

news

May 2015



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On 29th of April it was the day year five's had been waiting for...

Hindleap Warren

Year 5 went out into the wilderness this term! They had a fabulous time at an activity centre.

Check out the photo gallery on page 2



Year 5 - Hindleap Warren

This was year 5's first residential school trip. It was an incredible experience to embrace.

We all had an amazing time. The best activity of them all had to be canoeing, especially when we were allowed to jump in to the freezing cold reservoir. We got extremely muddy in the tunnels. You couldn't see anything at all! The zip wire was also fantastic because you went really fast up in the air.

The food was delicious and filled us up ready for all the activities. All the instructors were great fun and really encouraged us to try everything. We had to make our own beds, and try to keep our rooms tidy (not all successfully!) Now we should be able to help with chores at home!

As all our parents know, we came back with some very muddy clothes. We want to say a special thank you to Angelina's mum for taking home all the clothes that we had left behind, washing them, and bringing them back to children who had names in their clothes. The unclaimed clothes will be taken to a charity shop.

By Charlie Nash and Angelina Sidwell.



Year 4 - The Lion King

On Wednesday 22nd April, Year 4 travelled to London's West End to see the stage performance of The Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre.

We are extremely proud of the year 4 children who all behaved impeccably, with members of the public also commenting on this. A great day out was had by all.



Here are a selection of quotes from the theatre reviews that the children wrote.

"A spectacular story of a young lion cub's journey to become king of the African pridelands."

4M shared writing

"You will go in excited and come out amazed!"

Ashton Orange

"Rafiki gave a breathtaking performance, adding some humour to the show. She had a phenomenal voice that entertained the crowd."

Callie Gent

"The show started when the lights went out and the curtain lifted. Then a shimmering saffron sun rose from the stage."

Willow Darling

"When the stairs came up out of the stage like a corkscrew and the lights died down, that was phenomenal. Then a hole appeared in the stage and everyone gulped."

Jake Diprose

"The Lion King has been showing at the same theatre for 20 years, that just proves how good it is."

Leo Groombridge

"The character of Simba brought the show to life with his amazing performance of the changing from playful cub to proud king."

Charlie King

"Using clever puppetry, the show captured the amazing wildlife of the African savannah."

Finlay Jones

STAFF NEWS

New Teacher

We have appointed a new teacher for next year. It happens to be another Clare! Clare Marsh is an experienced teacher and we are delighted that she had been looking out for vacancies at Polegate School. She joins us in September and we are really looking forward to welcoming her as one of the team.

Mr Clayton

We also had some sad news: Mike Clayton is semi-retiring at the end of this year, well nearly! We are planning on keeping him busy for a day a week to deliver extension maths classes. Mike has been teaching at the school since 1996- quite a long time! He has been a fabulous teacher, fully committed to the school, however during this period the pressures teachers are under have continued to grow at a phenomenal rate. Mike loves his job but the increased paperwork, data, and accountability have forced him to make this decision. He wants to reclaim some time to enjoy life outside school. We really hope he enjoys the extra time to watch Chelsea, play squash, walk the dog and just enjoy himself!

Mrs Bedford

There is another very sad change, Kerry Bedford, our year 5 teacher and Leader of Learning has been offered a teaching position in another school. She is ready to embrace new challenges, different opportunities and practices in a new school. It has the added bonus of being closer to home! Kerry has been a teacher since 2007 with a small break from us to go travelling and get married! We will miss Kerry very much but we know she will stay in touch with us.

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

We are under strict instruction from East Sussex County Council to not allow dogs on the school grounds.

Many parents seem to think that the rules do not apply to them. ESCC will take action against parents that break this rule in order to protect children's safety on school grounds. This is what ESCC say:

The School and the Local Authority consider that the presence of dogs on school premises are capable of being a nuisance or disturbance to other people, not least other pupils and parents, using the school premises. You are requested to refrain from bringing dogs onto school premises again.

In the event that you bring dogs onto school premises, the School will instruct the Local Authority that your permission to be on School premises should be withdrawn. This includes school buildings, car parks, playgrounds and playing fields.

Should your permission to be on school premises be withdrawn, it will be a criminal offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996 for you to be on educational premises without lawful authority and to cause or permit a nuisance or disturbance to the annoyance of persons lawfully using the premises. This could result in a criminal conviction and a fine by the Magistrates Court of up to £500.

