

Polehampton C. of E. Schools Federation

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Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Polehampton Families,

New Guidance from the Government about all children returning to school in September

Please below our provisional plan for September – whilst it meets all the requirements of the guidance that was issued last week, we will all be aware that things could change over the summer. I will write to confirm arrangements before we start back or be in touch sooner if things change significantly. Governors will have oversight of all risk assessments, supporting and challenging the schools to have everything in place to keep us all safe and well.

Reading through the guidance, a lot of elements felt very familiar, such as social distancing (particularly with adults), frequent handwashing and respiratory hygiene. Other elements have changed which allows us to bring back all the children into their class with their teachers and teaching assistants.

As with our opening to more children in June, we will take things slowly and carefully. The guidance is constantly evolving so we can adjust as we go.

After such a long time without our full school in, I am just very pleased we can open to all. Whilst there is no doubt that the wider curriculum enriches our children's learning, we can start to include other experiences as things allow.

We will have three main areas of focus

- supporting children emotional needs, exploring feelings around the lockdown through using our school values and ethos
- re-establishing school rules & routines within the current guidance
- assessing where the children are academically when they return so we can plan the most effective curriculum for each child

Some of the new systems for September

Start and finish times	With all children returning to school, we will need to keep staggered start and finish times. We ask that you arrive and leave promptly and keep social distancing rules in place – we still can't linger to play and chat I'm afraid. With two sites and siblings across both and within each school, this is quite a people and maths problem! We are finalising these times and will share with very soon.
Group Sizes	The new guidance has clearly outlined that schools need to be delivering a broad and balanced curriculum so we will be returning to many of our previous systems in terms of teaching – these will sit alongside all the other measures to keep the children safe. Class groups - Children will spend most of the time in their classes as we do in a typical day.

	<p>Year Group bubbles - We will be running groups across the year group, such as spelling or phonics groups, so we can continue to offer the curriculum we know works for our children. Playtimes and lunchtimes will be within these year group bubbles.</p> <p>Larger groups – we will use larger groups for some organisational elements, for example playtime rotas. However, these groups won't be able to play in the same spaces.</p>
Staffing	Most staff will be working just in their classes. However, we do have some that work across classes. In those incidents, we will ensure that we have even more stringent social distancing/hygiene measures in place.
Lunch and playtimes	We will stagger our playtimes and lunchtimes so we can share the space more easily. We will allow children in each year group to play and eat together
School meals	We have asked Caterlink to continue with their packed lunch offer for the Autumn term. This allows us to have children eating outside where at all possible or in their classrooms. It also gives us more flexibility on timings.
Reading books and home learning	We will be able to start sending home reading books and home learning books next term, although we will need a slightly different system for organising this – we will share that with you next term.
Breakfast and after school club	<p>We are talking to Stephanie about how we can run these clubs. For now, Stephanie needs to know the following. Please text or email her as soon as you can. 079330 77331 or polehamptonasc@googlemail.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you still require the same days/sessions as before? • Please confirm yes/no/any changes you would like. • Please confirm when you would like this to start? <p>• Again, our Governors will be part of discussions to ensure they are happy with any arrangements before the breakfast or after school clubs open</p>
Other clubs	We will not be starting any of our other after school or in school clubs at the beginning of term. We will keep this under review.
Other school events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assemblies - We won't be able to hold our usual whole school assemblies, so will continue with class or year group assemblies. • Trips – Day trips are allowed, if we follow strict guidelines. Each possible trip will be reviewed on a case by case basis. • Residential trips - Fortunately we had already moved our Yr5 residential trip to the Spring term, as no residential are allowed in the Autumn term. We will review these trips when we have more information.

Class Photos this Academic Year

A couple of weeks ago, we noticed that our summer term class photos were on the diary, so we had a little think how we could do them this year. Thanks to our school photographers, we have been able to use our Autumn term individual photos to create something for each class this year – a couple look a little different if they were off that day or have joined the school since.

How will you receive them this year?

Children in the Priority group	You will receive yours on the next day you are in.
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Foundation Stage	You will receive yours on the next day you are in - if you aren't in school, we will post it to you.
Year One	You will receive yours on the next day you are in - if you aren't in school, we will post it to you.
Year Two	You will receive yours at your picnics on 17 th July - if you aren't able to attend, we will post it to you.
Year Three	You will receive yours at your picnics on 10 th July - if you aren't able to attend, we will post it to you.
Year Four	Yours will be posted.
Year Five	Yours will be posted.
Year Six	You will receive yours on the next day you are in - if you aren't in school, we will post it to you.

Welcome Videos by Teachers

We are so looking forward to welcoming our new classes in September.

Here's a little hello from the teachers, which you might like to share with your child over the holidays to help them get ready for seeing us again next term. I will add them to the front page of each school's website so they are easy to find.

