

news

January 2020



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WELCOME TO 2020!

Well, what a start to the New Year!

A belated happy New Year to you all! The Christmas and New Year festivities all seem a distant memory now and a very long time ago!

I'm sure it wasn't restful but I really hope you all had a marvellous holiday.

The term has begun for the children with a range of 'stunning starts' across the school and a stunning start of our own - an Ofsted call in the second week of term! Hence the delay with my newsletter.

The call came on the Tuesday at midday and the team arrived 8am on Wednesday. We were delighted to

welcome two Her Majesties Inspectors (HMI), one senior HMI and one Ofsted Inspector (quite a team!). Needless to say your children were incredible and I could not feel any prouder of the whole school. I hope to be able to share the final outcome with you all very soon but until we receive the final report everything must remain confidential!

THANK YOU

I would like to thank you all for your positive comments, emails and words of encouragement during this time. They really were appreciated. As always we showed what a wonderful community we are part of.

As you know we aim to start each topic with an inspirational hook for the children and here is just a taste of some of the experiences! I hope your child came home and shared some of the magic with you.

As always the teachers and teaching assistants have worked hard to make the environments inviting for the children. Every term we push ourselves to see just how creative and

imaginative we can all be. It is getting quite competitive now and just part of what makes our school so special! You are very welcome to come in and take a look for yourselves there really are some stunning displays.

There have been many wonderful acts of kindness shown by pupils at Polegate in recent weeks and this newsletter will celebrate these. We have never given out so many prized gold house points in such a short time!

Before Christmas we were treated to a marvellous reception nativity show and I would like to thank the staff involved and the children who were just so confident. They took their acting very seriously. At the end of one show I asked one of the sheep to pull out our winning reading raffle ticket winner and as he looked at it he 'mooed' taking method acting to a whole new level!

AMAZING STARTS



As always there were a range of stunning starts across the school. These classes took their learning outside to experience survival skills in a cold climate!



GOLD HOUSE POINT AWARDS

Elsie & Jess – Fundraising

Just wanted to let you know about Elsie and Jess's last bit of fundraising. They raised £300 for You Raise Me Up by making personalised rainbow keyrings.

The charity offers financial and emotional support to families who have lost a young adult between the ages of 16 and 25. Leesa, the CEO, told us that this amount of £300 will

provide 6 months' worth of counselling for a parent group. Very proud of the girls!

We are still making the keyrings so wondered for £2 each, you can contact us if you would like one on: sare.rooney@tiscali.co.uk.

Thank you for your support.



Eli Netschepir

Eli was given £10 by his Great-Aunt for Christmas. He was taken to town to spend his money but he said he didn't want to buy anything.

Instead he wanted to buy food and drinks for a couple of homeless people in the town centre. He then went into a coffee shop and purchased drinks and food and handed them out, wishing

them a happy New Year. He also donated to the charity Crisis at Christmas to pay for someone to have support, food and shelter over Christmas.

We are all really impressed by the acts of generosity our pupils show and it is lovely to be able to celebrate these acts of selflessness with you all.

DIARY DATES

Friday 7th February
Family Quiz Night

Monday 10th February
No pens day

Mon 10th & Wed 12th February - Parents' Consultation Evening

Friday 14th February
Last day of term

Monday 24th Feb
First day of term 4

Thursday 5th March
World Book Day

Friday 6th March
International Women's day

Wed 18th & Thurs 19th March
Mothers' Day/Gifts for Loved Ones

Friday 27th March
School Disco

Friday 3rd April
INSET day

Monday 20th April
Start of term 5

Monday 11th May
SATs week Year 6

Tuesday 19th May
PFA Meeting

Wed 17th & Thurs 18th June
Fathers' Day/Gifts for Loved Ones

Saturday 20th June
Summer Festival

STAFF PANTOMIME

Well, the Devonshire Park Theatre had some competition this year! We performed Alice in Wonderland on the last day of term to a very excited audience!



Loads more photos on Twitter

PFA NEWS

Here's the profit you've helped us raise since September...

Disco £1232.22

Halloween Pop up shop £201.20

Winter Extravaganza £4936.82

Christmas Pop Up Shop £88.10

School Lottery £475.90

Matched Funding £500

Totalling an incredible profit of £7434.24

Thank you so much everyone.

