

Polehampton

CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Interim Headteacher: Ms F. Alder BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH, MBA



Friday December 14th 2018

Dear Families

Well, we have fast come to the end of the autumn term. It has certainly been extremely busy and eventful. This week, all of the year groups took turns to have their Christmas parties. The Infant and Junior School shared a beautiful service at St Mary's Church. We enjoyed superb Christmas carol singing and heard children from both schools read about the nativity story. Our Year Five and Six classes performed an entertaining Christmas carol concert on Wednesday evening. Yesterday, we had Christmas lunch. We give a big thank you to our wonderful kitchen staff for preparing such a feast. It was made even more special with everyone wearing their Christmas jumpers. Our Christmas post-box has been full to the brim every day! Thank you to everyone for our Christmas cards. It really has been so lovely and festive as we draw to a close.

Dates for next week

DEC 2018		
M 17	13.30	Choir singing at Bridge House/Loddon Non Uniform
T 18	a.m. 15.30	PANTO at Southill Park Piano concert for parents & carers of our players, Jubilee room
W 19	Lunchtime 14.00	Toy day for Years Three to Five Non-uniform day for all year groups. Fish & chips menu END OF TERM
JAN 2019		
W 2	Day	Staff training day. School closed to pupils.
Th 3	08.50	Back to school

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Clubs for the Spring term 2019

Day	Event	Date	Time	Where
Monday	Think Tank	Jan 7 th - April 1 st 12 wks	3.30-4.30pm	Jubilee Class
Tuesday	Judo	Jan 15 th – Mar 26 th 10 wks	8.00-8.45am	Hall
	Ninjas Cookery	Jan 15 th – March 26 10 wks	3.30-4.30	Jubilee Class
Wednesday	Tennis	Jan 9 th – March 27 th 11 wks	8.00-8.45am 3.30 – 4.45	Jubilee Class
	Sewing	Jan 9 th – March 27 th 11 wks		
Thursday	Tennis	Jan 10 th – March 28 th 11 wks	08.00-08.45	Jubilee Class
	Lego	Jan 10 th – Feb 14 th 6 wks		

Please visit www.nutritionalninjas.co.uk to apply.

For Thinktank, Lego, Judo and Tennis Club please see the newsletter page on our website to print forms.

Twyford Fayre

I am sure we all enjoyed the Twyford Fayre. Our children sang carols, and were joined by other children, which made the experience even more magical and fitting for the season. Thank you to Miss Davis for organising this, and preparing our children so well.

House Point winners

For this half-term, Loddon House won the most points. They can have their non-uniform day on Friday 4th January.

Christmas Fayre cards

The house that handed in the most number of games cards at the end of the Christmas Fayre was also Loddon House. They can have their non-uniform day for this on Monday 17th December. You can find out more about how the Christmas Fayre went in the PTA section below.

Wokingham Carol Concert

Our choir performed at the Mayor of Wokingham's annual schools' carol concert on Sunday. The event took place at Arborfield Green Leisure Centre. Our children sang beautifully. A big thank you again to Miss Davis for all her hard work in preparing the children; and thank you to all of the staff who attended.

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Volunteers' Coffee morning

We had a volunteers' coffee morning to say a big thank you for all your support throughout the year. Each year group came and sang to the volunteers as they enjoyed their biscuits and hot drinks.

Tucasi

Please make sure lunch accounts are kept in credit and topped up for next term. Please also check that you have paid for the pantomime next Tuesday and have completed an EV2.

Dressing for the Weather

The temperature has certainly dropped this week. Although the temperature may rise slightly next week, winter has very clearly arrived. Please do ensure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather. Children should have nice warm coats, and hats and gloves for playtimes. Please do remind your child to put hats and gloves in pockets or bags, so they do not get lost. Children should also be reminded to do their coats up. With the winter weather, children do need to be appropriately dressed. We suggest that boys wear long trousers, not shorts. If girls are wearing skirts, then we suggest they also wear tights. Whilst on the subject of clothing, please remember that children should wear sensible school shoes, and have a pair of trainers in school to change into for playtimes, PE and the daily run.

Toilets Update

We now have our quotes in for refurbishing the toilets. Our aim is to refurbish the toilets for Year Three, Four and Six. Year Five toilets are relatively new, and do not have urinals. We will let you know once we have selected a contractor, and when the works will commence. In the meantime, our Site Controller will be completing essential repairs, so the toilets will be in better condition after the Christmas break. We have had some parents expressing concern about hand-washing and germs being spread about. We do encourage our children to wash their hands with soap and water after going to the toilet. I am sure you reiterate this with your children at home. Soap dispensers are replenished every day. If ever a child finds a soap dispenser is empty, they should let a member of staff know. With regard to hand-washing, we are looking into having a hand sanitizer in place for lunchtimes, to further enhance our hand-cleaning and hygienic practises.

School Attendance for the Autumn Term

Our attendance rate for this term is **97.8%**. This is well above national average. Well done to all of our families for making a concerted effort to get your children into school every day. Particularly at this time of year, when there are all sorts of bugs going round, we have done extremely well. We have also improved on this time last year, when the attendance figure stood at 96.2%. Do give yourselves a big pat on the back.

