

Dear Parents,

Already we have celebrated our Harvest Festival and we are now planning Christmas Nativities! Where does the time go?

Literacy/ Numeracy Information Evening

Earlier this term we held our Literacy/ Numeracy Information Evening and it was pleasing to hear from so many parents how useful they found the evening. As teachers we live and breathe teaching and learning and it is useful for us too, to take a step back and reflect on the myriad of aspects involved in these activities.

'Learn Along-Side'

We have also held our 'Learn Along-Side' lessons for literacy and numeracy. I believe it provides a great insight into how teaching and learning takes place in the classroom today, very different from when I was at school! I hope too that it clearly communicates and demonstrates the confidence I have in the teachers at Polam. Now the children have settled, there will be an opportunity for F1 parents to take part in literacy and numeracy activities after half term.

Activity Afternoons for Year 2, 3, 4

Our older children have enjoyed an activity afternoon at Bedford School and Bedford Girls' School. It provides them with the opportunity to experience a larger setting and specialised equipment and resources as well as familiarise them with the school surroundings. They will be visiting Bedford Modern School for a similar experience after half term.

Tag Rugby Club

Our Tag Rugby team was kindly treated to afternoon tea having taken part in their last session before the evenings draw in. Bedford Modern School are very generous in providing the opportunity for the children to take part in the sport and then celebrating their successes with tea in their King's Room. A big thank you to Bedford Modern School and to Mrs Rawlinson who organises the club and came into school on her day off in order for the children to be able to attend the tea!

F2 Train Ride

This week there was great excitement in F2 as they left to take a train ride to Woburn Sands. For some children it was their first experience of travelling on a train and what a wonderful way for the children to see some of their locality. They enjoyed mid-morning snack at a playground near Woburn Sands station.

Harvest Festival

As always your generosity was apparent with the donations we received on behalf of the Food Bank. The gym looked wonderful and grateful thanks to Mr Davies who came in and spoke to the children about his work on a farm, crops that are grown and how the crops are gathered in. I can remember as a child sitting on top of a trailer stacked high with hay bales fresh from the fields and the smell of the fresh hay!

Staff Changes

We have some goodbyes and welcomes to announce. Sadly we lose Mrs Pollard this half term; Kristy has worked at Polam for over five years and as staff we always know where she is in the school because of the bubbly laughter! She will be sorely missed for this but more importantly her exemplary role as a Nurse Nurse; we all wish her well. We have Mrs Essam joining the team, again a very experienced Nursery Nurse who has worked with some of the Polam staff in the past. We welcome her to the Polam family.

Mr Seymour leaves us this half term; his handyman work around the school has been very evident with many tasks completed. Mr Terence Smith will take over from Mr Seymour and joins us with years of experience in the building trade mostly as a Project Manager of large builds. We look forward to welcoming him.

Sam Pearce our new Marketing & Admissions Manager has now got her feet firmly under the table and our new Bursar has now started at the school, Theresa Clarkson, who again has had years of experience fulfilling the role in schools. It is good to get her on board; I know she is looking forward to meeting you all. And finally, a face to welcome back! Louise Ford left us to have her first baby twenty months ago and is now back and it seems she has never been away! Welcome back Louise!

Dropping off & Collecting

Can I please ask again that you do not park on the zig zags in front of the school; it could cause a hazard for **your** child!



KEY DATES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2015—2016

19th October to 30th October 2015

HALF-TERM/ Holiday Clubs

4th November 2015

Year 2 to Bedford Modern School

w/c 9th November 2015

Swim Watch Week

11th November 2015

Parent Consultation Evening 4-6.45pm

20th & 25th November 2015

Open Day

8th December 2015

Christmas Production 2.30pm

9th December 2015

Christmas Production 6pm

14th December to 31st December 2015

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

5th January to 18th March 2016

Spring term

15th February to 19th February 2016 HALF-TERM/ Holiday Clubs

21st March to 8th April 2016

EASTER HOLIDAYS

12th April to 8th July 2016

Summer term

30th May to 3rd June 2016

HALF-TERM/ Holiday Clubs

ACADEMIC YEAR 2016 — 2017

3rd September 2016

Start of new academic year 2016-2017