

Polehampton News



Friday 24th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another busy week in school with more and more of our normal school events and experiences coming back!



Our new logo – Let your Light Shine!

We have a new Polehampton logo! This is the combination of many, many children's wonderful designs. You'll see a slightly revamped Infant carriage, the Junior school "P" and LOTS of beautiful light. We are not intending to change our uniform or other kit – we just wanted a shared logo to represent our Polehampton vision of "Let your Light Shine" that both schools could enjoy.

"Shining Light Ambassadors"

As part of our curriculum work, we have chosen inspirational individuals to be our 'Shining Light Ambassadors' for each subject. Over the coming weeks, the children will be introduced to each subject's ambassador through class assemblies, and the PowerPoints used will be attached to newsletters and available on our website so that you can explore further with your children at home. This week and next, the spotlight is on reading, and our ambassador is author and illustrator Cressida Cowell. She says "*Books fire your imagination and your creativity and take you travelling through time and space and into hearts and minds of other people*".

[Powerpoint – Cressida Cowell](#)



Pupil Voice!

In both our schools, we have pupil groups who work with their class and the staff to make our schools even better. Children have to stand for election if they would like to have a particular responsibility. Here are some of the election results we have this week.

School Councillors - Infants

Blueberries	Florence
Bluebells	Elijah
Green	Tabby
Orange	Etta
Yellow	William
Purple	Mia

Planet Protectors - Infants

We have also voted in our new Planet Protector ambassadors. The children will meet regularly to discuss eco-friendly and environmental issues within school, which prepares children to live their future lives with consideration for global issues. Our Planet Protectors will assist in classrooms ensuring that taps, lights and Interactive Whiteboards are turned off when they are not being used.

Blueberries	Ella
Bluebells	Laurie
Green	Lucas
Orange	Theo
Yellow	Martha
Purple	Riley

Year 2 Value Leaders - Infants

This year at the Infants we have chosen 12 children to become our first ever 'Value Leaders'. These leaders have the very special job of promoting our six new values in all aspects of school life, whether this be in assembly, the classroom, the playground or at lunchtime. We can't wait to see you shine!

	Yellow Class	Purple Class
Gratitude	Mario	Esme
Friendship	Sienna	George

Perseverance	Cloelia	Freddie
Forgiveness	Ryland	Ada
Honesty	Delaney	Rose
Compassion	Ella-Mai	Nathan

House Captains and Vice-Captain - Juniors

We have been so impressed with every child who stood for election, who wrote a manifesto and spoke in front of their house - you were all very impressive! We appreciate you wanting to make our school even better - thank you and well done to everyone!

You might notice more than one name in a box – we had a couple of ties this year, so we can have more than one when that happens.

We will get busy electing our other positions next week.

	Captains	Vice-Captains
Loddon	Heather & Thomas	Imogen, Chloe & Edward
Penn	Beau & Amber	Jack & Amelie
Stanlake	Isabelle & Sam	Mia, Kaiya, Esme & Oliver
Chiswick	Rory & Lizzie	Jake & Eva

Events this week



Climate Change Assembly

We were very lucky to have a special visitor in both schools for assembly yesterday. **Bethany Cook** is a member of the Youth Christian Climate Network. The YCCN have been organising a relay walk across the country to draw attention to their goals for the COP26 conference happening in November in Glasgow.

Bethany talked to use the challenges our world is facing due to climate change and gave us some great suggestions for how we can make a positive difference in our own lives and in school. I think she has inspired us – we can't wait for our eco-warriors and planet protectors to get busy in school!

Open Morning For Prospective Parents

Well done to 10 of our Yr2 children for helping to show our visitors around the Infant School today. You are nearly all only 6 years old, but you were so impressive, talking with confidence about our school and answering all their questions. We felt very proud! A big thanks to Nancy, Nathan, Rowan, Lily, Lara, Maya, Lewis, Arlo, Harry and Marnie.



Social Media – communication with school

A few years ago, all Wokingham schools wrote this communication for our parents – [The Challenge of Social Media and Schools](#). It is on our website and given to parents as they join our schools. We would like everyone to take a little time to re-read it now.

As it says, we very much welcome communication with our families. We hope parents approach school with any concerns and avoid chat online, for example in chat groups, such as WhatsApp.



[Childnet – Let's Talk about Life Online](#)

As a parent or carer, the best tool to support your child in leading a safe and positive life online is open conversation. The attached leaflet includes practical advice and conversation starters to help you discuss the online world with your child.

[Ofsted Parent View](#)

As we are very due for our Ofsted inspections, it would be very helpful if parents are able to complete the Ofsted Parent View in readiness. As we said last week, we will only have one day's notice, so it makes sense to get ahead on this parent questionnaire, for parents to express their views in advance. If you have children in each school, please do one for each as we have separate inspections. Please follow the link above – thank you for your support with this.

Volunteers - Can you help us in school?

We are able to have you back! We would very much welcome parents to support children regular reading or with other activities from time to time.

As volunteers, you will need to carry out several background checks before you can start. Even if you were a volunteer before, some checks will have run out (for example, DBS checks), so will need re-doing. If you have time to be a regular helper in school, please contact your child's school office and we can get that process going.

Prospective Parents Open Mornings

We are able to host open mornings again now. Please do pass these dates and times to anyone you know who has a child who will be starting school next year. We would love to show them around our school. Places need to be booked as we are limiting numbers more this year. More dates can be added if we fill up.

