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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Can you get anything more magical than the look on these faces? Pure joy to see, find out all about this special week...



IT'S CHRISTMAS - WE MADE IT!

We are so pleased to have once again welcomed parents in for the traditional nativity show. We have brought back the Shepherds wrapped in tea towels, the cardboard angel wings with wonky halos and a doll baby Jesus in the manger.

We know just how special this is for parents, children and staff included.

Another much anticipated highlight is our staff panto- oh yes it is! However, as we are not holding whole school assemblies at the moment it is not possible. Performing this once is

enough! So again we are thinking outside the box and being creative. 2021 brings a fresh surprise on the last day of term for the children to look forward to!

Expect the unexpected on the gates on Thursday! Who will you meet in the Land of No Limits?

It has been a busy term as you will see when you read this newsletter. see it's been a busy term. 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.



Our school choir out in the community singing at the garden centre.

FAMILY GRAPEVINE

Dear parents,

The Eastbourne, Wealden & Lewes Family Grapevine Winter 2021/22 issue is now available online! It is a one stop directory of things to do for family with children from bump to teen.

The magazine lists activities, places to visit this winter & events taking place in the run up to Christmas. It also features 5 fantastic competitions to enter from family days' outs, panto to book, toy and more!

The magazine is available to view online and to download here:

<https://thefamilygrapevine.co.uk/eastbourne-wealden-lewes/see-a-copy/>

Many thanks for your support and enjoy!



**family
grapevine**

PFA NEWS

Your wreaths look lovely ladies! Where are the dads?

I could not be prouder of our simply amazing team of parents and friends! In spite of the challenges they have pulled off two wonderful events. I personally really want to congratulate them on their achievements this year to date.

The wreath making was a huge success with so much positive feedback. They already have people requesting to attend next year just through word of mouth! Looks as if this will become an annual event.



The Winter Extravaganza

This was another special evening with such impressive fireworks and a great community atmosphere! I even had feedback from neighbours that watched from their front door who said they were the best fireworks they have ever seen!

To top it all, it was the biggest fundraiser EVER for the school!

The profit from this event was £6117.79

Thank you to everyone that helped and supported - it was so lovely to see you all on the evening.

Last night - we had a fabulous group of ladies making their Christmas Wreaths ... each one different with their own design & creativity.
Think you'll agree they all look amazing!

Thank you to Polegate Primary School for your fantastic facilities, and especially to Rachel who coordinated and pulled everything together on the night!

REAL LIFE LEARNING

We are on a mission to help young people get to grips with personal finance.

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We want to cover four key themes: •

- **How to manage money**
- **Becoming a critical consumer**
- **Managing risks and emotions associated with money**
- **Understanding the important role money plays in our lives.**

We want to help give children and young people the confidence, skills and knowledge they need to manage their money, now and in the future.

On average children begin to receive pocket money aged seven, own their first mobile phone at eight, and purchase items online at 10, with one in five having used their parents' or older siblings' credit or debit card to purchase these items. They can open a bank account and have a debit card at 11. At 18 they can apply for a credit card or loan, and before they leave school they have to make crucial decisions about jobs, student loans, and living independently.

Debate - should children get pocket money?

REMEMBRANCE DAY



Dear Mrs Martin O'Donoghue

I would like to say a special thank you to you, your staff and the children for the monies you collected by selling our poppies. Every single penny collected in the Poppy Appeal goes to servicemen and women and their families Polegate School collected £375.93, and our total so far this year stands at just over £12,000, thanks to the generosity of people such as yourselves

We very much appreciate all the work involved in selling poppies etc for us, and on behalf of Polegate branch I thank you for your very kind donation to our Poppy appeal 2021, with very special thanks and congratulations to the children for all their efforts.

With very best wishes

Yours sincerely,

Jeannie May

Poppy Appeal Organiser
Polegate Royal British Legion

Polegate School joined in with the local community to remember all those whose lives have been affected by conflict since World War 1, and those who have died in particular. In school we held assemblies which gave the opportunity for pupils to find out about the events of Remembrance Day and to make their own act of remembrance.



DIARY DATES

17th December 2021

INSET day

4th January

Start of term 3

7th February

Parent Consultations

9th February

Parent consultations

11th February

Last day of term

BOOK FAYRE

Thank you to all for supporting the book fair, I am really pleased to let you know that we sold over £1200 worth of books and that has given us a rewards total of £800 to spend on new books for the school! This is incredible and we are so grateful!

A COUNTY FOOTBALLER

Reggie, our head boy, has his first Football match for County, he is playing against Charlton Football club at their home ground!



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Boris is the proud new owner of a Christmas card designed by Alaya!



MARIA CAULFIELD MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Alaya
C/O Polegate School
Oakleaf Drive
Polegate BN26 6P

3 December 2021

Dear Alaya

Thank you for entering my Christmas Card Competition. I am pleased to let you know that you have won this year's competition.

I loved your drawing of Buddy and Papa Elf, it put a smile on the faces of myself and everyone in my Parliamentary office. Your design will now feature on my Christmas card going to Members of Parliament, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, local businesses, Councillors and other dignitaries across the Lewes constituency.

