

# Polehampton News

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Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,



As we reflect back over this last term in school, we are so proud of our school community. **Children**, you bring joy to our hearts every day! This term has felt even more special and you have been our silver lining throughout! You have been resilient and hard-working and we hope you have a lovely rest this holiday! Keep reading every day, though 😊

**Parents**, we think most newsletters are a regular length now, but we know there have been days or weeks when we have had to inundate you with information - all the COVID rules alongside all the usual information! Thank you for bearing with us, for following all the many instructions, remembering different times, what day PE is, Zoom meetings, the list has gone on and on this term! Thank you for your support during these challenging times!!!

**Our amazing PTA and Governors**, work hasn't stopped for you! Governors, you have had more to do as we regularly review our own risk assessments and the many changes to national guidelines. PTA – you have been so creative! We even managed our raffle draw online last weekend with whizzy tech to make it all fair. To both these important school volunteer groups, for all your hours of work, thank you for making our schools better and better.

**Our Church Team**, you have worked away behind the scenes, recording so many assemblies for us and keeping us in your prayers. We feel your love and care for us, as if you were here in person. Thank you!

**Our Staff**, we see how much extra work you have needed to put into this term, stopping at every point to double check regular activities against the risk assessments, to learn new skills, to write all the remote learning plans and be endlessly tolerant of our many emails with updates. We can see how much you care for each child's learning and school experience. Thank you for your commitment and especially for all smiles for the children and each other whilst we can't hug!

We have received many gifts, cards and kind words this week. We can't thank you enough. After this crazy year, and knowing we need to retain our resilience for some time to come, we very much appreciate your kindness and generosity. A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!!!!

## Tomorrow

- Remember, **we close an hour and a half early** for each collection time – see below.
- **Non-uniform day** – children wear their own clothes. Please be warm and school friendly – no inappropriate logos/messages and sensible shoes for school. They could go Christmas jumper again.
- **No toys from home** – thank you!



### **Nativity, Christmas Plays and Carol Concerts**

What a week of entertainment we have had! We've had angels and shepherds, Mary and Joseph, all sharing the story of the birth of Christ, through song, dance, readings and acting – so much fun along the way! We hope these will lift your spirits over this very different holiday and be a treat to watch – more than once maybe??

- **Children** - We have loved watching you give these festive performances your all - we are so proud of you! Do you have favourite parts? Best songs? You can teach all your family and sing along together!!
- **Staff** – Amazing work - please take a bow yourselves! New skills about this year we know - re-organising plays, normal rehearsal routines, inspiring the children and creating videos (and then the endlessly uploading them!!) has definitely been one of many!

### **Parties, Movies and Christmas Fun**

I'm sure your child will be telling you of the many different things happening in school this week. **A particular thank you to the PTA** for sending in yummy snacks for our in-school Movie Time!

We can't believe that Santa had time to send a message to the Infants this week. Do ask your little ones what surprise he shared with us!

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## **COVID-19**

UPDATE

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### **COVID ISSUES**

#### **Test and Trace over the holidays**

Please take time to read the letter I sent out last week, if you haven't already. We very much hope we have no positive test results, but we all need to know what to do if it that happens, so we can keep everyone safe.

Remember, we do need to hear from you, if

- any child has a test this week – please email us to confirm their result
- any child tests positive for COVID having developed symptoms up to 48hours after being in school (up to Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm).
- Please write COVID ISSUES in the subject line, so emails are easy to identify
  - For any positive tests after this point, please make sure you let us know before we return to school in January.

If we have a positive test amongst children or staff

- we will consult the relevant authorities and would let you know about any further actions you need to take.
- you could hear from us up until Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve – so please check your emails from school carefully until then.

FYI - Experience tells us that test results are coming back much quicker now, with the drive thru/walk in centres being very prompt indeed.

