

news

April 2016

Happy Easter



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We hope you all have a wonderful Easter holiday and look forward to seeing you when we come back! Don't eat too many eggs!

This has been a short but action packed term and I know from the number of children visiting the office that they have been working really hard.

Thank you all for attending parent consultations, feedback has been how useful these are especially as teachers have shared the new expectations from the government with you.

You will know from the press that teachers are in short supply at the moment with many choosing to leave the profession.

I was a little concerned knowing that we have 4 teaching vacancies in the school especially when I heard from other headteachers that they have had maybe 1 or no applicants apply for positions!

We have been overwhelmed by the number of applicants we have received- a total of 26! We are very pleased with the quality of these applications as well so we are very confident that we will be able to appoint some more outstanding teachers to add to our team.

We will be interviewing early next term so I will keep you updated.

YEAR 5 - AN INDIAN FEAST!

Year 5 cooked up a wonderful Indian meal- the aromas drifting through the school were delicious!



Our Indian feast!



Are you hungry?
It was delicious

SAFE PARKING AT SCHOOL

I fully understand the school is not responsible for the parking (disabled or otherwise) outside the school, and I acknowledge the efforts you make to ensure people park safely and considerately.

However my elderly parents often deliver and collect my son, and often find they cannot park with their blue badge in either space as these are often occupied by parents in cars without blue badges.

This leaves my parents with the choice of parking in a less safe area near to school, which they are

concerned about, or exacerbating their physical symptoms by parking further away. They do ensure they arrive early, but even before 2:20pm have found sometimes spaces occupied.

I realise you occasionally send out children in fluorescent jackets accompanied by staff to dissuade people (which is effective for a couple of days), have visits from PCSOs and also write very informative advisory articles in the newsletter about people parking in unsafe or inappropriate areas, but most of these very few inconsiderate parents take no notice.

Of course, the vast majority of parents are considerate and safe in their parking.

My parents feel vulnerable and concerned about approaching people directly as they are unsure about the response they may receive.

I'm sure you have done this on many occasions, but I have contacted the police to ask how they can assist with this, as I am concerned about my parents becoming ill as a response of walking from further away.

Please help our families that suffer a disability and park considerately. Some families need to park in the disabled bay so please leave it free!

READING

Thank you so much for the many kind comments we have had about reading at Polegate. Here is just one of them!

In light of the negative feedback about World Book Day and not dressing up on the Newsletter I felt I just had to write in and offer my support to you.

I think the Mystery Book idea was a fantastic idea and like you say must of taken a lot of time and organisation.

My son absolutely loved it and keeps singing the Mission Impossible theme!

He has been reading Charlie and The Chocolate Factory and has read 26 chapters in 3 days!

As soon as he has woken up, he has started reading it, eaten his breakfast reading it, put his socks on reading it, walked to and from school reading it, and gone to bed reading it!!!! Please see the attached photos. You have

truly motivated and inspired him into reading and for that I am so grateful.

Your dedication and hard work always amazes me. We are so lucky to have such an amazing school here in Polegate with teachers that really care about our children's education and future."

OUR SWIMMING POOL

Just a few supportive comments for our pool

Thank you, contributions are beginning to come in now for the pool. Your responses indicate the pool is highly valued, which is great!

On the 17th March approximately 10 families in each class had paid, some as much as £40! If you are not able to afford the £10, any amount is appreciated.

The Think Tank would like to recognise those families that have contributed at the end of next term and we had long discussions about how best to do this. They feel a letter thanking and naming those families that have paid would be the best way to do this but any suggestions you may have are welcome.

- Other comments or suggestions

We think the pool is a valuable asset for the school that the children are incredibly lucky to have access to. We're surprised that only 50% of parents were able to contribute last year but I enclose a voluntary contribution of £10.00 per child (cheques payable to Polegate School) happy to pay more to help ensure the pool stays open.

- Other comments or suggestions

I think swimming is so important and every child should know how to swim. I am more than happy to pay.

- Other comments or suggestions

We feel the school pool is a important aspect of our sons education and we willingly support its upkeep. Thanks for all you do.

Its such a shame some parents resist paying towards the pool.
All children should learn to swim especially when we live so close to the sea!
The small contribution you ask for is a bargain compared to local pool admissions and swimming lessons.

- Other comments or suggestions

I think the school and children are incredibly lucky to have the pool and strongly believe one of the most important things a child should learn is how to swim.
I enclose a voluntary contribution of £10.00 per child (cheques payable to Polegate School)

- Other comments or suggestions

My girls love swimming at school and the cost is very reasonable. It is important the pool stays open 😊
I enclose a voluntary contribution of £10.00 per child (cheques payable to Polegate School)



YOUR CHILDREN ARE WONDERFUL!

I was so impressed with the school last Monday. I was caught in a meeting and arrived to the Star of the Week assembly a little after the children.

As you know they are brought in by prefects - no teachers in sight. They were sat waiting beautifully and I was so proud.

The following day I received a lovely email from a parent:

"I would just like to say how impressed I was with the whole school this morning when I came to see my daughter collect her star of the week.

I was amazed by the children organising themselves when they were coming into assembly. They were so well behaved and walked in and all sat without a fuss and in such a mature way. The singing by the choir was also lovely.

Throughout I was amazed at the wonderful behaviour of the children. The whole assembly made me feel quite emotional and so proud for my daughter to be involved in such a good school that clearly teaches the children how to be kind and polite children as well as how to excel in the academic.

There may be 'newer' and 'better resourced' schools in the area that seem to be favoured by some but I believe that our choice to send our daughter to Polegate school was the best choice and it doesn't surprise me that the applications for this year's entry have been so high.

I can also have nothing but the highest praise for Mrs Perkins and the assistants in my daughter's class. I am amazed each day by the progress that she is making and it has certainly taught me that the job of a reception teacher is not the 'walk in the park' that I thought it was."

