

# Polehampton News



Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



## BE THE CHANGE

### Keys Academy Trust Annual Church Service

It was wonderful to host this year's annual Keys Academy Trust church service yesterday at St. Mary's Church – in real life! Thanks to all our recent advances in technology, every child in all the Trust school were able to watch via a private live link – a big thank you to Stephen at St. Mary's for the tech! Thanks to Chris, who accompanied us on the piano and, of course, to Revd. Anna and Ele for leading our service.

The theme was Be the Change! This is a Diocesan campaign about climate change, which aims to raise awareness and help children consider what actions they can take to help the climate, including sharing messages with world leaders at COP 26.

A small group of Infant and Junior children represented our schools beautifully; our junior eco-warriors shared our current work and future plans – you sounded so confident, thoughtful and you made us smile! Our infants signed along with "If I were a Butterfly", inspiring us all to think about communication and the love of all nature. Both schools are continuing to learn about and find ways we can be part of the climate change solution.

### Parents' Evenings

We have decided to continue offering parents' evenings by Zoom this term to support our school community to stay safe and to be efficient with everyone's time. Last year, our parent survey showed that the majority of parents preferred it this way, so we hope this will suit everyone this year. Parents will be able to book online (from Weds 20<sup>th</sup> October) through [scopay.com](https://scopay.com) using their original codes as they did last year. New parents will receive their login details next week so they are able to do so also.

However, we know parents really do want to see their child's work, so we are offering a drop-in session as well, which will allow you time to see your child's books. This session is on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> between hometime and 5.00pm at both schools, just a few days before the Zoom meetings – see dates below. Please note:- we may have to review parent visitors into school if the local or national position changes due to additional COVID restrictions.

We are asking that all parents (unless exempt) wear masks in school inside the school building.

### Covid Letter regarding Siblings

You will have seen the email earlier today with updated advice about siblings. Here it is again, for your information. [COVID letter](#)



### Our Black History Month – Inspiration for activism and resilience in **maths!**

We have been so impressed with our children's responses in class and assemblies this week when discussing key events in history and inspirational people. When discussing the bus boycotts instigated by Rosa Parks in Alabama and in Bristol

organised by Paul Stephenson, children said “Those people were amazing. They stood up for important things and we celebrate them”; “It’s not fair if white people get to do things that black people can’t do”. We are delighted by these responses to fairness and equality.

Today, the juniors looked specifically at celebrating Black excellence, Black resilience, Black triumph and Black creativity among other celebratory things! A positive upbeat focus to round of the week.

Our [Maths Shining Light Ambassador](#) is Katherine Johnson, the famous NASA mathematician featured in the book and film “Hidden Figures”. Please [do look at the assembly](#) we shared about her in school this week - Johnson Class, you are probably experts already! Children were very inspired by Katherine and said “I learnt to trust myself and never give up even when the maths is really tricky. I know I can do it!” “Katherine loved maths and never gave up to make these things possible for us – she worked hard so we could too!”

With our maths, we want every child to develop a strong grounding in number so that they develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. It is important that children develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, look for patterns and relationships, spot connections, ‘have a go’, talk to adults and peers about what they notice and not be afraid to make mistakes.



### Harvest Plans

**Thank you so much for the donations we have already received. Please can any further donations be brought to either school by Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October.**

Parents, please remember that we are a referral agency for the Food Bank – we can apply for support on your behalf. This would be totally confidential – just ask to speak to any of us (Miss Ball, Mrs Scott, Mrs Medcalf or Mrs Castell) and we can help with that.

Harvest Donations for Autumn 21 – thank you!	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long Life Milk</li> <li>• Sponge Puddings</li> <li>• Tinned Potatoes</li> <li>• Tinned Carrots</li> <li>• Tinned Soup</li> <li>• Long Life Custard</li> <li>• Tinned Fruit</li> <li>• Hot Dogs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pasta Sauce               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biscuits</li> <li>• Long Life Fruit Juice</li> <li>• Confectionary</li> <li>• Shampoo &amp; Conditioner</li> <li>• Razors &amp; Shaving Foam</li> <li>• Adult AND Childrens Toothbrushes</li> <li>• Antibacterial Cleaning Spray</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



### Online Safety - Urgent Parent Update

We know a lot of our children are lucky enough to have access to online programme channels such as Netflix or Amazon. Sadly, this week, we have heard a few children talking about the new “**Squid Game**”, which is a certificate 15 programme on Netflix and is totally unsuitable for primary age children. Please read [the National Online Safety’s guide to the risks for children with regards to Squid Game](#). If your child does have access to online TV, including Youtube, we strongly advise you to add **parental controls**. We have attached an info sheet on how you set up [parental controls on Netflix accounts](#).

Also **please be mindful if older siblings have devices** and how they might be sharing these. We advise **all devices are kept in family, shared rooms**, so you can **monitor how long they are on the devices and what they are watching**.

We are aware that versions of Squid Game are available in games such as Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite, so even if children haven’t seen the programme, they are being exposed to the same graphic themes via these games.

## Flu immunisation

Berkshire NHS are organising flu immunisations for primary age children again this year. The date for both schools is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Parent information letters are attached.

## Secondary School Places Strategy Survey

Work is underway to revise Wokingham's secondary school places strategy, and they want to hear your views. This survey is looking at school places for years 7 to 11 (ages 11 to 16). They will be asking your views on post 16 places later this year.

Please take a few minutes to read [the consultation document and then answer the questions in the survey](#). Thank you for your time.



[Wokingham United Charities](#) have partnered with Citizens Advice Wokingham to provide comprehensive support to those in need. Their essential item grant programme is open to residents of Wokingham Borough and requests can be requested for items up to £500. They can help with household items, debt related fees, counselling support and ad hoc requests.