- Welcome to Blue Class - [Welcome to New Blues](#)
- Welcome to Year One - [Welcome New Year Ones](#)
- Welcome to Year Two - [Welcome New Year Twos](#)
- Welcome to Year Three – [Miss Clarke](#) and [Mrs Selvester and Mrs Newman](#)
- Welcome to Year Four – [Miss Trail and Miss Ackerman](#)
- Welcome to year Five – [Miss Dunne and Miss Duncombe](#)
- Welcome to year Six – [Miss Davis & Mr McGlone](#)

Infant Staffing news

A couple of weeks ago, I mentioned that Miss Snellgrove will be leaving the Infant School at the end of this term – we will be so sad to see her go.

We now have an interim plan for the Autumn term.

I am delighted that one of our current Infant School staff, Mrs Scott will be our interim Head of School.

Mrs Scott will still be working in Orange Class as their class teacher but will now also work in school on Mondays and Tuesdays to support the strategic leadership and management of our school.

We also have an interim SENDCo – Mrs Combe. Mrs Combe is an experienced SENDco who works part time in one of our local schools. I am so pleased that she is able to join us for next term, as she is very familiar with all the systems for special needs in Wokingham.

Class Names for Next Academic Year

Whilst our Infant Class names rarely change, our Junior School classes have an annual theme – for next academic year, it will be birds.

Year group	Teacher	Teaching Assistant	Class names
Foundation Stage	Mrs Bushell/Mrs Gingell	Mrs Potter, Mrs Philliban & Mrs Pluse	Blueberries Class
	Miss Burnett	Mrs Tibbett, Miss Tibbet	Bluebells Class
Year One	Mrs Gingell/Mrs Scott	Mrs Wedge, Mrs Chadwell	Orange Class

	Miss Bond	Mrs Corke, Mrs Wellman	Green Class
Year Two	Miss Heckert	Mrs Wiseman	Yellow Class
	Mrs Franklin	Mrs Atack, Mrs Bradshaw	Purple Class
Year Three	Mrs Selvester/Mrs Newman	Mrs Long, Miss Hernandez, Mrs Robinson (M - W) & Mrs Arkell (Th - F).	Peregrine Falcons Class
	Miss Clarke		Kingfishers Class
Year Four	Miss Trail	Mrs Apps, Mrs Pritchard,	Penguin Class
	Miss Ackerman	Miss Rubini, Mrs Clark	Toucan Class
Year Five	Miss Dunne	Mrs Burge, Mrs McGregor and Mr Jenkinson.	Pelican Class
	Miss Duncombe		Owl Class
Year Six	Miss Davis	Mrs Porter and Miss Woods	Flamingo Class
	Mr McGlone		Eagles Class

Reports

Thank you to those parents who have already completed the parent comments form. Please do take a moment to write even a sentence about reports – it helps with our future work for your child and our systems.

- [Infant School – Report comment by parents](#)
- [Junior School – Report comments by parents](#)

Year 6 Leavers' Message from St. Mary's Church Team

See the link below for a message from Ele, Katie, Connor and Lizzy from our church team, wishing you well and telling you about a book they have for you, which we will give you next week! What a lovely gift!! How blessed we are to have the involvement our local church in the life of our school.

<https://vimeo.com/435519803/e9e8901e84>

Year 6 Leavers' Service – Oxford Diocese

“As the end of the school year approaches, a special online Year 6 service is being created, with some pupils from schools in the diocese, to go live in July. We have named our service ‘Stars’ because we all shine in our own way in our schools, families and communities. I would like to invite you and your year 6 pupils to join me at this service where we can all look back at our memories, celebrate together and think about the future.

I look forward to you joining us for the service.”

Rt Revd Colin Fletcher OBE Bishop of Dorchester

The Year 6 Service ‘Stars’ will be available next week - visit <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/schools/year-6-service/> to find out more.

Oak Academy Assemblies

I would highly recommend checking out these assemblies. They are presented by excellent speakers and cover inspiring topics, including space, kindness, dinosaurs, togetherness and movement.

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/assemblies#>

Our Local Churches' Services - THRU-Christ - Four churches, one family - St Mary's Twyford, St Nicholas Hurst, St James Ruscombe and Twyford URC

Our local churches are doing online services every Sunday; each month, they do a more informal services which is great for families. Can you spot some familiar faces in this service?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMLCsHrPndQ&feature=youtu.be>

Different Ideas for Home-learning over the Summer Holidays

- **Summer Reading Bingo**

A super website called "Books for Topics" has created a summer reading bingo activity. They say, "*Our Summer Reading Bingo is an activity for children (and adults if they wish!) to complete over the summer holidays. The focus is on reading for pleasure experiences rather than specific texts, with activities like make a den and read inside, read in the dark using a torch and read to a pet or a soft toy. Children can choose what they read for the challenges, although we have included some Summer 2020 recommended reads for those looking for new ideas.*"

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/bingo>

- **Art lessons with Mrs Howard**

Have fun with pop art pictures this week!! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lec1xVpotag>

We hope you have a peaceful weekend.

best wishes

Miss Ball, Mrs Castell, Mrs Medcalf and your Polehampton Team