

Polehampton C. of E. Schools Federation

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Friday 26th June 2020

Dear Polehampton Families,

Recent Events in Forbury Gardens

We are shocked and deeply saddened to hear of the tragic events that took place in Reading last weekend. I'm sure everyone was astonished to imagine such events happening in such a friendly park in the heart of Reading.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone who has lost family or friends and to anyone who has been impacted by these atrocities.

Hearing that a local school, The Holt School in Wokingham, have lost a dear teacher was devastating - our hearts go out to everyone in their school community.

How do you talk to your child about terrorism?

There is lots of good advice out there for how you might approach this subject with children – they might well raise it with you if they have heard things on the news or from friends who are aware. We need to give time to let them express any worries they have, with age appropriate responses. I thought [this article](#) was a good read.

Keeping your Child Safe Online

Yesterday the government published a useful overview called [Support for Parents and Carers to Keep Your Child Safe Online](#). It actually covers a really broad range of issues, with many links to helpful websites.

One recommended app caught my eye. It's for children as they get a mobile phone for the first time, which might be true for children in the summer before they start at secondary school. [Own It](#)

Every child offered some time in school this term

After a lot of sorting and thinking, we have been able to offer every child from our Yrs 2s, 3s, 4s and 5s a little time in school this term.

- Year Twos – have all been offered an induction morning at the Junior School – I was thrilled to see our first group in on Tuesday this week, looking super smart and keen to learn everything they could
- Years 3, 4 & 5 – we have or will be offering you all a socially distanced picnic before the holidays

I am delighted about this – we all know how much we are missing each other, so even to have a little hello is wonderful!

We have been able to arrange it so that our children who are in school or attending one of these events will be able to meet their new teacher – a socially distanced wave and hello. Most of our children do know all the staff but a proper hello is so valuable.

If your child is not in school at all, then their new teacher will give them a call to say hello.

We have one new teacher at the Infant School – see below for more details. Miss Bond will be teaching in Green Class next term – she's popping in next week to say hello to her children. We will send you home a photo so you know what she looks like.

Children in School

Year Six – an extra day in school

We are now able to offer our Year Six children an additional day in school. Our Mon/Tues children can also come on Wednesday, our Wed/Thurs children can now come on Friday. We are so pleased to be able to offer this – our year

sixes will all be in together for a day, and whilst they can't mix too much, they will all be able to see each other before they leave us to head off to their secondary schools. Yr6 parents – please see your email today.

Foundation Stage and Year One

Sadly, we are unable to extend the time in school for our Infant children. As we have said, staffing is always our key issue - we have a number of job share roles at the Infant School, which means we do not have the capacity to increase days, given the other work that is required of them because of the current situation.

Year Six Surprise Activity Day

I have loved seeing the faces of our Year Six children in school this week as their staff gave them a surprise activity day. This would have been our Hayling Island residential week, so the staff wanted to give them a special day in school to mark this experience. We had coconut shys, mini raft building, throlf (ask your children!), tin can alley, giant connect four, a scavenger hunt and their very own ice-cream van, with sauce and sprinkles!! A real big effort from the staff, who made this a special time for our oldest children. Mrs Porter deserves a special mention, for lots of things but particularly for making the ice-cream van!!! We really appreciated all the lovely feedback from parents and children for this day too!

Holiday Clubs

We would like to signpost parents towards this organisation who are running summer camps in several local schools. They come recommended, so we hope this is useful information. These clubs are going to be very popular this summer so get booking if you are interested.

<https://funtastickids.co.uk/holiday-camps/>

News about September

The DFE has written this message to schools - "Over the coming weeks we will publish further information and guidance to help schools prepare for a full return in September. We are working across Government and with the sector to ensure these plans are fully in place so that this can happen." We look forward to receiving this information to support our planning for September.

Teachers for September 2020

We have a few changes to our teaching structure for the new school year. Please see below which year groups our teachers will be working in from this September. We will let you have the full staffing list, including Teaching Assistants in due course.

We are in the process of sending you emails regarding which class your child will be in next year.

	teacher	teacher
Foundation Stage	Miss Burnett	Mrs Bushell/Mrs Gingell
Yr1	Mrs Gingell/Mrs Scott	Miss Bond (new to Polehampton)
Yr2	Mrs Franklin	Miss Heckert
Yr3	Miss Clarke	Mrs Newman/Mrs Selvester
Yr4	Miss Ackerman	Miss Trail
Yr5	Miss Duncombe	Miss Dunne
Yr6	Mr McGlone	Miss Davis

As always, we have some hellos and goodbyes – this affects just the Infant School this year.

We will be saying a big thank you and good bye to Miss Snellgrove, Mrs Whyte and Mrs Jenkins.

We are so sad to lose our amazing Head of School, Miss Snellgrove. She is an inspirational leader, always working to improve outcomes for children. She has brought so much fun and laughter to our school. Sadly, Miss Snellgrove will not be in school again this term, so we wish her well on her way now.

We will let you know about future staffing arrangements for Miss Snellgrove's role in due course.

Mrs Whyte has been a wonderful teacher for our youngest ones, our Blue Class and now our Year Ones. Mrs Whyte wants to spend more time at home with her son – we hope to see you in our playground one day Mrs Whyte!

Mrs Jenkins – what a star you’ve been, teaching in both Green and Purple class this year. We hope to see you back in our school again one day!!

We will be welcoming a lovely new teacher, Miss Bond, into year one. Miss Bond is an experienced teacher, who will be a super new addition to our Polehampton family.

Staff Photo Guess Who?

Please find attached a copy of the answers for last week and new guesses for this week – how many did you get right???

Different Ideas for Home-learning

I know your teachers send home lots of ideas for each year group – here are some other ideas if you fancy a family project of something different.

- **Art lessons with Mrs Howard**

You might know that Mrs Howard works at our infants and volunteers at our Junior School, teaching small group art. She has very kindly done some art lessons which you might like to take a look at.

Here’s the first one!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdbf_xLZr6k

- **Stories & Science from Space**

Does your child love learning about space? Do they love stories or learning about science?

Take a look at real astronauts reading stories from the International Space Station. They are actually floating about reading stories - I could watch them all day!

There are lots to choose from - here are my **favourites stories**

- Infants - [A Moon of My Own](#)
- Juniors - [Ada Lace Take Me To Your Leader](#)

They have some super videos to learn about **experiments in space** - the science is quite complex so really good for upper juniors, but even our youngest children will learn something because the videos are so interesting. Maybe a future astronaut will be inspired? Here’s a good one to start with.

- [Free Fall – push and pull forces](#)

Explore their whole website for lots more stories here - <https://storytimefromspace.com/>

- **Blue Peter’s 6 Badges of Summer**

Have you ever tried to earn a Blue Peter badge? I know some of you have in the past, because I’ve seen them!

This summer, Blue Peter have come up with a new idea – 6 Badges of Summer. There are different themes, including being green, sport and music. See the wall chart attached for an overview of all their ideas.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/six-badges-of-summer?collection=6-badges-of-summer>

We hope you have a peaceful weekend.

best wishes

Miss Ball and your Polehampton Team