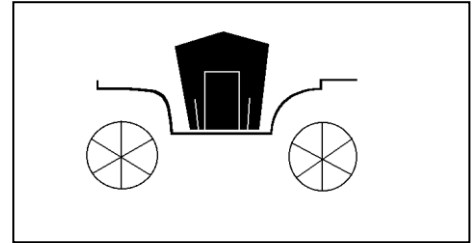


Polehampton C of E Infant School
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Executive Headteacher: Miss Helen Ball BA (Hons) PGCE
Head of Infants: Miss Hazel Snellgrove BA (Hons) GTP

Newsletter No. 18
Friday 14th February 2020

Dear Parents and Governors,

We are now half way through this school year, which is hard to believe!! School is going to be very busy next week, as we have 2 big projects happening.

New Library being Installed

We are beyond excited about the new library being installed next week!! Having a fantastic environment and celebration of reading and books will be so enriching for our children. Thank you to our PTA who fund-raised so well to make this project possible. Do take a look at our Twitter feed for a “before” photo!

Automated Gates being Installed

On the Hermitage Drive entrance, both the pedestrian and the driveway gates will now be automated. The pedestrian gate will be open for a period of time at the beginning and end of the school day. If you are entering the site at a different time (for school or Happy Hours), you will need to use a buzzer system to speak to the office. This will be new to all of us, so do bear with us as we get used to it.



Junior School Site Controller

I know a lot of our shared infant/juniors families will be sad to know that our dear Mr McGregor will be leaving our school at the end of March. He is such an asset to our school and we will miss him terribly. We need to find a new site controller to continue to do his fabulous work. I've attached the advert to today's newsletter – maybe you know someone who would be interested in applying for this position?



Whole School Home Learning – Reading Challenge

In home-learning books and attached to this newsletter, you will find some super ideas for reading at home over the half term break.

Phonics

Phonic Assessments – Year One and some of our Year Two Children

Please check in book bags as we have sent home copies of phonic assessments this week. The actual assessment takes place in June but we find it helpful to do an early check to see how each child is progressing. Please do speak to your child's class teacher if you want to discuss anything further.



Parental Donations – Spend so far this year

We are so very grateful for the donations our parents make – you support us to buy essential resources, so thank you! This includes:-

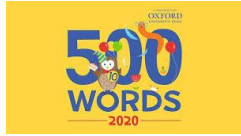
Maths resources £113, stationery books £98, Christmas resources £219.79, Super learner characters £575, Xylophones £168, stationery £193, arts & crafts £37, Twinkl upgrade £69, Itunes match £22, so the total is approx. £1,500.



Anonymous Donation

We would like to send a big thank you to someone in our local community for a very generous anonymous donation to our school library. It's come from a Polehampton family, to honour the memory of someone who loved his time at our school – how kind

for him to think of us! Whoever you are, we send our enormous thanks!



Radio 2's 500 words Competition

If you are looking for a fun activity for over half term – this might be the answer!

The 500 word competition has begun! All entries must be submitted by Thursday 27th February at 8pm.

How to enter: You can create an account at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/500wordscompetition/submissions-fe/index.html#/profile> to submit your child's 500 word story.

This year's 500 Words Final will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 2 from Buckingham Palace, on The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show, on Friday 12th June.

Please read the competition rules before submitting entries, along with the competition Privacy Notice.



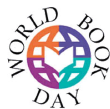
On week commencing 24th February, there will be a change to the menu. Mondays menu (Chicken) will be swapped with Tuesdays menu (Sausages). This is just for this week.

On Tuesday 25th February, as it is pancake day, dessert will be pancakes with a choice of toppings including ice cream, honey, mixed berries or chocolate drizzle.



Half Term Events in Wokingham Borough

Attached are details of February Half term events running across Wokingham Borough Libraries for children. For more information please see attached poster or go to <https://wp.me/p5mHbU-4gA>



World Book Day – 5th March

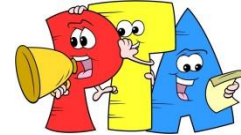
If you haven't decided what to wear on World Book day, half term would be a good time to have a think. We encourage all our children (and staff!) to dress up as a character from a book.



