

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 17th July 2020

Dear Polehampton Families,

What an unusual Summer Term! We do have quite a few things to share with you as we go into the summer holidays, so get a cup of tea and have a read of our last newsletter for this academic year!

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

Our plans for September re-opening to all children are well under way. I have outlined below our start & finish times and other playground arrangements – most other things that directly affect parents were shared in last week's newsletter.

If the local or national position changes before we start back, we will be in touch to give you any relevant updates. I will keep updating you about developments, as I anticipate we will continue to experience changes and new guidance into the Autumn term.

The admin emails are checked over the holidays but less regularly. Please don't worry if you haven't heard back from us quickly – we will get back to everyone in time.

Playground Arrangements and Start & Finish Times for September 2020

The guidance for September requires schools to ensure that there are good social distancing measures on our sites.

- Please arrive and leave promptly – the doors will open at the times below and children are to go straight into school at that point.
- When you come to school, please take care to remain apart from other adults. Please keep your children with you – they can't run off to play, I'm afraid.
- The equipment at both schools will be on a year group rota for use during the school day, so will not be available for use before or after school.
- The guidance requires schools to consider their sites and use staggered start and finish times to allow for better social distancing - we have devised these timetables which will allow for families with siblings in each school to collect and drop off in good time as well as reducing numbers on site in areas that are smaller.
- There is no difference in the time your children will be in lessons – we are making adjustments to play and lunchtimes as well, so their teaching time will stay the same.
- Please read the notes below for each schools' timetables and further instructions.

Infant School

• Arrival

- 8.45am - if you have one child in either Yellow, Green or Bluebells Class
- 9.00am - families with infant or junior siblings in any class
- 9.15am - if you have one child in either Purple, Orange or Blueberries Class

• Collection

- 3.00pm - if you have one child in either Yellow, Green or Bluebells Class

- 3.15pm - families with infant or junior siblings in any class
- 3.30pm - if you have one child in either Purple, Orange or Blueberries Class

Which gates to use to arrive?

As the infant grounds are quite narrow by Blue Class and we have more families with little ones and buggies, we need to reduce the number of people cutting through the school.

- Year 2 and Blueberries Class – please arrive and leave via the gates on London Road. You can leave bikes/scooters by the fence in the Yr2 waiting area.
- Year 1 and Bluebells Class – please arrive and leave via the gates on Hermitage Drive. Please arrive down the pedestrian path and leave via the driveway. Bikes/scooters left alongside the fence on the field.

A few parents will need to cross through the playground to drop children at different sides of the school – you may cut through the grounds. Everyone else, please help us by keeping to the gates for your class –thank you!!

Junior School

• Arrival

- 8.45am - if you have an infant sibling
- 9.00 - if you have only junior children

• Collection

- 3.00pm if you have an infant sibling
- 3.15pm if you have only junior children

Which gates to use?

- You can use any gates as we have much more space here.

Mornings

- Years 3 & 4 – you may bring your child onto the playground in the morning.
- Years 5 & 6 – please say goodbye at the gates in the morning. Parents with infant siblings to drop or collect – you may cut through the playground.
- All children to enter the school as they arrive, rather than play and wait for the bell

Afternoons

- Every child must be collected by an adult or a responsible older sibling from the playground.

Goodbyes this week

We were able to celebrate our **Year 6 graduation assembly** outside with our staff and our pupils this week. It was wonderful to have that special time with our leaving children, a unique version of our annual goodbye for a uniquely fabulous group of children – a huge thank you to all the staff and parents involved, for their kindness, creativity and determination to make it so special for our children.

Whilst our **Year Twos** aren't leaving Polehampton, we were delighted to see lots of them today for goodbye picnics at the Infant School for a final day of wearing their infant uniform, singing our Infant song as infants and receiving their leavers' bears and certificates.

We say **good bye and thank you to some infant staff** today - Miss Snellgrove (who has sent you all a lovely message), Mrs Whyte and Mrs Jenkins. We wish them well in their new adventures and wish them all the luck in the world!

Message From Miss Snellgrove to all our Polehampton family

- Polehampton Children

Thank you...for just being you! I will cherish my MARVELLOUS memories of teaching and supporting you on your learning journeys. All our shared fun and laughter will always be in my heart. I'm sorry that we can't say a proper goodbye at the moment, so I shall wave 'cheerio for now' with a heart full of love from here and you can wave happily back from there 🙌📱❤

- Polehampton Parents

Thank you for eight happy years of teaching and supporting all your wonderful children! Our Polehampton family is a unique treasure, full of spirit, kindness, appreciation and love. I will always carry that with me on my new journey.

Thank you for your Thank yous!

Dear Polehampton families, we have all been very touched by the kind words, messages, cards and gifts that have arrived in school over the last week. I think everyone is feeling a little more emotional at the moment after such a crazy few months, so for us to read all the thoughtful words from children and parents seems even more special this year. I know I speak on behalf of everyone is when I say it's a privilege to be part of your child's education, to be part of their young lives is a pleasure and an honour. We are the lucky ones to work alongside such amazing children.

