

Polehampton News

Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

National Lockdown

As we start this new national lockdown, we are very aware that for so many people, celebrations, sad times and everyday moments will no longer be shared with our nearest and our dearest again. Please know you are all in our thoughts and prayers as we start this new phase. For those in our community about to celebrate Diwali next week, we know this is an important family time for you - we send you all our best wishes.

Thank you to those parents who are able to wear masks wearing those now. Whilst it is another change, I hope that yesterday, we just felt a real joy at being open for every child!

I'm sure our Polehampton spirit will keep us going – we will love having your children with us even more as we share their learning adventure together at this time.

We are still keen to make this half term full of excitement as we usually do in the run up to Christmas.

We are creating plans which we will share with you shortly to describe this year's version of Polehampton fun!!

Remote learning – if your child needs to be off school due to COVID related reasons, see the website for the remote learning policy and last week's newsletter for the summary information. We do expect children to access this learning if they are well and able to work, so do please take a read if/when this is relevant to you.

Local Support for Families

There might be lots of reasons why people are finding times tough right now. We are referring agents for two local family support groups – see below. Please call or email either school and ask to speak to a senior member of staff if you would like to explore possible support from either charities – we will speak to you confidentially.

- [First Days Children's Charity](#)

This is a super local charity that can supply families with practical help – items such as good quality second hand buggies/clothes are available.

- [Wokingham Food Bank](#)

Wokingham Food Bank are one of the local organisations that are there to help. You need to live in the Wokingham Borough and be referred by an agency – we can help you with that.

Permissions for Christmas Recordings

Thanks to parents who have now completed their photo/video recording permissions. Please can any outstanding forms be completed as soon as possible. [Parent Photo Consent Form](#)

Hot meals going well!

We are delighted to be offering hot meals again this week – it's gone very well, thank to our very quick-to-adapt staff!! We have a temporary cook at the Junior School, who covers at different schools. This week, she mentioned how polite our children are – how lovely to hear feedback like that!

Urgent Internet / phone communication

Just before half term, we had some internet/phone issues - I think our area of the village was affected. Hopefully, only one school would be affected so if you ever need to get information to us urgently and you can't get through on the phones, please call the other school and we will get messages across. We would add a message to the website too, so you can check our current status.

Flu Immunisation – Consent form returned please

We have a good number returned now, but please do return any outstanding ones.

Winter PE Kits

Now it's becoming a little colder, please do remember that your child is allowed to wear tracksuit bottoms or leggings, along with their school sweatshirt/house sweatshirt. They should be wearing school shoes, with trainers left in PE kits in school.

Medications in school

Please could you check that any medications we have in school for your child are in good supply and has not passed its expiry date. Thank you!

Emergency contact details

Please remember to let the office know of any changes/new contact numbers, address etc for your child(ren).

Infant School

Individual Photos

Individual photos were taken this week. We will send those the proofs for you to see when they arrive in school.

Blue Class Zoom check sessions

See your email yesterday for the times for each class next Tuesday after school. Please remember to complete the parent permission form if you would like them to attend.

Blue Class Literacy Presentation

As we can't meet in person this year, we have attached our presentation about the development of early literacy skills for your information. Please do take a look and ask your child's class teacher if you have any questions at all – see attached.

PE Day Change for Orange and Purple Classes – everyone else remains the same

- Monday- Yellow and Purple
- Tuesday- Green and Orange
- Wednesday- Green and Orange
- Thursday- Bluebells and Purple
- Friday- Yellow and Blueberries

Junior News

Our "new" Mrs Butchart!

We were delighted that, on her 3rd date because of Coronavirus, Miss Dunne's wedding went ahead in the holidays. All our Polehampton love and best wishes go to Mr and Mrs Butchart. Mrs Butchart is planning to keep her wedding dress for a bigger celebration when time allows 😊

New Library

We were delighted that the installation of our new library went ahead over the half term holiday- an enormous thank you to our PTA who fully funded this project. Do check our Twitter feed for photos – books were put back in place straight away, although I know our Librarians are keen to have a good think about the layout to maximise its use.

For now, we have a two week rota in place, so every year group bubble will have time to enjoy this wonderful new resource.

