

news

March 2016

Year 1 at Bodium Castle



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Year 1 enjoyed a fantastic day at Bodium Castle



Trying on a suit of armour

WORLD BOOK DAY

So, for the last two years we have made a conscious decision not to dress up for World Book Day but this does not mean that we didn't celebrate world book day!

There are many ways to promote a love of reading and passion for books and dressing up is not the only way! We question the value of everything we do and this year we did not feel that dressing up would add any value.

Sadly, I am aware of some parents' comments on Facebook about Polegate School not dressing up - I wish you would come in and speak to us! I was however able to share our reasons with a parent who took the trouble to phone and ask politely why we were not dressing up this year and I fully respect that.

Another important consideration was not wanting to add any additional stress to parents. We do rely on your goodwill with lots of more valuable dressing up experiences many times throughout a year and there are many parents that find this very stressful, especially those with lots of children in the school. (I know that many parents will have been pleased that we did not ask for yet another costume!).

We have done this before and we may well choose to do it again but I am not going to be doing things just because other schools do! I like to think we can be a little more creative and do something that is more motivating for the children!

I was really excited about what we were doing on the day. Ask them about the assembly on World Book Day- they were so excited! Believe me this took far more thought, work and preparation than simply asking parents to dress their children up as a book character. (This would have been the easy option but as you know, we don't always go for the easy option!)

In addition to this throughout the day they shared books they are passionate about and read with other

classes. I feel there is far more value in promoting reading throughout the year than a token gesture on one day- I hope you agree! If you remember we had authors and illustrators in earlier this year and reading is simply part of what of what we do all the time.

So what did we do?

We launched Top secret reads on World Book Day!

Your mission is about to begin...

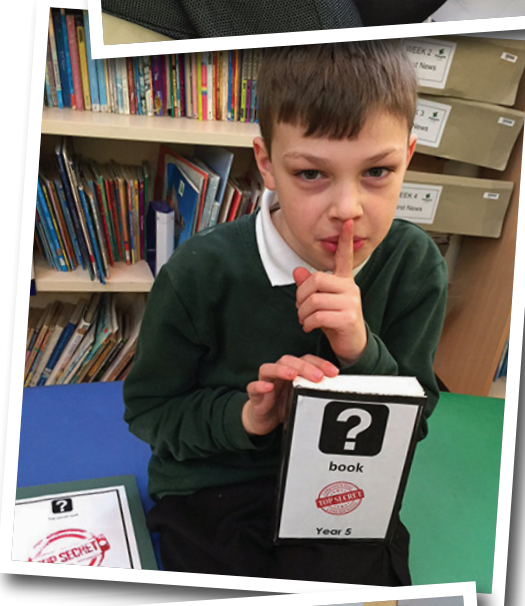
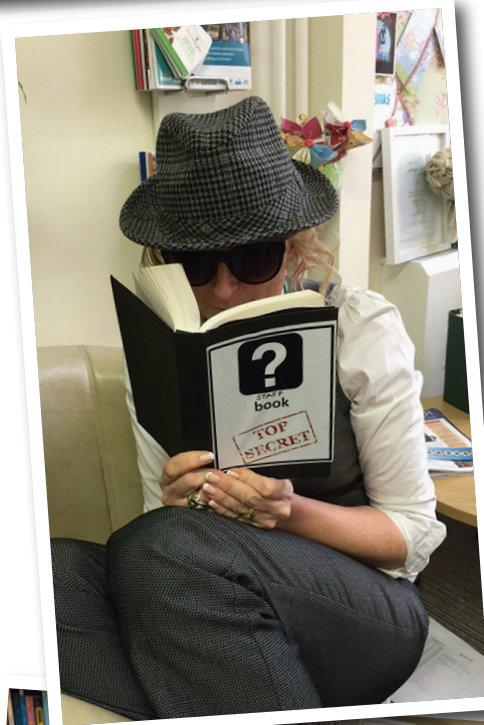
Your child may soon arrive home with a mission and a top secret package! We have bought a book for each class, this has become their 'Top Secret Read! Their challenge is to read the book, write a response to the book and pass it on to someone in the class they think will enjoy it!

