

POLEGATE SCHOOL

MARCH 2012

READING UPDATE

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Hattie in reception

We are receiving lots of wonderful extreme reading photographs! Have a look at the display in the reception area at the huge variety of places children and staff have been reading in!

Mrs Wallis has been snapped reading alongside celebrities!

We are really noticing the impact of our various initiatives on the pupils' progress



Ysabel in year 5

in reading which will of course have a positive effect on other subjects too.

Thank you for your support because many of these initiatives have involved support from home and we have been truly working in partnership.

The Reading Raffle is continuing to motivate all the children. Currently the juniors are just a little in the lead with the number of tickets they have collected this term!

Mrs Hadley catching a wave!

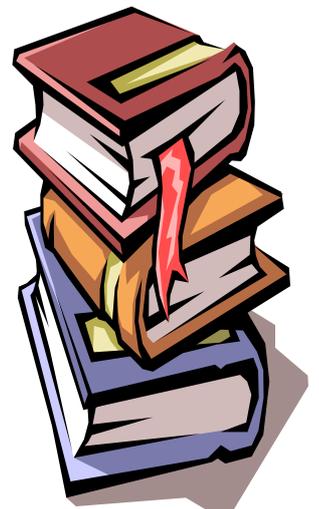


YEAR 6 JUDGING BOOK AWARDS

Some of our pupils in Year 6 have been part of the judging panel in the East Sussex Book Awards. They have each had to read 5 books and vote on their favourite. One of the more popular books they read was 'The Deepening Secrets' by Victor Watson.

As part of the judging process they had the opportunity to meet the

author alongside 10 other schools. Mr Clayton accompanied the group and in his words, 'Our school was brilliant.' The children all asked pertinent questions and they dominated the discussion .



Have a wonderful Easter holiday and don't forget to read

POLEGATE CHOIR PART OF WORLD RECORD BREAKING EVENT!



The London O2

Our choir has represented our school at the O2 as part of Young Voices. They are the largest children's choir organiser in the world. Just to give some idea of the scale have a look at the picture below! I must say a huge thank you to Miss Taylor for preparing the children so well for this and organising the trip. It was superb and a moment the children will treasure for years to come!



Listening to them as we approached the venue made it all worthwhile!

A very late night but one we all thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to all the choir members and parents that came along to support us!

We have filled our Parent Governor vacancy and are delighted to welcome Sara Hawes as our new governor.

LETTER TO THE CHILDREN

We frequently receive lovely comments about the children and I thought this would be nice to share with you as it is not from a parent or member of staff (we are often biased!) Gerry comes in on a regular basis and also has experience of helping out in other schools. She took the time to write a letter:

'.... On each occasion, I've been struck by the general welcoming and courteous responses from all the children I've passed in corridors etc, including-

Smiling at me

Holding doors open for me

Saying (initiating) 'Good afternoon' etc.

These are children I am not working with so their politeness is especially noticeable and makes the school environment feel welcoming overall to a new volunteer.

SWIMMING

As you know we start our swimming sessions after the Easter holiday. Please remember to pay your £10 if you haven't already done so.

We will be ordering a few swimming bags which will be available from the school after the holiday.

'THINK TANK'....

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 24TH APRIL

We have just had our second very successful meeting.

We had concerns as a school about the Interim reports, how they were being interpreted and the emphasis that seemed to be placed on academic levels. This was never the intention and in discussion with your representatives these will change. A subtle difference will be the elements such as effort and attitude towards learning will now be at the top of the report. These are the foundations for everything else and after enjoying school and being inspired to learn these are the most important elements for us as a school.

The levels will still feature alongside targets for your child but we are also keen to reflect the progress your child is making. We will start these in September and a more detailed letter will accompany them along with

a slip to allow you to comment on them. I know some of you were keen to see the return of the spider diagram! We have changed the management system in school and it no longer has the ability to produce these. We will however be adding a report on your child's reading to accompany the Interim reports.

We discussed the end of year reports and these will also be changing slightly to become less focused on the content and more about your child's strengths and areas to develop. Hopefully this will make them more personal and helpful.

Healthy eating (especially in relation to lunchboxes) was raised as an area we should revisit as a school and discussions have already started into how we can incorporate this into our Olympic topic in Term 6. Any thoughts or suggestions I am sure your representa-

tives would like to hear them.

There was some concern about the noise from the kitchen during class assemblies. I have spoken to the kitchen staff and they have promised to save banging pots and pans until after the assembly!

The outline for the new website was discussed and although there are likely to be some further small changes this has been agreed. Feedback about the new logo was very positive. We do have some jumpers in stock with the new logo on and in fact some children are proudly wearing them already!

Photos of your representatives will appear soon I promise, they are very good at keeping quiet and not reminding me!

Reading Breakfast

Unfortunately we have cancelled the last two Reading Breakfasts as we have not had enough responses. Look out for the next one!

LAUNCH OF NEW LOGO

I don't think our logo ever did our school justice and I have been keen to have a logo we are proud of and one that reflects our school better.

That is when David Sheppard a parent came to the rescue! Not only is David a parent but also a graphic designer and a past pupil! He didn't take much convincing to take up the challenge!

David has been working on this project since about October and consultation has taken place with pupils, staff, governors and parents.

We think this logo reflects

our school. It keeps the windmill theme but gives it a modern twist. I love it and the children do too. I had to smile to myself as I passed a pupil in the corridor wearing the new jumper, smiling from ear to ear who couldn't wait to tell me he was wearing the first new jumper.

