

Polehampton C. of E. Schools Federation

Executive Headteacher: Helen Ball BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Polehampton C. of E. Infant School

Hermitage Drive,
Twyford,
RG10 9HS
Tel: 0118 934 0246
Email: admin@polehampton-inf.wokingham.sch.uk
Web: www.polehampton-inf.wokingham.sch.uk
Head of Infants: Hazel Snellgrove BA (Hons), GTP

Polehampton

CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

Kibblewhite Crescent,
Twyford,
RG10 9AX
Tel: 0118 934 1338
Email: admin@polehampton-jun.wokingham.sch.uk
Web: www.polehampton-jun.wokingham.sch.uk
Head of Juniors: Liz Castell BA (Hons), PGCert SENCO/
Helen Medcalf BA (Hons), PGCE

Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Polehampton Families,

This has been another very different week in school, one full of mixed feelings for all of us. We are delighted that the current rules have allowed us to have more children in school. Seeing most of our youngest and oldest children back has lifted our hearts. You have behaved impeccably; we've been very proud of how you have tried your best in lessons and tried your hardest to remember your own personal bubble! However, it has made us think even more about our children that cannot yet return. Please know you are ALL in our thoughts, particularly your teachers and TAs, Mrs Castell, Mrs Medcalf, Miss Snellgrove and I.

What happens for the rest of this term?

You might have heard in the press this week that the government will not now be asking schools to bring back all year groups this term. Key factors for schools are

- the limit of 15 children per bubble – so each class now needs 2 rooms and double the staff
- staff can't move between bubbles

At Polehampton, we have reviewed our staffing and sadly cannot take any additional year groups. I have spoken to local schools as we help each other out by sharing good idea and talking through possible solutions. The local picture on this matter does vary, as things always do on lots of school issues. Some schools will not be able to offer FS and/or Year 1 and/or Year 6, whilst others have been able to offer more days in schools to some groups. Whilst we all have the same guidance, every school has a very different profile in terms of staffing, space and numbers of eligible children returning. We have a very high percentage returning from the eligible year groups, whilst some school are only about 30%. It's quite a complex picture, as I'm sure you'll appreciate. We are all busy doing the very best we can to create the provision we can, given the current climate and guidance we are working within. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time of uncertainty and change.

What else can we do?

We are always reviewing our provision and what we can do in line with the changing guidance. Now staff are allowed to work in school more, we can make further provision for our years 2/3/4/5.

- We will offer a couple of phone calls to each child from their class teacher between now and the end of term.
 - The point of these phone calls is to have more contact with the children, beyond the work feedback on Purple Mash and Google Classroom.
 - You could prepare them by asking them to think about some work that they have been particularly proud of or something they are stuck on.
 - These will be up to 10minutes long.
 - Whilst this is for the child, an adult will need to remain present – please put the phone on speaker so you can listen along.

- Children who are in school – if you are not with your teacher, we will try our best to catch you on the days you aren't in school.
- If you aren't in when we call, we'll leave a message if we can and try again another day.
- Parents, we would really like to hear from you about how your child is doing. We have set up a parent survey so you can share with us how things are going. We would love to hear any exciting or significant news. If you have concerns about your child, that could help us chat, maybe offer some encouragement or talk about a particular bit of learning that they need help with. [Parent Survey](#).

Staff will do a home-learning introduction video, to explain each week's home-learning in a bit more detail. See websites, Purple Mash and Google Classrooms. See [Mrs Scott's story time](#) which will support Yr1's homelearning next week

- We will do more of our story time videos – watch on google classroom/emails for more fun with those! Virtual lessons - We did mention a few weeks ago on a newsletter that we were not going to be doing any live lessons. We mentioned that our local authority had specifically mentioned safeguarding issues that this could cause.

What happens next term?

We are all in a quite frustrating time, not knowing so many things about the future – living with uncertainty for a long time is a real challenge. Until we have more information about the guidance for September and beyond, schools cannot predict or give out any specific information. I do feel everyone's pain on this matter! I cannot wait for the day when we are ALL able to be in school, with our teachers and TAs, busy learning and enjoying school together.

Social Media Reminder

As I said, I completely understand that things are frustrating at the moment – I seem to say “we don't know yet” or “we can't do that at the moment” fairly frequently these days, given all the restrictions we have to keep everyone safe. However, please do contact the school directly if you have any questions – we will try to reply as soon as we can. I also gather up some frequently asked questions from emails to reply on our newsletters as often those questions are useful for everyone to know. :-)

Please do not use social media to complain about the school – this would include WhatsApp groups for year groups.

Doing what makes you happy slideshow

Thank you for sending in all the “what makes me happy” pictures. A big thank you to Mrs Bushell for sorting these out for us – they make me smile everytime!

We will add a link of this to our website when it's finished.

Staff toddler photos – Can you spot who's who?

From next week, we will have a “Guess the staff” photo spot. It will start on Twitter and then we'll do a summary on the newsletters so you can all play. I've seen a few already – super cute!! They should make you giggle!

