



# Newsletter – No.39 16th July 2021

## Message From Ms. Mole.

This was not the week that we had planned but credit to the children, families and staff of Polesden Lacey Infant School that we have all made the most of it. It has been a quiet week without a large number of our Polesden family at school: both our Squirrel Class and Playschool are having to self-isolate. We understand that isolating for 10 days can be difficult especially in this beautiful weather, however, it is as important as ever to help keep ourselves and others safe. **Please remember, if you are unfortunately self-isolating at the moment, that means staying at home and only leaving the house for the permitted reasons.** Even if you have no symptoms and have tested negative following a lateral flow or PCR test we must continue to keep everybody safe by staying home until the end of the isolation period. We can't wait for our Squirrels to come out of self isolation at midnight on Monday 19th July and see them back in school on Tuesday.

Rabbits are working really hard and it's such a pleasure to see them using what the teachers have taught them in the classroom in their investigating. Yesterday, as I walked through the Reception outside area I was greeted with 'Ms. Mole, look at the repeating pattern I have made with the Lego bricks.' There in front of me were about 20 bricks laid out in a line with a pattern repeated throughout. The curiosity and love of learning was clearly evident on the smiling face looking up at me. Badgers have been busy rehearsing their leavers assembly which we are hoping to hold with the Year 2 parents watching in the Orchard on Tuesday morning. (Mrs. Quinn has also filmed it just in case!) They have also been sewing their aliens that they designed. The concentration and attention to detail is astonishing. Definitely some future Sewing Bee contestants in the making! Squirrels have been seeing Miss. Williams on their morning Zoom and sending in their work and designing and making the most beautiful masks ready for their Carnival Day on Wednesday. I am crossing everything for all the children and staff being back in school for the final few days of the school year.

You will see a few articles below from The Friends of Polesden Lacey Infant School. The first one says a good bye and thank you to the current committee and introduces the new committee. It can never be overestimated the difference that The Friends make to the school and the children. I would like to say a personal thankyou to the current committee; Thea, Kirsten and Emma for all the support, creativity, fun and funds that they have brought over the past couple of years. In the challenging time they were there to ask what the school needed and in the 'normal' times they were there to really enhance the school for the children. Thank you to them and all the other parents, family and friends who have helped at events, donated time and money and made an invaluable difference.

Lastly in my message this week is the bit that the children will want to know: what will our bears be called? I felt the responsibility of picking the winner and I have spent a significant amount of time of the past week asking other people their thoughts and googling various names. Finally I came to a decision and the winners are:

Honey (Bigger Bear) - Brooke in Year 1

Buddy Bear (Key Ring Bear ) - Aya in Year 2

Thanks to The Friends for sourcing the bears and organizing the competition.

Take care and stay safe,

**Rebecca Mole Headteacher**

## Star of Week

Well done to all the winners this week.

Rabbits: **Harrison** for brilliant Maths.

Squirrels: **Mia** for challenging herself in Maths and working hard in all subjects while learning at home. Well done Mia!!

Badgers: **Max** for his positive attitude towards his work.

**Elizabeth** for her mature attitude with within the classroom and positive work ethic.

**Forest School:** **Florence** for finding unusual object and using them creatively.



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

Below are some of this week's leaves:

**Squirrel children:** for showing resilience whilst learning at home and working hard independently.

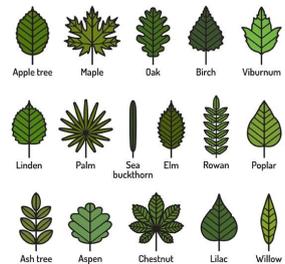
**Squirrel parents:** for being resilient and being fantastic with home learning.

**Hailey** showed curiosity when she asked where the meteor came from that fell to earth during dinosaur times.

**Elizabeth** was caring helping her friends get to school.

**Evie** has been resilient after hurting her foot.

**Joseph** was very caring towards Evie after she hurt her foot.



## Mrs. Secker

It is with a great deal of sadness that I am writing to inform you that Mrs. Secker will be leaving Polesden Lacey Infant School at the end of term. In her time here (eight years) she has inspired children and adults alike, both in the classroom, on the playground and in Forest School. She is moving to another school where she will have the opportunity of working with slightly older children and I am sure that she will continue to awaken curiosity and develop resilience and confidence in those that she comes into contact with.

We are very fortunate that Mrs. Secker has inspired many of the adults at Polesden Lacey Infant School and so we have members of staff who are trained and ready to take up the mantle of Forest School and we will be able to continue with our wonderful provision next year.

## The Friends of Polesden Lacey Infant School - committee roles

After an unprecedented time in the history of the Friends of Polesden Lacey Infant School the current Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are stepping down from their formal committee roles, as their eldest children leave the school.

Thea Phillips, Emma Gibbs and Kirsten Nayler have led the network of parents who make up The Friends of Polesden Lacey Infant School with impressive dedication and creativity over the last three years. The last 18 months have certainly tested their ingenuity and fast-thinking as all "usual" fundraising activities became unworkable.

