



Newsletter – No. 11 20th November 2020

Message from Mr Butler - Chair of Governors

Dear Parents,

We still have one vacancy for a parent governor, so I wanted to give you a feel for this enjoyable and rewarding position.

On Tuesday 20th October, the 12 governors met (via Zoom these days of course) for the first of two termly meetings. With a dozen of us, we get to divide up our areas of focus, but we all take responsibility for everything, so this is a chance to quiz and challenge each other and the Headteacher. There are a few boxes to tick each meeting, but we always remember that we are all here for one reason: the wellbeing of our children and school community.

Before the meeting, our finance governor, Alexis Hippolyte, met with our Bursar, Mrs Scott, to discuss the school's financial position and devise a strategy for the year ahead. We all had the chance to look at the figures in advance, and then ask questions of Alexis, Mrs Scott and the Headteacher. Next we asked questions to the Headteacher about the Curriculum, the plans in place to help children catch-up following the disruption of lockdown, and to ensure no child is left behind. We have several teachers from other local schools as governors, which provides a helpful perspective. We also asked the school to work on a robust online learning plan so we are ready, should that be required. The parent surveys were circulated in advance, and the governors were very impressed with the results and also the many personal comments and testimonials. (Very helpful for marketing the school too!) Much work has been done on safeguarding in recent months, and all the governors attended an evening Workshop in September on the topic given by Ms Mole. Our safeguarding governor, Mark Rogers, gave us an update on the risk assessment and planning, and we were able to ask questions about how all of these precautions work in practice. The reality is that the school day continues to be much more demanding on the teaching staff while these restrictions are in place, and the governors are hugely grateful to them all. It's also appraisal season, and a panel of governors met with Ms Mole and an external adviser to conduct the headteachers' appraisal and then to discuss pay for the teaching staff.

October had been a fairly busy month, but overall, the time commitment for being a governor is not great. However, it is important to be organised and prepared for meetings – something the school's clerk, Mrs Bryan, makes very straightforward. While all governors have attended some training relevant to our various focus areas, there is no need for any formal qualifications or experience. Governance is mainly about taking an interest and applying common sense. When I became a parent governor, I had little relevant experience and I am glad this didn't stop me from applying! I have learned a huge amount in the past five years.

I think being a Parent Governor is rewarding, and important. You have very aligned interests with the school. You already see the school from a certain perspective. It's a chance to see things from another perspective, to see the skill, effort and care that goes in to raising our children, to support that, and to influence any areas where things could be improved.

I would therefore ask you to do one of three things right now.

1. Apply now to be a parent governor.
2. Contact me or Ms. Mole to discuss, if you are unsure but interested.
3. Or if you are unable to commit but know a parent who you think would be great, get straight on to the class WhatsApp and tell them to apply!

Good wishes,

Ross Bulter (Chair of Governors)

Star of Week

Well done to all the winners this week.

Rabbits: Harrison for being a kind and caring friend

Squirrels: Poppy K for being a kind and helpful member of squirrel class

Badgers: Lily for working hard in literacy, editing her work by checking spellings and punctuation

Forest School: Joseph for his perseverance building with sticks and string.



Values Leaves: Fair, Resilient, Respectful, Caring, Courageous and Curious.

Below are some of this week's leaves:

Harrison found Marnie and said, 'Hello Marnie, it's lovely to see you again. I'm glad you are back .' This was so kind and caring and made Marnie feel really happy.

Maël was caring, moving chairs out of the way so that his sister could safely run around the kitchen with him.

Rocco was very resilient, practicing the figure 8 and writing. He never gave up until he got it right.

Henry E helped his dad build a bookcase—he was caring and resilient.

Charlie was caring when he helped ice daddy's chocolate birthday cake!

Finbar is being resilient. His cycling skills are improving all the time, he can now ride on rugged terrain and takes small jumps. He know that by practicing he will improve and he keeps going even when he falls off. He has ridden off road from Leatherhead to Bocketts with dad.

Brooke was caring and resilient when she helped to clean the garden and gutters of all the fallen leaves.

Joseph was caring and helped a child with their coat zip and carried Aya's rucksack as well as his own on the walking bus.

Daniel was very caring and helped another child when they had too much to carry.

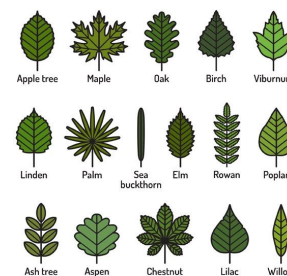
Charlie was very caring and helped the teacher tidy up without being asked.

