

Friday 11th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are enjoying such a lovely time in school at the moment. None of us can believe it's just one week to go before the holidays! Lots of busy fun to have next week – more on that in a moment.

COVID-19

UPDATE

COVID ISSUES

Please see the email sent earlier today regarding arrangements for notifications about positive tests at the beginning of the Christmas holiday – also attached to today's newsletter and on our website. Please keep it somewhere safe so you can refer to the details should you need to.

- Just to confirm - both Polehampton Schools will be open as planned next Friday.
- If you need to email the school regarding your child because they are experiencing COVID symptoms, if you have any details about your process for seeking a test or you are confirming a result, please **write COVID ISSUES as the subject**. This will make it easier to spot these important emails amongst the many we receive each day. We appreciate your support in this matter.



Attendance Data

We are delighted with our current attendance figures! For our children, this is exactly what they need, being in school, every day with their staff and their friends. Given all the worries and challenges with all the new rules, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone, for trusting us with your children. We are still celebrating every week, every day, we are open – it still feels so special.

- Infants - 98%
- Junior – 98.16%



Christmas is coming....

We can't wait to share our nativities, plays and carol concerts with you next week. Whilst we can't have everyone together this year, this is the first time we've recorded the performances, so it really is something wonderful – your children are all movie stars!!! In order to give this year's performances a feeling of togetherness, we have suggested a viewing time for each evening, so you know your friends are all watching along together.

Please do not share any links or images on any social media (including private WhatsApp groups or Facebook).

We will then share each performance in school the following day, so we get to see everyone's performances.

We have a tradition of supporting different charities at this time of year, with angels collecting as families leave the infants or carol singers entertaining Twyford outside Waitrose. As we can't do that this year, we have suggested local charities that you might want to donate to, to celebrate each performance. This is entirely voluntary, of course. You might want to give Polehampton a mention in your donation words if you do, so those charities know we are still thinking of them at this time of year.

Which class/es?	Suggested date and time	Suggested charity
Blue Class nativity	Monday 14 th at 6.30pm	BIBs (Babies in Buscott) Special Baby Care Unit in RBH
Years 1&2 nativity	Tuesday 15 th at 6.30pm	BIBs (Babies in Buscott) Special Baby Care Unit in RBH
Year 4 Christmas Play	Wednesday 16 th at 7.00pm	Daisy's Dream – support for families experiencing bereavement or long-term illness
Years 5&6 – Upper School Carol Concert	Thursday 17 th at 7.00pm	Daisy's Dream – support for families experiencing bereavement or long-term illness

- **Next week in class**

Whilst we will still be doing lots of our usual learning lessons next week, we are making time for some fun extras too. Thanks to the PTA, we are going to have a **Christmas Movie and Snacks** time in each class. We aren't able to do the usual PTA movie nights at the moment, so we thought this was a fun way to share a film together in our bubbles. Thanks for the snacks the PTA have sent in, so we can feel like it's a real trip to the movies!

Christmas lunch is on Wednesday – **children can wear a Christmas jumper** if they like! No donations asked for.

- **Next Friday – No toys from home allowed in school**

We have plenty of lovely things for the children to play with in school and given the current restrictions, I'm sure you'll appreciate that we don't want to mix lots of possessions at the moment.



- **Christmas cards and presents**

Children will be able to send Christmas cards and presents to both other pupils and staff this year. There will be year group post boxes and a staff post box too! **Last posting day is next Monday 14th December please**. This will allow for 72 hours of quarantine time, before being sorted and handed out by the end of term.



- **Pantomime time - oh yes, we did!!**

We have loved having a live pantomime in our schools this week. The actors were fantastic, really giving it their all – 7 performances over 2 days, good work them!!! I hope you've heard all about it from your children. Any outstanding donations? We be very grateful to receive any further donations, so we can cover the cost of this wonderful experience.£5 donations received as cash, cheque or bank transfer (and Tucasi for Juniors).

- **Cards for the Community**

In recent weeks, all our children have been busy making cards for our local community. The church team will deliver the cards to people in Twyford and Ruscombe, to those who might be alone or unable to see people in their family this year. We have also made some for local care homes. We hope they bring joy and comfort during this festive time

Infant School

Staffing – we have a few changes coming next term, a goodbye and some hellos.

- Sadly, after more than 7 years at Polehampton, all of those years in Blue Class, **MrsPhilliban** is leaving so she can spend more time with her family. We will miss her but we know she'll keep in touch with us so it's not a goodbye forever!
- We are pleased to announce that **Mrs Pluse** will now be working in Blue Class in the mornings.

Christingle celebrations

We loved making our Christingles in school this week – thank you for all the oranges!

We shared a wonderful assembly by our church team about the meaning of Christingle. You could always enjoy at home together

again?<https://www.dropbox.com/s/f8rmjl04zgnh48i/Christingle%20schools%20Dec%202020.mov?dl=0>

Junior News

Year 6 Parents, we are sending you a letter today regarding payments for the Croft Farm residential trip.

