

# news

December 2020



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# MERRY CHRISTMAS

As we approach the final few days of this very unusual and challenging term, I would like to wish you a fabulous Christmas! It's going to be a very different one, but I hope for you all, it is just as magical and sparkly!



# IT'S CHRISTMAS...

## ...BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT!

**We have really missed the traditional nativity show in school. Shepherds wrapped in tea towels, the cardboard angel wings and a doll baby Jesus in the manger is what we have all come to expect and love about school Christmas performances.**

We have had to rethink and adapt how we can bring the traditional Christmas to life this year. We are bringing the joy in a different way and the children were so excited to be part of the PFA's fundraising attempts this year with the release of Now Polegate 2020. We have worked hard to ensure that you still get to enjoy a little of the joy and magic that Christmas in school brings.

Our traditional staff panto takes a different form this year! We didn't think it would be quite the same without the audience participation and if I am honest I didn't want our very improvised performance captured for eternity on a recording! So 2020 brings the 'Escape Room Pantomime Challenge'. We hope the children will love coming to the rescue and saving Christmas! I don't want to spoil the surprise that awaits the children on the very last day of term but I can share they are in for a treat!

As I hope you can see it's been a busy term and not only do the children need to rest and recharge but the staff do too. A huge amount of effort, energy

and dedication have gone into this term's events and I would like to say a huge thank you to them and wish them a very peaceful, relaxing holiday.



**You can always expect the unexpected at Polegate.  
There will be a sprinkling of pixie dust magic at the gates on Thursday!  
Who will you meet?**



# YEAR 1 - ONE SMALL STEP...

Year 1 have been historians this term and went back in time to 1969! Neil Armstrong visited them and they asked questions they had prepared the day before.

## He even visited!

They were amazing and so excited. They found out so much information about his journey to the moon and back.



# SUSSEX SCHOOLS FA

We provided some nominations to The Sussex School Football Association and we are delighted that Riley Pain has been selected!

## We were delighted to receive this email:

I have the real pleasure of informing you that Riley Pain has successfully earned himself a position in this year's u11 Sussex School Football Association County Squad!

He was excellent at the trial and we thoroughly look forward to working with him this season, along with the other players you nominated, were a credit to your school and all performed fantastically.

Congratulations to the other players we nominated because they did incredibly well to have been nominated and represented the school amazingly. We are proud of you all!