Rosie was very curious asking questions about the world!

Evie was respectful of other people's property and helped sort out the wellies.

Lily was caring and helped another child when his tray was knocked over.

Oliver was respectful of property by sorting out all the water bottles and the wellies.



NB. Based on feedback that we have received we will only be sharing one leaf per child in the above list each week. All leaves that are sent in will continue to be shared in class and displayed on our values trees so do please keep sending them in.

Rabbits Film afternoon and Squirrel/Badger Panto afternoon

The Friends have planned a fabulous two afterschool events:

For Rabbits - **A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON OF CHRISTMAS CHEER WITH AN AFTER SCHOOL SHOWING OF STICKMAN!** (Thursday 10th December from 3.15—4.15)

For Squirrels and Badgers - **A WONDERFUL PANTOMIME OF JACK AND THE BEANSTALK** (Friday 11th December from 3.15—4.30)

You will have received details of both events in the newsletter from The Friends but we have included the link to the booking forms below.

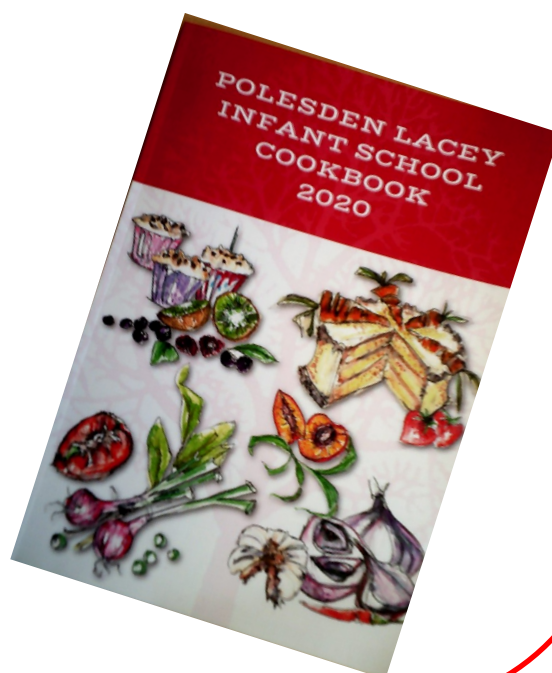
Rabbits : <https://forms.gle/UrRbGHqsKK5EMU4Z6>

Squirrels and Badgers: <https://forms.gle/Vp6vazK45YveDkzc8>

Polesden Lacey Infant School Lockdown Cookbook.

Have you ordered your Lockdown cookbook yet? It is full of scrumptious recipes submitted by the staff and children during lockdown. You could be making and eating Mrs. Mathews' 'Creamy Pasta Salad', Ms Mole's 'Nachos', Mrs Binding's 'Nectarine and Prosciutto Salad', Mrs Parry's 'Thai Chicken Curry' or Mrs Leggatt's 'Cream of Celery soup' and then tuck into some of the delicious cakes and puddings like Finlay's 'Upside Down Cake', Erin's 'Banana Oat Greek yoghurt Cake', Aaron's 'Energy Balls' or Ms Mole's 'Pavlova'

All money made from the book will go to The Friends of Polesden Lacey Infant School and they in turn use the money to support the school. The book costs £12 and a copy can be ordered by following this [link](#).



Christmas tree voucher

The Vineries Garden Centre have once again provided us with a 10% off voucher when you purchase a real Christmas tree with them. The voucher below will entitle you 10% off your purchase and the Vineries will donate 50p to the school for every voucher they get back with our school's name on it.

THE VINERIES GARDEN CENTRE LOWER ROAD EFFINGHAM

CHRISTMAS TREE VOUCHER ON PRODUCTION OF THIS VOUCHER 2020

10 % OFF YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE



EFFINGHAM, SURREY. KT24 5JP. 01372 458934 (this voucher cannot be used in addition to club members discount)

Fairtrade tip

Hopefully you have found your Fairtrade Advent Calendars. Now many of us are thinking about gifts for Christmas. Remember to lookout for Fairtrade items!



Eco Tip

Why not try making some Eco Christmas decorations. If you do a search on the internet for Eco Christmas decorations to make there are a wide variety of sites that offer great ideas. Don't forget you can always order a wreath making kit from The Friends of Polesden Lacey infant School following this [link](#).



Dates

Autumn Term 2020

24th November PM— Full Governing Body Meeting

16th December 2020 - Christmas Making Morning

“ “ Christmas lunch for the children

18th December 2020 Last day of Term: school closes at 1pm