



Polegate SCHOOL



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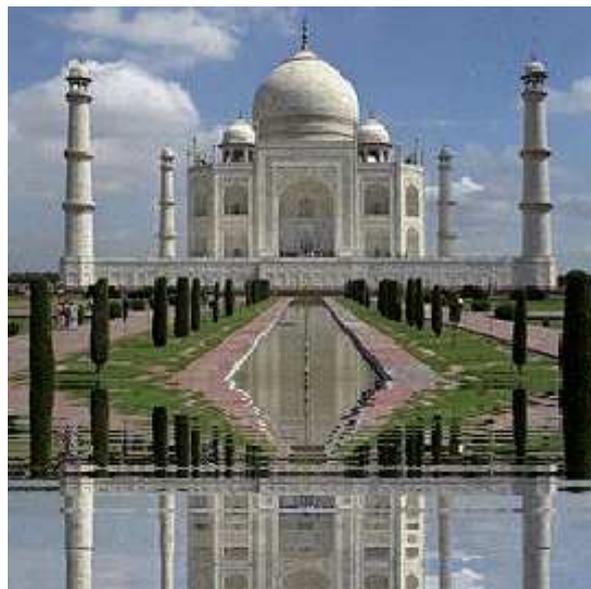
The Taj Mahal by Noah Bailey

Luscious green trees surround the area of the towering Taj Mahal. People bustle through the busy pathways. Colours mix with the sun. The golden sun shot beams like a pistol through paper. Shadows formed on the wall like a puzzle of darkness. The glimmering sun shone on the river as the radiant beams disappeared. Suddenly an orchestra of lights flew on as the towers shone and glittered all over. The peachy white of the building faded into the darkness. Eye-catching beams of light shone and gleamed as the moon rose and shimmered along the river. The mountainous building made shadows dance as they bounced along as it sat majestically in the view of everyone's eyes. As the Red fort stands in view of the Taj Mahal the tomb of Mumtaz and Sahah stands inside.

A year 5 piece of writing.

The wonderful description and vocabulary brings the writing to life!

Well done Noah!



We all hope you have a wonderful holiday and look forward to seeing you in a weeks time.

Your child may enjoy writing a diary through the holiday. We would love to read any they write. And who knows maybe they will feature in the next newsletter!

Research shows that young people that read outside of class are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age.

(National Literacy Trust)



YEAR 5 & 6 HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Polegate fielded 2 teams in the tournament which was also attended by Ocklynge, St John's Mead and Tollgate.

Each single player did Polegate proud! The rain came down all morning but there was not one moan or groan about it! Both teams looked better and better as they got used to playing with each

other and became familiar with the tournament rules. There was a missed bag of results - some - some wins, some draws and some losses. The highlights were a draw against Ocklynge and a good win against Tollgate. Luckily, when the 2 Polegate teams played each other the score was 2-2!!!

Thank you so much to

Mr Murrell who drove the minibus and without whom we wouldn't have been able to attend. Also to the parents who were able to provide transport to the venue and who were brave enough to stay and support us despite the dreadful weather conditions!!

Most importantly very well done to the children who were a credit to all of us.

Daniel Northrop	Bradley Lynam
Jack Banks	Connor Jenkins
Nathan Jenkins	Matilda Ray
Jamie Oakshott	Jamie Middleton
David Rose	Caitlin Corbett
Bethany Doe	
Keira White	
Will Holland	
Liam Canning	
Chloe Hanmore	



Voluntary Contributions

Swimming will start on Tuesday 16th April. A letter with more details and timetable will be sent out in the next few weeks. We continue to feel budget pressures and as you are aware we looked in detail at the very high cost of maintaining our own swimming pool. At one time most schools in the area had their own pools and one by one they have been closed down. We, however, despite the expense, value our pool and would regret losing this resource. We have made the commitment to keep the pool going for this year but are looking, yet again, to do so with your support. We are requesting a voluntary contribution of £12 per child which will provide about half of this summer's operational costs. The full amount can be made now or £4 by the end of term 3, £4 by the end of term 4 and £4 by the end of term 5.

Children will receive 2 lessons per week during term 5 and 6 making this extremely good value for money (approximately 50p per lesson). With your support we will be able to keep our swimming pool.

Swimming Pool

Polegate School's Football Season so far

The new football season started with a 7 a side tournament held at Ocklynge School in October. Despite having never played together, the team started to play with confidence and showed several glimpses of good things to come. They finished the tournament in third place in their league, winning three games and losing three; two of these by a solitary goal.

In this season's league we were placed in a tough group alongside Parklands, Stafford and West Rise. The local schools are placed in three leagues with the winning team through to the semi-finals alongside the best runner up across all the leagues.

