

Polehampton News



Friday 12th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



Both schools have commemorated Remembrance Day this week, learning in class and coming together in assembly for the 2minute silence. Our children were respectful and thoughtful; it was a special moment.

Thank you for the many kind words about the infant school's poppy display – the children really enjoyed making them.

Our Junior School will be continuing to learn about World War 2 next week - see Mrs Castell's email sent on Monday for all the details of topics to be covered in each year group.



Covid Matters

- New cases this week – one today in Yr5.

Vaccination details for 12-15 year olds <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/10/nhs-opens-online-covid-19-vaccination-bookings-for-12-15-year-olds/>

Booking a booster - the guidelines have changed and those eligible can now book booster vaccines after 5 months from their 2nd vaccine. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-booster-vaccine/>



Parents' Evenings

It was lovely to talk to so many parents at last night's first parents' evening. We look forward to seeing everyone else next week! If you have yet to make an appointment, please contact the school office so they can book you in. Apologies to Miss Burnett's parents – for some strange reason, that was the one Zoom room that didn't work. Thank you for being patient and understanding. We have reported the problem and hope to have it resolved for next week's sessions.



Next week – Anti-bullying Week and Children in Need

We will be busy in school next week as we get involved in national campaigns to support children.

For **Anti-bullying week**, we are asking all children (if they would like) to wear Odd Socks on Monday to launch the week – we are joining in the Anti-bullying Alliance’s campaign “[One Kind Word](#)” In assemblies and lessons, we will be talking about how we can be kind to each other, how one kind word can make all the difference to someone’s day.

For **Children in Need**, we invite our children to bring a bear to school for the day, or another stuffed toy. (Please not the really big ones!!). We will be thinking about how we can support children who need a bit of help - their theme is “[Changing Lives across the UK](#)”.

Donations to either charity should be made online. Typically, we would have asked for £1 donation, so it doesn’t have to be a large amount. Do involve your child in this process if you donate, so they understand that their family has contributed and how the money will help support this work.

- [Anti-bullying Alliance](#)
- [Children in Need](#)

Infant News

Forest Schools - do see our Twitter @Polehampton for photos

This week, Blue Class started their Forest School adventure and had a blast! All kitted up, we cheerfully echoed our Forest School song as we splashed our wellies out to basecamp. We started the session by meeting our Forest School mascot, Freddie the Fox, who helped us to engage in some calming mindful activities. Once we had recapped our Forest School Promise and safety rules, we were free to explore the site! We worked collaboratively to build dens and shelters (thank you to the very kind daddy who donated lots of extra branches for us to build with). We made mud pies in Green World's mud kitchen. We used our gross motor skills to balance on wobbly logs and got creative with twigs and leaves in the Lodge. We remembered our Forest School Promise (no pick, no lick) when we found a beautiful toadstool. We even discovered a magical fairy door in the big tree! Everybody enjoyed a yummy snack and we can't wait to go back to Forest School next week. Mrs Bushell slept well after all the excitement and fresh air. I wonder who else did too?

A special request. If anybody has any of the following, they would like to donate to Forest School we would be most appreciative.

- *tarpaulin
- *carabiner clips
- *digging tools
- *pots and pans for the mud kitchen
- *spare hats, gloves, wellies

A visit from Perform

We were very pleased to receive a visit from [Perform](#) on Tuesday 9th November. The children had a wonderful time exploring the theme of [Outer Space](#) and using drama, dance and singing to help develop their confidence, concentration and social skills.

To complement the workshop, there is a free educational app for iPhones and iPads based around the theme of [Outer Space](#). It contains fun games, creative tasks and videos of the themed songs and dances. Click [here](#) to download it free or [here](#) to find out more about the [Outer Space](#) theme.

Perform run regular weekly classes in the local area and they are offering **a special introductory discount** to all parents of Polehampton Infant School if they come along for a free trial session before Tuesday 30th November.

To claim your discount, just call Perform on 020 7255 9120 quoting **POLR301121** or book online at perform.org.uk.

Suitcase Libraries- small suitcases wanted

Do you have an old-style suitcase lying under a bed or forgotten in the loft? The infants would like to set up more suitcase libraries for the playground; we have the books, but need the suitcases! Any small suitcase donations would be gratefully received and repurposed. Thank you.

Scores on the Doors – we retain our 5*!

Well done to Mrs Saunders and Mrs Davies, our catering team, for getting another perfect score after their visit this morning. These visits are always unexpected, so it really shows the consistently high standards of hygiene and safety in our school kitchen. All this on our busiest lunch day of the week!!