We will be picking up their roles from September and very much hope that those of you still at the school will continue to be engaged in planning, running and supporting Friends activities and that we might encourage those of you who haven't yet been able to get involved to join us for one or two activities. It's a great way to develop new friendships!

On behalf of the whole parent community we would like to thank Thea, Emma and Kirsten for their hard work and commitment and we hope that we pick up your leadership batons with equal success!



From left to right: Vicky (Florence's mum—Rabbits), Cathy (Alex's mum—Rabbits) and Emily (Flynn's mum—Rabbits)

## Class Reps

We'd like to thank our three class reps this year - Adina, Katie and Emily - for their hard work keeping us informed, gathering volunteers, sourcing gifts and enabling social interaction (where possible and legal!).

The role of class rep is absolutely key - for the school, for The Friends and for fellow parents - so if you're interested in getting involved by doing this for your class next year please get in touch by emailing [plisfriends@gmail.com](mailto:plisfriends@gmail.com). We'd love to hear from you.

We thought it might be useful, particularly for new parents, to give you an idea of what the role involves. You don't have to do it alone, it can be split between two or three people if you wish.

It's such a great way to be involved and get to know other parents and it really is highly valued.

Class Representatives:

- Support parents in their class by passing on school-related communications and reminders by:
  - o Setting up (or continuing) a WhatsApp Group at the start of the school year to provide an easy communication channel to and amongst parents in the class
  - o Re-iterating key points highlighted in the school newsletter through a weekly reminder message
  - o Providing short-term reminders about upcoming key dates (inset days, mufti days, sports days etc)
  - o Ad hoc updates from the class teacher/s or Head when necessary
  - o Passing on messages and requests from the Friends
  - o School club reminders
- Source volunteers for Friends' events
- Make sure the class has enough help for activities when support is required
- Create opportunities for social interaction amongst parents - e.g. coffee mornings, nights out etc
- Welcome new starters during the year and make sure that parents are connected into the class groups
- Collect donations for Christmas and end of year gifts, so that parents can show their appreciation for all the staff at the school

## Raise money for the school every time you shop online

Don't forget that you can raise money for the benefit of our children every time you shop online with hundreds of retailers.

All you need to do is register with Easyfundraising (see link below) and when you want to shop just go to the Easyfundraising website, select the retailer you'd like to buy from, click through to their website and they will donate a % of your purchase to us at absolutely no cost and very little effort to you!

Hundreds of retailers are registered including Amazon, John Lewis, Marks and Spencer, Trainline, Booking.com, Insurance companies, Argos, eBay and many more.

Just register here and you can start raising money for the children at PLIS straight away! It's such an easy way to contribute.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/polesdenlaceyinfesch/>

## Fairtrade

In July 2006 the first Fairtrade ice cream was available in the UK. It was Ben and Jerry's Vanilla Ice cream. Nowadays there are a wide and varied selection that you can choose from. See pictures below for inspiration in this hot weather! What better excuse for a cheeky treat!



## A plea from The Friends of Polesden Lacey Infant School

As we near the end of term we're running low on uniform stocks and would really appreciate your donations of good condition, clean PLIS uniform of all sizes please. We still have some new joiners who would appreciate it and lots of existing children who have grown out of the size they're currently in!

If you are having a clear out of uniform in the next couple of weeks, or have piles of it sitting around already, please pop it in a bag and drop it into our new red metal collection bin which will be located at the front of the school. This will now be a permanent fixture so that you can drop off uniform at any time.

If you're leaving the school but don't have a chance to sort your uniform before the end of term then just drop us an email at [PLISFriends@gmail.com](mailto:PLISFriends@gmail.com) and we can arrange to take delivery over the holidays.

**Please make sure that your donations are washed and in good condition** with no holes, major stains or very faded colours. We are keen to provide a second (or sometimes third and fourth) life for school uniform, but it does need to be saleable, otherwise we end up having to take it to the clothes recycling ourselves.

As well as keeping clothes out of landfill, reducing the need for new production and providing a service for parents, our uniform sales generate much needed funds - 100% of which go towards projects which directly benefit all of the children at Polesden Lacey Infant School.

Thank you



## COVID –19 Testing Reminder and Lateral Flow Test Available in Bookham Pharmacy

Please remember that all adults and children over the age of 11 are encouraged to complete twice weekly Lateral Flow Test. Although this test is not 100% reliable in detecting positive cases of COVID – 19 it does pick up some cases. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of cases across the country and in Surrey over the past few weeks and as a school we can see the impact of this increase. Lateral Flow tests are available for free from both Pharmacies in Bookham.

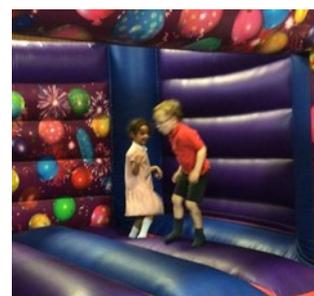
## Governor Afternoon

On Thursday afternoon seven of our school Governors came into school to meet and talk to the children. Judging by the smiles I think that both the Governors and the children had a lovely time (despite our social distancing protocols!) The Governors asked the children lots of things about school which the children answered beautifully and they were also delighted to be given some guided tours of the grounds by excited tour guides.



