



**Polesden Lacey
Infant School**

Newsletter – No. 1 6th September 2024

Message from Mrs. Mole

Welcome back to Squirrel Class and Badger Class. The staff had two productive days of training on Monday and Tuesday this week. We reviewed our Vision and Values, had asthma and anaphylaxis awareness training as well as safeguarding training and some time for staff teams to discuss their plans and make some final changes to their classroom layouts, in readiness for the children's return. The Reception team have been visiting children and their families this week ready for the children to start from Monday.

The Squirrels and Badgers have made an excellent start to the year and I am sure that they will be excellent role models to the new children who we are very excited to welcome into school very soon.

Rebecca Mole, Headteacher

Star of Week

Rabbits: Starting next week!

Squirrels: All of Squirrel Class for settling in so confidently and happily this week.

Badgers: All of Badger Class for settling in so confidently and happily this week.



Values Star of the week:

Rabbits: Starting next week!

Squirrels: Rory for being a curious learner, especially in Maths.

Badgers: Amelie for being a fantastic role model and showing all of our school values.

Forest School Star of the Week

Starts next week!

NUMBOTS Star of the Week

Rabbits: Starting next week!

Squirrels: Starting next week!

Badgers: Starting next week!



Volunteering

Our school is privileged to have the support of our regular volunteers, often helping children with reading or wider curriculum activities on a weekly or termly basis.

However, over the summer holidays, the school welcomed a group of 10 volunteers from Surrey County Council's Adult Social Care Finance Team. Andy Wickes, our School Business Manager's husband, and his team used one of their volunteering



days to help cut down ivy from the woodland which was taking over a significant number of the trees. Quotes from professional gardening companies were coming in at over £1,200 for the 50 trees which needed ivy removal, so Mrs Wickes put a case together and won the support of the volunteers.

We were lucky to be lead and guided by a professional arboriculturist, meaning the work was completed to a very high standard. All 50 trees were tackled, not only saving the school significant money but also making the learning environment brighter, safer and more appealing to the children that attend the weekly Forest School Sessions.

Our thanks goes to all our volunteers, we couldn't offer the range of activities and opportunities we do to our children without you all.

If anyone is considering volunteering, please do speak with Ms. Mole.

Staying Safe Online

Over the summer we have all enjoyed taking photos of our children enjoying different activities! Follow this link to find out more on how to protect your child whilst still sharing photos online with friends and family! We teach children at school about their 'digital footprint' and how this will follow them into their teen and adult life. For any more info regarding online safety please take a look at our website <https://polesdenlaceyinfant.surrey.sch.uk/parents/e-safety> or for questions email l.mathews@polesdenlaceyinfant.surrey.sch.uk

Attendance Cup

This year we will be awarding the 'Attendance Cup' on a weekly basis to the class which has the best attendance and punctuality for the week that has just been (Friday to Thursday). This week, on Wednesday and Thursday, all children in both classes were in and on time so Badger and Squirrel Class share the cup. We recognize that children do become ill and are unable to attend school but we have found that the attendance cup motivates the children to become resilient about attending school.



Message from The Friends

Welcome back!

Welcome to all our new parents and welcome back to all our Squirrels and Badgers! After a fantastic first year as a new committee, we're already raring to go with lots of fun planned for the Autumn/Winter Term! As some may already know, the committee is made up of 3 members, Gina Yearsley (Chair), Jenny Alderman (Treasurer) and our Secretary Aimee will be retiring from her role at the AGM at the end of the month. If anyone is interested in taking on the role of Secretary, we'd be more than happy to chat though what it involves. It is a lot of fun and can be as much or as little time you feel you can offer!



As well as the events below, there are also other ways that you can help raise funds for the school. You can sign up for **easyfundraising** which means you can raise **FREE donations** for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands, including Amazon, John Lewis, M&S, will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations **really mount up and make a BIG difference to us**, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/polesdenlaceyinfscsch/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=gs-email1 Thank you so much!

ASDA's Cashpot for schools

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose Polesden Lacey Infants and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our PTA. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started! A great easy way to help raise funds!

Future Events:

Preloved uniform sale - Friday 13th September from 2.00pm for Rabbit collection until 3.15pm

Help us rehome preloved uniform and save it from landfill. We have a selection of school branded and non-branded uniform items for sale, at very reasonable prices. Cash or cards are welcome. We would also love another volunteer to help with the sale, if anyone is free please let us know!

