

Dear Parents and Carers,

We only have 4 more days of school this half term! At the moment, we only know that schools won't be fully open until 8th March at the earliest. We have also been told we will be given at least 2 weeks' notice, meaning we don't expect to hear anything definite until 22nd March at the earliest. As always, schools hear at the same time as everyone else, so we will all be waiting for news together. Also, we know that plans can change at the last minute, so we will respond as quickly as we can in those circumstances.

Obviously, we are all so keen to open our doors to every child again, whilst completely understanding the reasons for the current situation. We very much hope to see you properly at some point next half term. Until then, our remote learning provision will continue to support all our children as they learn safely.

Children's Mental Health week – 1st- 7th February

Today has been good fun for a good reason, wearing our clothes inside out to help us think about the feelings others' can't see. Please send your "Inside out" pictures in to together@polehampton-inf.wokingham.sch.uk so, we can compile a Polehampton slide show and share on Twitter - please send by Monday 8th February at 9.00am.

Lots of top tips to do with well-being mention **the importance of routines and keeping busy** at the moment. We have shared suggested timetables before, but this video and checklist caught our eye this week. A good way to share planning and goal setting together.

- [Video link](#)
- [Checklist link](#)

Safer Internet Day – 9th February

Next week is Safer Internet Day – this year, the theme is "An Internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world". This is SUCH an important topic of conversation given that children are online a great deal at the moment. Do check the website for lots of super ideas to support parents. <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/i-am-parent-or-carer>

Relationship and Sex Education Policy – Parent Consultation

In accordance with guidance from the Department of Education and the Keys Academy Trust for schools to review their relationships and sex education policies, our Polehampton schools have created a new Relationship and Sex Education policy. Schools have been asked to consult with their parents. The policy will be available to view from Monday 1st February on our school website (found under key information - curriculum).

Alongside the policy, there will be a FORM for parental feedback. This FORM will be accessible for two weeks until 15th February.

Reading at Home

This handy checklist (which is always on our website) is worth another look at this point, when you are all so busy hearing your children read even more than usual. Also, we've added a Junior child checklist, that extends thinking even further.

- [Whole School reading top tips](#)
- [Junior school reading top tips](#)

Staffing update – Junior School

In the last few weeks there has been some changes to staffing at the Juniors. Mrs Dolinski has left Polehampton to dedicate her time to her family. Mr Jenkinson (along with his family) has moved to Dallas, USA. We are all so sad to see them go and thank them both for their hard work and dedication. We wish them all the very best.

We are very pleased to share that Mrs Gale has now expanded her role to become a teaching assistant as well as a lunchtime controller, and Miss Gerken has joined the team as a teaching assistant! We hope both will feel very happy at our school.

Outreach for our community

You might recall that our children made Christmas cards for our local community, for care homes and local people living alone which were distributed by our church team. Do remember our church team do amazing pastoral work, so do get in touch with them if you know someone who might like their help.

Now we've heard of another request. A lady called Connie lives in Bridge House Nursing Home and will be 101 very soon. They have asked the local community to help out - they would love her to receive 101 cards! If your child would like to help out, then send a card marked "101 Cards for C" to Bridge Court Nursing Home, 64, High Street, Twyford RG10 9AQ. I always love a card made by our children, so I bet our children's cards would bring a smile to her face.

If you have any requests like this, for local people, do let us know. We will add a box to the end of our newsletter during this lockdown period and families can choose to get involved if they wish.

Flooding in the local area

You might have heard that parts of Twyford were affected by localised flooding last weekend. It has had an impact on some external areas at the Junior School – with fewer children in school at the moment, this has been easy to manage. Fortunately, there was no impact inside the school. We are working with Thames Water to rectify the situation.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our Junior School site controller, Mr Wickens, who has spent many additional hours on site and on the phone, communicating our concerns to Thames Water.

Maiden Erlegh Virtual Cross Country Run Results

Well done to all those who took part in the virtual cross-country run. We have been told of lots of super involvement with that. Some amazing news – our Yr2 came third overall for their age group!

Masks in the Playgrounds Please

Please remember – if you are coming to either school site for any reason, please do wear a mask unless you are exempt.

Assemblies and Certificates

Does anyone in your house deserve a certificate? We've added a blank certificate template to the [Assembly page of our website](#), so you could print that off and present your own – maybe one for mum who has helped you this week or Gran who reads you stories on Zoom? You could send us in a photo of certificate presentations and we could add them to our Friday celebration assemblies.

Do check out our assemblies about Children's Mental Health week.

Inset Day and Half term – Track and Trace

As Friday 12th is an Inset day so school will be closed. Just a reminder that we will not be setting any work that day or having Zoom sessions.

Critical Worker and Vulnerable Children Group – school will be closed over half term.

Please continue to check your emails for school notifications as we will continue to be involved with track and trace over the holidays, as we are every weekend.

We hope you all have safe and happy weekends

Best wishes,

Miss Ball, Mrs Medcalf, Mrs Scott and Mrs Castell