A date for your diary - Croft Farm presentation to Parents – 6.30pm Thursday 14th January

At this presentation, we will talk in much more detail about all the fun we hope we can offer for this special residential trip. For now, please see their website to get a good idea of all they have for schools to enjoy. <https://www.jca-adventure.co.uk/activity-centres/croft-farm/>

PTA News

★ ★ Please join us this Saturday 12th December for our LIVE RAFFLE DRAW. The draw will be held live via Zoom (please find login details below). ★ ★

We have some AMAZING PRIZES:

- Amazon Fire 8
- Limited edition Lucy Keeble print
- Limited edition Rebecca Howard print
- Amazon Echo Dot
- Literary Hamper
- Pamper Hamper
- Google Home
- Toy Hamper
- Bottle Tombola Hamper
- Wine Tour Voucher from Stanlake Winery

Tickets will be on sale until MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY 11TH December via our website:

WWW.POLEHAMPTONPTA.ORG

£1.50 per ticket or £6 for a strip of 5

Please share with your friends and families.

ZOOM DETAILS

Topic: Polehampton Christmas Raffle draw!

Time: Dec 12, 2020 05:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83311740632?pwd=QjhQNkl4WSt5S3Z0Rll2RHpJYjI4UT09>

Meeting ID: 833 1174 0632

Passcode: 725786

Good luck!!

The PTA Team

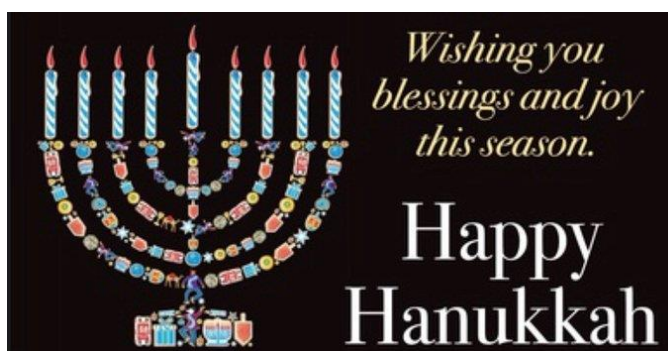
Church Team News

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.

Best wishes

Miss Ball, Mrs Castell, Mrs Scott and Medcalf



All our best wishes to everyone celebrating Hanukkah!!!

Attachments today

- Play your heart out – Berkshire Mastros concert time this evening!
- COVID ISSUES letter for parents

Diary Dates – Autumn Term 2020

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

Date	Which school/year group/class?	Event	Times
Monday 14 th Dec	Both Schools	Last posting date for cards to friends and staff.	
	Blue Class	Nativity play video sent home to watch	suggested time – 6.30pm Suggested donations to BIBs (Babies in Buscott)
Tuesday 15 th Dec	Years One & Two	Nativity play video sent home to watch	suggested time – 6.30pm Suggested donations to BIBs (Babies in Buscott)
Wed 16 th Dec	Both schools	Christmas Dinner – children can wear a Christmas jumper!	
	Year Four	Christmas Play videosent home to watch	suggested time – 7.00pm Suggested donations to Daisy's Dream
Thursday 17 th Dec	Year Five & Six	Upper School Carol Concert video sent home to watch	suggested time – 7.00pm Suggested donations to Daisy's Dream

Friday 18 th Dec	Both Schools	Last day of term	See staggered times for early closure on the last day of term - 1½ earlier than normal. *3.00pm collection will be 1.30pm *3.15pm collection will be 1.45pm *3.30pm collection will be 2.00pm
	Both Schools	Church service	Watched in school
21 st Dec 2020 – 1 st Jan 2021- School Closed for the Christmas Holidays			
Monday 4 th Jan	Both schools	Schools closed for staff training	
Tuesday 5 th Jan	Both schools	First day of the Spring Term	

Spring Term 2021			
Date	Which school/year group/class?	Event	Times
Tuesday 5 th January	Both schools	School opens for all children	
Thursday 14 th January	Year Six	Parents' meeting for Croft Farm Residential	6.30pm in Miss Davis's Zoom Room. Details emailed to Yr6 parents
Tuesday 9 th February	Both Schools	Safer Internet Day	More info to follow
Friday 12 th February	Both Schools	School Closed for staff training	
Half term – Monday 15 th - Friday 19 th February			
Thursday 4 th March	Both Schools	World Book day – dress up as your favourite book character	
Thursday 1 st April	Both schools	Last day of the Spring term	

<p>Term Dates 2020/21</p> <p>Autumn Term 2020 School open to pupils - Thurs 3rd Sep to Fri 18thDec 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inset days - Tuesday 1st & Wed 2nd Sept • Inset day – Fri 23rdOctober • Half term – w/c Monday 26thOctober <p>Spring Term 2021 School open to pupils - Tues 5th January to Thurs 1stApril 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inset day Monday 4th Jan • Inset day – Fri 12th February • Half term - w/c Monday 15th February <p>Summer Term 2021 School open to pupils - Monday 19thApril to Wed 21st July 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half term - w/c Monday 31stMay <p style="text-align: center;">=====</p> <p>Term Dates 2021/22</p> <p>Autumn 2021</p>
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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