

news

April 2024

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PROUD OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

As always, it is with great pride that I write about the achievements of your children and the lengths that staff go to in order to offer your children the very best and most exciting learning experiences!

This term has been packed full of irresistible learning, World Book Day included! The school has been buzzing and I hope the enthusiasm I have seen around the school has been shared with you at home as well.

NUMBER 10 VISIT

I was lucky enough to be invited to number 10 as an Education Community Champion.

The day was incredible - House of Lords, Margaret Thatcher room, Winston Churchill chair and much, much more...

I spoke with pride about Polegate School and all the children sharing all the wonderful things that our amazing children do.



FUN IN THE SUN AT LUNCH CLUB



'IN BLOOM 24' COMPETITION

Over the past 9 weeks a group of talented year 5 children have been attending an after school club where they have been working diligently on Polegate's entry to the annual 'In Bloom' competition, this year the theme being entitled 'Downlands'.



The children set to work on researching what wildlife exists on the Downs, how the downs were formed, and what the Downs means to people locally.

They produced some beautiful drawings, made representations of shells from plaster, and even listened to a guest speaker that came to meet the children from Sussex Wildlife Trust. With all this information they then got to work producing our entry.

Special mention must go to Lacey, Charlie, Wren and Toby, as they were then selected to represent the school with our

entry at The Town Hall in Eastbourne! They had to talk to two groups of judges about the work we had undertaken and about our designs we had chosen to submit! The children were amazing!

After a nail biting wait, it was announced that we had come second!

Miss Liddell and Mrs Stockdale want to say a huge Thank you to all of the children for working so hard over the last term and a half, and showing great teamwork, determination, positivity and resilience. We are so proud of you!

SPORTING NEWS

Under 9 Girls Albion Cup



Our girls team played brilliantly at a recent tournament.

The girls won all three matches in the first round, won the quarter final 3-1 and narrowly losing in the semi-final.

Congratulations girls!

EASTBOURNE SCHOOLS HOCKEY

We entered 2 teams into the Eastbourne Schools PE Association Hockey Tournament.

The Competitive squad won all their games and so topped the table at the end of the afternoon! A trophy will be winging it's way to our trophy cabinet soon!

The 'development squad', of our less experienced players, won two games, drew one and lost two, putting them third in their section. Both teams were amazing and not only did they play well, they also behaved brilliantly and were a real credit to our school.



BOOK IN A BOX

We were so impressed by the brilliant creations for Book in a Box! Such stunning pieces that really captured reading for pleasure in our school. These can now be found displayed in our school libraries and in classrooms - how many can you find?



The Winners were:

EYFS - Maisie RA (The Three Little Pigs)

KS1 - Joshua 2K (Esio Trot)

LKS2 - Freddie 4H (The Borrowers)

UKS2 - Oscar 5D (The BFG)
complete with window
to snatch Sophie through!

**Well done to everyone
who participated!**



SMARTIES CHALLENGE

Due to the success of our smarties challenge's, we have brought it back again. This is a fantastic fundraiser.

As we say goodbye for Easter break,
A little reward we give you to take.
A tube of smarties for you to eat,
But the empty tube you really must keep.

The challenge is to fill with 20ps,
Doing little jobs or good deeds.
Keep on going and just don't stop,
See if you can fill it right to the top.

When the holidays are done bring it back to school.
We will collect them up and count them all.
The money you earn is for a special cause,
The class that earns the most will win a prize,
See if yours can do it to so you can choose
and decide.

Good luck on your challenge and enjoy your time away. From all of us on the PFA

Last years class winners chose to have a water fight and the ice cream van come in. But it really is up to the winning class what they wish to do.

If you do not wish for your child to participate in this challenge or your child is unable to eat smarties, please email pfa@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk.

Smarties will be given out on the last day of term in class before home time.

Thank you for all your support.

SPRING IS HERE!

Spring is here and our Gardening Club is beginning to see signs of spring. The KS1 garden is looking beautiful.



Diary Date

9th May
Class Photos
Session

AUTHOR VISIT

Jenny McLachlan, Land of Roar Author, visited Year 5 and 6 today for a fabulous, creative writing workshop.



Jenny McLachlan Visit

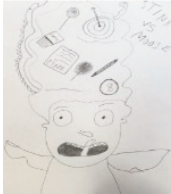
Today we had a special visit from Jenny McLachlan herself! She taught us how to draw a character from her famous book: Stink. We attempted to draw Stink when using our imagination.

Jenny McLachlan shared some very interesting facts about her author journey. Apparently, she loved to dress up and play as a child. When she was about 10, she still loved to play and dress up (while her friends didn't).

