

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have completed our first half term of the school year! It has been a delight to come to school every day, to see your wonderful children in class, learning, playing and enjoying being with their friends and staff teams. We hope you all have a safe and happy half term – see you on Monday 2nd November!

Message from our Chair of Governors

To our Polehampton Community,

A short note to pass my thanks to you all, on behalf of the governing body, for your good spirit and collaboration across this first half term of the school year. It has been great to see our children return to school and to be given back some much-needed normality and routine. Sincere thanks and appreciation must go to all of the staff at Polehampton for making this possible and for tackling the job in hand with care and enthusiasm, despite the ever-changing restrictions that COVID brings. I realise that this has been a strange and sometimes difficult time for staff, parents and children alike so it is great to see that together you have all been able to make it happen!

On behalf of the governing body, I wish you all a restful half term break!

Kind regards

James Smith, Chair of Governors

Reading books and School books – a half term check

If you have any good quality children's books that you no longer require, then please do think about us! We particularly need first chapter books for our developing younger readers.

We did mention last week about having a hunt for school books at home. Maybe this could be part of a half term tidy up? Sadly, this week we have found some Polehampton reading books in local charity shops! Can you please double check before handing books on to friends/family/charity shops, in case they belong to school because we need every one. Please don't worry about how long you've had them at home – we will just be pleased to see them back! :-)

Remote Learning for home – absence due to self-isolating/bubble/partial/full closure

For full details of our remote learning plans, please see our website for the Remote Learning Policy. Please be aware that parents do need to support children with this learning at home. During the previous lockdown, remote learning was optional; now the Government now says we need all children to access and complete work at home so they don't have gaps in their learning.

How will children access their learning?

- Our online platforms where work will be set by teachers
 - Infants – school website and Purple Mash
 - Juniors – Google Classroom
- Hard copies to families who have no printers at home. Parents need to let us know, through the [parent survey](#) or by calling us, if they need hard copies.

How & when will work be available?

Infants

- A weekly timetable & lessons will be available on our website ready for Monday morning – go to
 - Children tab, Home learning and remote learning, Year group

Juniors

- A weekly overview will be uploaded to Google Classroom ready for Monday morning. Work will then be available each day to complete.

Both Schools - should we have a bubble/partial/full closure

- We would start daily Zoom check ins (twice weekly for Blue Class) from the second day of closure. These sessions are highly recommended. More information about exact times to follow.
- Pre-recorded lessons will include Polehampton teachers.

Need help with using our online platforms?

Teachers in each school will record some “how to do” videos and we will share those with you next half term. We could then offer a Q&A session for each school if parents would like further support – do let us know.

Any Foreign Holidays this half term or future holidays?

Can I remind everyone, if you are going abroad this half term or any future holiday when there are travel restrictions in place for certain countries, please do check the guidance and follow all quarantining rules. If your child needs to be absent from school, please let us know the exact dates of travel, where you have been and when you expect your child to return to school. Your child would then need to do the remote learning work as outlined above.

[The Piggott School – Year 7s settling in video](#)

I loved seeing so many of our Polehampton pupils looking happy and settled in their new school. They seem to be thriving and enjoying the next stage of their learning journey. Wonderful to watch!

Infant School

Infant School Councillors

Well done to these children for standing for, and being elected to, this important role. Well done to everyone who put themselves forwards.

- Bluebells - James G
- Blueberries - Erinn L
- Green - Poppy M
- Orange - Eva S
- Purple - George S
- Yellow- Freya R.E.

Blue class – we will be running your Zoom check sessions after half term -Tuesday 12th November after school. We will give the exact details after half term.

We don't have everyone's Parent Agreement yet – please do complete [this form](#) if you would like your child to attend.

Junior News

Library installation

We are so super excited that we will be installing our new Junior School library over the half term holiday. It is being fully funded by the PTA - we can't thank you enough!

Year 6 Parents – PLEASE don't miss your deadline of Saturday 31st October (which is in half term) to complete your secondary school applications!

PTA News

CHRISTMAS CARDS:

This year all orders need to be made **ONLINE** please. The form explains exactly what needs to be done (there is even a QR code which will take you directly to your child's design in the online shop). Couldn't be easier:-)

Please do check the spelling of your child's name...the company have tried hard to record names and classes correctly but sometimes mistakes/typos do happen. IF YOU DO NOT CORRECT ANY MISTAKES YOUR ORDER WILL BE PRINTED AS PER THE BOX ON THE TOP RIGHT OF YOUR ORDER FORM.

As well as cards, you will also have the option to buy **sticky labels, mugs and thank you cards**. Look out for the **Value Pack** which includes a mix of cards and labels.

There is also an option to buy a personalised Santa Sack which is a lovely idea for an extra Christmas gift. Please do have a look!

****PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ORDERS FOR *INFANTS* MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE BY 28TH OCTOBER.****
*****Juniors* date is Monday 2nd November****

The PTA Teams

Attachments today

- Hot dinner menu
- School Nursing Newsletter
- Poppy Appeal

Church Team News

This Little Light – Lantern Night - Saturday 31st 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 31st 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>.

Diary Dates – Autumn Term 2020

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

Date	Which school/year group/class?	Event	Times
Friday 23 rd Oct	Both schools	School closed for staff training	

Saturday 31st Oct	Year 6	Closing date for admissions for secondary schools starting Sept 2021	
26th - 30th October - Half term – school closed			
Monday 2nd Nov	Infant School	Individual and sibling (within the school) photos	Morning
Tues 10th Nov	Infant School – blue class only	Zoom test sessions	Between 4.15-5.00pm - more details after the holidays
Monday 7th Dec	Both schools	Flu immunisations –see email for consent form	
Friday 18th Dec	Both Schools	Last day of term	
21st Dec 2020 – 1st Jan 2021- School Closed for the Christmas Holidays			
Monday 4th Jan	Both schools	Schools closed for staff training	
Tuesday 5th Jan	Both schools	First day of the Spring Term	

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