Gymnastic Competition

A team of our dedicated gymnasts took part in a local competition at Hailsham Community School.

They worked incredibly hard before the event, coming in before school every morning and rehearsing for the big event. I think we were the only team that included boys!

Well done Sean and Ben for taking part. The team came fourth out of 10 schools for their floor routine. We were all very proud of them and I would like to thank Mrs Wallis and Jo Furlong for organising and attending the event with the children.



WHO RUNS OUR COUNTRY?

As this year marks the anniversary of the Magna Carta and the most contentious general election of our time we have been finding out more about this in school.

We have been explaining how democracy works in the UK. What an election is. How it works and why it is important to vote. The children have been really interested in the complexities of British politics and we hope they have asked you lots at home.

You may have noticed my office door has been number 10 ever since our last whole school Olympic focus and it has come in very handy this term! Various politicians have been resident in school. (thankfully, just the cardboard cutouts!)

We were grateful for a visit from some local candidates for Polegate North Ward, David Watts and Angela Snell who were grilled by Cody Maynard Grice and Lauren Hunt our headboy and headgirl

We received this lovely e-mail from David after his visit.

Dear Mrs O'Donoghue,

I am just dropping you a quick line to thank you very much for myself and Angela to visit the school today.

We were extremely impressed with Jody and Lauren for asking us some key questions around education and some political ones as well.

I was very pleased to see the Number 10 Front door at the forefront of Polegate education. It is a credit to you and your staff that your students are so well informed. We are always happy to help if we can assist the school in any way.

David Watts



On election day we allowed the children to vote for the political party they thought should win. Here are our results!

PARTY	SCHOOL	UK
Labour	19.1	(36.4) UK
Conservative	37.1	(30.7) UK
Liberal	16.1	(8.1) UK
UKIP	10.1	(12.4) UK
Green	19.1	(4.1) UK

There is a really close correlation between the votes for the winning party in school and the national results. I hope it generated some interesting discussions for you all at home!

MATHS CHALLENGE

What is the difference between $\frac{3}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$?

Bring your answers in to Mrs Jones for your chance to win a prize.

East Sussex Library Challenge 2015

Dear Head Teacher

I am writing to let you know the theme for this year's summer Reading Challenge and to let you know that East Sussex Library and Information Service are changing the way we promote the annual Summer Reading Challenge in the County.

About the Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is designed for children between the ages of 4 and 11. Last year almost 10,000 children in East Sussex signed up to the Challenge in libraries throughout the County, and almost 7,000 finished. Every year the Challenge has a new theme and this year we're delighted to announce that The Reading Agency will be working with Guinness World Records™ on the 2015 Summer Reading Challenge. The theme will be Record Breakers and the Challenge will begin in libraries on Saturday 11th July and end on Saturday 12th September.

To take part in the Challenge children need to share six stories of their choice that they have borrowed from the library over the summer holidays.

Children join the Challenge at their local library and are given rewards for each book they read and a certificate if they manage to complete the Challenge. The Challenge is for all children, whatever their reading ability.

Children who are not reading independently can share their books with a family member or friend, or they might prefer to listen to audio books. We have a range of materials to enable children with additional needs to participate as well.

You can find out more about these by emailing library.enquiries@eastsussex.gov.uk or by speaking to your local library contact.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to First Choice Dental Clinic in Lushington Road. They have been kind enough to donate toothbrushes as well as other items for our Year 2 Science lesson on hygiene.

POLEGATE'S GOT TALENT

On Friday 6th May, six contestants competed to be chosen to perform at the Congress Theatre.

The acts were amazing and every performer had a great talent. They were also confident enough to perform in front of the whole school! Charlie Ayling and Angelina Sidwell both performed street dance, Amy Bateman did a unique dance performance, Rachel Simmons did an elegant ballet performance, the 3P dance group sung and danced and Sydney Stuart in year 1 did an entertaining dance to Reach for the Stars. Our judges were Mrs O'Donoghue, Miss Garland, Mrs Burton and Mr Trent.

They all had positive comments about each of the acts. The overall winners who will get to perform at the Congress are Amy Bateman, Angelina Sidwell, Charlie Ayling and Rachel Simmons.

