

Polehampton C. of E. Schools Federation

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Friday 5th June 2020

Dear Polehampton Families,

Opening the Schools to More Children

Following many staff meetings, reading lots of guidance, talking to other schools, moving furniture, a LOT of new equipment ordering and governor checks, we are now able to open the school to Foundation Stage and Year Six children, starting next week.

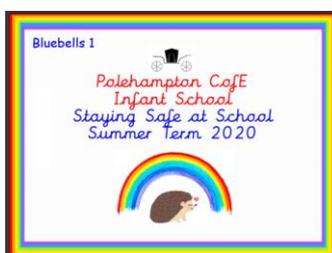
We are delighted to announce that we now know we can accommodate our Year One children back in school too – you will be invited back from the week beginning 15th June.

Governors' Review of School Plans to Open to More Children

Governors spent yesterday morning at the Infants and Juniors reviewing the plans for opening the schools to more children. We walked through the process of children and parents/carers arriving at school and ensured social distancing could be maintained by parents, before seeing each bubble's classroom and toilet area. Even though the classrooms are laid out very differently, it still felt like the Polehampton we all know.

I would like to thank Miss Ball and all the staff team for the care and diligence that has gone into getting the schools ready whilst also settling the priority group children into their new home at the Juniors.

Caroline Harrison, Chair of Governors



Information for families if your child is returning or attending school next week AND Year One

Please read this carefully as it does contain important new information. Also, do please re-read all the information we sent home on 29th May as that also covered a lot of information about returning to school. For your reference, previous newsletters are currently on the front page of our website, so they are very easy to find.

I would suggest all parents read this information so you can see how we are working in school at these times.

<p>Foundation Stage and Year Six</p>	<p>We look forward to welcoming back most of our Blue, Whaleshark and Orangutan children next week. We have children in their new bubbles, either Monday/Tuesday or Wednesday/Thursday.</p> <p>Parents, you have all been sent visuals to support your child understand how things will look when they return. Did you love Mrs Bushell’s poem and the new Happy Hedgehog character??? 😊</p>
<p>Year One</p>	<p>We are delighted to announce that we now know we can accommodate our year one children back in school – you will be invited back from the week beginning 15th June.</p> <p>The teachers are now finalising the pupil bubbles for these classes. Parents – if anyone who indicated a “maybe” on their survey last week is now a confirmed yes, could you please let us know as soon as you can. This will help with our planning. Next week, we will send home information about which days your child will be attending and which staff they will be with – <u>We cannot take parental requests on this matter.</u></p> <p>We will also send our visuals that you can share with your child.</p> <p>Please see newsletter 29th May for more information on how this will work.</p>
<p>Social Distancing and following the one way systems.</p>	<p>Please remember the importance of social distancing outside the school grounds too. Please arrive and leave promptly – I know it will be so tempting to have a chat to other parents you haven’t seen for a long time, but we must respect the rules and other members of the public, so please don’t gather inside school or out on the pavements.</p>
<p>Communication with staff</p>	<p>Staff won’t be able to talk to you at the beginnings of the day – they will to be totally focussed on the children. Some collection areas make it difficult to do this at hometime too. Please call or email the school offices if you need to pass on a message at all and someone will get back to you.</p>
<p>Physical contact</p>	<p>It is important for parents to understand that there might still be occasional physical contact between staff and children – this is largely true for our younger ones. I think our young ones will find it hard initially to not hold their teacher’s hand, for example. We will kindly discourage this, but I’m sure everyone completely appreciates that the occasional moment is unavoidable and actually supportive for our children at this time – “hugs and hands are for home” will be our little reminder. We will still need to administer first aid.</p>
<p>Saying cheerio to your child</p>	<p>At drop off, our young ones might find it tricky saying goodbye after such a long time at home.</p> <p>We can do a gentle guide away, but if your child becomes upset and holds onto to you tightly, we are unable to physically help with this. As I mentioned before, maybe think if your child separates more easily from one parent than another if there are two of you at home.</p>
<p>Packed lunches – this is a change from last week’s information</p>	<p>We are pleased that Caterlink are able to offer our children a packed lunch service from next week.</p> <p>You can choose if you send your child in with a home packed lunch or if they choose a school packed lunch. Please see the attached menu for the rest of this term.</p> <p>Junior Parents – you will need to update your Tucasi account, if your child has a school packed lunch.</p>

	Blue Class and Year One – if you are sending in your own packed lunches, please ensure they are in containers that your children can manage themselves, so staff don't have to handle their containers or packets. Thank you!
No bags to be brought in	Please note your child only needs a water bottle and a packed lunch if they are bringing one.
Medication	Please return any medication, for example asthma pumps to the school offices.
Home-learning	We will continue to send home-learning for the 3 days that the children are not in school. If you have decided not to return your child to school, you can supplement this work with BBC Bitesize or the Oak Academy if you so choose.
Ordinary health issues	Please remember to adhere to other health regulations regarding school attendance. If in doubt, please check the NHS website. The most common one to be aware of is to remain home for 48 hours if you have had any diarrhea or vomiting.
Returning to school survey	Thank you to the parents who have already completed this survey. We would very much appreciate you letting us know how your child has been doing over the last few weeks. Click here to complete this survey which will be shared with their usual teacher and their bubble staff.
Fruit and milk	As of today, we haven't heard if our usual deliveries of milk or fruit will be starting on Monday. Please send your child in with healthy snacks for break time, if they would like those.
Art activities	We won't be using aprons at this stage in the infants, to reduce close contact. We will be encouraging children to roll up their sleeves and will continue to use products that can be easily washed out.
Keeping our hands clean	All children will clean their hands with anti-bac on their hands on arrival – this is to reduce to internal queuing at that point, when we want to spend time talking to the children, rather than monitoring 20 second handwashing. However, most hand hygiene throughout the day will be done through handwashing.
Uniform for all	As I mentioned last week, please wear freshly washed uniform each day. Year Six – you are allowed to wear your new super hoodies.