New Parent Coffee Morning - Friday 20th September at 8.45am

We will be holding a new parent coffee morning after morning drop off. A great chance to stay and chat with other new parents over a hot drink and a biscuit. More information to follow.

The Friends continued.....

Gardening Day - Sunday 22nd September 10 – 2pm

Help our school look tip top and enjoy some outdoor time with your family, grandparents, uncles, aunts and others also welcome. Pop in for as long as you can between 10am and 2.00pm on Sunday 22nd September to tidy the grounds of the school and enjoy chatting and getting to know each other – no gardening skills necessary just willingness and enthusiasm! The Friends of PLIS will provide lunch so please email us at PLISFriends@gmail.com if you can make it, and let us know if you have any allergies too.

AGM and First Friends Team Meeting – Mon 30th Sept 7.30 - 9pm

We'll be holding our AGM and first planning meeting in the school hall. Thank you to those that have already said they are able to make it. If you would like to come along, hear more and hopefully get involved, please do email us at PLISFriends@gmail.com and we will make sure there is plenty of wine and refreshments.

Halloween Scary Hairy and Mufti day with a Cake Sale after school - Friday 25th October

Our theme is spooky hair, but anything goes, with fancy dress or home clothes. Donation of £1 at the classroom door at drop off. Also bring your cakes in the morning for an after school bake sale!

Grounds Day

A date for your diary!

Sunday 22nd September 2024

One of the fantastic attributes of the school is our diverse grounds, including the woods, orchard, pond and allotment, where the children learn and explore every day. Needless to say, it's a big job to maintain and our gardening day is a great opportunity to bring the whole family along for a few hours to help chop, prune and tidy – no previous experience necessary and plenty of jobs for little hands to help out too. Some TLC is needed for the compost heaps in the allotment, so anyone with some woodwork skills please let us know if you can come along! Also plenty of hedge trimming and pruning as the greenery has grown like crazy with this summer's weather!

Last year's event was a great day, and the school was looking tip top ready for our open days.

Drinks and biscuits will be available throughout the day, with lunch provided at midday.

More information will be shared in next week's newsletter so just add it to the diary for now!



Building Works over the Summer

For those of you who have dropped off or picked up your child from school or playschool this week you will have seen our lovely new sign for the Friendship Bench. This was donated to the school by Badger class (the cohort who left in July 2023). In assembly we talked about how we can use the bench if we are feeling sad and would like a friend or adult to talk to or we would like a friend to play with. The children listened to the story, 'The Friendship Bench' written by Wendy Meddour and illustrated by Daniel Egneus. If you would like to watch it with your children it is available on the BBC at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/lunchtime-story-the-friendship-bench>.



We also had the canopy roof on the outside classrooms replaced. The difference it has made to the way we can use this space is huge (it is watertight!) and there is so much more light coming into the classrooms.



PE Kit and Forest School Clothes

Both PE and Forest School sessions have started. Please make sure your child has their PE and Forest School kit in school.

School Open Days

We're already getting ready for the 2025 intake and have a number of open days at the school. It really helps when prospective parents can talk to current parents about their experience at the school, especially as you all have such wonderful things to say about our special school. If you can spare a little time on any of these dates please do speak to Mrs Cummings or Ms Mole.

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| Tuesday 1st October 2024 | 1.30pm—3pm |
| Wednesday 9th October 2024 | 1.30pm—3pm |
| Wednesday 23rd October 2024 | 9am—10.30am |
| Friday 8th November 2023 | 9am—10.30am |
| Monday 2nd December 2024 | 1.30pm—3pm |

Dates For Your Diary

School Events:

9th—13th September—Reception children staggered start
9th—20th September—Fairtrade Fortnight
18th September (pm) - Puppet Assembly
23rd September 7pm—8pm—Reception Parents Welcome Meeting
26th September 2.30pm—3pm—Year 1 Parents Meet the Teacher
Year 2 Parents meet the Teacher—Date TBC
2nd October—Individual students school photos
3rd October—National Poetry Day
4th October—Splats Circus Skills
7th October –Flu Vaccines all children where consent given
23rd October—Lego Robotics Workshop—more details to follow

28th October—1st November—Half Term—School Closed

4th November—Inset Day—School closed

5th November—all children return to school

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