

Junior Bulletin



Thank you for your continued support this term. We are absolutely loving having the children back and regaining some sense of normality! Thank you for also being patient with gate openings as we get used to new times and having to manage while Mr Wickens is off.

We have spent lots of time focussing on what we are grateful for in our assemblies, as well as learning about some of the key skills we get noticed and recognised for showing/or working hard to develop, in school. We share this with the children in each celebration assembly:



If you don't already, please have a look for us on Twitter where you'll see lots of the lovely things the children get up to here at school!



Reading

Please keep reading with your children and *listening to them read!* Even when you have a child who will willingly (and perhaps less-willingly) read alone, please encourage them to spend time talking to you about their book. We see reading as being as important as brushing teeth (apologies to any dentists reading this) – we know the feeling that we get when we've read a book we love; desperate to talk to anyone who will listen!

Teddies and Toys

Just a polite reminder to double check that your child(ren) isn't bringing in any toys or teddies in their bag (unless this has been agreed with their class teacher).



Gates

As was mentioned in a newsletter on 17th September; we are looking to ease congestion at the Loddon Hall gate as soon as we can. For now, please continue pausing and trying to maintain a safe distance, where possible.

Spellings

Everyone has worked exceptionally hard to get their heads around our new spelling format; and there's a unanimous feeling among staff that is already making a difference.

Spelling is such a marmite skill but we feel this new scheme is perfectly matched to the variety of spelling abilities we have in school.

Cross Country

Cross country resumes this month and the buzz of excitement is tangible! Mrs Newman has had keen runners out on the field practising and we all feel a little surreal just talking about it - we are so happy to see this back in the diary. We may not all love running at Polehampton but we all love getting a new PB!

Volunteers

We would love any volunteer readers in school. Please get in touch with the school office who will liaise with year group teams and send more details about DBS checks and any further information needed.

We thought you might appreciate a little glossary of the terms you hear your child(ren) say when they so eagerly answer your questions about how their day was!

PJS Glossary

Jane or 'Mrs C'

This is 'Jane Considine' who developed the writing scheme we follow, 'The Write Stuff'. This will relate to English lessons.

VIPERS

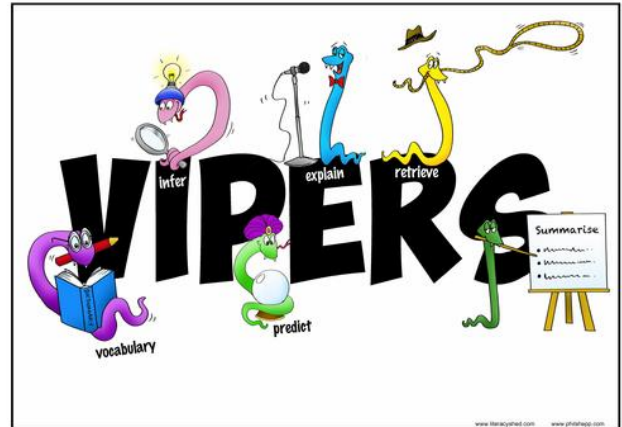
This is how we teach reading and is a way of structuring reading lessons.

Quiet Zone

This is an area of the playground for children to get away from the 'hustle and bustle', where they can enjoy some peace and a selection of books.

Daily Run

This is nothing to do with cross country but a chance for children to develop their personal achievements, burn off some excess energy and get in some regular exercise!



We have been working hard to unlearn and relearn a lot about race and what we understood about equality. The racial equity work we have done at Polehampton is a significant journey of unlearning for many but a great book we've recently read is:

Wish We Knew What to Say: Talking with Children About Race by Dr. Pragya Agarwal

If you are unable to buy/loan this for yourself but would be interested in reading it, please contact the school. Or, if you would like any other book recommendations, please get in touch!



Quick clarification: Remote learning is only available for those isolating for COVID related issues. We are unable to give out work for any other absence.

We look forward to seeing you more as the year goes on!



Mrs Castell and Mrs Medcalf

P.S. We won't always post photos but it occurred to us that you may not know who we are!