Who will get it first ?

They can read it on their own or with you. Once the books have gone around the whole class we will start again with a new mystery book. We hope to create a display in the library with all their reviews and recommendations. Feel free to take photos of your child in a secret location, perhaps in disguise reading their book!

Be warned these books must not get into the wrong hands!

We will keep you updated!



WHY CAN'T I SKIP MY READING AT HOME TONIGHT?

Pupil A

Reads 20 minutes each day
3600 minutes in a school year
1,800,000 words

90th Percentile



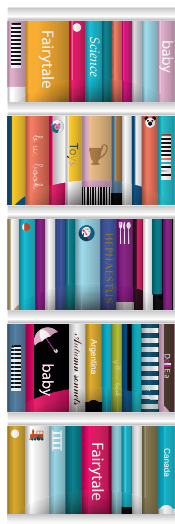
What about a pupil that doesn't read regularly at home or perhaps not at all? What are their chances of success?

This is why, at Polegate, we place so much importance on reading at home. All research and studies show that children who read every day do better

Pupil B

Reads 5 minutes each day
900 minutes in a school year
282,000 words

50th Percentile



Pupil C

Reads 1 minute each day
180 minutes in a school year

10th Percentile



By the end of Year **Pupil A** will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. **Pupil B** will have read only 12 school days.
Which pupil would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
Which pupil would you expect to be more successful in school?
...and in life?

at every stage of their education. We see it in school; the pupils that read at home are making better progress.

We are very fortunate at Polegate school to have so many supportive families that promote regular reading and learning at home and this reflects in the results our pupils achieve.

The majority of our parents do find time to enjoy books at home with their children and do record this in the home school books.

Thank you for supporting your children and the school's vision and aims!

Staff News

Now, I am not sure if this is a huge complement to our current year 6 - Mr Trent just simply can't bear to let them go, or if it is the prospect of working with his wife in the same school that has prompted a move (we know it is not the latter because Mrs Trent is lovely!) but Mr Trent has been offered a position at Willingdon Secondary school.

We are all thrilled for him. Mr Trent is passionate about English and is looking forward to teaching the subject he loves and facing new challenges. As you know Mr Trent has been teaching in Year 6 for many years, since 2002 and in fact Mr Trent and I worked together in year 6 for a number of years. He is understandably ready for a fresh

challenge. Willingdon Community School are very lucky, he will make an excellent contribution to their team and will ensure that all the pupils continue to make rapid progress in year 7 because he is so knowledgeable about what has already been covered. Of course the added benefit is that it further strengthens the link between our two schools. So whilst we are sad that Mr Trent is moving on we are also really excited for him and know that he is not too far away!

Mr Trent will start in September with our current year 6!

Another teacher off on a different kind of adventure is Mrs Palmer.

She has made the very difficult decision to leave Polegate School at the end of this year. She will be buying herself a one way ticket to Australia! Again, we are so pleased for her (I'm

saying that through gritted teeth because I'm not at all envious!) but sad to be losing a talented teacher from the profession. We all really hope she will return to teaching and who knows maybe even Polegate School! Mrs Palmer began her teaching career as a student at Polegate and her potential was evident right from the start. She has developed into an outstanding teacher and we will all be sorry to see her leave. She has promised to update us on her travels next year.

Mrs Palmer writes "I will be very sad to leave Polegate School. I feel incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to work here in this amazing school alongside a wonderful team of staff. I would like to thank everyone. I'll send you a postcard!"

So as you can imagine we are now busy recruiting new teachers!

Heritage and Culture Day

I am pleading with any parents that are able to offer any help on this day.

As you know we want to make this as relevant to the children as possible and the best way to do this is using the cultural heritage of our parents and families.
So far we have only got one offer of help!