End of KS2 SATs Results

The DfE KS2 performance tables were published yesterday. Polehampton CofE Junior School did extremely well, coming third in the Local Authority for the percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard. Please see the link below for our results:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/134899/polehampton-church-of-england-junior-school>

Well done to all of the staff past and present who contributed to these fantastic results.

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Menu for Spring term – attached

Please note on Week 3, Friday's menu is fish fingers (not salmon).

Medications

Please remember to collect/replenish/check expiry dates for any medications in school, ready for the new year.

Lost Property

Please have a look in the wardrobe (Year 4 corridor) for lost items.

Jewel Tones Choir

For girls between the ages of 10 and 18, meet for rehearsals on Sundays between 6.15 and 7.45pm at Charvil Village Hall. Spaces are available to join next year, please visit <http://www.jeweltones.co.uk>. Or contact suzanneynewman@btinternet.com for more details.

Donated books

A BIG thank you to everyone who donated books to the school.

PTA Fayre

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way this year. All the volunteers on Friday and Saturday, all your incredibly generous contributions for the secret room, tombolas and house hampers. All the grown up stall helpers on the day and the children who threw themselves into running the games. Thank you to Nick Procter whose work on the bottle tombola and raffle will enable him to claim match funding through his employer. To Father Christmas who joined us and enjoyed his new location. The Infants PTA team who organised the raffle and all the staff who came along to support the event AND... to everyone who came on the day and joined in and spent money. You all helped make it a success.

We're still busy totting up the grand total but already know it's in line with previous years and on top of that we have the contribution from the raffle and match funding to come. As always we're working closely with the management team to spend the funds where they're most needed to enhance the children's school experience.

Willow

Another huge thank you goes to James Wontner Smith whose son is in Year 4. James spent all of last Sunday working tirelessly on the willow structure, trimming and weaving it back into shape and under control. It looks brilliant. Last year we had to bring in external specialists to do this job so it represents a big saving for the PTA and the school. James runs his own garden business, so do give him a shout if you have any jobs that need doing... 07913 757487.

Meetings next year

We'll update you with dates and times for PTA meeting next year. 3 out of the 4 committee members will stand down in July as their last child will leave the school. It was great to see some new faces at the last meeting, we hope to see you and anyone else interested in January. We're determined to keep meetings short and get things done as efficiently as possible.

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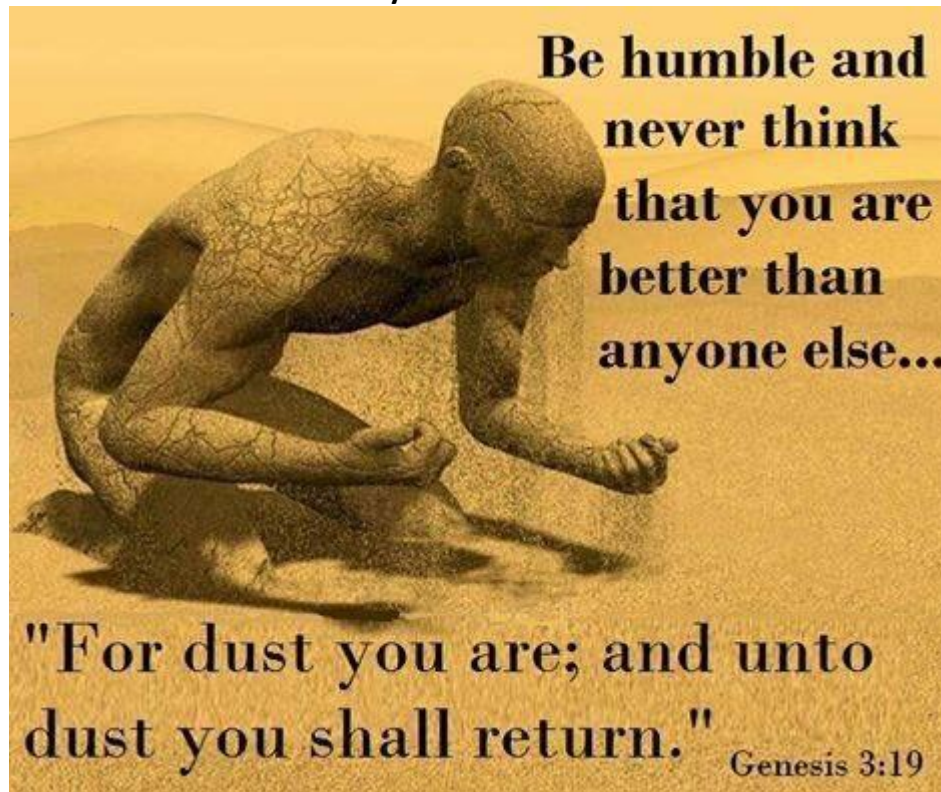
Remember Easyfundraising.org.uk

On the final run up to christmas and if you're booking next year's holidays, many retailers will donate up to 4% of what you spend to your chosen charity. Download this reminder and it will highlight in your search engine which retailer offers what...

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/donation-reminder/?origin=MSL08>

Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year from the PTA team.

Value for the Term – Humility



This is our last newsletter for the autumn term. Thank you for all of your support this term. Remember, we break up at 2pm on Wednesday 19th December. Children return back to school at 8:50am on Thursday 3rd January 2019. I hope you all have a wonderful time with your families over the Christmas break. I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

With best wishes

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