

POLEGATE SCHOOL

APRIL 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

READING	1
MEDIEVAL FAIR SATS	2
GENERAL ISSUES	2
THINK TANK	3
ATTENDANCE	4

READING

We have just introduced Accelerated Reader across the whole school. You may notice your child is on what appears to be a different level reading book. Every child has completed an on line test which has identified a book level to start from along with their strengths and areas to develop in reading.

Teachers have been very impressed with the accuracy of this compared with their own assessments. The children are encouraged to read as often as possible and then after reading each book complete a quiz within 24 hours. The quizzes have to be completed in school and are all online. With every quiz completed they collect points.

Evidence shows Accelerated Reader is incredibly motivating, especially for boys and encourages reading for pleasure. We are already noticing how much more eager children in Key Stage 2 are, especially Year 6 to read.

Each quiz gives your child and their teacher information about their understanding of the book, comprehension skills and the more demanding skills of inference and deduction. Teachers can also track how often your child is reading and the progress they are making.

Only some books within the school library are quizzed on Accelerated Reader, so pupils are able to have an Accelerated Reading book and one other. Most popular authors have quizzes on Accelerated Reader. We are identifying gaps and some shortages in books at certain levels and we will be investing in these. We are also beginning to label books in the infant library so they can start as soon as possible to use Accelerated Reader.

We are very hopeful that this will add to the success of reading at Polegate. It also supports our transition to Willingdon Secondary School as they have also introduced this. We will hold a parent information evening about this before the end of the year.

RECYCLING

Apart from toner cartridges we can now recycle mobile phones, cd's, dvd's ipods, sat navs or hand held games consoles.

If you have any please put them in the recycling box by the office

READING RAFFLE

The children are always excited about choosing a book. Just as a reminder if you read to your child this also counts. We would expect every child to be either read to or listened to read every day. It is even more important in the reception classes. So every child should be able to have a raffle ticket in the box.

SCOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

This has been a huge success and we have it for another week until Friday (4th May). Why not take advantage of this and have a look at the books on offer. There are big discounts on some. In return for hosting the fair we receive a percentage of sales and will be using this to top up on Accelerated Reader books for the library.

READING WEEK

This will be the week 21st - 25th May. More information will follow but we have a very exciting week of activities and visits from authors to promote a love of reading.

Helen Dennis, a local writer is visiting us on Friday 25th May. Her book is aimed at older junior children and is about to be published

MEDIEVAL FAYRE

Year 1 and 2 hosted a Medieval Fayre to showcase their work last term. We were treated to some medieval dancing, a recorder performance and the chance to visit classrooms and browse stalls. I would like to thank parents, family and friends for supporting this and also providing some spectacular costumes for the day!

I am sure you will join me in thanking the staff for doing

that little bit extra to make school exciting and memorable. Events like this do require additional work and I certainly appreciated their willingness to do this.



YEAR 6 SATS

Year 6 are currently busy preparing for their SATs tests. These begin the week beginning 14th May until Tuesday 22nd May. If your child is in Year 6 please make sure they are in school and arrive promptly each day. I am sure you support them in doing the best they can by making sure they have

a good night's sleep.

No late nights!

Good luck to all of Year 6 - all we can ask is that you do your best. I have no doubt that you will try your hardest and make us proud.

STAFFING

Mrs Geal has returned to work and will be a phased return. I would like to thank Mrs Tackley who has done a superb job covering Mrs Geal. Mrs Tackley will be covering until 21st May.

I am delighted to share Miss Bashford's news that she is getting married on 8th June. She will return as Mrs Murphy.

We currently have 4 students across the school. Mr Little is working in 6T with Mr Trent until 22nd June. Also with us until 22nd June is Hayley Stradling who is

working in RJ with Mrs Jones. Gemma Beswick and Nicola Francis are both in 1H with Mrs Hadley.

Class 3F are benefitting from the support of a very enthusiastic volunteer, Chi Onuora. Miss Onuora is hoping to train as a teacher in September. We haven't put her off yet!