Email to the School

We have received the following email that reached the office from a pedestrian.

'Sorry to be a killjoy, but I was wondering if there was any way we could ask parents to be aware of how their children are using bikes and scooters on the pavements?

I have been driven into more than once, and today a toddler on a small bike rode into me then went to hit me

as if it was my fault! Unfortunately I couldn't see who was with him, there were a small group of parents a long way behind and I assume he belonged to one of them.'



Admissions for September 2016

We have been informed that we have 160 requests for a reception place in September! That is an incredible amount and reflects the reputation Polegate School has in the community.

PFA QUIZ

18th March from 6.30pm the PFA are holding a quiz night! £3 per person for teams of up to 6 people. This is an adult only event. Please support them raising funds for the Multi Use Games Area.

DEBATE

Debating is well underway in school now and is going really well! The children love it!

I'm not sure if this was one of my better ideas! Realisation dawned as I noticed my own son's more advanced skills of persuasion and argument in a debate we were having at home. He was confidently able to give me a

reason for why now was not the best time to be doing homework!

I apologise in advance if your child is also so good at arguing against a viewpoint!

We hope you have noticed they are further developing their general knowledge of issues currently facing the world and society.

DIARY DATES

7th & 9th March
Parent Consultations

24th March INSET Day
start of Easter holiday

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

22nd July
Last day of the school year!

GIRLS FOOTBALL

On the sunniest day in February so far, our newly-formed Year 5/6 Girls Football Team travelled to the Sussex FA 3G Training Ground in Lancing to take part in a tournament involving 7 other teams from the Brighton & Hove area.

For most of the girls, this was their first experience of playing in a game, let alone a competitive tournament, so we were really pleased when we drew our first game 0-0 and kept a clean sheet! We were playing some experienced footballers but we defended well throughout and despite losing all the other games we put in some good performance. There were definitely glimpses of developing talent throughout the afternoon. A special mention must go to our stoic goalkeeper Angelina Sidwell whose performance was commended by many and our solid-as-a-rock defender Katie-Anne Deboick who kept the team organised from the back.

For any girls interested in developing their football skills, the players train every Friday morning before school from 8-8.45. The sessions are free so please contact Mrs Wallis via the office and come along if you would like to give it a try!



Well played girls!

Competition Time - Animation 16

Are you interested in taking part in an animation competition?

Create a computer animation, up to one minute in length, using any of the following programs: Alice, Flash, Scratch, Blender, Autodesk 3D Studio Max, Autodesk Maya, and Serif DrawPlus. Entries can be from individuals or from small teams.

There are great prizes for the winners, and trophies for schools.

Winners will be announced in May 2016.

Deadline: Friday 18th March 2016.

Please ask Mrs McGovern for a submission code before entering.



SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS

I can now confirm that we have been directed by county to take an additional class in reception next year.

This has been prompted by the number of parents wanting to send their children to Polegate school and additional houses in the area.

Negotiations have not yet begun as this was only confirmed last week but I will keep you updated on progress.

GOVERNOR CORNER

I would like to introduce myself to you. I am a new governor at Polegate School.

My name is Martin Falkner and I have lived in this area since 1977. I am now a retired Mental Health Nurse having completed 40 years in the NHS. My youngest daughter went to Polegate Primary School. I hope to be able to support the local community by being a School Governor as well as currently serving on the Polegate Town Council. I have previous school

governor experience at Willington Community (secondary) School.

My interests include Football, Boxing, Politics, Religion, Opera, Ballet, Music and decent restaurants.



EXEMPLIFICATION MATERIALS

FROM THE GOVERNMENT

The government have just released examples of work that would show the new expectations for children in year 2 and year 6.

They give examples of writing and maths for children working towards, at national standard and working above.

You can see these by clicking on the link below:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-2016-teacher-assessment-exemplification>

I think you will be shocked by the stark reality of just how much more is expected!

Those of you with children in those year groups will be particularly interested I am sure.