## Sponsored Bounce

On Wednesday afternoon, we had a fun afternoon during our Sponsored Bounce with Rabbit and Badger classes. The support given by all the children was fabulous and lots of laughing, giggling, falling over and leaping was to be seen. Charlie, in Badger class managed the highest number of bounces with 112 bounces in one minute, closely followed by Austin with 102 bounces, Hailey with 101 bounces and Dana with 100 bounces. In Rabbit class Anya and Oliver both did 96 bounces with Riley on 95. Well done to everyone who took part and we hope that Squirrel class will get an opportunity to have a bounce in the new year. Thanks to all the adults who helped on the day, to Alpha Bouncy Castles <https://www.alphabouncycastleles.co.uk/> for the use of the bouncy castle and to family and friends for sponsoring the children.



More Bouncing!

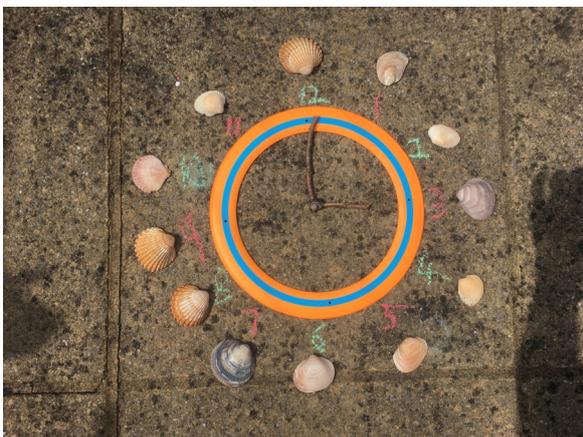
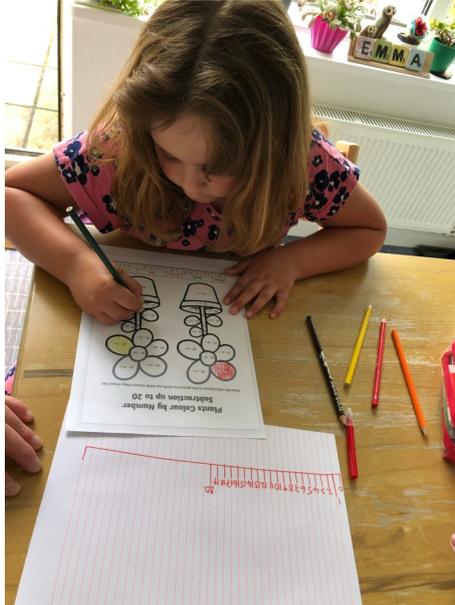


## Squirrel home Learning

As you know Squirrel class are currently self-isolating and learning at home. Below are a few pictures that the children have submitted.



Playing teachers at home!



## Parents' Survey

Firstly, can I say a big thank you to all those parents that have taken the time and trouble to complete the Parent Survey form, we have had a response rate of 92% so far, which is excellent.

To enable us to have an even more accurate picture of how we are doing we would really appreciate it if 100% of families could fill in a form. If you haven't already completed the form, could you, please spare us 5 minutes to do so. It really is very quick and extremely easy to complete. The more responses that we receive the more pro-active we can be with improving any areas of weakness or concern.

The google links for each class can be found below:

**Rabbit** Parents' Survey link: <https://forms.gle/QGAYff1rUneQY4qQA>

**Squirrel** Parents' Survey link: <https://forms.gle/JbNVcQ2cNZMjhbcs5>

**Badger** Parents' Survey link: <https://forms.gle/CBuhYXVqVDjJsgf27>

Congratulations to Elisa's mum who won the bottle of prosecco after completing the survey prior to Thursday 8th July . Her name was pulled out of a hat containing all the names of those who completed the survey so promptly. I hope that she enjoys it!

## Eco Tip

In Circle Time the children were thinking of ways that we can become more environmentally friendly. Over the next few weeks I will focus on the ideas that the children came up with (there were lots of great ideas!)

### Idea No. 6

Compost food waste

**Composting** is an inexpensive, natural process that transforms your **kitchen** and garden **waste** into a valuable and nutrient rich **food** for your garden. ... There are lots of good reasons to **compost**. It saves money, saves resources, can help to improve your soil and can reduce your impact on the environment



## Dates

### Summer Term

Tuesday 20th July — Year 2 Leavers assembly

Tuesday 20th July—Skipping Workshop—all classes during the morning

Wednesday 21st July — School Finishes 1.00pm for the Summer Holidays

Wednesday 21st July—Postponed Movie afternoon for Year 1 1pm—3pm

### Autumn Term

Wednesday 1st Sept—Inset Day

Thursday 2nd Sept—Year 1 & Year2 Return