Well done to all the contestants who were brave enough to perform and show us your amazing talents!

By Lauren Hunt and Eliza Jane Fuller



SPORTS NEWS

The Road to the Final

On Friday evening the school football team played in the Collins Cup semi-final against Pevensey and Westham School.

The team had played in two previous cup games this season. The first was against Willingdon School, where we won 4-1, and then in the quarter final we played against West Rise drawing 1-1 at the end of extra time before winning 4-2 on penalties. This led us to the semi-final on Friday.

The team played very well against a tough opponent who liked to get the ball forward quickly and counter attack down the flanks. After sustained pressure Polegate were able to counter attack themselves down the right wing with Billy Knight who played the ball across into the area for Lewis Crick to hit a sharp shot across the goal and into the bottom left-hand corner. However the lead was short lived as Pevensey immediately picked up the pace and scored a goal of their own.

The second half started with concentrated pressure from Polegate who dominated possession and nearly scored twice with Billy Knight hitting the post and Lee Connolly providing good forward passes to the forwards. Soon Polegate were



Back Row: Lewis Crick, Jamie Hamilton, Lewis Oakshott, Jack Corbett. Front Row: Sam Laycock, Lee Connolly, Juke Jago, Billy Knight

rewarded for their efforts with a break-away goal by Lewis Oakshott who calmly placed the ball past the stranded goalkeeper after a quick throw from Lewis Crick. The team managed to hold out against a determined Pevensey and Luke Jago in goal made several good saves as the team held on for the final whistle.

And so onto the final against Ocklynge School which will be held on our school pitch in Term 6. We would love to have a large crowd cheering on the team and will provide the details of the match as soon as we know.

Football News

We have been very busy again this term competing in sporting events.

On Friday our school team played Pevensey and Westham School. We won the match 2:1 and are now through to the finals where we play Ocklynge School (we would love to beat Ocklynge!)

Our Key team 1 footballers in year 2 went to a football competition at Ratton School and once again did incredibly well. The 2M team won all 3 games and came 1st! 2R won 1 game and came 3rd.



Boro' under-11 Girls claim the league and cup double

Eastbourne won the Sussex County Cup after a comprehensive 6-1 victory

GIRLS FOOTBALL LATEST
Email: j.polegate@polegate.co.uk

Eastbourne Borough Girls have won the Sussex County Cup after an emphatic win over AFC Sporting.

The Under 11 girls travelled to the Wick and Barnham Football Stadium last Sunday and returned victorious to claim a league and cup double. The girls had recently secured the County League title in what has been a superb season for them.

The first half was a very well contested affair but Borough opened the scoring following a long-range shot from Katie Young, deceiving the AFC keeper and putting the girls 1-0 ahead.

AFC then began putting real pressure on the Borough defence and good work from Puppy Bishop saw them equalise just before half time following a series of passes from



Well done Lilymay Hicks year 6

YEAR 2 SATS

Congratulation to year 2 for doing so well in their SATS.
Across the year group they produced some amazing writing.
A big well done to them all.

By Kate Aamer

The BFG is very old and rickety. In his hand he has a big trumpet that he uses to blow wonderful dreams to little children. The BFG is a friendly giant, not like any other giant. He can fly like a bird. He always whistles a black cape that helps him to fly. He is as big as a hotel. BFG stands for big friendly giant. The BFG is friendly to Sophie because he didn't eat her. He doesn't have any friends, the only friend he has is beautiful Sophie. The BFG has long big ears that hang from the side of his face which helps him to hear Sophie and the other horrible giant. When there is a giant the BFG protects Sophie from them.

By Gethin

The BFG

The BFG has a long black coat that covers his huge body. He has huge ears, as big as a elephant.

What does he do?

At midnight the BFG creeps through the huge world giving good dreams. After he finishes, he flies to his giant world where all the other giants live.

What does the BFG look like?

The BFG has huge hands that he can sit Sophie in. He wears a white t-shirt which he wears when he is not delivering dreams. He has blue eyes which he can use to see people are awake!

Does he have any friends?

The BFG's only friend is Sophie. All the other giants are nasty and eat people. The BFG doesn't though!

What is he like?

He is a very friendly giant that is vegetarian. All the other giants are nasty and eat other people.

By Amy Diprose

Character description.