Additionally, she shared with us that she used to be so slow writing that she had to stay behind while her classmates went to swimming.

She explained step-by-step on how to draw Stink (the main character in her renowned book: Stink).

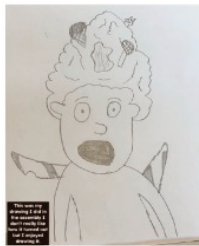
Jenny McLachlan's most renowned books:



Author Visit: Jenny McLachlan!

Today we had an author visit from Jenny McLachlan. She did a fun assembly, I enjoyed her visit. I most enjoyed when she re-enacted sections from her stories and when she brought out the baby dragon and big dragon. Her entire assembly was enjoyable and I loved watching it. At home I have read some of the Land of Roar and have liked reading it.

I learned how at first Jenny McLachlan didn't find writing easy but still she wrote her amazing books! I also learned she has written quite a few books and multiple Land of Roar ones.



I liked how we got to do drawing in the assembly using our imaginations. It showed our different imaginations and we got to create something good.

My absolute favourite part of her workshop / assembly was when we did the baby dragon egg and when we chanted to open the baby dragon egg. If I had the option to watch the assembly again I would.



We were able to draw one of her characters (Stink). She even explained and taught us how to exactly draw it and get all of the features right.

Jenny McLachlan Workshop

I really enjoyed how interactive it was. We were able to go on stage and act out some of the scenes from her books. She also told us about how she got some of her ideas from when she was younger and things she used to do.

I learnt that even if you can't use punctuation or aren't the best writer, you can still write a book. Jenny told us that when she was younger she wasn't the best writer but now she has



I enjoyed every part of the workshop but I did really enjoy when we were able to draw. We were able to be creative and add our own things and make it our own. I also liked when people were acting because it was very fun to watch. She also brought in

DIARY DATES

15th April 2024
INSET Day

16th April
Start of Term 5

26th April
RB class assembly

1st-3rd May
Year 5 Hindleap
Warren Residential

3rd May
3DS class assembly

9th May
Class Photos
Session

17th May
1F Class Assembly

20-24th May
Sports Week

27th – 31st May
Half term

3rd June
Start of Term 6

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

For the second year running we celebrated International Women's Day on March 8th by taking part in the FA's 'Biggest Ever Football Session'.

The aim of the day was to give girls the opportunity to experience the joy that playing football can bring, and to highlight the idea of equal access to sport for girls.

We started the day with an early morning all- ladies session for Reception and Year 1. It proved to be a little bit too early for some – but the spirit of determination and resilience shone through and those that did attend had a fantastic, active and fun start to the day.

Throughout the day, girls and boys from every class in Year 1 to Year 6 were treated to coach-led football sessions in the beautiful spring sunshine.





VIP VISITORS

We had some amazing VIP visitors during the day too.

Year 6 pupils enjoyed a Q&A session with members of Eastbourne Borough FC followed by a practical session of football activities.

We were very lucky to have the Borough Ladies Captain, one of their star players, their coach and the Community Manager talking about their roles in the club as well as their career paths and aspirations. We were all most impressed to hear that EBFC Ladies have scored 61 goals in their last 10 games!!

Another VIP, Maria Caulfield, our local Member of Parliament arrived mid-afternoon – just in time to watch a session led by our amazing Sportitude coaches and our talented Miss Stew. Eager to get involved with the spirit of the game, Maria stayed on to take part in the after-school festival for women and girls. Enthusiastically led by Sportitude boss Mark, this was a joyous and slightly over-competitive at times festival with lots of football activities and plenty of laughter.

We wrapped up the day with refreshments served in the Lodge. A huge thank you for that goes to Sarah Bond and the Co-Op who kindly donated drinks, biscuits and fruit for our special day.



HOLIDAY FOOD & FUN

Holiday food and fun is back for the Easter holidays! East Sussex Holiday Activities and Food Programme · Eequ



Otherwise known as the HAF programme, this initiative is funded by the Department for Education and is now in its fourth year. It is all set to provide more enriching activities this Easter, free of charge for children who receive benefits-related free school meals. The programme ensures that children can have fun, eat healthily, and socialise with their peers during the school holidays of Easter, summer and winter.

There are activities for young people in Reception to Year 11 inclusive. A meal is provided at each session for everyone who attends. To see what's on offer and to book a session, parents should click on the 'List of holiday clubs' button on our Holiday food and fun webpage:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/children-families/childcare/welcome-to-holiday-food-and-fun>

Last year we had some amazing feedback from families.