PTAs – Wow! You have been amazing as always! We are so very grateful for all your fun and fundraising. A different year, but you still came up with new plans to support the school. Have a rest over the summer too!!

Governors – you have put in so much work again this year! There have been so many meetings, emails, reports to write and read – what a great contribution you have made to our school. So much thanks to you too.

Our Church Team – Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers, particularly over the last few months. We feel your love and care and it is very much appreciated.

Polehampton staff - you are simply the best. Now, please take some time away from your laptops, your lists, your planning and your emails, your photocopying and filing and be with your loved ones this summer. You deserve a good rest!

Learning over the holidays

We have had a few questions about home-learning over the holidays.

We won't be setting any formal tasks or activities but we do have some suggestions that we think will support children for coming back to school.

- **Reading** – every day! Reading to children, hearing children read to you, both are essential at every age in primary schools. Going on adventures, becoming an expert in new or favourite topics, dreaming about future possibilities or being amazed by the past..... all from your own home! I have a little (actually quite big!) pile of books I've gathered for the holidays – how exciting!
 - **Follow their own interests** – now there is no set work from school, this is the time to let your child use all those skills to explore their own learning
 - **Every day maths** – putting to use all the key skills in the 4 calculations in activities such as money, time, weight and measure (cooking – yum!)
 - **Keep their hands supple and strong** – craft, art, lego, play dough... anything that requires small precise actions so that, when they pick up a pencil again, they will have the strength to manipulate it well (see Mrs Howard's art lesson below for salt dough making)
 - **If you want to keep going with more formal work** – please see our previous newsletters which had lots of links to sites such as the Oak Academy, BBC bitesize, Espresso, Purple Mash and many, many more.
- By the end of the holidays
- **Be rested and ready to go!** September always requires a lot of energy from your children as they start their new classes – this will be particularly true for those who've been out of school for a long time.
 - **Get back into a routine.** If your routine has changed a lot over lockdown, think about getting your family schedule ready a few days before term starts. Getting into normal school bedtimes, getting your school bag ready, getting up and dressed first thing every day – these might be your family routines anyway, but it will all help if you are prepared and ready for that first day back to school in September!

Becoming An Academy - Joining The Keys Academy Trust

As you might recall, last year we shared with you our plans to join the Keys Academy Trust and for both schools to become academies. We had thought it would have happened sooner, but with all things as they have been this year, it has been delayed. It now looks likely that this will happen for September 1st 2020, which is a very exciting prospect for our schools. In fact, we have been benefiting from their support for many months now and I have

valued their support during lockdown, sharing good practice, risk assessments and generally talking through all the many challenges school have tackled this term.

I will share with you more details if this actually does go ahead in September when we all come back.

For more information about the academy process, please see our website.

Update from our Governors

The Governing Board met virtually on 6 July. Miss Ball reported back to Governors that the schools had been receiving good support from both the local authority, Wokingham, and The Keys Academy Trust. Local headteachers were sharing planning work and would continue to do so to prepare for all year groups returning to school in September. Governors had been involved in discussions to see whether additional year groups could be catered for in July and fully supported and understood the decision that this was not possible for either school. Governors were mindful that this was a disappointment for very many families but agreed that the Government guidelines needed to be strictly followed. Governors were very pleased that Miss Ball had devised a plan with the leadership team to offer socially distanced sessions for all children to meet their new teachers and classmates before September.

Governors will be involved in reviewing plans for the return in September, with a particular emphasis on health and safety.

We would like to thank all staff for their commitment to providing the best learning opportunities they could at this difficult time. It has been a steep learning curve with many new ideas that will be carried forward to planning for next term.

We would like to thank all parents and carers for their understanding and wish everyone an enjoyable summer break.

Lots of Videos to Share with You

We've been very busy uploading lots of things on Vimeo over the past couple of weeks, so you have some school things to enjoy over the holidays. They will all stay on the front pages of our websites so they are easy to find over the summer

Assemblies & Good Wishes

- [Year Two Leavers' Assembly](#) Very special to have this video this year – it makes us feel closer together
- [Little Goodbye Message from Miss Ball](#)
- [End of Term Message from St. Mary's Church Team](#)

Story Times – keep your eye on our website and Twitter as more will be coming! Twitter feed is @Polehampton

- [Story Time with Mrs Castell](#) The true story of Wilma Rudolph
- [Story Time with Mrs Gingell](#) The Lamb Who Came for Dinner
- [Story Time with Mrs Newman](#) – Green Eggs and Ham

Welcome Videos by Teachers

- 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](#)

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.

Advice for Parents, Children and Families over the summer months

- **Online support for the wellbeing and resilience of our older pupils**

Here at Polehampton, we are committed to supporting the wellbeing of all our pupils. We are therefore delighted to inform you about a service to support the wellbeing and resilience of our children that is now available.