The BFG's nose has a poisonous wart on the tip of it. It is long and he uses it to smell out scrumptious people to eat. His ears are large and wrinkled, he uses them to hear humans snoring.

He is funny and I would like to have him as a friend because in his name 'friendly' is in it. The hilarious giant has a home lit by magic. He looks like an old man and is nice, not nasty! I like the BFG. He is a friend to every human on earth and looks also like a wizard when he has his cape on.

He is friendly and funny, and has a loud, deep voice. His personality is: funny, giant (obviously!) and lots more things. He can be boring and annoying once you first see him, but he remains nice once you're actually met him.

white-haired
The BFG is a nice giant and 'BFG' stands for Big Friendly Giant. He is nice and he has lots of friends. The giant giant is not nasty or nasty because he is taught by his friends in the past that he's once had. He has got small feet and stinky, waxy ears. His hair is white and he only has a bit of eyebrows. The BFG is a kind character and has a teeny jacket on and a yellow top underneath. He is a

Our Poppy Appeal
raised £363.46



— POPPY APPEAL —
POLEGATE SCHOOL
Thank you very much for helping with our Appeal

£363.46

was collected by you.
Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work.

Yours sincerely

S. KETWARD
Local Honorary Organiser

District Total (if available) £363.46

Stars of the Week

As you know we celebrate those children who set an example to the rest of the school community with their superb behaviour, consideration towards others and consistent effort their work.

The school council were asked to think about the reasons that children should be selected for this award and they were very clear that it is not an entitlement for all children every year. They wanted it to be something very special and valued and only given to the children that earned it. These are the criteria they agreed:

- Always following our school rules
- Always making good decisions
- Always behaving responsibly to people and property
- Always working hard towards their own goals
- Always being polite and showing good manners
- Good attendance and punctuality

They felt that children would need to demonstrate this for about a term to show that they have made a real effort.



This does mean that some children may find it challenging to achieve, but the children were very clear they wanted it to reward the children that are always good. The alternative is that it becomes a tick list with teachers giving it to each child in their class in turn, this then becomes meaningless and our children are quite astute! We have a wide range of reward systems in school- Praise Postcards, learning stickers, house points are just some examples. These are used to recognise many individual achievements and build self esteem.

DIARY DATES

Inset Day
Wednesday 1st July

Junior Sports Day
Friday 10th July

Infant Sports Day
Thursday 2nd July

Change over day
(children move up to
their new classes)
Tuesday 7th July

Swimming Gala
Thursday 16th July

Summer Fayre
Saturday 20th June
11.00 – 2.00pm

Interim Reports Feedback

Within the Think Tank discussions several parents also mentioned the reports that we send home termly.

Some of the group felt this was unnecessary and they did not need such frequent reports. What do you think?

Anything we can do to reduce the workload for teachers is a bonus however if you find it useful and beneficial to receive them we will continue.

It seems now is a good time to review how useful they are. Please fill this in otherwise we cannot take your views into account.

Interim reports

Do you want to receive a report each term?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Would you prefer to receive a report in term 1, 3 & 6?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Any other comments on the reports frequency or content:

THINK TANK

Your Think Tank group welcomes a new member to represent Year 2, Tasha Packham

In our last meeting we discussed several topics: assessment and the curriculum have undergone massive changes and we would like to share some of these with you in very brief workshops. We are going to offer two sessions at different times in the hope that as many parents as possible will be able to attend if they want to.

The Think Tank also shared your frustration about the congestion outside the nursery at 3.30pm. We are aware this is problematic but the good news is that as soon as we have the new building for the breakfast and afterschool club we will be able to do something about it. The challenge is the fact that they are all currently sharing the same building and so we have no flexibility in the times for the nursery sessions. This is beyond our control because the government set the times for the nursery sessions. We must offer 2x 3 hour sessions each day which means the afternoon finishes at 3.30pm for these children.

The contractors start work on our new building starts as soon as we break up for the summer holidays. Once this is completed we can then change the session times for the nursery. We hope to be able to offer earlier and later sessions for working parents and change the pick-up time so it is more convenient for parents of children in school.

