



Issue No. 284
6 September 2016

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 6 September

8.00am Michaelmas Term
commences

Monday 11 September

pm NFER CATs (Y3-Y8;
no swimming)

4.00pm After School Clubs
Commence

THE

Polwhele Post

THE NEWSLETTER OF POLWHELE HOUSE

From the Headmaster...

The long summer break provides us with an opportunity to travel and experience new people and places and then return refreshed for the new challenges of another academic year. From a practical perspective, it also provides us with the opportunity to carry out extended building and maintenance projects which would be otherwise difficult to complete. Contractors have been on site to carry out a comprehensive set of dampproofing measures on the Pre-Prep exterior wall, and build a new fence on the playground to replace the one damaged by the Merlin helicopter.

The buildings and grounds look superb and I am grateful to our maintenance team too for all their hard work in presenting the school in such good condition for the new term. I am equally grateful to those who have been busily involved in activities over the summer to promote the school: the riding school has been inundated with visitors throughout the holidays; and last week's summer school, enjoyed by all, culminated in an imaginative outdoor performance on the playground.

In addition to this we launched our new website a few weeks ago. We hope you enjoy browsing through the pages and feel that they represent us well and communicate the special ethos of our school.

I would like to extend a warm welcome not only the boys and girls who have started their Polwhele careers this week but also to Miss Abbey Bray who joins us as Riding Assistant.

Today has been an excellent start to the year, in many ways, and all the children and staff seem very pleased to be here, taking comfort from the strong routine of a school day. And now let us look forward with optimism to what promises to be another happy and successful year for each and every member of the Polwhele community.

With best wishes,

Alex McCullough
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General reminders:

- With the exception of the choristers and grooms, our school day officially begins at 8.40am and the register remains open until 8.50am. If children arrive after this time they are required to register in the school office. Thank you.
- All parents should have received data input and pupil photograph consent forms. **If any of your contact details have changed or if you are new to school**, please complete the enclosed data input and pupil photograph consent forms and return them to the school office by the end of this week.
- School uniform – would parents and pupils please note that it is permitted to wear either the summer uniform or the winter uniform up until the Michaelmas half term break; however, it is not permitted to wear a mixture of both! After half term all pupils will be required to wear winter uniform.

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter



Prep School

Break Time Snacks

As an alternative to the option of two plain biscuits at break time, we would like to encourage the children in the Prep School to bring a piece of fruit (as most Pre-Prep children do).

Senior Games and PE Lessons (Y5-Y8)

Children are allowed to bring in roll-on deodorant for use only after these sessions (as well as after riding lessons). No aerosol cans are allowed in the school building. Thank you.



Years 4-8 Cognitive Abilities Tests (CATs) Monday 11 September

Throughout the course of the academic year we use various assessment procedures to monitor pupil progress and the above tests are one of the sets of data we use to help track pupils in Years 4-8.

The Cognitive Abilities Tests (CATs) assess an individual's ability to reason with and manipulate different types of symbols. Three main types of symbols play substantial roles in human thought:

- Symbols representing words (verbal reasoning)
- Symbols representing quantities (quantitative reasoning)
- Symbols representing spatial, geometric or figural patterns (non-verbal reasoning)

The CATs assess competence in working with each of these three types of material. The set of three scores obtained will give a profile showing the level and pattern of each pupil's abilities. Knowledge of areas of relative strength and weakness help us to develop strengths effectively and to compensate for weakness.

The tests are nothing to worry about; they are one (and only one!) of the pieces of information used for assessing and monitoring the children throughout the school.

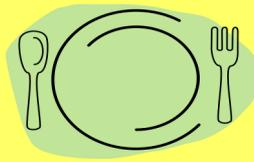
We do **not** spend time in school preparing for them; we will present them in a relaxed way to the children, whilst still encouraging the children to do their best.

The results are not published, but are kept on file for internal use; the tests provide us with useful performance data on your child and ultimately help us to do a better job.

It is important for your child to sit these tests so if pupil absence can be avoided, particularly on this occasion, we would appreciate it. In addition, please could you help by ensuring your child brings an HB pencil, an eraser and a reading book into school for the tests.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on headmaster@polwhelehouse.co.uk

LUNCH MENU



Wednesday 6 September

Red Pesto Pasta
Served with Tuna, Cheese, Salad & Homemade Bread

Fruit Muffins

Thursday 7 September

Ham Quiche
Cheese & Tomato Quiche (V)
Served with New Potatoes & Salad

Chocolate Crunch

Friday 8 September

Fish Fingers
Cheese Calzone (V)
Served with Potato Wedges, Peas & Runner Beans

Fruit Salad & Cream

Monday 11 September

Macaroni Cheese
Served with Baked Beans & Salad

Iced Lemon Cake