Kooth provides a safe, secure means of accessing help via the internet. By accessing Kooth children can benefit from:

- **A free, confidential, anonymous and safe** way to receive support online.
- **Out of hours' availability.** Counsellors are available from 12noon to 10pm on weekdays and 6pm to 10 pm at weekends, every day of the year on a drop in basis.
- **Online Counselling** from a professional team of BACP qualified counsellors is available via 1-1 chat sessions or messaging on a drop in basis or via booked sessions.
- **Discussion Boards** which are all pre-moderated allow young people to access peer to peer support.
- **Online Magazine** full of moderated articles many of which are submitted by young people offering advice and guidance on a huge range of topics.
- **No referral** is required. Young people can register for kooth independently at www.kooth.com

To use the service or find out more visit www.Kooth.com

You can also view a short video about the service by following this link: [Kooth Video](#)

- **Purple Mash Parent Newsletter for the summer holidays – just infant School families – see attached**
- **Online safety parent advice – free to download and websites to check**

I read yesterday's headlines with great sadness yesterday, to read the NSPCC's report about the increase in child abuse images. I would highly recommend you do frequent check ins with your children, to ensure that they are using the internet safely. [NSPCC have excellent advice for online safety.](#)

Purple Mash have created a free handbook too.

[Click here to download a free handbook for parents about online safety](#)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-53417284>

- **School nurse Team Summer Newsletter**

Do take a look at the attached newsletter from the School Nurse Team. It's a really overview of support for families over the summer months.

- **Art lessons with Mrs Howard**

Learn how to make salt dough! Great fun and a super activity to strengthen our fingers!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDMeQ9yZagY&t=23s>

- **Summer Reading Project**

This year the Summer Reading Challenge is back and online with the Silly Squad. It's all about funny books, happiness and having a laugh. Weblink for information is - <https://cutt.ly/JaatG2n>

Sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge on the [Summer Reading Challenge website](#).

If you don't have a Wokingham Borough Library Card you can [Join the library online](#) then borrow e-Books, e-Audio books and e-Comics for the challenge.

Summer Events will all be virtual for this year, so visit our facebook group

at https://www.facebook.com/groups/555747501973618/?source_id=171172089600164 for a weekly selection of activities to watch and try, including storytime, lego club, creative writing and more.



Chattabox Church Holiday Club: Online from 24th – 27th August

We are very sad that we can't invite children to attend our usual four mornings of fun at St Mary's church. We have come up with an exciting plan which we hope will be something families can look forward to doing together at the end of the summer holidays!

This year's theme is Wonder Zone and will give children 11 and under a fantastic opportunity to explore how science and faith can go hand in hand to help us understand the world we live in. You're invited to register for a goody bag which will be available for collection from St Mary's on Monday 24th August. Each bag contains a daily craft, science challenge, WonderZone booklet and your Chattabox lanyard! Each morning, families can tune in 'live' or at any time to our Youtube channel to watch a 30 minute Chattabox programme, which will include a pre-recorded drama/science experiment, bible story, song, craft demo and a live daily 'sharing slot' to show case what the children have made. Book your goody bags [now!](#) We will email you a few days before to confirm your timed slot for collecting your bag.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/chattabox-holiday-club-2020-on/3375484605812090/?ti=ia>

Goodbye for now!

We wish all the very best to all our leavers', young and older! We wish you all the luck in the world. Take your Polehampton spirit and fly!

Everyone else - we will love to have you all back in September!!

We hope you have a safe, restful, wonderful summer!

best wishes

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

Term Dates 2010-21

Autumn Term 2020

School open to pupils - Thurs 3rd Sep to Fri 18th Dec 2020

- Inset days - Tuesday 1st & Wed 2nd Sept
- Inset day – Fri 23rd October
- Half term – w/c Monday 26th October

Spring Term 2021

School open to pupils - Tues 5th January to Thurs 1st April 2021

- Inset day Monday 4th Jan
- Inset day – Fri 12th February
- Half term - w/c Monday 15th February

Summer Term 2021

School open to pupils - Monday 19th April to Wed 21st July 2021

- Half term - w/c Monday 31st May

Sponsored Event

Whilst we can't usually advertise for other charities beyond the ones the children and staff nominate (we do get many requests to do so), I would like to share this one with you. These Polehampton dads did a super fundraiser for school a couple of years ago so do take a look and give if you are able.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=TandemtasticTimLEJOG2020&pageUrl=2>



**He made the sun and the moon,
his love is eternal;
the sun to rule over the day,
his love is eternal.**

Psalm 136:7-8

**Dear Lord,
Thank you for sunshine and
moonlight;
green grass, flourishing flowers
and all the joy of Summer
Be with us on our holidays and
fill us with your everlasting love.
Amen**

Photo by [jared swafford](#) from [Freemages](#)

Photo by [Cheryl Empey](#) from [Freemages](#)