Junior News

Lost property

At the Juniors we have a cupboard full of unnamed lost property!

Next week, at the end of the day, unnamed uniform will be placed outside on the playground.

Please do help yourself. To help reduce numbers, please can you follow the timetable below:

- Monday – year 3 parents
- Tuesday – year 4 parents
- Wednesday – year 5 parents
- Thursday – year 6 parents

Thank you!

Morning drop offs

We have noticed that a few children are being dropped off at school much earlier than the time our gates open. Please can we remind you that our school gates open at 08.45am - thank you!

Christmas gift buying – do consider the age appropriateness when choosing presents

As families might be thinking ahead to present buying, do remember to check the certificate or age rating on games or apps. [NSPCC- NetAware](http://NSPCC-NetAware) have a great website for checking – really clear and easy to use. If you are treating anyone in the household, maybe older siblings, think of ground rules so your younger ones aren't able to see inappropriate content.

E-Scooters: What you need to know – see attached poster

The Wokingham Community Safety Partnership, which includes Thames Valley Police and the Council have asked schools to pass on information about E-Scooters.

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 19th November - 9.15am Infants (11am Juniors, if you would like to visit there too). - **FULLY BOOKED**
- **New Date** – Friday 3rd December – 9.15am Infants (11am Juniors, if you would like to visit there too)

Please arrive by 9.15am and please wear a mask, unless you are exempt.

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

The PTA AGM will be held on Monday 15th November at 8pm on Zoom. Please do join us and help shape our planning for the year ahead.

Meeting ID: 857 5011 5421

Passcode: 265182

We are saying goodbye at this meeting to Jo P and Jo M who have put in many, many years of work for the PTA. We are so grateful to them both for all they have contributed it has made a HUGE difference for so many polehampton children! Thank you to everyone who contributed to their leaving gifts they were very well received.

We are looking for a new treasurer this year as Iain will be stepping down at some point. If you would like some information on what the role entails, please message polehamptonpta@gmail.com No need to have a finance background, just knowing your way around a spreadsheet would be great!! It's really not too onerous a job and can be done without needing to get involved in the organising of events so easily done from a distance!

Curry Night!

We had a lovely evening at Haweli on Wednesday- so nice to be able to have an in person event finally. We raised £500 which has been match funded for another £350 by Vodafone, thanks to Michelle Lye! If you think your company might offer a match funding scheme, please do let us know it makes such a difference to our fundraising.

Voluntary Contributions

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. There is still plenty of time to contribute and we are so grateful for anything you can give. It all goes on the mountains of exercise books, pens, equipment that are essential for everyday learning. At the moment it is really difficult to fundraise in a lot of the usual ways so we are even more reliant on these contributions...thank you!

Christmas Project - Bringing some festive cheer...

Just a reminder- **the final date for placing your Christmas card and gift orders is TOMORROW - Saturday 13th November.**

You should have received, via your child's school bag, their unique proof for this year's Christmas project. If you have misplaced this and need a replacement, please email katiegates@mail.com before noon on Saturday, with your child's name and class, and she will send a duplicate to you. The QR code on your child's proof will take you directly through to the website making placing an order really easy.

This year, in addition to cards, tags and mugs you are also able to order coasters and gift sets. All purchases will be with us by the end of the month and sent home, via school bags, in plenty of time for Christmas.

And finally... **Christmas Raffle!!** 🎁 🎄

If anyone has something they can donate or a local business they could approach for a raffle prize we would be very grateful! The raffle is one of our biggest earners so anything you can donate to make it even more fabulous would be great!

Many thanks for purchasing and supporting the PTA to raise funds for the school.

The PTA

Attachments

- **E-Scooters: What you need to know poster**

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 15 th November	Odd Socks Day	Wear odd socks – donate online if you would like to.
	PTA AGM	Evening - on Zoom 8pm – see details above
Tuesday 16 th November	Parents' Evening 2	3.30-5.30pm
Thursday 18 th November	Parents' Evening 3	3.30-5.30pm
Friday 19 th November	Prospective parents' Open Morning - fully booked	9.15am - infants 11.00am - juniors
	Children in Need	Bring a bear/stuffed toy to school – donate on line if you would like to.
Friday 26 th November	Flu immunisations - both schools	All day
Friday 3 rd December	Prospective parents' Open Morning*	9.15am - infants 11.00am - juniors
Friday 17 th December	Last day of term <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-uniform day• No After School Club	School closes at <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infants - 1.40pm• Juniors – 1.50pm

*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 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