NURSERY FUN



Bare feet on the floor is good for our core

OUR CHOIR WENT ON TOUR TO THE O2!



What an incredible venue and an amazing opportunity for our school choir to perform with the largest school choir in the world!

Having joined our choir for many years I can honestly say there is no experience quite like it! This year I was sadly left behind, although delighted to teach 3W for the day!

Our Choir performed alongside 5,000-8,000 other children as a single choir to capacity audiences of family and friends. This year they were joined by Tony Hadley, The Shires and Ruti winner of The Voice UK 2018.

Children taking part in YV have the opportunity to perform in one of the world's greatest arenas alongside incredible artists.

I am delighted we were able to be able to attend after a short break because it helps their self-belief, self-motivation, confidence, and ability to communicate as part of a team - which is invaluable! Add to this the numerous health benefits of singing in rehearsals, including breathing exercises to focus the mind - it's no wonder that Young Voices is over-subscribed year after year!



The concert is the culmination of a lot of hard work from our teachers and children.

I was delighted to receive a number of emails the following day from grateful parents:

Dear Claire,

I am writing to you, to let you know what a fantastically fun, enjoyable and epic day yesterday was at the O2. This was for many reasons but the main reasons were school related.

Firstly, the children. What amazing little humans they all are! Their behaviour at all times was amazing, even at 10pm and we are still queuing to get out. The one thing though which really stuck out for me was the relationships between all of them. This was I imagine a rare cross year trip and I got to see first hand how they all genuinely care for each other. The older ones looking after, showing concern or giving a hug to the more vulnerable or younger or the little yr 3 concerned for his friend and not leaving her side when she felt uncomfortable. It really made me genuinely smile and feel very proud of them.

I genuinely enjoyed every second of yesterday, so thank you for allowing not only me to have that experience but also the children.

Warmest regards

Dear Mrs Martin-O'Donoghue,

I just wanted to write a quick message just to show our appreciation for all that Miss Wheelhouse did to enable the Polegate school choir to sing at the Young Voices 2020 concert last night. It must have taken up so much of her time to organise everything and I don't know how she managed to get us all such great seats!! It was such a brilliant evening and it was wonderful to be able to see my daughter singing at such a special event and so I just wanted to say a massive THANK YOU!!

I would also like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Murphy, Mrs Young and all the other parent helpers that gave up their own time to make all this happen for our children.

I've always thought that Polegate School went above and beyond and the dedication of the teachers and parents to make all this happen just for one night, just goes to prove it!

Thank you once again!

THANK YOU

I would like to say a personal thank you to the staff that attended - it's a very late night.

Teachers are never up that late on a school night! Mrs Murphy and Mrs Young supported with the trip. A massive thank you to the parents that also supported on the day or came to sing along in the evening.

Thank you Miss Wheelhouse who took care of all the practical arrangements, of which there were many, and for embracing the challenge I set for Polegate School to again be part of this special event! I'm thrilled we were able to do it again.



SWIMMING STAR

Ezra is a nine time award winning swimmer! Im surprised he can stand up straight with all those medals around his neck!

Congratulations Ezra especially as these were all gained over the summer holiday period - quite an achievement. I can't wait to see you swim in our next gala!

Diary Dates

**Friday 7th
February
FAMILY QUIZ
NIGHT**



PARKING

GET UP EARLIER AND WALK!

A number of parents have approached me to voice concerns over the irresponsible, dangerous and illegal parking that is taking place outside the school.

I absolutely share their frustration. Parking on corners or in front of dropped curbs is so inconsiderate.

There is simply no excuse for this. It is lazy- there are so many places to park in Polegate that there really is no reason for this to happen. I can't believe parents are prepared to endanger other children's lives. There have been near misses and I don't want to wait until there is a serious accident to address it.

It shouldn't take the school's senior leadership team or site staff to stand outside the school and challenge parents but that is what we will do if we have to! This is a huge distraction from what we should be doing which is welcoming them children and families to school and supporting children with their learning.

Please don't be that parent we have to have an uncomfortable conversation with! It's not nice for anyone! Parents should be the role model for their children and this is not setting a good example.

Try parking at the Co-op and walking up. The conversation you can have with your child at that time is special and it would also ease congestion immediately outside the school.