Earlier this week I had the chance to meet with the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and show him your design, which he was most impressed with. I have enclosed a photograph of the Prime Minister and I with my Christmas card featuring your drawing for you to keep. I have also enclosed a Christmas card for you.

Thank you once again for taking the time to enter the competition and congratulations for winning. I hope that you and your family have a very Merry Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Four runners up were also all from Polegate! All members of my art club- very proud of you all!



SPORTS NEWS

Year 4 Multi-Sports Festival at Ratton School

A very lucky group of Year 4 children recently took part in an exciting sports event at Ratton School.

The event comprised of a variety of PE activities related to games such as rugby, stoolball, cricket and athletics.

Ratton's young sports leaders introduced the different activities and gave us great encouragement as we had a go at each one. They were looking out for children who displayed important sporting qualities like teamwork, determination, passion, honesty and self-belief.

You will see from the number of stickers we received that those important values that we all try to encourage at Polegate really did shine through!!



CROSS COUNTRY



NURSERY STAFF

A new member of the team
at our nursery!



Hi, my name is Briony and I'm really excited to be joining the team as a Nursery Assistant.

I love spending time with my family, going on adventures, being out in the open air for walks on the Downs and by the sea. I enjoy playing the piano and am currently learning some Disney songs.

MEET ZOE

Hello everyone! I'm Zoe and I am so excited to be joining Polegate School in January.

I can't wait to meet all the new faces around school and to be part of the kind and caring team and to inspire everyone that they can learn without limits! Out of school I enjoy spending time with my two sausage dogs and Fiancé, visiting my family and friends in Yorkshire as well as going on exciting adventures around Sussex!



STAFFING NEWS

Meet our new dynamic duo otherwise known as our site team!



Jules joins Polegate after briefly working in the school as part of the cleaning team.

With a professional career organising domestic and commercial cleaning background, Jules brings a wealth of knowledge to looking after the maintenance of our school from a cleaning and organising perspective. She also brings other skills to the school after spending over 20 years in the radio broadcasting industry- our school radio may well be making a come back!

Chris is a local dad with a son at the school with a background in maintenance supervising over 150 properties.

Chris has shared, 'I have noticed how the school has become outstanding over the last few years and have seen how well my son has developed during his time here. I want to be part of a school that has an amazing name and is clearly going places.'

They make a great team and we are thrilled to welcome them both to Polegate!

SOME GOODBYES

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to a number of staff this term.

Sue Bateman who is excited to develop the skills she has learnt further by working for county in the SEN department. **Louise Belmore** is heading off to train to become a paediatric nurse. **Julie Naylor** from

our nursery is reluctantly leaving to care for family members. **Selina Donald**, a wonderful midday supervisor is leaving for a full time career but we are thankful we will continue to see her and Louise as parents at the school!

We wish them all the very best of luck.

ONE KIND WORD

We participated in Anti-bullying week 2021 with the theme of 'One Kind Word.'

Let kindness fuel kindness

Following a survey led by the anti-bullying alliance, the young and not-so young told us they wanted anti-bullying work to be about hope and the positive and kind things we can do to halt hurtful behaviour in its tracks.

We loved this positive theme and embraced it in school with a week full of activities

Odd Sock day started the week followed by time spent as a whole school and in classes on spreading kindness.

The beautiful illustrations and quotes were created by Year 5, they are stunning.

The assembly brought this idea to life with spreading kindness like confetti!

Children across the school were invited to write kind words or positive comments and add them to a box to be shared and so spreading positivity across the school. Their contributions were so thoughtful and mature.

A paper chain was created by every child with kind words on to mark the occasion, these have been joined together and are on display as a reminder.



ATTENDANCE

We strongly believe in tackling attendance early before it causes longer term problems for your child and there are many reasons why we address this from the very start of the year.

Pupils who missed 2 to 4 days in September were 5 times more likely than those who missed fewer than 2 days to be chronically absent for the year. Half the pupils who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.

This is a significant amount of time. We firstly aim to support. Please share with us any difficulties you face as a family- we want to help!

If attendance is causing a concern you will be invited in for a meeting to discuss the reasons behind it and offer support.

Higher attendance clearly equates with success and higher earnings later in life. This may seem obvious but if you were in any doubt attendance is the building block of pupil achievement. The bottom line is that if they are not in school then they are not learning.

RH	97.8%	2Ma	97.5%	4H	95.3%
RM	96.6%	2R	95.6%	5W	95.3%
RB	96%	3L	95.3%	5M	96.9%
1B	96.2%	3Y	97.3%	5T	97.3%
1C	97.3%	3M	96.9%	6V	94.2%
1S	97.1%	4G	97%	6J	97.8%
2M	96.2%	4D	97.4%		

We have a new attendance officer in school, Natalie Dicker who is taking on the role of managing attendance. I will introduce Natalie to you in the next newsletter but you may have already spoken to her on the phone.

Please remember that it is your responsibility to call or report your child's absence to the school on the day of your child's absence by 9.30am. It is very important for safeguarding reasons that we know a child is safe at home with parents if they are not in school.

It is taking a considerable amount of time for the office team to call and check on absences at the moment.

Diary Dates
Start of Term 3
Tuesday 4th
January
2022

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 1,228 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