

Friday 4th January 2019

Dear Families

Happy New Year, and welcome back for the Spring term. I hope you all had a restful break with your families. The children have returned to school focused and prepared to continue with their learning. I am sure this term will prove to be as exciting and busy as the Autumn term.

Last Term

We certainly ended the Autumn term with much excitement. In the last few days, some of our choir went to perform at Bridge House. I am sure the audience were delighted to hear the children's beautiful singing. The whole school went to see the pantomime 'Dick Whittington and His Cat' – it was fantastic. On the last day of term, we had a whole school Christmas carol sing-song, with teachers dressed up as characters from the nativity story. It was an excellent way to end the term.

Academy Consultation opens from Monday

As you will recall from our newsletter last term, we are just about to begin our academy consultation period, following the governors' decision to agree a proposal for our school to become an academy and join the Keys Academy Trust. Please find attached the letter from the Chair of Governors and information for your convenience. You are invited to attend one of the following parent consultation meetings:

- 7pm on Thursday 10th January at the Infant School
- 9am on Friday 11th January at the Junior School

Parents can attend either meeting. We know a few parents are intending to come along – do let us know if you are so we can plan for numbers. Also if you have any questions at this stage, do send them in now so we can answer those next week.

Free School Meals

Just another reminder about entitlement to free school meals. If you are in receipt of any of the following, your child will be entitled to free school meals:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

The list above does appear a bit complicated or cumbersome. If you are not sure, our office staff will be happy to help you to find out in full confidence. Children entitled to free school meals also get support with the cost of school trips, residential trips, clubs etc.

Attendance

Our school attendance figures are very strong – well above the national average. Thank you for your support in ensuring your children come to school every day. Next week, we will be sending out letters to parents of children who have an attendance rate below 90%. This is because an attendance rate of below 90% is considered as poor. We have found that most children who fall into this bracket have been taken on holidays during school time. Please note, holidays during school time cannot be authorised. Next week, the Education Welfare Officer from Wokingham Local Authority will be visiting us to check on our procedures for managing children's attendance.

Tucasi

Please check your child's lunch account and add credit if necessary. Thank you for keeping accounts in credit, it saves us valuable admin time!

Medications

Please remember to check expiry dates for any medications in school.

Children's Toilets

You will be pleased to know that our Site Controller, Mr McGregor, completed all repairs of the children's toilets during the break. The toilets are now in a much better condition to continue to use until they are fully refurbished.

Dates for next week

Jan 7 th – Feb 6 th 2019 Consultation period re: Polehampton School Governors' proposal for our schools to become academies and join the Keys Academy Trust		
M 7	am 15.30	NSPCC Assembly to children (please find letter attached) Think Tank club starts
W 9	08.00 15.30	Tennis Club starts Sewing club starts
Th 10	08.00 15.30 19.00 (at Infant School)	Tennis Club starts Lego Club starts Parents' meeting re: academy consultation – parents from both school can attend either meeting
F 11	09.00 (at Junior School)	Parents' meeting re: academy consultation – parents from both school can attend either meeting.

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 Ninjas Cookery	Jan 15 th – Mar 26 th 10 wks Jan 15 th – March 26 10 wks	8.00-8.45am 3.30-4.30	Hall Jubilee Class
Wednesday	Tennis Sewing	Jan 9 th – March 27 th 11 wks Jan 9 th – March 27 th 11 wks	8.00-8.45am 3.30 – 4.45	Jubilee Class
Thursday	Tennis Lego	Jan 10 th – March 28 th 11 wks Jan 10 th – Feb 14 th 6 wks	08.00-08.45	Jubilee Class

Lego Club is now full. Please let us know if you would like your child to attend after half term.

Please visit www.nutritionalninjas.co.uk to apply for the Ninjas Cookery club.

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

St Mary's Church

Happy New Year! This Sunday's focus is on Bible Baddy, Herod "the Great". Come and have a breakfast, of toast & drinks with us, from 9:30am or join us at St Mary's, at 10:30am, on Sunday 6th Jan, to enjoy a panto about this "great" king, with supporting cast of wise men & a star.

We look forward to seeing you.

Rev Helen & the family service team.

Value for the Term – Honesty



With best wishes

F. Alder
Interim Headteacher

Secretary: Lynn Bowen
admin@polehampton-jun.wokingham.sch.uk

Bursar: Kath Poole
finance@polehampton-ijunwokingham.sch.uk

