junior School News**

Our **Eco-Warriors** have been elected! Well done to these children and to everyone who stood for these important positions.

- Flamingo - Art Shannon
- Eagle - George Heywood
- Owls - Toby Whitehead
- Pelican - Edward Gates
- Penguin - Ryan Smith
- Toucan - Laurie John
- Kingfisher - Niamh Lye
- Peregrine - Noah James

### **Welcome to Miss Robinson**

We are delighted to welcome Miss E. Robinson, earlier than expected, to Polehampton Juniors. Miss Robinson is an experienced teacher who has joined our team for two days a week. She will be working with groups of children, under the direction of class teachers, to support learning. Not all children will be working with her but she will be a new face around the school and some of your children will be talking about her.

We've added this to our COVID risk assessment and made the relevant adjustments.

### **PTA NEWS**

The Junior School PTA held their AGM last week and have appointed a new committee for the Junior School.

- Chair – Josie Fear
- Vice Chair – Alyson Jones
- treasurer – Stephen Dearing
- Secretary – Cat Hignell
- Committee/Class reps – Sue Glover & Katie Gates

The Infants PTA also welcomes Danielle Barnett as its new Secretary.

We are working on lots of exciting events for both children and parents, obviously these will be a bit different to our usual fundraisers but hopefully no less fun! Watch this space for more info.

**Voluntary Contributions** – Letters have gone home today so please check book bags. *Please note there are separate letters for Infants and Juniors as we use different accounts for each.* The Voluntary contributions we receive are hugely beneficial to the school particularly given the recent years of funding cuts. They are spent on a wide range of things that benefit all the children. We do appreciate, however, that this is a challenging time for many families so please do not feel under pressure to give beyond your means.

**Raffle Prizes** – Do you anyone you know work for a generous Company? We are looking for a fab top prize for our Xmas raffle, a couple of years ago we had an Xbox one which really boosted ticket sales! Please do ask at work if you are able, anything would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you!  
PTA Committees for Infants and Juniors

Have restful, safe weekends, everyone,

Miss Ball, Mrs Scott, Mrs Medcalf and Mrs Castell