## U11 DEFENDERS ANNOUNCED

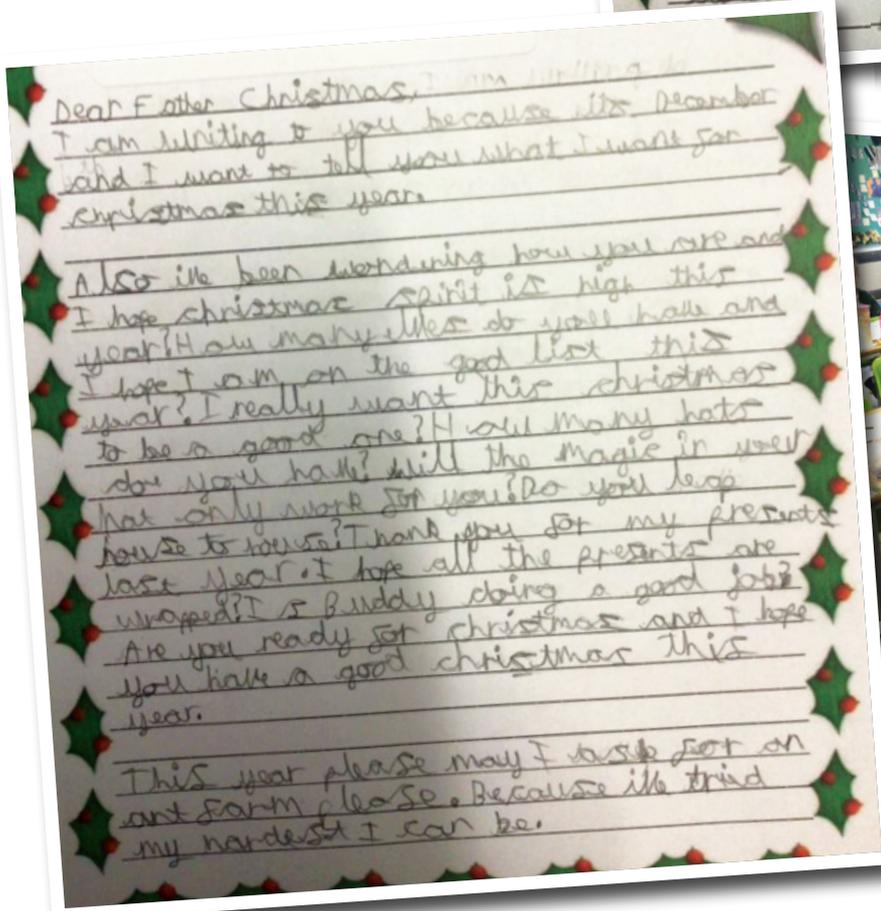
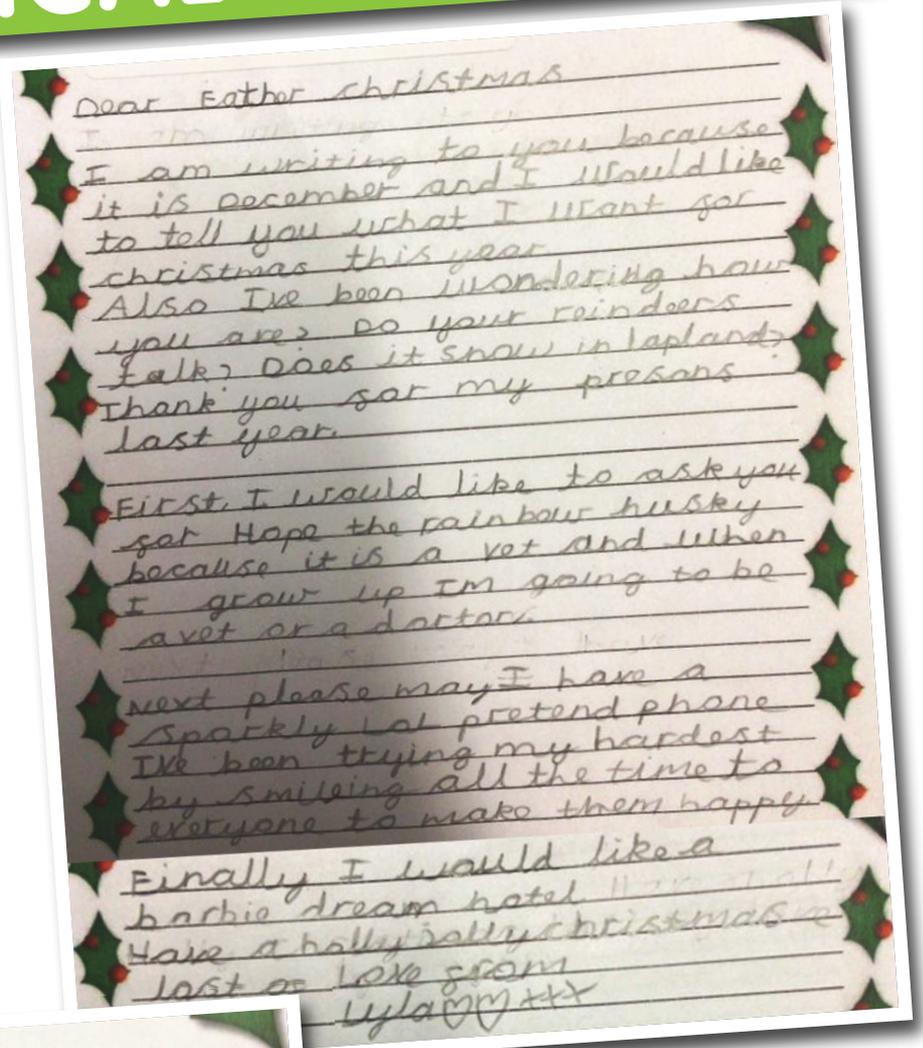
Congratulations to the following pupils selected to represent Sussex Schools FA u11s this year.