PFA

Our very dedicated, small PFA met on Thursday to discuss the 'Traditional Summer Fayre'. The date has changed to **Friday 1st June 2.00 - 4.00pm**. We felt this would allow us to celebrate the Golden Jubilee with all children and more parents. The Think Tank parents had pointed out that many families would be away on the Saturday which also seems to clash with other local events.

A more detailed letter will follow. I know they are in need of crockery for the smash a crockery stall. We are also hoping to have pony rides so if you have any contacts please let us know.

I would like to thank the PFA for their commitment to the school. Darren Johnson, Ashley Ireland and Andrew Grice along with Jon Murrell our caretaker who have given up several Sundays to paint the reception area as you enter the school. I am sure you will agree it looks a lot better now.

I know the PFA would love to welcome some new members. It really does not matter if you are unable to commit to every meeting or event just make yourselves know to Darren.

SWIMMING

Just a reminder that if you haven't paid your £10 contribution towards swimming for your child please do so.

Swimming hats and socks are available from the office at £1 each.

Swimming bags are £3.50

Please remember your £10 contribution. This works out to 50p per session

COLLECTION AT END OF DAY

Please be prompt when picking your child up from school. There are a lot of children still waiting to be collected at 3.30pm.

Please remember to collect your child from the **junior playground** after they have finished a club.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

If you need to see a teacher we have an open door policy when you can pop in from 3.30pm.

Please allow children to leave the school before trying to speak to a teacher. Please enter through the junior doors.

'THINK TANK'.....

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 24TH MAY

We are reviewing our school rules at the moment and involving the children in this discussion. Current proposals are:

We strive to be the best we can be

We are gentle and keep everyone safe

We are friendly, kind and helpful

We respect property

We listen to people

We are honest

We wear our uniform with pride

We are polite. We say please and thank you and hold doors open or other people

We walk sensibly inside the school.

We treat people the way we want to be treated: with respect.

Set a good example

Please share your thoughts with your representatives. We are also discussing the possibility of introducing 4 houses to promote team work across the school. Each child would be placed in a house and collectively would then earn points with a winning house each week. We like the idea of houses being named after 'inspirational' people. People who may have overcome difficulties or obstacles to succeed to further reinforce our vision 'Learning without Limits'

We are also hoping to clarify 'Star of the Week' so that there is a shared understanding of expectations to earn this.

If you have any thoughts on these areas please share them with any of your parent representatives so they can bring them to the next meeting.

HATS

Please make sure your child has a hat in school as on sunny days they will not be allowed outside without one.



Baseball caps on sale from the school office for £3.50

BUGGIES IN SCHOOL

Many of you may be unaware but just to clarify we do have a 'no buggy' policy in school. This is for Health and Safety reasons. We do have a buggy shelter outside the school for you to store buggies in safely.

Whilst we want to be welcoming and friendly we cannot accommodate buggies when children are in school. The corridors are simply not wide enough and with parents and children in class assemblies there is certainly no space for buggies.

So in the interest of health and safety I hope you will support us in this.

TAKE HOME TASK

Joshua McNair in 1P completed this marvellous Take Home Task.

I have even spent a lunch-time playing the game with Joshua. I have to say the game must be flawed - I lost against Joshua!



CORRIDOR

My space corridor has been removed and is replaced with a Chinese themed corridor. Pop in and have a look at the stunning Year 4 work on display.

PARKING

When dropping your children off to school PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE ZIG ZAGS outside the school. This is making it extremely difficult for children and parents wishing to cross the road.

Attendance

Class figures

%Attendance figures so far for this school year.

RJ: 94.4 3B: 96.3 6T: 93.3

RG: 94.1 3F: 94.6 6C: 95.1

1P: 95 4G: 97

1H: 95.1 4M: 95.8

2B: 96.7 5T: 96.8

2S: 96.6 5K: 96.6

97% is our target!

190 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR 190 days for your child's education	10 days absence 180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	19 days absence 171 DAYS OF EDUCATION	29 days absence A term missed 161 DAYS OF EDUCATION	38 days absence 152 DAYS OF EDUCATION	47 days absence 143 DAYS OF EDUCATION
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Good Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start		Worrying Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress		Serious Concern Not fair on your child. Court action!	

If your child's attendance drops below 85%. You may get a visit from a member of the school's senior leadership team with work for your child to complete during their absence.

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