

# Polehampton News



Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

## Dear Parents and Carers,

In school, we cannot believe it's the holiday already!! We've had a super busy half term, lots of learning and improvements for every child. Seeing the rising number of COVID cases in our community has been a sobering end to this half term. We are sending our poorly people all our best wishes for a speedy recovery!

### Covid Matters

Our Local Authority have issued two letters to parents which are really worth a read. The first letter does a lot to explain how schools are managing this current rise in cases. The second has recommendations how to handle meet ups over the holidays.

- [Letter to Schools and their Communities](#) - from The Director of Children's Services, The Director of Public Health in Wokingham and Executive Member of the Council for Children's Service
- [Working Together to Keep Safe this Half Term](#)

Please continue to let us know any test results over the holidays - this will help us plan for next half term. Please put "COVID MATTERS" in the title line of your email, so it's easier for us to see. We will send you any relevant updates before the start of term, if needs be.

Additional COVID cases since yesterday's email

- Year 6 - 5
- Year 5 - 0
- Year 4 - 0
- Year 3 - 0
- Year 2 - 0
- Year 1 - 0
- Foundation Stage - 1



### Parents' Evenings

You can now book a place at parents' evening – please go through your scopay.com account using your original codes as you did last year. New parents should have received their login details – please contact your school's admin team for more help, if you need it.

We will send out each class teacher's Zoom room details after half term, so you can log in for those meetings.

We will review the parents' drop-in session after half term.



### [Reading Newsletter](#)

Please see attached our latest reading newsletter, full of great ideas, recommendations and top tips! A lovely read to inspire you over the half term break.



### Our Black History Month

We have thoroughly enjoyed highlighting the achievements of black people throughout history this month. We hope the children have been able to share their thoughts with you at home.

Please note – we believe black history is not just for October, so we ensure there is diversity within our whole curriculum. We pride ourselves on embedding representation throughout our provision, throughout the year.

Here is a super [powerpoint slide-show](#) celebrating people you might know or people to discover. We have been sharing these at our Junior School but our younger ones would love it too. Great inspiration if you want to do more research over the holiday – who would be on your slide show??

### Religious Education



#### Shining Light Ambassador- Religious Education

As you will know, we have chosen an inspirational person for each of our curriculum subjects. Our RE [Shining Light Ambassador](#) is Maya Angelou, an inspiring individual who overcame childhood adversity to shine as a writer and spokesperson for equality. Please [do look at the assembly](#) we shared about her in school this week. Maya Angelou's words inspire us in our RE at Polehampton; *"We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry and we must understand that all threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their colour"*.

Maya's words help us to understand RE and how religions thread into our diverse world.

Each thread is like a different religion or world view. In RE we learn about some of these different beliefs, practices, ways of worshipping, ways of dressing, eating, praying and celebrating in different places all over our world. We ask questions about these things and explore our own views. The learning we do in RE helps us to understand how and why other people might be different from us and how many things make us the same and can bring us together!

<b>Infant News</b>
<b>Fruit &amp; Vegetable animals and our Harvest Assembly</b> Thankfully the sun came out for our harvest assembly today, so we are able to celebrate together outside. We had some wonderful Autumn and Harvest poems and loved singing our favourite songs for this time of year – Conkers, Harvest Samba and Cauliflowers Fluffy. We've added some photos to our Twitter fed @Polehampton so do take a look!
<b>Junior News</b>
<b>Individual Photos</b> Due to our rising numbers, we weren't able to continue with our photo session this week – we will give you a new date when we have it. Apologies for that.
<b>Loddon Hall Carpark</b> Please can we politely ask that you take extra care when driving in and out of Loddon Carpark. The carpark can get busy particularly at the entrance to the parking area. Thank you.
<b>PPA - Planning, Preparation and Assessment Time</b> As you are aware, teachers have half a day out of class each week for planning, preparation and assessment. For the first two weeks after half term, in years 4, 5 and 6 this may happen on different

days to the children are used to. Teachers will let the children know ahead of time. Year 3 PPA will remain on a Wednesday afternoon, children will still be required to wear PE kit on this day. There are no changes to PE days for the other year groups.

### Cool Milk scheme

Please do contact the school office if you would like to find out more about this scheme. Children can join the scheme at any time.

### **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). - **FULLY BOOKED**
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November - 9.15am Infants (11am Juniors, if you would like to visit there too). - **FULLY BOOKED**
- **New Date** – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – 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 school, local or national position changes due to additional COVID restrictions.\*\*\*

### **PTA News**

#### **Bags2school**

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



#### **Harvest Donations**

Thank you so much for the donations you have brought in for the Wokingham Food Bank - everyone has been so generous! They were collected today and filled a car! Thank you to our church team for helping with that!!

#### **Attachments**

- Letters from Wokingham Local Authority
- Reading newsletter
- Black History Month powerpoint

**We wish you every happiness for the half term break and look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.**

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
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 - fully booked	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 - fully booked	9.15am - infants 11.00am - juniors
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu immunisations - both schools	All day – more info to follow regarding parental permissions
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Prospective parents' Open Morning*	9.15am - infants 11.00am - juniors
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