# MAGICAL LETTERS

Year 2 have been writing letters for a real purpose to a very special person! A real highlight was walking to the post box this term and posting these themselves!

The quality of this letter writing is exceptional!



# PFA NEWS

## First of all a BIG thank you to everybody that supported our Christmas Raffle this year.

Running it online was new for us but we are delighted that your amazing support meant we were able to raise over £700!

We are also really grateful to the THIRTY local companies that supported the school by donating prizes for the raffle. We hope all our winners were pleased with their goodies! Thanks to Sarah Bond for organising the raffle and delivering the prizes to the winners.

Thank you too for the support you have given our new, and very different, ways of fundraising this year.

The Krispy Kreme donuts have all been sold and we hope that those children who are lucky to be receiving them enjoy this special end of term treat!

## Christmas DVDs

We are also really looking forward to seeing the DVDs when they are delivered to us next week...I am sure it will be a viewing treat to rival anything the BBC or Nefflix can offer this Christmas! Thank you for supporting the school by purchasing these. They will be available to buy again if you have missed out this time, but unfortunately not before Christmas.



## Second-hand uniform

The new second-hand uniform shop has got off to a great start and we have had really positive feedback from those that have used it so far. Thanks to Lucy Cooke for running this for us. If you have uniform you would like to donate or need to find anything for your children, please do get in touch or have a look.

## Wildlife Garden

Finally, the wildlife garden refurbishment is well underway and is looking amazing! This is an area of the school that EVERY SINGLE CHILD uses, and that really enhances their learning and experiences during their time at school. We are really looking forward to seeing the finished result and to the staff and children being able to get in there for some fantastic learning opportunities!

**Have a brilliant christmas everyone, thanks again for your support... here's to an exciting 2021!**

**Thank you!**

# UNIFORM

## Please remember that boots are not part of our school uniform.

We have noticed a quite significant number of children arriving at school wearing boots. This is fine if they then change into school shoes and if they are walking a distance to school we understand that it may be better to wear boots in especially when the weather is bad.

**Please make sure that children have the correct footwear when we return in the New Year.**



# NURSERY NEWS

## PLACES AVAILABLE AT POLEGATE SCHOOL NURSERY

We have a limited number of places available at our school nursery. This is rare so please share with any family and friends if they have children above the age of 2 and are looking for places.

Please contact school for an expression of interest form.



## ACTIVE ADVENT

If you fancy burning off a few of those extra calories over Christmas take a look at Brighton & Hove active advent.



# FREE LEISURE CARD

## Get a FREE i-go leisure discount card and enjoy exciting offers

**i-go is a FREE leisure card for 0 to twenty-five-year olds with special educational needs or disabilities in East Sussex.**

With an i-go card you get exciting offers from our i-go partners including leisure centres, days out, entertainment and more. Plus we provide information about the accessibility of venues and activities.

i-go is also the Children's Disability Register for East Sussex, helping us to plan and commission services.

You or your child can apply if they have one of the following –

An Education Health and Care Plan (or Statement), Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Disability Living Allowance, a Concessionary Disabled Person's Bus Pass, a Blue Badge. Or you can ask a professional to support your application.

**For more information please go to [www.igo.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://www.igo.eastsussex.gov.uk) Call 0345 60 80 192 Or email us at [i-go@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:i-go@eastsussex.gov.uk)**