Year Two induction, including Buddies work with Year Five

We are busy planning what our Year Two Junior School induction will look like this year.

We will write to you with more information about this next week.

I know you had some home-learning to do with introductions to buddies.

Year Two, you have also had some work on memories; however, we completely appreciate that reminiscing can make us feel happy or sad or both. Parents, you know your child best and how they are right now - if this work isn't right for them at the moment, as with all home-learning, either leave it or do it in a different way (maybe through drawing or filming a message) if that would be better.

Whilst we are unable to share contact details for each other's buddies, we will see later if the rules allow a get together of some kind. If not, we hope to be able to do this in the Autumn term.

Home-learning Exercise Books

We know lots of children have been busying away in exercise books or arts and crafts activities, as well as Purple Mash and Google Classroom. The teachers will love to see them if you want to send them in when we return.

The time for thorough, effective marking will have passed, however. This is because marking is feedback that needs to be done at the time, so they can learn and make their next piece of work better.

Often, we ask the children to mark their own work first before they bring it to us – this is really good for them, so they learn to spot their own errors and make corrections themselves. As you will know, we use green for growth (something that needs improving) and tinkled pink (for improvements and great parts!). We would choose one or two things to comment on, rather than analysing the whole piece, so they don't feel overwhelmed with things to do. If you haven't tried this yet, you could go it a go!

Priority group

We are now very close to our maximum for most days. Please make sure you only come on the days you have requested. We might not be able to cater for additional days, so please ask at least 3 working days in advance, so we can get back to you with our availability.

Now our car park is busier, we no longer have space for parents to use this.

Bringing bikes/scooters - PG group please park by them by the shed near the kitchen. Yr6 – please park by the bungalow

Note – we use the “priority group” term because this is the name the DFE guidance uses. I realise that this might sound strange – basically the DFE are asking us to follow their guidance on who we prioritise, in the way that we have been asked to invite FS/Yr1/Yr6.

For us, **all our children are important**, but because of the social distancing/space issues, we are having to follow the priority guidance that has been issued.

School Nursing Team

Berkshire Healthcare is launching a new School Nursing advice and support line for children, young people and their families, to offer health advice and referral into the service for on-going support if needed. The line will be available from 9am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

You can access this service by dialing **0118 9312111** and selecting ‘**Option 4**’ to speak to a School Nurse from our team.

Summer Reading Challenge 2020 - “Silly Squad”

The Summer Reading Challenge is going online this year! Below are links to register for the challenge and to become a member of the library. You will then be able to borrow ebooks, e-audio books and e-comics.

Sign up - You can sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge on the national website, this year, instead of registering at your local library: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Library membership for the summer - If you are not already a member of the library, you can join the library online here <https://wokingham.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/OPAC/JOIN> to borrow e-books, e-audio books and e-comics for the challenge.

Ideas for Homelearning

We have sent these ideas home before but I always find it's handy to have reminders!

- Oxford Owls have put up so many free e-books to read, ages 3-11.

[https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-](https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page?view=image&query=&type=book&age_group=&level=&level_select=&book_type=&series=)

[page?view=image&query=&type=book&age_group=&level=&level_select=&book_type=&series=](https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page?view=image&query=&type=book&age_group=&level=&level_select=&book_type=&series=)

Scroll down to the bottom of this page and you will find links to phonics and other reading scheme books.

- DFE recommended list – this is an excellent list of providers across the curriculum- HIGHLY RECOMMENDED - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

- Twinkl – free for parents at this time <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents>
- BBC bitesize - Daily lessons across the curriculum, for all year groups - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- Oak National Academy – daily lessons for all year groups - <https://www.thenational.academy/>
- Still my favourite – for anyone following us on Twitter, you will know that we love Rob Biddulph's Draw

with Rob. He draws such endearing characters and shows the children how to be successful really well <http://www.robbiddulph.com/>

Message from our PTA

Hi All

We have a **Bags2School collection** arranged for Tuesday 16th June. You can drop your bags to us in the Loddon Hall Carpark (on the side next to the school entrance) between 9am and 11am that day. If you cannot make that time please message 07712147431 for an alternative address that bags can be dropped off beforehand.

Please remember social distancing rules if you come along!

This is a great opportunity for us to raise some much needed funds for both schools as we have obviously missed several fundraisers this year. Please take a look through the list below and bag up what you can! *Also see the letter attached.*

See you on Tuesday morning!

Many thanks

The Infant & Junior School PTA

We accept the following '**good quality**' items for RE-USE*: (any carrier/bin bag is fine)

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Household curtains
- Household towels
- Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

** We reserve the right to refuse any unsuitable items*

We **DO NOT** accept:

- *Duvets and blankets*
- *Pillows and cushions*
- *Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)*
- *Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing*
- *School uniforms with and without logo*
- *Corporate clothing and workwear*
- *Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material*

As always, stay safe, happy and healthy!

**All our best wishes,
Miss Ball and the Polehampton Team**