ATTENDANCE

We do monitor every child's attendance every term but if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Take a look at the classes summary below there are some big differences between the classes and anything below 96% is a concern.

Prize draw

Prize draw at the end of the year. Any child who has attendance above our target of 97.5% is eligible to be entered into our prize draw to win a brand new Bicycle.

School Attendance

RH = 95.9%	3D = 96.7%
RY = 97%	3M = 98.3%
RM = 95.5%	3W = 97.2%
1C = 96.4%	4E = 97%
1Mc = 96.5%	4B = 97.4%
1H = 97.3%	5J = 96.6%
2H = 96%	5G = 97.3%
2AB = 96.3%	6R = 96.5%
2M = 96%	6M = 97.5%

INLINE SKATING FUN!

Mrs Wallis in collaboration with Skateworld in Eastbourne have offered a range of really exciting opportunities just for Polegate pupils.

Thank you Skateworld.
These sessions were a big hit!



ART CLUB

In the long corridor there is an amazing display from the after school Art Club. If your child took part please feel free to take a look. Such impressive work inspired by the artist Hundertwasser. I was proud of their achievements and their exhibition looks fabulous.



Art Club's exhibition!
I'm so proud of them all.



STAFF NEWS

We are sorry to share that Mrs Hadley is leaving Polegate after 12 years as she is ready to embrace a new challenge!

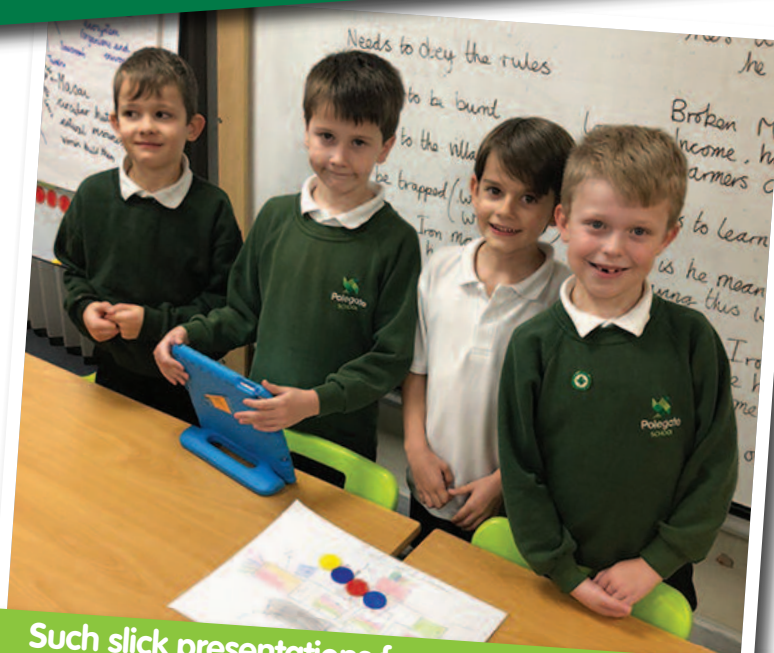
I am delighted to say that we interviewed a large field of candidates last week and have appointed an experienced teacher to start in term 5!

Her name is Karen Stockdale and we are thrilled she is joining the Polegate Team. Look out for her introduction in the next newsletter. Class 1H have already met her on Thursday and we will ensure there is a thorough hand over for the class.

GREAT WORK



A fabulous finish to year 3's inventors topic!



Such slick presentations for our young apprentices!



This is what we all looked like after running this lunchtime cross country! Takuma came in first!



It's a little bit gory in year 6 as they make their own blood!



I was been called to year 1 to see their amazing writing! Very impressed!



HOUSE POINTS

Congratulations to Pegasus for the second term in a row! It looks as if they even managed to get some of the points in the Hercules cylinder as well!

Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES

We have small recycling battery boxes in the office.



Diary Dates

Friday 14th
February
LAST DAY
OF TERM

Archive



You can read all the previous newsletters on our website.

Twitter

Be the first to hear the news.
Follow us on Twitter.
We now have
1046 followers!



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Feedback

We'd love to hear your feedback and any new ideas you have. Please send us your thoughts via the contact us page on the school website:

www.polegateschool.co.uk

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