## Prospective Parents Open Mornings

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.

- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November - 9.15am Infants (11am Juniors, if you would like to visit there too).
- **New Date** - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

Please note:- we may have to review parent visitors into school if the local or national position changes due to additional COVID restrictions

### Infant News

#### My First Class

My First Class supplement is in this week's Maidenhead Advertiser. Photos are already available to buy in hard copy or digital

form from:- [www.baylismediaphotos.co.uk](http://www.baylismediaphotos.co.uk) <https://www.baylismediaphotos.co.uk/gallery/home/171696/first-class-133926.html>

#### Individual Photos

Photos will be taken on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November for siblings (8.00 - 8.50am) and individual photos (am). All sibling slots have now been booked; siblings attending the Infants will automatically have their photos taken together in school. However, parents are under no obligation to buy.

#### Exiting School at the end of the day

Now that we are no longer having to keep to a one-way system, if you are exiting school by the Hermitage drive entrance, please use the footpath alongside the field rather than the driveway, as this is in constant use during the whole of the school day. Thank you.

### Junior News

#### Individual Photos

Photos will be taken on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October; siblings attending the Juniors will automatically have their photos taken together in school. However, parents are under no obligation to buy.

Year five – please come wearing your school uniform on Monday. Please bring your PE kit

#### Cross Country Running Event

Much to the disappointment of the children (and staff!), the first cross country fixture due to be held at Braywick Park was cancelled. Instead, the children who were due to go had an afternoon of running at school. Everyone enjoyed their time in the sunshine and the children showed wonderful sportsmanship, giving each other plenty of cheering and encouragement. The Year 5 and 6 children were given jobs to do and did these sensibly and with big smiles. I was also delighted to see so much fabulous running - the children showed

lots of promise and I can't wait to see them competing next month. The children's behaviour and attitude made me so proud.

Children ran firstly as individuals and then in relay teams. The relay race was particularly exciting with most of the teams finishing very closely!

Congratulations to the individual winners - Amy Lawson, Wilf May, Kaiya McCrabbe and Eddie Sheridan and to the winning relay team - Lewis Pitt, Amy Lawson, Belle Pennington, Eleanor Arkell, Jake Gauterin and Eddie Sheridan.

A huge thank you to Mrs Apps for all of her help.

If any children would like to join us, we train at the beginning of lunchtime every Monday - all are welcome. To support the children's efforts, any running they can do outside of school would be very much appreciated. I recommend Woodley Junior Parkrun, where there are often familiar Polehampton faces, to anyone interested - <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/woodley-juniors/>.

### The Comets Girls

Last week, some of the year 3 girls enjoyed a football session with a couple of the coaches from the Twyford Comets Girls squad. The Comets Girls are keen to hear from any Year 3 girls who would like to come and play a bit more football – please contact [twyfordcometsgirls8@gmail.com](mailto:twyfordcometsgirls8@gmail.com) for more details.

### PTA News

A promotional poster for a Curry Night event. The background is dark with images of various Indian dishes like curries, rice, and bread. The text is white and green. At the top right, it says 'Polehampton | PTA' and 'C of E Infant & Junior School'. The main title is 'CURRY NIGHT' in large white letters. Below it, it says 'Socialise and raise money for the school at the same time!'. The date and time are 'WEDNESDAY 20TH OCTOBER @ 7.30PM'. The location is 'HAWELI, TWYFORD'. The price is '£15' and it includes 'mixed starters and a choice of main dish'. There is also a note about a raffle and card payment. At the bottom, it says 'Please visit www.polehamptonpta.org to buy tickets for this event' and 'Registered Charity Nos. 1039915 | 1056049'.

### Curry night!!

Our popular curry night at Haweli is back on Weds October 20th! Great opportunity to socialise & fundraise at the same time. Tickets are limited so please visit <https://www.polehamptonpta.org/> to book yours ASAP!

### Bags2school

Having another clear out? Bags2school will be at Loddon Hall car park 8-9am on 5th November. See the [PTA website](https://www.polehamptonpta.org/) for a full list of what is accepted. Please bring donations in bin bags!

## Fish and Chip Thursday

As Thursday is the last day of this half term for the children, we have made a change to the menu; Friday's fish and chips will replace Thursday's Mediterranean chicken and rice.

Please note – school finishes at normal time next Thursday.

### Attachments

- Netflix – parental controls
- Flu immunisation letters to parents

We hope you all have a wonderful weekend,

Best wishes,

Miss Ball, Mrs Scott, Mrs Medcalf and Mrs Castell

### Diary dates

Next week / new dates / infants only / juniors only

Date	Event	Place and time
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Junior individual photos	Morning
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	PTA curry evening	
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Infant School – bring fruit and vegetable animals to school Last day for Harvest donations both schools– many thanks!	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Schools closed for staff inset	
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	Schools closed for half term	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Schools closed for staff inset	
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Bags to School	8-9am Loddon Hall Car park for donations
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Infant individual photos	All siblings places booked
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents drop in sessions	Please wear a mask in school (unless exempt)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' evening 1 – purple class only	3.30-5.30pm
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening 1	3.30-5.30pm
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Prospective parents' Open Morning*	9.15am - infants 11.00am - juniors
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Odd Socks Day	More info to follow!
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening 2	3.30-5.30pm
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening 3	3.30-5.30pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Prospective parents' Open Morning*	9.15am - infants 11.00am - juniors
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu immunisations	All day – more info to follow regarding parental permissions
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-uniform day</li> <li>• No After School Club</li> </ul>	School closes at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infants - 1.40pm</li> <li>• Juniors – 1.50pm</li> </ul>

\*please call the school to book a place

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

### **Spring 2023**

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

### **Summer 2023**

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