- Wednesday 6th October - - 9.15am Infants (11am Juniors, if you would like to visit there too).
- Friday 12th November - 9.15am Infants (11am Juniors, if you would like to visit there too).

For those unable to attend, please see the [Prospective Parents page](#) on our website for a welcome video.

Infant News

Year 2 are starting their Great Fire of London topic and need cereal boxes to make into Tudor houses. **Please would you send in a cereal packet with your child this week.** (Reminder no nutty cereal boxes please). Thank you.

Polite reminder- Please only send water in your child's water bottle, and not squash. Thank you

Junior News

We have a plea!

We would be extremely grateful for **any donations of comics, 'Annuals' or Guinness World Record books** - to go in our playground Quiet Zone. Children version only please. Thank you in advance.



PTA News

Call for Books

The PTA will be running a book stall at the Twyford Fun Run on Sunday 10th October. If you have any books (childrens or adults) that you are looking to rehome we would love to have them for the stall.

Books can be dropped off at Reception or email polehamptonpta@gmail.com to arrange to drop off to an address.

Please also do visit us on the day! We will have a reading corner and the wonderful yellow

box from Let Them Eat Books  

For more information on the Fun Run please go to <https://twyfordtogether.org/upcoming-events/twyfordtogether-charity-5k-and-fun-run/>



[Twyford Together Charity 5K and Fun Run - Twyford Together](https://twyfordtogether.org/upcoming-events/twyfordtogether-charity-5k-and-fun-run/)

The Twyford Together Charity 5k and Fun Run is one of the village's best-loved, annual events. It's a chance to get active for a good cause, run with family and neighbours and perhaps be crowned 'Fastest Street in Twyford'... the ultimate accolade!

twyfordtogether.org

MATCH FUNDING

Numerous companies now offer match funding schemes where they will donate money to match fundraising efforts for your causes. Please could we ask all parents to investigate whether their company offers this? It is one of our main sources of income particularly when we are unable to do lots of our usual fundraising.

Three, Microsoft and Vodafone and are all local employers that offer this.

If you would like some help navigating your application or to find out more details please email polehamptonpta@gmail.com

Hare Hatch Garden Centre

Hare Hatch Sheeplands are kindly offering a cash back scheme whereby a % of all purchases made by Polehampton parents is donated back to the PTA. Please ask about the scheme next time you are shopping there. It is free to join and supports the school and a local business at the same time!

Thank you!

Keeping it Green

Twyford Together is 'keeping it green' at this year's [Charity 5K and Fun Run](https://twyfordtogether.org/upcoming-events/twyfordtogether-charity-5k-and-fun-run/) and would love you to get involved. There's the option of 'dedicating a tree' or receiving a medal, there will be a Terracycle drop-off point for recycling any old pens (just no crayons or pencils please!) and Tash will be there with Martha the Van aka [The Refill Hub](https://www.refillhub.co.uk/), so bring some containers to stock up at this wonderful mobile refill shop. Plus, [My Journey Wokingham](https://www.myjourneywokingham.co.uk/) are bringing their awesome smoothie-making bike. To enter and for details of all the stalls and prizes, visit the [Twyford Together website](https://twyfordtogether.org/).

Attachments

- [“Shining Light Ambassadors” - reading](#)
- [Let’s Talk about Life Online](#)
- COVID vaccination information for parents of children 12-15
- [New choirs in Twyford](#) Two new choirs for children in Years 2-9 are being set up in Twyford.

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend,

Best wishes,

Miss Ball, Mrs Scott, Medcalf and Mrs Castell

Diary dates

Date	Event	Place and time
Tuesday 5 th October	Blue Parents’ curriculum meeting	9.10am - school hall
Wednesday 6 th October	Prospective parents’ Open Morning*	9.15am - infants 11.00am - juniors
Thursday 7 th October	School census day – fish & chips menu	Lunchtime
Friday 22 nd October	Schools closed for staff inset	
Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th October	Schools closed for half term	
Monday 1 st November	Schools closed for staff inset	
Friday 12 th November	Prospective parents’ Open Morning*	9.15am - infants 11.00am - juniors
Friday 17 th December	Last day of term	School closes at Infants Juniors

Term Dates 21/22

Holidays in term time are not authorised.

Autumn 2021

- Inset day 1 – Wednesday 1st September
- School opens to pupils – Thursday 2nd September
- Inset day 2 – Friday 22nd October
- Half term – Monday 25th – Friday 29th October
- Inset day 3 – Monday 1st November
- Last day of term – Friday 17th December

Spring 2022

- Inset day 4 – Tuesday 4th January 2022

- School opens to pupils – Wednesday 5th January
- Inset day 5 – Friday 18th February
- Half term – Monday 21st – Friday 25th February
- Last day of term – Friday 8th April

Summer 2022

- School opens to pupils – Monday 25th April
- Half term – Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June
- Last day of the school year – Wednesday 20th July

Term Dates 22/23

Autumn 2022

- Inset day 1 & 2 – Friday 2nd & Monday 5th September
- School opens to pupils – Tuesday 6th September
- Inset day 3 – Friday 21st October
- Half term – Monday 24th – Friday 28th October
- Last day of term – Tuesday 20th December

Spring 2023

- Inset day 4 – Wednesday 4th January 2023
- School opens to pupils – Thursday 5th January
- Inset day 5 – Friday 10th February
- Half term – Monday 13th – Friday 17th February
- Last day of term – Friday 31st March

Summer 2023

- School opens to pupils – Monday 17th April
- Half term – Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June
- Last day of the school year – Friday 21st July