Example of year 6 working at national standard:

2016 KS2 English writing exemplification

Since reports the stabbing of Tybalt by Romeo and the circumstances leading up to the event.

There is some attempt to convey an appropriate level of formality through the combined use of grammatical structures and vocabulary, e.g. to establish a formal reporting style (a tragic fight occurred; was outraged; the two enemies crossed paths) and to express the informal comments of those interviewed (I can't believe he's done this; What if we don't see each other again).

Paragraphs are used to organise ideas. The opening succinctly sets the scene and summarises the content of the report, whilst subsequent paragraphs draw the reader in to the sequence of events that end in tragedy (strolling through the square... the two enemies crossed... Tybalt drew his sword... everyone was screaming and shouting).

Cohesion, within and across paragraphs, is typically achieved through the use of adverbials

"Yesterday a tragic fight occurred between the Montagues and the Capulets in Verona town square – resulting in 2 deaths.

Romeo, Mercutio and Benvolio were strolling through the square. Tybalt Capulet, who was also on in the town square, was outraged that Romeo and Juliet were getting married. Eventually the two enemies crossed paths and Tybalt challenged Romeo to a fight.

Suddenly, Tybalt drew his sword and they started circling each other. Romeo tried to break it up but they wouldn't stop then Tybalt stabbed Mercutio. People were running all over the square and everyone was screaming and shouting. A couple of minutes later, Romeo drew his sword and killed Tybalt. "I can't believe he's done this," said a woman with red hair.

Accurate use of verb forms: the simple past signifies a past event, the -ing form succinctly conveys the consequence of the encounter and the past progressive reports an action in progress. (GP)

Multi-clause sentence includes a relative clause stating Tybalt's whereabouts, and a subordinate clause explaining the reason for his anger. (GP)

Modal verb signals refusal to accept intervention. (GP)

Appropriate use of the past progressive to mark actions in progress. (GP)

Expanded noun phrase adds an element of detail. (GP)

HOMEWORK

We have seen some fabulous examples of homework recently.

We have noticed that the homework is not always as well presented as their work in school. Please encourage them to try their best with their homework and the way it is presented.

Example of year 2 working at national standard

2016 English writing exemplification

Background and context to the piece, including stimulus and purpose

Piece A: Letter

During a class topic on endangered animals, pupils decided to adopt an animal from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). After carrying out some research into their chosen animal, they wrote a persuasive letter to their headteacher requesting some money to fund the adoption, explaining why they wanted to save their particular animal and how the money would be used.

C = Composition GP = Grammar and Punctuation T = Transcription

Wednesday 4th February

Dear Miss C

This term we have been learning all about endangered animals and how awesome. But we need to act really fast! I really want to save cheetahs because there are only 7,500 left. Did you know that cheetahs are cute and they have yellowish fur with black spots? How funny they look! They are so fast, they are really faster than a racing car!

They live in the grasslands of the burning Africa! Also they are the second biggest cat. They are endangered because poachers are killing them and their habitat is becoming destroyed! Please save cheetahs!

Squid

These beautiful animals and helpful animals are becoming extinct if you want to save a cheetah it costs

Explanation of coding for coloured boxes

Appropriate choice of tense and tense direction showing that has already been seen. (GP)

Expanded noun phrase describes the cheetah's appearance. (GP)

Expanded noun phrase describes and specifies the cheetah's habitat. (GP)

Correct and consistent use of tense: the simple present provides information and description of cheetahs as they exist now; the present progressive marks an action in progress which may impact on their future. (GP)

Subordinate clause introduced by because and coordination using and. (GP)

Subordinate clause introduced by if leads to request. (GP)

Individual comments on grammar or punctuation, including the specific features used and their application in the writing

Commentary on the piece as a whole, its overall composition in terms of appropriateness to purpose, its use of sentences with different forms and any edits made following discussion with the teacher

Summative

Summative

Spelling is almost entirely correct, including common exception words (because, but, awful, grass, the use of the correct form was, and the addition of further pleasant, really, becoming, destroyed).