Here's a sample of what they said:

Parent/ carer comments:

- They came home happy and exhausted from their day but were excited to go back for more!
- My child had the best day. He usually gets extremely anxious, he didn't know anyone but everyone was so welcoming. He felt at ease straight away. The activities were brilliant! As soon as he came out, he asked when he can go back and see his new friends!
- My daughter goes in happily and is so proud of everything she makes. She still has everything she made from the summer club on display in her room. Her confidence astounds me for her age. She certainly feels safe and loves going to this club.

Young people's comments:

- I loved the food and it was fun to have something to do in the day where I feel safe. (Young person aged 13)
- They have lots of creative stuff to do. (Young person aged 7)
- Best time ever, definitely want to go again. (Young person aged 8)

For families that do not currently receive benefit-related free school meals but think they may be eligible, please visit our Free school meals webpage to find out how to apply.

Best regards

**The HAF team
Children's Services**

ATTENDANCE

RA =	96.3%	2D =	97%	4S =	96.2%
RB =	91.1%	2K =	96.2%	5D =	95.7%
RH =	94.6%	3DS =	97.6%	5M =	95.4%
1F =	95.8%	3L =	95.9%	5K =	91.3%
1G =	96.4%	3T =	95.4%	6M =	95.6%
1S =	95.4%	4H =	95%	6MU =	94.2%
2C =	96.7%	4EH =	94.3%	6W =	95.9%

Juggling family life...?



...we're here to help.

**Every family goes through ups and downs.
Let us help you to find the answers.**

We can offer you a wide range of support with

- * emotional wellbeing**
- * special educational needs and disabilities**
- * financial, housing or employment challenges**
- * supporting your child's behaviour**
- * support for new parents**
- * activities for children of all ages**

☎ 01323 46 46 55

✉ familyhubs@eastsussex.gov.uk



CAREERS RELATED LEARNING



We are very excited to be part of a 2 year pilot project working alongside 'The Careers and Enterprise Company' to develop Careers Related Learning (CRL) in Primary education.

This project is funded by the DFE and is designed to support schools in providing a wide range of careers based experiences for all pupils. Typically, CRL has been delivered in secondary education, however the emphasis has now changed to ensuring that children have career exposure at a much earlier age. The primary aim is to ensure that pupils

have a high level of aspirations and have an awareness of the wide variety of career paths that could be chosen. Another focus of the project is to develop the skills that anyone may need in a place of work and the characteristics that will support pupils in achieving their dream job.

Through the project we will be looking to fully embed CRL into our curriculum and we are very excited about the things that we have planned such as employer encounters, jobs of the month and special assemblies focused around the world of work; we will share more with you over the coming months.

If you or friends or family have a job that you think some of our pupils would enjoy learning about or that links directly to a curriculum area, then we would love to hear from you! We hope to plan for pupils to meet and be inspired by as many jobs as possible during their time at school and you could support us with that. Please email h.giggs@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk if you would like to discuss this further.

ARTIST WORKSHOP

On 7th march, a group of our Year 5 & 6 pupils were able to meet Canadian illustrator Amie Talbot and participate in an online artist workshop.

The children were wowed by Amie's artwork and got to ask her lots of questions about her career in the creative industry too. Here are four fantastic outcomes from Riley, Alex, Myla and Scarlett in 6W who achieved brilliant results with only coloured pencils. Well done to all the children who engaged so positively with our visiting artist!



BAG 2 SCHOOL
FREE FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOLS

In partnership with your school or organisation



Polegate School



Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing and we have arranged to make a collection from your school. All the bags will be weighed and you will be paid for the total weight collected. Remember, the more you collect the greater the benefit to your school.



PLEASE USE YOUR OWN BAGS (THERE IS NO LIMIT).

When the clothes have been removed from the bag the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling.

We are collecting good quality items for RE-USE:

Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.

(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)

*The more we weigh the more we pay!
 Extra bags are welcome - there's no limit*

Please return your Bag2School on:

Thursday 18 April 2024 by 9:00am



01609 780 222



www.bag2school.com



helpdesk@bag2school.com



FREE MUSIC WORKSHOPS

for

children & young people with SEND

(Junior group: age 5 - 11 / Senior group: age 11-19)

Thursdays 3.30 - 4.30pm, Sidley Family Hub

Sidley Community Centre, 121 Ninfield road, Bexhill BN39 5BD

Limited spaces
to sign up please email:

sam@lifesize.org.uk



Lifesize
lifesize.org.uk



Diary Date

**27th – 31st
 May
 Half 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
 1,382 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