Fundraising for Asthma UK

Cedric in Year 2 is raising money for Asthma UK by climbing Mount Snowdon on the extra day this leap year! At the end of February, he will be making the hike up - and down - Snowdon! This is clearly a massive challenge for a 6yr old boy.

If you are able to sponsor Cedric, please go to the following 'Go Fund Me' page '[gf.me/u/xgy6wr](https://www.gofundme.com/u/xgy6wr)'.



Happy end of term!

Thank you to everyone for supporting us this term.

Next term we have some fun events planned (see below). More information about these events will be sent out in the weeks following half term so do look out for those.

The current committee have been in place for three years now and will be stepping down at the end of the year.

It is vital that the PTA continues to fundraise so that our kids have decent facilities and learning materials. Please do chat with any of us to see what this entails and if possible step up and get involved. Thanks!

Diary Dates:

Sponsored Event – 'Run for books'

Monday 16th March pm – Blue Class

Tuesday 17th March pm – Y2

Wednesday 18th March pm – Y1

More details to follow shortly, but we will need volunteers to help run this event. Please do let us know if you can help on your year groups day – Thanks.

PTA Meeting 11th March:

All welcome please do come along.

Joint Quiz Night 27th March:

Juniors and Infants will be holding a joint quiz night. More details to following soon.

Thank you

The PTA Team

PTA Party Box

We now have a party box available for hire, £10 to hire (£5 deposit back if returned clean and complete).

This is a super way to reduce waste – less plastic is always good!

Includes:

- 30 x plates, cups, bowls

- 3 x serving platters
- 2 x jugs

We have already received lots of bookings, so please do get in touch if you would like to hire it.

Miss Helen Ball
Executive Headteacher

Miss Hazel Snellgrove
Head of School

Next week's dates in blue

New or amended dates and arrangements in red

Diary Dates – Spring 2020		
Date	Event	Timing/venue
w/c Monday 17 th February	Half Term	School closed
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day	Dress up as your favourite book character!
Tuesday 10 th March	Parents Evening 1	3.30pm – 6.00pm
Wednesday 11 th March	PTA Meeting	More info to follow
Friday 13 th March	Year 2 Cake Sale	3.00pm - playground
W/C 16 th March	PTA Sponsored Event	More info to follow
Wednesday 18 th March	Parents Evening 2	4.30pm – 7.00pm
Thursday 19 th March	Year 2 Trip to Reading Museum and RISC	More info to follow
Friday 27 th March	Year 2 Fairtrade Coffee Morning	9.00am – school hall. Y2 parents invited
Friday 27 th March	PTA Quiz Night	Joint with Junior School – details to follow
Tuesday 31 st March	Blue Class Spring Celebration Assembly	9.10am - school hall – Parents invited
Wednesday 1 st April	Church Service	St Mary's Church
Thursday 2 nd April	Year 1 & 2 Spring Celebration Assembly	9.10am & 2.30pm - school hall – Parents invited
Friday 3 rd April	Last day of term	School closes at 1.50pm

Term Dates 2019-20

Please note that holidays in school term time are not authorised

Spring Term 2020

Inset Day – Mon 6th January

Tues 7th January – Friday 3rd April

Half term w/c Monday 17th February

Summer Term 2020

Monday 20th April – Friday 17th July 2020

Fri 8th May – Bank Holiday – please note this is a national change from the usual Monday due to VE Day commemorations

Half term w/c Monday 25th May

Inset days – Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st July

Term Dates 2010-21

Autumn Term 2020

School open to pupils - Thurs 3rd Sep to Fri 18th Dec 2020

- Inset days - Tuesday 1st & Wed 2nd Sept
- Inset day – Fri 23rd October
- Half term – w/c Monday 26th October

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