After School

We have noticed a number of pupils are staying on after school to play football.

The numbers are growing and it seems to be a habit now. We are worried that you may be expecting

them to be leaving promptly to walk home and of course there is no supervision after school. If something were to happen we may not be aware.

Please encourage them to walk home as soon as school finishes.

PE KIT REMINDER

Please can we remind parents that we do have a uniform for P.E. Pupils should have a white T shirt with a logo and black shorts or tracksuit.

MYSTERY BOOK

Our mystery books are making their way around the class. I have seen some fantastic entries in the Top Secret journals. We even have our own mystery book that is now on its second teacher!

DIARY DATES

11th April
Start of term 5

27th-29th April - Hindleap Warren (year 5 residential)

9th May - Key Stage 2 SATs week (Year 6 only)

16th May - Science Week with a focus on the environment, using our school grounds.

25th May - KS1 Sports Day

23rd May - Sports Week for KS2 with Sports Day 26th May

26th May
Swimming gala at the Sovereign Centre

27th May
Last day of term 5

6th June start of term 6

7-10th June
French Trip (Year 6)

13th June
Phonics screening check (Year 1 and 2 only)

5th July
'Change over day' a chance for your child to spend time with their new teacher

12th July
'Meet for the Move' a chance for parents to meet their child's next teacher

20th July at 7pm
Leavers' Service at Hailsham Pavilion

22nd July
Last day of the school year!

YEAR 2 VISIT TO HEVER CASTLE

Year 2 had a great day at Hever Castle. This topic has really inspired them- they have been playing kings and queens on the playground and have been able to tell me so many historical facts.



PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL

We are going to be changing the way we collect payments to school from September.

From September we will no longer accept cheques as we will be setting up a system whereby parents can pay online. This has been requested many times by our Think Tank as it will make things so much easier for you and reduce the administration in school. This will apply for school dinners as

well, as you know we have Parentpay set up for this already, currently this is not used widely by parents but please register for this service now in advance of September.

School Dinner Money

Kerry is frequently asked for change for school dinners which we just don't have in school so please can parents make sure that until September they have the correct money for dinners.



PFA QUIZ NIGHT

The quiz night was a great success! The school teams of teachers and staff were pushed to their limits of endurance for brain power.

It has been a while since we have held a quiz night and it made a nice change. It's always lovely to get to know our parents in a relaxed social setting.



COME ON YOU SEAGULLS!

The school football team were lucky to be invited to cheer on the Albion last week at the Amex Stadium. Brighton & Hove Albion won a tight game 1-0 against Reading. It was a chilly night, but they all enjoyed the atmosphere.

Thank you to Mr Trent for taking them!



More Great work



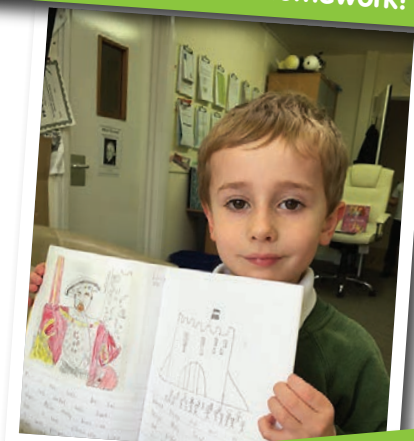
Lila in year 1 has really cheered me up with her incredible homework!



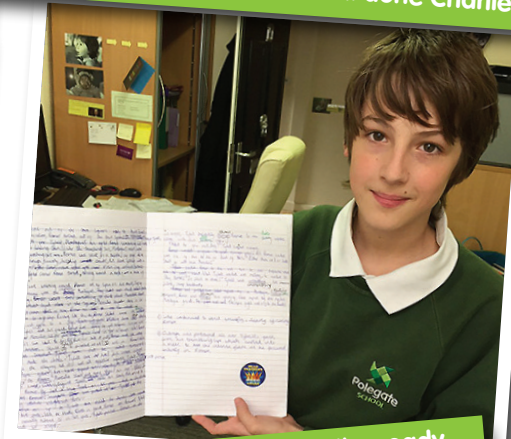
A fantastic model of the Great Fire of London completed for homework. Well done Charlie.



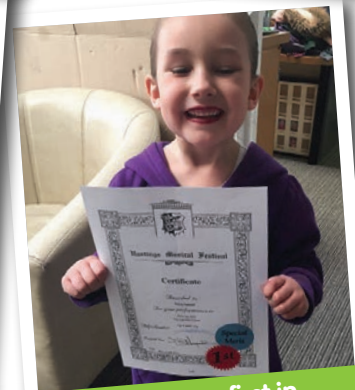
Well done Miley! A fantastic achievement in dance at the Hastings Festival. Very proud!



Excellent homework!



Incredible writing Sean! I'm ready for the next instalment...



Casey came first in modern dance. A fabulous achievement!

School Attendance



100% Attendance

There are 365 days in each year. With 190 school days, that leaves 175 days to spend on family time, playing, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments. Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve.

Congratulations to these children. They have achieved 100% attendance so far this year. 90 children across the school have achieved this so far! I have written to each of them and attached a voucher for a free meal.

Please help them to achieve this!

Class figures

Overall school attendance is currently at **96.1%**. Our school target this year of **97%**.

RP = 96%	2R = 96%	5C = 95%
RH = 96%	3B = 97%	5P = 95%
1A = 96%	3P = 97%	6T = 97%
1J = 96%	4M = 96%	6M = 96%
2M = 96%	4EM = 96%	

97% is our target

Diary Dates

**Monday
11th April
BACK TO
SCHOOL!**

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 568
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

Designed by Prowork: www.prowork.co.uk