The first game was played against Parklands. In a tough game we produced some lovely free flowing football with Nathan Jenkins particularly effective down the right wing. He caused their defence all kinds of problems and both of the opening goals came from his precision crossing. The first was taken by Jack Trent at the near post, and the second scored by James Weyland, with a composed finish at the far post. However, the energy levels dipped in the second half and we ended up conceding two goals to finish the game with a draw. The B team produced a great win against Parklands B with a 3 - 2 victory, a hat-trick being scored by Bradley Barnes (who showed excellent control and finishing) with some lovely battling in midfield with young Jack Corbett in Year 4 showing excellent attacking play.

The second league game was played against West Rise and in a tremendous demonstration of passing and finishing we cruised to an early lead with a floated shot from twenty yards scored by Shay Murray. We soon set about them and were two nil up by half-time with a clinical finish by Joshua Gausden. Despite a second half attack from West Rise our defence held firm and Connor Jenkins and James Weyland were able to deal effectively with everything that was in front of them. Second half goals from Nathan Jenkins, Joshua Gausden (again) and Jack Trent led us to a deserved 5 nil win.

The B team also played in even more difficult conditions with the light fading and the pitch looking like a scene from the First World War. The home team took advantage and scored an early goal but a battling performance saw us quickly equalise early in the second half through a fine shot from Connor Furlong. With both teams going close it looked like the game would end in a draw until Bradley Barnes shot from distance and the ball shot into the top corner. A good 2 -1 victory.

Our next match was a Collins Cup game against a physically tough team from St John's Meads. In a tight match with chances at either end the game was decided by a lovely goal from Jack Trent in the first half. St John's took the game to Polegate in the second half and only some desperate defending and excellent saves from the goalkeeper Ben Andrews, allowed the team to keep a clean sheet and progress into the next round. Again, Connor Jenkins led the defence, well supported by Lee Connolly who showed great composure.

This meant a match against Langney in their home ground. The game started with a goal for Polegate in almost the first few seconds when Jack Trent took advantage of a collision between a defender and the goalkeeper to slot the ball home. Immediately Langney replied before racing away at the start of the second half to score again. However, Polegate never gave up, and after some lovely midfield play by Josh Gausden and Nathan Jenkins, Jack Trent was able to take advantage and hit the ball cleanly past the out-coming goalkeeper. Polegate kept up the pressure and with a few minutes to go Jack Trent scored again for his hat-trick from an acute angle and victory was ours.

The last league game was played against Stafford at home. A tight fought match resulted in a 0-0 draw which meant that our school finished the league in top position with 5 points. We now go through to the league semi-final against an as yet unknown team. The B team also played and won a comfortable victory with goals by Bradley Barnes and David Rose.

Another update will follow shortly.



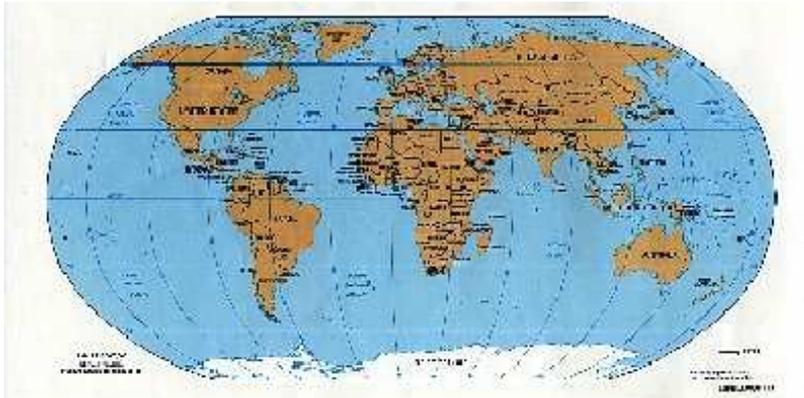
Young Engineers

Congratulations to our Young Engineers for coming in 2nd at the annual Young Engineers Challenge which took place at the Devonshire Park Theatre

They were competing against a large number of schools and had to work independently with no adult support.



GOODBYE MISS FRANKS!!!



Miss Franks has been a wonderful teacher here at Polegate School for many classes over the past years but we are sad to say that she is leaving in February to go travelling around the world.

We interviewed Mrs. Murphy who has worked with Miss Franks for 2 years.

Mrs. Murphy said:

I really enjoyed working with Miss Franks and we worked really well together and helped each other out. I miss working with Miss Franks and will miss her a lot when she leaves.

by Caitlin Corbett and Hannah Tingley-Martin 6T



We all hope Miss Franks has a wonderful experience travelling around the world. On her journey she is visiting Dubai, India, Australia, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Mongolia and Russia.

We will be keeping a track of her travels and following her journey.