All sentence boundaries are recognised and demarcated with capital letters and full stops, question marks or exclamation.

SWIMMING GALA

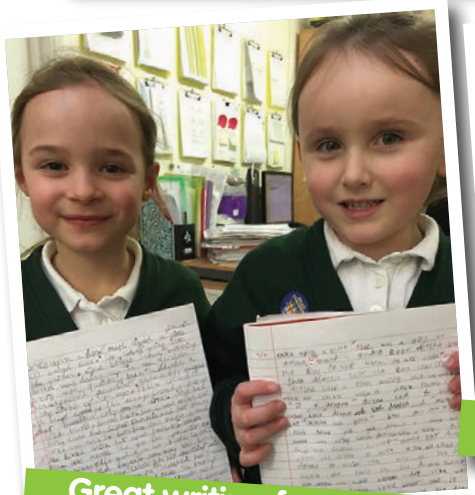
Congratulations to our swimming squad who came joint fifth in the Eastbourne Schools swimming gala. The team swam incredibly well and I was very proud of them all, especially our youngest year 4 swimmer!



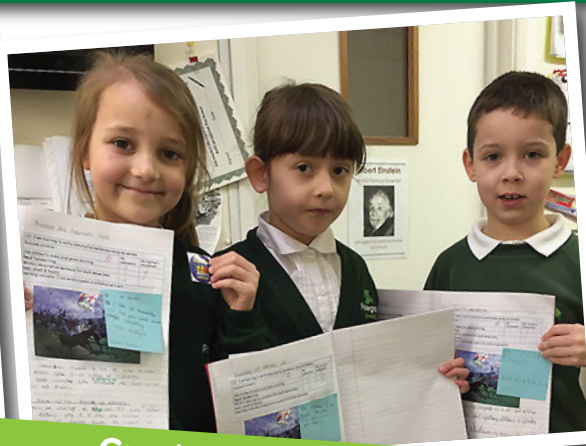
Well done team!



More Great work



Great writing from Year 2



Great writing from Year 2



So proud about belonging to Polegate Girls Association we just had to share our medals.



Year 6... I think their heads are hurting! Solving codes in maths.



Chinese New Year at after school club



An incredible portrait Arthur!

School Attendance

Firstly, thank you to the many parents that ensure their children attend school regularly.

Nationally in 2014-2015 attendance figures were 96%. This provides a benchmark by which we assess our levels of attendance. If your child's attendance is falling below this then they are causing a concern and missing too much school. Attendance should be at least 96% and the only time it should fall below this is if there are significant medical needs.

We are due to monitor attendance at the end of this term and will be inviting in the parents of any child who has attendance of below 90% to see if there are any ways we can support and improve attendance.

We have just received a document from the government that breaks down our own school's attendance and sadly it has identified a weakness in certain groups of pupils at Polegate. It is quite shocking to see the difference and we all know that low attendance places a child at such a disadvantage!

Poor attendance does mean your child makes less progress! I make no apologies for holding parents to account over attendance because in school we see the damage poor attendance causes children not only in academic attainment but also to their social skills and friendship groups.

Attendance was very low at Polegate School for our Free School Meal pupils and pupils with Special Educational Needs. Free School Meal pupils on average missed 6% of sessions, making their attendance 94% for the year while for all other pupils they only missed 4% of sessions. Our SEN pupils missed a staggering 7% of sessions making their attendance only 93%.

A magic challenge!

We are continuing to recognise the class each week with the highest attendance but this term as it is half way through the year and also because we really want to improve attendance we are offering a reward to the class with the highest attendance!

The children are incredibly excited about this because at the end of the term the class that has been in school the most will be rewarded with a visit from a magician!

Of course if more than one class achieve 100% or the highest they will all be visited. Each term every class has a fresh start and a chance to win a reward and we are asking for ideas from our school council.

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

**Thursday 24th
March
INSET Day**

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 565
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