

Friday 1st March 2019

Dear Families

Welcome back for the new half-term. This week in assembly, we discussed how the Spring half-term marks half-way through the school year. We talked about it being a good time for us all to reflect on the targets we set ourselves at the start of the school year, and think about what more we need to do to meet them. This half-term is set to be as busy as ever. We had our NSPCC sponsored event this week. World Book Day is next week. We also have Red Nose Day, the PTA disco and Easter events to look forward to. Before half-term, you received a letter from our Chair of Governors informing you of the changes to the Polehampton Federation leadership structure. From after Easter, Miss Ball will be the Executive Headteacher of both the Polehampton Infant and Junior Schools. This will help to further ensure continuity and progression from Reception to Year Six. This does also mean it will be my last half-term at Polehampton Junior School. I have really enjoyed my time here, and know I will thoroughly enjoy the six weeks of this action-packed half-term with our fantastic and inspirational children.

Lent at Polehampton Junior School – focus on the homeless

Two of our Year Five girls, Isla Blackwell and Neve Harris, presented me with a very thoughtful proposal, to collect donations for the homeless people in Reading. We have given careful consideration as to how we would go about this. We decided that this could be Polehampton Junior School's Lent focus, as an aspect of Lent is to give to the poor and disadvantaged. Isla and Neve met with Ele Buckley from St Mary's Church, who was able to share her knowledge and experience from her work with the Launchpad homeless charity in Reading. On advice from Ele and Launchpad, we will be collecting for the 'New Beginnings' charity set up in Reading. New Beginnings support homeless people who live on the streets, and homeless families who are living in overcrowded bed and breakfast accommodation. From Ash Wednesday – 6th March – we are asking you to send in donations of the following for this charity: **toothpaste, toothbrushes, baby-wipes, mints, cereal bars, bottles of water, new socks and new underwear.** We will collect the donations up until Friday 29th March, so we have time to pack and deliver them to New Beginnings with Ele before we break up for Easter. Please see the following link for more information about New Beginnings: <http://newbeginningsreading.org/>

We will keep you updated on other events connected to this worthy cause over the half-term.

RHS School Gardening Competition

Mrs Porter organised for our children to enter the RHS School Gardening Competition. We are pleased to announce that two of our children, Holly Martindale and Cairan Charge, had their entries accepted. As a result, we have been invited to attend the festival on 1st July with up to 20 children, including Holly and Cairan. We will share more information closer to the date.

Ufton Court - Monday 4th March

On Monday, Year 5 will be visiting Ufton Court for their Viking trip. Please can all children bring a packed lunch, water bottle, coat (in case it rains) and trainers (these can be worn into school or can be put on at school). It is always such a fun day and we look forward to sharing it with the children.

Cross Country Reddam House

Reddam House was the venue of the last league cross country race of the season. It was fabulous to see all the team fit, enthusiastic and ready to run - the rain did not dampen our spirits! Polehampton scored 169 points, which was a very competitive score. Results will follow next week. Thank you to Miss Cacutt, Mrs Apps, Mrs Poole and Mr McGregor for supporting the event so tirelessly. Also thank you to the parents who helped with the children yesterday - Mrs Croft, Mrs Pitts, Mrs Smith, Mrs Arkell and Mrs Newman. **Mrs Stockdale.**

World Book Day - Thursday 7th March

For World Book Day we will be dressing up as **book characters**. Everyone is welcome to take part. We will also be running an **adventurous reading photo competition**. To enter please email a photograph of your children reading in an adventurous place or way by Wednesday 6th March. These will be displayed in our school reading area. For example you could read coming down a slide. Prizes will be awarded for originality, imagination and being adventurous. There will be an overall winner for the school and winner in each year group. **Miss Clarke.**

Red Nose Day

Friday 15th March is Red Nose Day. For a donation, children will be able to wear red and/or style their hair in any way they wish. Red noses will be sold by Year 6 from Monday 11th March for the cost of £1.25. If your child wants to buy a red nose at school, please make sure that they have the correct change. Thank you for your support.

Year 4 class brass lessons

Year 4 brass lessons start next Wednesday, the children will be receiving a letter next week with more information.



Change of Menu- Pancake Day

Please note that the kitchen will be serving pancakes for pudding on Shrove Tuesday 5th March. On Wednesday 3rd April the kitchen will be serving Easter Bunny biscuits for pudding.