# IMPACT OF OUR WRITING INSET

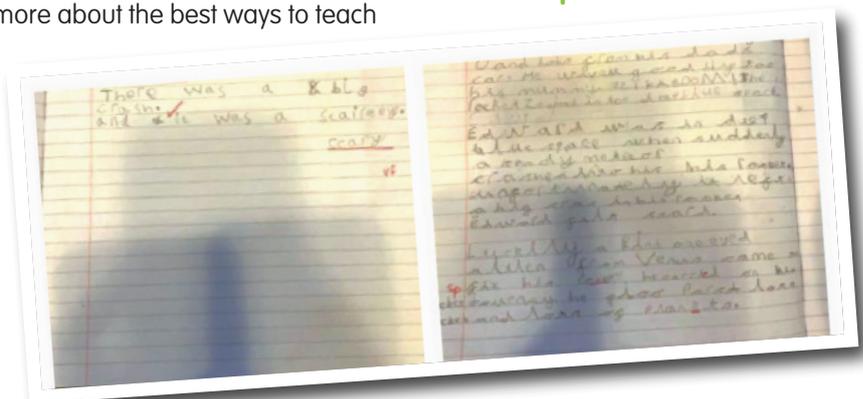
**INSET days are planned often over a year in advance.**

We have already planned 2021-2022 and these are days when all staff have the opportunity to develop their understanding of key aspects of learning which will often link to our school priorities.

We had a day devoted to learning more about the best ways to teach

writing across the school and increase progress for all children. It is fair to say the impact of the various strategies we now use has been phenomenal and I hope you have noticed this, not just the standard of writing but also in your child's motivation to write.

**Below is the difference for one child in just 6 weeks!**



# IN SCHOOL NOW!



★★★★★

'It is BRILLIANT!

We have watched the staff song on repeat and love that all members of the Polegate School community have been included. The lyrics are inspired. We have been grinning from ear to ear and crying with laughter. It has honestly made our year!

On sale now

All this for just  
**£5**

★★★★★

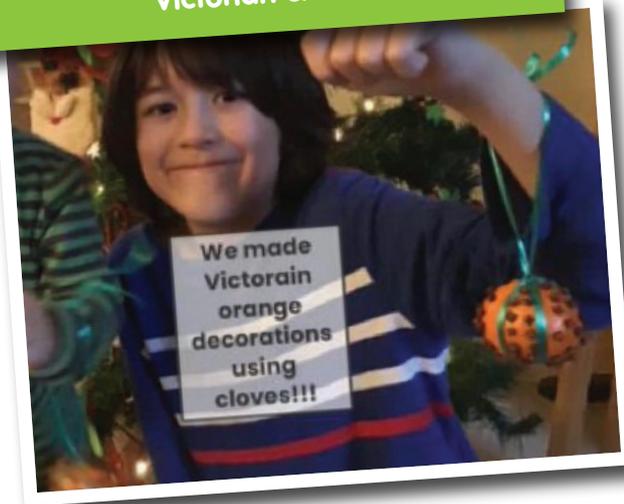
'It's been  
played on  
repeat all  
day!'

# HOME LEARNING

Sadly, we had to close some bubbles this term. It was inevitable and I am sure there will be more to come but I want to say how incredible I think you all are and how you have totally embraced the experiences and tasks set- thank you.

As always the children have returned with beaming smiles and have adjusted back seamlessly! They are a total credit to you all.

The Martin family continued their learning beyond 4pm with traditional Victorian crafts!



Cia took her home learning experiences to a whole new level with her stunning weather forecast.



Reggie also got very crafty with his creations!

Thank you for your lovely comments about the home learning we have provided when bubbles have been closed.

We have now taken it to a whole new level with live virtual teaching! The children have responded so well to this and in fact have commented to me how much they liked to see their friends and teachers every day. This is something we will continue to offer as any part of isolation learning- a big success!

Thank you to the @PolegateSchool Reception team for going above and beyond in producing exceptional homeschool activities. We are having a lot of fun! 😊



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Miss Baker does PE, even Noah joined in 😂😂 @PolegateSchool definitely learning without limits. Well done Miss Baker. Xx



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# FESTIVE FUN AT SCHOOL



So many excited helpers - Thank you PJ skips for donating such a beautiful tree!

**Diary Dates**  
Start of Term 3  
Monday 4th  
January  
2021

## 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  
1,127 followers!



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East Sussex BN26 6PT  
Tel: 01323 482404  
Email: info@polegateschool.co.uk



## 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](http://www.polegateschool.co.uk)

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