THE HONEY MONSTER

I am sure you have heard -It caused a great deal of excitement. The Infants had a surprise visit in assembly from the Honey Monster. Each child was given a small box of Sugar Puffs and he handed out their certificates!



A CHINESE BANQUET



After school club had a fantastic Chinese banquet to celebrate Chinese New Year.

They made dragons, snakes, money wallets and lots of other activities

They were helped to use chop sticks by Jeri Yee.

It was a superb way to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

PFA DATES

26th February - PFA Meeting at school

7th & 8th March - Mother's Day Presents on sale £1.50

22nd March - Easter Egg Competition

23rd March - Cinema Club

30th March - Easter Coffee Morning

23rd May - Whole school disco 5.00—7.00pm

RADIO STATION

Please tune in every Friday.
Each class is broadcasting on a Friday between 12 and 1pm.

Friday 1st March 3G

Friday 8th March 2B

Friday 15th March 1P

Friday 22nd March RJ



DIARY DATES

25th February start of term 4

26th February Interim Reports sent home

26th February PFA meeting 7pm at school

Friday 1st March World Book Day

Monday 4th March INSET day

Thursday 7th & Friday 8th March -

Mother's Day presents on sale

Saturday 23rd March

Cinema Club

Thursday 28th March last day of term

Saturday 30th March Easter Coffee Morning

Test Dates

Year 2 SATs will take place between 15th April–22nd May.

Year 1 Phonic Tests take place during the week beginning the 17th June.

Year 6 SATs take place in the week beginning the 13th May

It is vital children are in school during these weeks.

World of Work Week

Monday 1st July– Friday 5th July

Thank you to the parents that have volunteered to come in and share their jobs with the children.

We do need more, it would mean so much more to the children if our visitors are parents and I'm sure your child would love it!

Just let Kerry know if you are able to come in and tell us your preferred day and time.

STAFF

Welcome back to Miss Bartholomew who is taking over from Miss Franks in class 5F.

regularly burning her oven gloves!



We say goodbye to Jo Spalding our Cook. She is leaving after 10 years. She will be remembered fondly for

WEBSITE AND TWITTER



Please have a look at our school website. You can follow links to Mymaths, The VLE, Accelerated Reader,

and parent Pay. You can check term dates and view the school calendar.

We also have a Twitter feed which is updated most days with lots of school news.



Please could you take a moment to complete the Ofsted questionnaire. There is a link from our website. Whilst we are not expecting Ofsted anytime soon it is a good way for us to collect your views.

Be the first to hear the news.

Please follow us on twitter we now have 159 followers!

ATTENDANCE

I know the labels attached to attendance on our Interim Reports have caused some of you alarm. We do understand that with all the recent illness attendance across the school is lower than expected. If you look at the back page you can see how illness has affected attendance. We do not create the grades: concern, causing serious concern etc. This is how these figures are viewed Nationally by government and bodies such as Ofsted. You can

feel reassured that as the year progresses any current absence becomes less significant. Attendance is calculated as a percentage and as we are only part way through the year each day has a higher percentage. The report we send home provides an indication of how attendance would be viewed after a full year.

I do want to stress that we do take attendance seriously.

This is because we want your child to do the best they can.

Children with a high attendance do better.

Our attendance figures are monitored by the Education Welfare Officer who has identified concerns.

Please help your child by getting them to school at 8.55am at the latest. Lessons start promptly at 9am



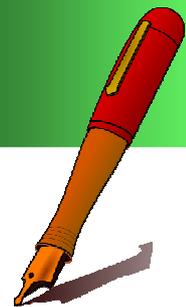
PEN LICENCE

If your child is not already writing with a pen we have introduced a system for recognising great handwriting. This is called a 'Pen License'. When teachers feel handwriting is joined, neat and consistent in size they will be awarded a certificate and be given a choice of special pens to use.

It is certainly worth practicing handwriting at home.

I'm so pleased that this is really taking off now. We have awarded a number of children in year 5 with their pen license.

Handwriting across the school is improving. Well done everyone.



Attendance

Days off school add up to lost learning

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR

175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments

Our average last year was around
96%



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!	

Class figures

RJ - 91.4%

RW - 93.4%

1P - 93.3%

1H - 93.2%

2S - 93.1%

2B - 94.8%

3G - 94.7%

3GW - 94.4%

4M - 95%

4EM - 93.9%

5T - 94.8%

5F - 93.6%

6T - 95.6%

6C - 95.6%

If your child's attendance drops below 85%. You should expect a visit from a member of the school's leadership team with work for your child to complete. We have unfortunately needed to do this quite recently. We have to refer any child with attendance below 85% to the Education Welfare Officer who will then provide support to improve attendance. Please contact the school for support before it gets to this stage.

Please compare your child's attendance to the average and look at the table above.