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Information for Everyone

Key worker places

This week, we have had several additional requests for key worker places from new families. We still have some capacity – more on some days than the others - for all existing requests. However, we might get to the point where we have to stop taking additional requests from new or existing children. Please make sure you request any additional days in advance, so we can let you know if we can accommodate you.

Home-learning for Years 2/3/4/5

We are going to continue with our home-learning as before. We have reviewed our capacity and we are able to carry on. I am delighted about this – we want all our children to continue to have access to learning suggested by their class teacher.

Our next slide show – Do What Makes You Happy!

Next week might feel funny for some of our children, if they realise that more children are returning to school. We want ALL our children to continue being involved in whole school projects.

Our next theme is “Do What Makes You Happy”.

Some of our staff have started it off for us – [take a look here!](#)

So send in a photo of your child/family doing something that makes you happy by Thursday 11th June at 12noon.

By sending in this photo, you are consenting to your child’s photo being on

- Our website, Twitter feed and Vimeo

[This week’s Assembly](#)

This week’s assembly is all about All the Rules we have at the moment, particularly that Hugs are for Home. I have included a favourite Polehampton song and a fabulous story which will explain our Happy Hedgehog a bit better! 😊

Talking to your children about racism

After the huge media coverage of tragic recent events in USA and the subsequent demonstrations in many countries around the world, I wondered if it might be helpful to share something helpful for parents at this time. I would highly recommend this article [“How to talk to your child about race and racism”](#) if you would like to do some extra thinking about how to talk to your child about racism.

This is quite a handy list to support our thinking at this time.



Every point is extremely important – I believe it is particularly important to talk about positive change and how we all need to be part of that.

BBC Bitesize also have many good lessons about this.

Sadness and Bereavement during this period

We know that some of our families have experienced trauma and loss during this period. Many of us have attended virtual funerals, not been able to visit friends and family during ill-health and suffering or just really missed our loved ones. We will remember this whenever we welcome you back to school.

[Daisy’s Dream](#) offer support to families to explain bereavement to children. They are a local charity, who offer very helpful resources online as well as family or individual support.

NHS information about Coronavirus

I am sure you have all this information already, but here is a handy link to find out about the NHS’s current guidance and information about testing and tracing.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Safeguarding update

I'm sure lots of us are online more than usual at the moment. For children, this does bring additional safeguarding risks, alongside the benefits. These sites are full of really useful

The sites below provide age appropriate practical support and enable reporting of concerns whilst online:

- [Childline - for support](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre - to report and remove harmful online content](#)
- [CEOP - for advice on making a report about online abuse](#)

Exercise books

We will be continuing to leave out exercise books for children who need a new one – on dry days.

At the Infants, they will be at the end of the pedestrian path on Hermitage Road, just by the electric gate.

At the Juniors, from next week, we will leave them at the gate by Kibblewhite Crescent. Please be careful with social distancing as you approach the school – thank you!

Thank you to our Polehampton Community

I want to say a big thank you to everyone who is supporting us with this new challenge.

I have been very touched by the many lovely emails from **parents** – your support at this time is very much appreciated.

Thanks to our **governors** who have supported us, with helpful questions and suggestions, to manage these very different times.

Thank you to our **church team** – we are loving your assemblies and we know you have been praying for us during this time.

I want to thank **the staff** who have been working so hard since lockdown and will continue to as we enter this next phase. I cannot tell you how proud I have felt in recent weeks. Along with the whole country, their working lives has been tipped on their heads but they've taken up the challenge with a smile and the "can do" attitude we try to model every day for our children.

- Thank you for leaving the safety of your homes during lockdown, so we could offer child-care to our critical workers.
- Thank you for suddenly learning how to manage all that Google Classroom and Purple Mash has to offer as a home-learning tool.
- Thank you for all the online training you are undertaking, which will benefit us no end when we get back to school.
- Thank you for reading all my many updates and responding with great questions and funny memes!
- Thank you for bearing with it when we Zoom or Team our meet ups! (12 weeks ago, the only Zoom I knew was a lolly!!)

Schools are about strong relationships; they work because we know and trust each other. We have managed to stretch our Polehampton spirit across the miles because you are all amazing!

[Just for the Juniors](#)

Welcome to Mr Wickens!

Mr Wickens started as our new site controller just as we were all going into lockdown. He has been working very hard, alone at school, to get to know the site. He has made super use of this quiet time,

managing to tackle tasks that we don't often get time to do. You will see him on Kibblewhite Crescent gates when you return to school.

Hayling Island – Year Six Parents only

Please see the email you received earlier this week regarding refunds for the Hayling Island trip. We had a kind question, asking if the school would suffer financially in any way – we have managed to negotiate carrying over the deposit we had paid to a future trip, which was a fair outcome for school and their organisation.

Best wishes everyone - I hope you are all able to have lovely weekends,

Miss Ball and the Polehampton Team