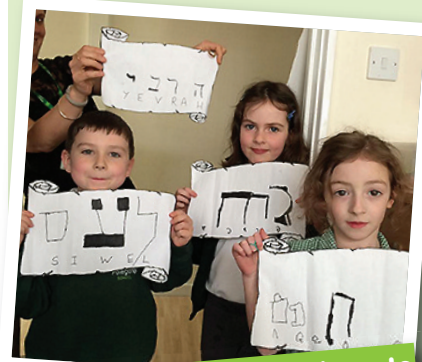
Thank you for your patience with this. The Think Tank had a wonderful suggestion. Many of them are choosing to walk across the junior playground and through to avoid the narrow path outside the nursery and then up to the lollipop lady.

We are also planning to move the bike store to the grass area just off the junior playground. This will allow us to extend the outside area for the nursery and link it to the infant playground and also mean that our cyclists will avoid the narrow path, not be tempted to cycle across the playground or have to navigate the car park.

Another item we discussed was the swimming pool. About half of parents have paid the voluntary contribution. Whilst this is voluntary, it does provide the governors with an indication of how much you value the school swimming pool. At the moment it looks as if quite a large group of you do not think this is important and would not mind if we removed it. It does cost the school a lot of money to provide swimming. I am fully committed to keeping the pool; the children love it and it is an invaluable life skill. However the school budget is increasingly being stretched and the next few years will be challenging for all schools. We already subsidise the pool from the budget and pay for the majority of costs but we may not be able to continue to do this in future years. Anything that you are able to pay shows that you value the pool. The voluntary contribution we suggest means that each lesson only costs 50p!

We want to find a way of recognising those parents that have contributed and it has been suggested that we offer 'thank you swimming session'. We are exploring this option. We did once controversially publish a list thanking parents that had supported the pool. This may be something the PFA consider doing again.

Amazing work



2M have been learning how to write their names in Hebrew



A brilliant Ancient Greek Timeline - Morgan. Year 5



Super work reception!



Super stories written by our budding reception writers!

Changes to the curriculum and testing

We are prepared for the more challenging tests ahead and as you know we have been teaching the new curriculum this year. I thought you might be interested to see an article published in the Times which explains a little more about the changes which will affect your child.

PARENT LETTER

We have received this email from an upset mum...

Dear Mrs O'Donoghue,

Today my little boy was nearly knocked down twice by scooters being ridden in the junior playground.

We were waiting to pick up my daughter in year 1 and it seems there has been an increase in pre-schoolers riding around on junior scooters which can be just as nippy.

The majority of school children are actually good at not riding their scooter in the school grounds but Mums waiting to pick up their children seem to think its ok to let younger brothers and sisters ride around on scooters in the junior playground while they wait.

Please could you help get this message across to other parents.

This upset mum is not the only parent to complain. There have been some very near misses and as our very young children leave the nursery it would be very easy for them to be seriously hurt by a scooter or bike.



Attendance

The whole school average is currently only 95%. This is significantly lower than our target and means that the average child in our school will miss 9 days of school over the year!

The government regard 95% as the minimum satisfactory attendance for a primary school pupil.

If your child's attendance is below 95% we will be sending out letters to notify you.

The East Sussex Education Welfare Team will get involved in some cases when attendance is low.

We are also having a focus on those children that regularly arrive to school late. The Education Welfare Service will be analysing our registers next term.

Does being late really matter?

Yes, if a child misses 15 minutes every day it adds up to 9 whole school days throughout the year. It also disrupts the learning of other children in the class.

Win a book token with 100%

As an added incentive and for a bit of change we are offering all children that achieve 100% until the end of the year a £5 book token.

Class figures

Overall school attendance is currently at 95.4%. Our school target this year of 97%.

RP = 94%	2R = 96%	5B = 97%
RH = 94%	3B = 96%	5C = 97%
1A = 92%	3P = 95%	6M = 95%
1J = 95%	4M = 96%	6T = 96%
2M = 97%	4B = 96%	

97% is our target

Research also shows the positive impact that good school attendance has on the academic achievement of pupils:

- 94% = Very good chance of 5A* - C Grades.
- 93% = Good chance of 5A* - Grades.
- 92% = Fair chance of 5A* - Grades.
- 90% = Less than 50% chance of 5A* - Grades.
- 88% = Less than 35% chance of 5A* - Grades.
- < 88% Less than 30% chance of 5A* - Grades

INSET DAY

The next
INSET DAY
will be
WEDNESDAY
JULY 1st

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
457 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