

Polehampton News

Friday 15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are, already at the end of our second week of term! Well done everyone! We can see so many children working hard online. Thank you, parents – you are doing brilliantly. Our Polehampton team spirit is going strong, making sure our children are getting the best they can to be the best they can be!

Infant and Junior Updates this week

We hope this week's updates have clarified a couple of changes we want to make for next week's Zoom sessions. Juniors, you have your times attached to today's newsletter. We hope this will improve things further. We love seeing the children on Zoom so much - see you next week again!

We've had some questions or requests for reminders this week, so here are today's **FAQs**

Zoom sessions - compulsory?

As we mentioned before, these are not compulsory – we realise some days might be more tricky at home. As many as possible would be good -they are there to check in with children but they are also opportunities to support the teaching and learning.

Pre-recorded videos - do you pause or rewatch?

We hope your children are getting used to these now. There is a lot of evidence that they are a very helpful way to support learning. Remind your child that they can pause these as they like, as well as when the teacher asks them to, and re-watch parts they want or need to go over.

Do we still get home-learning/home-work?

No... however, we know some children are voracious learners or have special interests in different areas of the curriculum that they would choose to study further.

- Coming soon..... we will start up the slideshows again – remember our VE Day celebrations and Easter Bonnet Parade ones from last year?
- There is a WEALTH of great resources out there, from last year and being created again this year, should you choose to explore more.
- Teachers may signpost some to support topics covered in remote learning.
- We are also adding ideas to our Twitter @Polehampton
- You might want to check out the BBC learning now that's up and running – live every morning with all programmes available then on iPlayer. You could dip in and see if it would suit you in any way.

However, **we need you to prioritise the work we set from school, so when your children return to school, everyone will have had the same learning, as if they had been in school.**

Will we still have assemblies?

Pre-recorded weekly assemblies will be available on our website - go to the Children tab and find the page for [Assemblies, Celebrations and Special Message](#).

- **Mondays** – the value for this half term, which is **Hope**, is explored through ideas or stories
- **Fridays** - celebration assemblies – did you get a certificate for your remote learning today? Take a look and see! [Infants](#) / [Juniors](#)

Can you recommend any books to read to support my child's mental health?

[The Reading Agency](#) have produced [a list of books all about feelings](#) some of which you might find useful to share with your children at home, to support discussions about the feelings they have, particularly at the moment. Staying calm, staying safe, staying home, staying connected and staying hopeful (this is our

value this half term!!) are the suggested topics - all such good areas for consideration. Stories are a great starting point for conversations.

Could I share photos of remote learning anywhere else?

We'd love to see any photos of your children working at home! You could Tweet them to us @Polehampton We've had one today – maths with chocolate buttons! Yum!!

Communicating with School Staff

Please remember that all our staff should be communicated with politely at all times. We receive many phone calls and emails, the overwhelming majority of which are really positive and allow for good conversations between home and school - this is what we want so we can work together for our children. We completely appreciate that times are challenging and that things can feel frustrating, particularly with technical difficulties. However, there is never any reason to shout at staff or write emails that are impolite. Please see our Parent Code of Conduct for more details. <https://www.polehampton.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=19&type=pdf>

Virtual Cross Country for both schools

Maiden Erlegh Trust are organising a virtual cross-country event. If you would like to take part, all you have to do is run the distance for your age group and submit the time it took on [the website](#). You will need to complete your run and submit the time between the **25th and 31st January**.

There will be certificates for all who take part and special certificates for anyone who places in the top 3. It is also a competition between schools so we would love at least 4 runners to take part in each category.

Distances are -

- **Rec, Y1 and Y2 - 1km**
- **Y3 and Y4 - 1.4km**
- **Y5 and Y6 - 2km**

Running is a great way to stay fit during lockdown and I would love to see lots of our pupils getting involved. I know what keen runners we have! Please let me know if you have taken part and what your time was. Any questions, please contact Mrs Newman at the Junior School

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Google Classroom

- Year group top tips are nearly all done – please look at the [remote learning page](#) on our website and scroll down to Google Classroom.
- just a reminder to parents that this is a platform for pupils to comment on, not for parents. If you have any questions or comments, can you email those to the office please? Thank you!

Our admin office is only staffed in the morning next week.

- Urgent phone calls can go to the Infant School please
- Collections/drops off – mornings would be best

Attachments

- **25 non-screen activities to support writing** – Pobble have come up with more super non-screen activities, this time to support the development of writing. Something on here for all ages, so take a look
- **Junior School – Zoom times for next week** (Infants this was on your update yesterday) These will all go on the remote learning page of our website and on the newsletters page too so you can find them easily.

We hope you all have safe and happy weekends,

Miss Ball, Mrs Medcalf, Mrs Scott and Mrs Castell