

Polehampton News



Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

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On behalf of the local governing body, I wanted to wish everyone a happy and restful Christmas break. I know that for many, this has been *yet another* tumultuous and uncertain year – and I know that, with COVID cases rising yet again, we will doubtless have more uncertainty in store for next year. I'd like to thank all of you for your flexibility and positivity in your dealings with our schools over the last year. The school, in consultation with the governing body, the Trust and Wokingham Borough Council, have had to make some tough choices over the last few weeks in particular and I know that these will not always have been welcomed by parents, especially when changes have needed to be made at short notice – but thank you for working with us in keeping our school community as COVID-safe as possible. We really appreciate your collaboration in this.

It goes without saying that the governing body are super-proud of all the staff for their flexibility, commitment and resilience in keeping our schools going through this time. The children seem to have also shown amazing resilience themselves in the face of anxious times. Together as a school community, it's been great to see everyone work through this and support each other to provide continued support, education and enrichment for our children!

We wish you all a happy and healthy new year!

On behalf of the Governing Body
James Smith
Chair of Governors



Covid Matters

New cases to report today

- One case in Orange Class.
- **Orange Class parents** - As we have now had 14 cases in orange class in recent days, some showing up as positive on their second PCR test, despite negative LFT tests, you might want to consider taking a further PCR test if you are going to be mixing over the holidays, particularly with any vulnerable loved ones.
- **All parents** – please keep us informed about any positive cases through the holidays, particularly any over this weekend or the days before we come back to school.

At our weekly Wokingham Headteacher meeting this week, we agreed that it's been so tricky this half term, particularly as the advice has been changing so much because of the omicron variant.

We are being advised to be mindful of future changes to advice. Also, as there is predicted to be a rise in cases in the general population, our schools may well be impacted by staffing issues in the way all services could be.

If there are any announcements regarding changes to schools for next term, we would be in touch with you as soon as we have studied the DFE guidance.

A good suggestion from the Local Authority – after a lot of mixing with different people over the holidays, it would be sensible for all children to do a LFT test before the start of term.

"Booster dose of the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine -

NHS" <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-booster-vaccine/>



Christmas cards and gifts

All staff have really appreciated all the cards, seasons greetings and gifts that have come into school today and over the last few weeks. Thank you so much for these kind and thoughtful gestures - we really appreciate them!

PTA Christmas Fairs & Film snacks

A massive thankyou to Mrs Fear and her wonderful team of PTA volunteers who gave up their time to support the running of the Fairs. These Fairs were a huge success in both schools. The children really enjoyed them; you never know some of you may have a gift from Santa heading to you soon! Thanks to everyone for your donations of money and gifts – the children really did win some wonderful prizes!

We've enjoyed our film snack packs over the last few days too. Thanks for supporting our in-school cinema experiences!

Christmas Lunches

Christmas lunches were superb this week! Our kitchen teams, Mrs Saunders and Mrs Davies at the Infants and Mrs Stevens and Mrs Hammond at the Juniors surpassed themselves. Children and staff were very full and grateful!

It was all very **Ho! Ho! Ho!** after lunch at the Infants, when Santa himself found time to visit all the children AND give everyone a present. Thank you, Santa!

Christmas Productions

We hope you have enjoyed the various festive productions over the last few days. Our children have impressed us with their singing, acting, narrating and funky moves! It has been lovely to share them over both schools; the children loved spotting siblings and

friends! Thank you to all the teachers and TAs who have worked tirelessly to make these happen.

NORAD Santa Tracker

Do you wonder where Santa is as he travels the world delivering his presents? Well, Norad track his travels, noting the countries he visits so you can see a countdown to the UK! <https://www.noradsanta.org/en/>



NSPCC's Calm Zone

With Christmas being such a busy time in most households, your child might feel a bit overwhelmed or they might feel a bit of an anti-climax when the festivities are all over.

NSPCC have a great online area of their website for children called the Calm Zone, full of calming games and activities, breathing exercises and child-friendly ideas to support your child to settle themselves. Lots to choose from that will suit different children's attitudes and moods.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

Reading Newsletter

Please check out the latest edition of our reading newsletter, full of book recommendations and gift ideas, news (including the library mini reading challenge), top tips and even a quiz!

Infant News

Christingle celebrations

We had great fun making our Christingles and learning about the symbolism of the different parts. We lowered the lights, snapped our glow sticks and had a quiet time for reflection about the meaning of Christmas.

Yr2 parents – we would like to invite you to visit our junior school next term, as you will be completing your application forms for your child's move within our Polehampton Schools.

- Wednesday 12th January at 7.00pm in the Junior School hall.

We ask all visitors to wear a mask (unless exempt) and take a LFT before coming to school.

Please make sure you have completed your admissions forms for the Junior School by 15th January. Please don't miss this deadline!!

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/starting-junior-school-age-7/>

Junior News

School Lunches

Please ensure you have paid your account up for the end of this term, allowing for meals next week too. We need to finish the term with everyone fully paid up or the school may be charged.

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.

- Friday 7th January - session 1 -9.15am at Infants / session 2 - 1.45pm at 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. We would like all visitors to take LFTs in advance of their visit to our school.

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.

Attachments

- Reading newsletter
- Stay safe this Christmas – leaflet from Wokingham Borough Council
- **For Yr2 parents** – resending the information about admissions to the Junior School for your attention – **please don't miss the closing date of January 15th!**

We wish all our Polehampton Community a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Miss Ball, Mrs Scott, Mrs Medcalf and Mrs Castell and all your Polehampton Team

Diary dates

Next school week / new dates / infants only / juniors only

Date	Event	Place and time
Tuesday 4 th Jan	Staff training day – school closed	
Wednesday 5 th Jan	First Day of the Spring Term – welcome to 2022!	
Friday 7 th Jan	Open Day for prospective parents *	9.15am - infants 11.00am - Juniors 1.45pm - Infants
Wednesday 12 th Jan	Year Two Parents welcome and tour at the Junior school	7pm
Saturday 15 th Jan	Closing Date for school admissions for September 2022 for children starting in Foundation Stage at the Infants and Year Three at the Juniors	
Friday 18 th Feb	Staff training day – school closed	
Week beginning 21 st Feb	Half term – school closed	
Friday 8th April	Last day of the Spring 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.

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