



Newsletter – No. 15 5th January 2024

Message from Mrs. Mole

I hope that you all had a lovely break and that you had a chance to see family and friends, making special memories with your children.

I would like to start by saying thankyou on behalf of myself and all the staff for all your well wishes and your very kind and generous gifts. They are really not necessary but, at the same time, I know how much I and everyone else appreciates them.

The children came back into school this week fantastically, smiling and ready to learn. In fact, by 10.15am I had already given out the first golden sticker of 2024! It was for a piece of writing about what they had done during the Christmas break. It included play dates with friends, making Christmas cards and a visit from Father Christmas (who bought them presents). When children come to show me their learning I will often look back through their books to see their progress. In this case, the progress from the start of Year 1 till now was phenomenal. It is lovely to see them show pride and genuine delight in how they have developed and how much they have improved over a relatively short period of time. Obviously the progress that a pupil makes shows the effort that they are putting in, but it is also reflective of the planning that the staff do to engage, support and challenge the children and the invaluable support that their families and carers give them. I look forward to seeing what all of our children achieve during 2024.

In the newsletter below I have included two pieces that I am particularly keen for you to read. One is about scooting/cycling on the pavement down Howard Road and the other is about our vacancy for a Clerk to the Governors.

I hope that you have enjoyed your children being back at school and into the routine of the school week and that you are ready to enjoy having them back at home this weekend!

Rebecca Mole

Headteacher

Book Recommendation of the Week

from Bella in Year 1

Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae & Guy Parker-Rees

Bella loves this book and especially when Gerald starts dancing.



Walking, Scooting and Cycling to school

This week and next week I will be speaking to all of the children about staying safe as they walk, scoot and bikes to school. It was brought to our attention that a few children are scooting/cycling or running down the pavement on Howard Road very fast and often with their grown-up some way behind them. Our neighbours are very good at planning ahead and not leaving their driveways at drop off time. However, concern has been raised that unaccompanied children are crossing driveways without an adult checking that it is safe to do so. Our pupils are still too young to fully comprehend when a vehicle is moving towards them and at what speed which is why you always cross the road with them and are with them when they are near roads. Please do make sure that your child stays close to you and sees you modelling how to walk across drive ways and cross roads. This way they can stay safe now and build habits that will keep them safe in the future.

If your child does scoot or ride their bike to school they must have a bike license or cycle license. The forms to apply for these are available on the school website: <https://polesdenlaceyinfant.surrey.sch.uk/assets/documents/policies/Cycling-Contract-2020.pdf> and <https://polesdenlaceyinfant.surrey.sch.uk/assets/documents/policies/Scooter-Contract-2020-1604602762.pdf>

In order to gain their license you and your child/children have to sign the contract which includes ways to stay safe whilst using the scooters and bikes.

Mrs. Cummings and I will be checking that children have their licenses displayed!

Clerk to the Governors Vacancy

You may be aware that we have a vacancy for the role of Clerk to the Governors. If you are interested please see the advert on Eteach: <https://www.eteach.com/job/clerk-to-the-governors-1393865> or speak to Ms. Mole or Mrs. Wickes.

Applications for Year 3—Reminder

Much as we would love to keep your children with us at Polesden Lacey Infant School, the time has come for you to consider the choice of Junior school for the next stage in your child's educational journey.

For more information on how to apply please click on the following link from the Surrey Admissions team <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>.

Although we are unable to guide you with regards to choice of school we are more than happy to help with the process so if you do have any questions please ask. Applications close on 15th January 2024

Message From The Friends

Uniform reminder - If you're having a sort through uniform over the break, don't forget that we regularly have second hand uniform sales.

The next one will be on 12th January after school.

If you ever need uniform in between sales please reach out to the Friends Committee on email plisfriends@gmail.com and someone will have a look through and let you know if we have the right size for you.

Please put any good quality outgrown uniform in the black bins outside of the office where they'll be sorted for future sales.

Did you also know we have a clothes bank on site, near the entrance to the pond area? Any other items of clothes or those which are too worn to be reused can be put in there, the school receives a donation for anything collected. So you're helping the planet and helping the school at the same time!

Dates for 2024

12th January 2024 - Second Hand Uniform Sale After School

School Grounds

You may have noticed that the front of the school has now been cleared of the leaves that had fallen from the trees. Unfortunately this has meant that we are now left with a very bare muddy patch of ground near the bike /scooter shed. Can we please ask that you do not allow the children to run across this patch of ground as we are desperately hoping that if left alone the grass will regrow ready for the Spring and Summer.

Supporting Children with Anxiety Workshop

At the end of term, Oakfield Junior School offered our parents the opportunity to attend a Supporting Children with Anxiety Workshop lead by Educational Psychologist Janet Lo.

I'm pleased to attach the presentation slides. The key points one parent took away and shared with me were:

- Anger in child is usually a secondary emotion for another emotion that they don't know how to process. When you're feeling different emotions, share the signals which will help your child to identify the emotions they are feeling in the future.
- When your child is showing signs of anxiety, aim to regulate your own emotions, so you can help your child to regulate their emotions. This can be challenging, however, is what your child needs at that moment in time.

Try not to invalidate your child's feelings but giving comfort, solutions or distractions. Aim to use phrases like "I can see you're upset".

Remind yourself:

He/she is a good kid having a hard time.

Dates

11th January A-Life Healthy Eating and fitness workshop—all classes

26th January RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch

1st February Fairtrade Day

7th February Safer Internet Day

12th—16th February Half Term