### Self-isolating after a holiday abroad

If you are intending to travel abroad over the holidays, please ensure you follow the guidance around testing/self-isolating on return as required for that country. Please let us know dates of travel and which country you have been to, even if your child isn't going to miss any school. If your child will miss the start of term, they will need to do the remote learning set for their year group. Infants – see the children page of the website, then go to the Remote Learning page. Juniors – log into google classroom.

### Infant School

#### Staffing

- I am delighted that **Mrs Scott** will be continuing in her role as Interim Head of School. However, she will be changing her time so she can give more of her focus to this role. Mrs Scott will no longer be working in Orange Class and will be in school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Orange Class will have a wonderful new teacher for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – We look forward to welcoming **Mrs Edwards** to our Polehampton team after Christmas. Mrs Edwards has already spent time working with our Yr1 teachers, planning lots of wonderful learning for next term. She popped in to meet the children this week, so they all know who she is.
- We have two new teaching assistants joining our team next term. **Mrs Butterfield** will be joining our Blue Class team for the afternoons. **Mrs Pennington** is joining our Year 2 TA team for Mon-Thurs afternoons.

### Junior News

**Vacancy** – Full time temporary Teaching Assistant and Lunchtime Controller required as soon as possible. See school website for details

### PTA News

Hi all,

This week saw our second brilliant masterclass. Watch this space for more next year.

A massive THANK YOU to Anthony Hart & Leon Challis-Davies for running a superb turkey wellington cooking masterclass. All who attended loved it and it was full of hints and tips for the perfect roast. Thanks also to Simon McKenzie who kindly gifted us boxes.

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed prizes to the raffle. We raised an amazing £1,543!!

THANK YOU Also to Nick Proctor and Microsoft for hopefully doubling that total with match funding. Please do get in touch with us if you think your company can help with this.

THANK YOU to everyone who joined us for our master classes, bought a raffle ticket, craft bag, sweetie cone, Santa letter- it all adds up to lots more money to spend on our amazing schools. THANK YOU also to everyone who volunteered their time to help run masterclasses, create websites, deliver letters, stuff bags, deliver boxes and much more you are all superstars.

In addition, THANK YOU to the office staff/teachers who had the unenviable task of distributing everything for us!

It's been a busy term for the PTA getting to grips with online life and we appreciate your patience with the stream of messages.

If anyone would like to get more involved next term drop us a message at [polehamptonpta@gmail.com](mailto:polehamptonpta@gmail.com) we have a couple of smaller roles that can be mostly done remotely at a time to suit so please do get in touch if you have some time to spare!

Merry Christmas and Happy new Year

The PTA

### Church Team News

Please check the Church website for information about their services over the the Christmas period. <https://thru-christ.org.uk/>

Best wishes,

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

### Attachments today

- COVID ISSUES parent letter 11.12.20
- Wokingham Borough Council Tier 3 poster – Wokingham goes into Tier 3 on Saturday
- Lunch menu for the Spring term – hot meals to continue next term
- School nursing team letter

### Diary Dates – Autumn Term 2020/Spring 2021

Autumn Term 2020			
Date	Which school/year group/class?	Event	Times
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Both Schools	Last day of term/Non-uniform day	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
21 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2020 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2021- School Closed for the Christmas Holidays			

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

## **Term Dates 2020/21**

### **Spring Term 2021**

School open to pupils - Tues 5th January to Thurs 1st April 2021

- Inset day Monday 4th Jan
- Inset day – Fri 12th February
- Half term - w/c Monday 15th February

### **Summer Term 2021**

School open to pupils - Monday 19th April to Wed 21st July 2021

- Half term - w/c Monday 31st May

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## **Term Dates 2021/22**

### **Autumn 2021**

**School opens to pupils** - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December

- Inset day 1 – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September
- Inset day 2 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October
- Half term – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October
- Inset day 3 – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November

### **Spring 2022**

**School opens to pupils** - Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April

- Inset day 4 – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Inset day 5 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February
- Half term – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February

### **Summer 2022**

School opens to pupils - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July

- Half term – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June