There will be more about our new logo when we officially launch it on the 28th May alongside the new website.

I want to say a huge thank you to David for all the work he has put into this for the school. David has designed this logo with no charge to the school and we are incredibly grateful.

We do have a school to be immensely proud of and I think that this logo will be a symbol of that.

?



Look out for the new logo on jumpers!

Our Champion Long Distance Runner

More news from George Dyer, he came 8th in the Cross Country final. He represented East Sussex schools.

It seems George has developed a real passion for running and has now joined 'Body Works' at the University of Brighton. He is training hard with both his running and

also rugby.

We expect great things George and maybe in years to come we will be reporting proudly on Olympic success!

Well done George!



MORE READING...

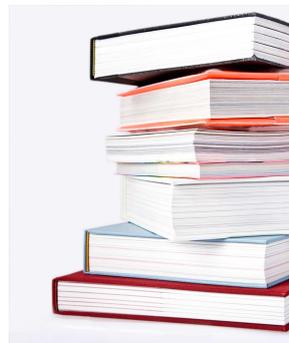
Extra challenge for families of children who want to read to themselves.

We know there are plenty of parents with children that no longer want to read to them because they are fluent readers, passionate about books and become absorbed in them.

Why not read the same book as your child. Get two copies and then you will have the opportunity to discuss the book together and it will give you the chance to check your child's comprehension.

We would love photographs for our board and comments if you try it. There will be a

reward for anyone that attempts this challenge!



For those children that read independently, try this challenge.

END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Please can we ask that anyone collecting children from the juniors waits on the playground rather than the area just inside the double doors. It does get busy at the end of the day especially where children need to get items from their lockers and can become very congested. It can also be a little intimidating for the younger pupils. For secu-

rity reasons the double doors should remain shut until the children leave at 3.20pm.

Can I also remind everyone that children should not be riding bikes or scooters on the playground either before or after school. There are often a lot of younger brothers and sisters on the playground and it would be so easy for

them to get in the way and get hurt. This is beginning to feel like a bit of a moan now, but I would also like to remind everyone that balls are not allowed to be used on the playground before or after school. The playground is too busy and it is too easy for parents or children to be hit. End of moan!

SPORTS

Hockey

On Thursday 16th March some of our year 6 pupils took part in a hockey tournament. We lost to the Haven 1-0 and then proceeded to play against Tollgate and won 0-2. Although we didn't quite make the final we improved greatly through each game and displayed some great talent and teamwork as the morning progressed.

Our hockey team were: Kara

Rose Francis, Leia Furlong, Jake Baldwin, Bradley Burgess, Robyn Darling, Jake Hicks, Reece Kearney, Violet Doe, Rosie Adams.

Thank you to Mrs Francis who supported this as a parent helper.

Football

Year 2 took part in a football tournament at Cavendish School. We made it through to the semi-finals but lost to a very strong Stone's Cross

Team.

Thank you to Mrs Boniface who helped the team:

Dylan Baker ,Angelina Sidwell, Morgan Smith , Kye Boniface , Regand French ,India Leatham.

Sports Relief

We raised

£280

Thanks to Mrs Wallis for organizing this event for the whole school.



YEAR 3 TRIP TO PORT LYMPNE

Jamie Hamilton and Joshua Austin-Evans spent the day being reporters and photographers on our school trip.

Here is their news report!

Yesterday Year 3 went to Port Lympe. It took the double decker coach 1 hour and 50 minutes to get there. When we got to Port Lympe we went for a snack as it took so long to get there. Next we went

on a 2 carriages truck. We saw an enormous rhino that was 42 years old. After the trip we went to lunch. When we finished our lunch we looked at the bins that were description bins.

Next we went to the rhino walk . After that we quickly went and got a toy with our money. Then we got home late. We saw 50 animals including the gigantic black rhino. I and Joshua a listed them.

Joshua a was photograph and I was the recorder.

Quote from Jason Parker "This is the best day of my life!"

This was just one of many other lovely, excited comments.



Attendance

Class figures

%Attendance figures so far for this school year.

RJ: 94.2 3B: 96.2 6T: 93.3
 RG: 94.2 3F: 94.6 6C: 95.5
 1P: 94.9 4G: 96.8
 1H: 94.9 4M: 95.8
 2B: 96.9 5T: 97
 2S: 96.4 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.

Transformation of the School Entrance

The work outside our entrance has been carried out by Coinfords. They approached the school keen to carry out a community project. We had been planning on improving this area and Coinfords came along at the right time!

It is certainly an improvement and also provides a nice seating area- be warned it is right below my office window, I will hear everything! Coinfords have carried out the work and provided the materials free of charge.

They have also provided the paint for the reception area just inside the entrance which we hope to make more welcoming. The PFA have started to paint this area of the school if you are able to spare a few hours and help Darren out please either contact Darren directly or speak to Kerry who can pass a message on. The more help we have the better!



The work in progress



Year 5 pupils have an out of this world experience!

It was quite surreal to see lots of astronauts arriving at school on Monday! They looked amazing. I would like to thank you, as parents, for going to so much trouble and creating superb costumes to make their day even more special. The class had a terrific day with some wonderful experiences all designed to enhance their learning.



Easter Extravaganza

Why not come along on Saturday and join us for a fun morning. A chance for the children to do some crafts, enter a competition, take part in an Easter Egg Hunt while you sit and eat cakes and drink coffee! The morning starts at 9.30am.