NSPCC Sponsor Money

Please could any sponsor money be returned to school by Monday 4th March. Thank you for your support.

Internet Safety

We sent out some information regarding internet safety this week. It is so important to be aware of what your children are accessing and seeing online. Even YouTube videos of children's films and programmes have been known to be spliced with inappropriate content. With the constantly evolving digital world, it can be hard for parents to keep track of new apps and games. This is why it is so important to talk regularly with your children about this, and keep yourself aware with useful sites such as the NSPCC's guidance - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Emmanuel Church

Emmanuel church are hosting DUGGIE DUG and his all new Bubble Praise Party 23rd March at 3pm . Emmanuel Church, Southlake Crescent, Woodley.

Tickets can be booked by emailing: tickets@emmanuelwoodley.org.uk

The suggested donation is £3 for an adult and child combined or £6 for a family of 2 or more children.

PTA Update

Our next disco is on Friday 15th March from 6.30-8.00

We always need help on the night. Please email pjspta@hotmail.co.uk to volunteer and watch your children having fun!

PTA Meeting 12th March 8pm

Venue TBC. Please come along. All four committee members will be standing down at the end of the school year. It would be great if we could have a new team in place and seeing how it all works over the next few months.

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

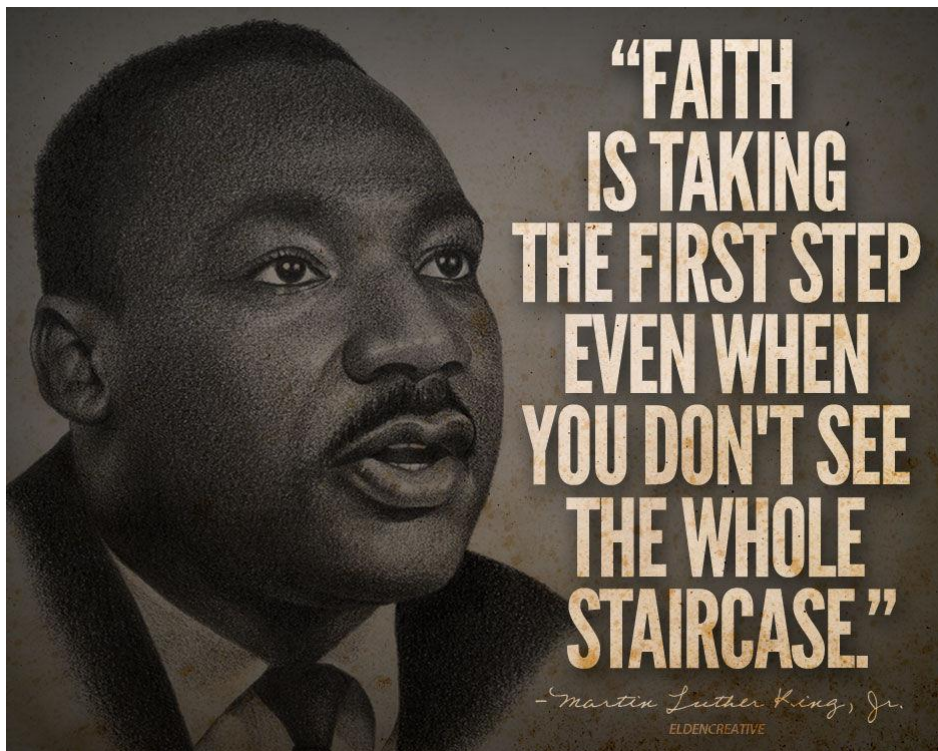
Bursar: Kath Poole
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Dates

M 4	Day	Year 5 to Ufton Court
T 5	15.30	Football – PJS vs St. Pauls (home)
W 6	4-5.30	WASMA rehearsal at Hawthorns Primary Ash Wednesday – Polehampton Junior School Lent Project for the homeless begins.
Th 7	Day	World Book day – please see newsletter for info
T 12	a.m. 13.00 a.m.	Year 4 Indian dance workshop Netball tournament (Year 4) at Crosfields School Redwatch visit Year 5
F 15	Day 18.30- 20.00	Children in Need day – Red Nose Day PTA disco

Value for the term – Faith



With best wishes

F.Alder
Interim Headteacher

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