French Update

As of this half term, your child's class teacher will now be delivering the French curriculum, instead of Mrs Rawlings. Mrs Rawlings has taught here at the Juniors for many years and has been fantastic! Teachers have observed her teaching over the years and along with our new Language Angels resource are now in a position to deliver French. Thank you for to the David George Trust for funding this scheme for the school. We are though very fortunate that Mrs Rawlings has kindly agreed to be on hand should we need her for any extra support and advice.

Thank you so much Mrs Rawlings for all of your fantastic work, we feel so lucky that you are still supporting us with advice and ideas.

Year 3 Parents

Please return your local walks permission form if you haven't already – see attached.

PTA News

Junior school PTA meeting- Weds 11th, 8pm on Zoom. Please email pjspta@hotmail.co.uk for the details.

PTA Christmas fundraisers

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic we are unable to raise much needed funds for both schools how we would normally. Ordinarily, this would be through bake sales, discos, Christmas fairs etc so this year the PTA teams are getting creative - we hope some of these ideas will tickle your festive fancy!

Holiday activity bags

In the lead up to Christmas we will be putting together children's crafty activity bags to help keep them entertained, at the same time as raising money for the PTA. More information on this will be sent out next week.

Save the dates!

Tues 1st Dec (on zoom) Baking Masterclass- Learn to fully ice and decorate a festive reindeer cake (see attached flyer)

Monday 14th Dec (on Zoom)

Cooking masterclass:

Need some inspiration for Christmas at home this year?

Learn to cook the best turkey wellington (or a vegan beetroot wellington), sauté brussels and proper roast potatoes via Zoom with 2 amazing Chefs, Anthony and Leon.

***Christmas Shopping or lockdown treat.. you can support our PTA by doing the following...

EASYFUNDRAISING AND AMAZON SMILE

The PTA is registered with <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause> as another channel to support our fundraising efforts. This method requires very little effort and it works by simply signing up and then going to the [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) website (or App) before going to your online store. Every time you shop with participating retailers (there are over 4,000 including John Lewis, M&S, Next, Argos, etc) you will earn donations for the PTA. There are no catches or hidden charges and the PTA is very grateful for any donations that you could raise just by doing your shopping. All you need to do is select Polehampton infant or Juniors PTA as your chosen cause.

Similarly, Amazon Smile also makes charitable donations on qualifying orders. Use this link first, select Polehampton C of E Infant or Junior School, and continue shopping as normal.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

Please remember to use these links when you next do online shopping and remember your School!

Thanks all!

Infant and Junior school PTA

Church Team News

As the national lockdown limits so many aspects of our life, don't forget that our [local Twyford Churches](#) are going strong online! They have a [Youtube channel](#) which shows all their weekly services and they can be found on Facebook too.

Light Up Christmas in Ruscombe, Twyford & Hurst

This Advent, we are bringing the Church Christmas Tree Festival to our homes! You are invited to decorate your front windows with lights and scenes telling the Christmas story. "Jesus is the light of the world" and a community of windows lit up can remind us all of the hope and joy his birth brings, despite the uncertainty around many of our usual Christmas celebrations. We hope this initiative will link well with other ideas for Christmas displays in our villages. Look out for details of how to find our Christmas story windows and drop us a line at lightupchristmas@THRU-Christ.org.uk if you would like us to include your window on our map.

Attachments today

- [Letter from John Halsall, Leader of Wokingham Borough Council](#) - this letter arrived after we'd closed for half term, so it was written before the announcements about the national lockdown. However, the spirit of the letter is still relevant for Wokingham residents.
- **Reading Fire Service** – Firework letter and activities
- **Flu immunisation letter and consent form**
- **Yr3 needed only** – walking permission consent form
- **Blue Class** – Literacy Presentation

Diary Dates – Autumn Term 2020

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

Date	Which school/year group/class?	Event	Times
Tues 10th Nov	Infant School – blue class only	Zoom test sessions	Between 4.15-5.00pm - see Blue Class email sent earlier this week
Wed 11th Nov	Junior School	PTA meeting	8pm on Zoom – see above for details
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