



Polegate SCHOOL

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Fabulous Finish



Year 6 celebrated the final week of their topic with VE day celebrations! This was the fabulous finish to their topic. They had a party and the afternoon culminated with a little dancing!

They had been learning the 'Jitterbug' and there were some very smooth moves being displayed on the dance floor...as Len might say, 'A ten from Len!'

They certainly looked the part, authentic hair-styles, outfits and even make up completed the war time look!

We continue to place a strong emphasis on enjoyment and creativity in our curriculum across the school. It is events like this that make the curriculum even more memorable for the children.

This is what the children had to say,

'I think it is wonderful, we understand what life was like in the past.'

'This topic has been fun, It's a cool end to our topic.'

Thank you for the marvellous costumes!



THE DANCE OFF!



Year 6 celebration-
everyone was up and
dancing!



Your feedback

Thank you for your responses to the Christmas performances. We do work incredibly hard to provide the best experiences for the children and parents and it helps staff morale to know this is, in fact, appreciated.

Email - Hi, a big thank you and congratulations on putting on two fabulous shows at the Pavillion, everyone was fantastic and the kids loved every second of it. It was great to see how confident the kids were in performing on stage and the singing was superb. A big thank you to all the staff for all their hard work and efforts and for giving the children such a fantastic opportunity once again

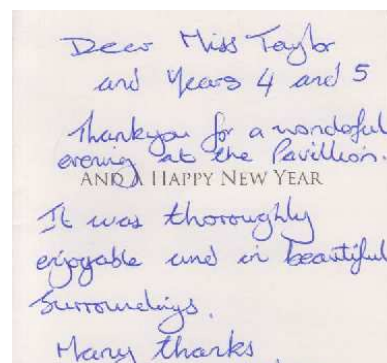
Email - I started to write this while the children were trickling into assembly this morning, the choirs' singing was so lovely I almost started blubbing! So.....please can you pass on my thanks to all the teachers for the hard work and effort they put into last Thursday's show at the Hailsham Pavilion. It was a wonderful evening and everyone I have spoken to thought it was fantastic!

It's a shame that no matter what you do some parents will always moan but, for the record, I thought the ticket fee was reasonable, the venue great because it meant everybody had a good view, it was also easy to get to and Hailsham does have plenty of free parking.

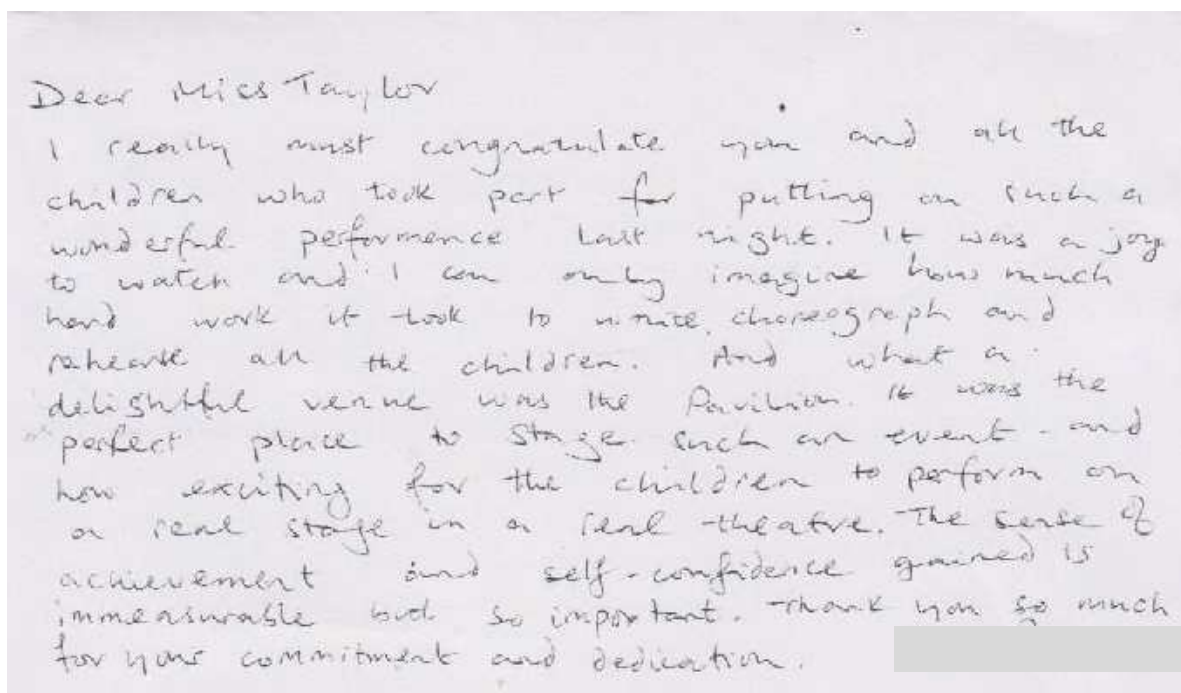
Email - Having just read the news letter I just wanted to say how much we enjoyed the show, Keep doing what you are doing. There will always be those who aren't happy keeping all parents happy is impossible. Polegate school in our eyes is the best, our son shines and is happy most importantly. Thanks for doing the best for our children!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

@PolegateSchool Christmas shows were amazing! We were incredibly lucky to have a child in each one. Well done to all the Children and staff

@PolegateSchool Another fabulous Christmas show from all the children!!! Well done to you all xxxxx



Wow! What can I say..... Both amazing Christmas shows in a great theatre. Staff worked so hard to put on a fantastic and different show. The children's performances were out of this world. My two are still talking about their shows. Thank you so much for thinking of this innovative idea and setting.



Diary Dates

6th January Science week- 'we are scientists.'

8th January—PFA and Playscheme meeting at school at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Last day of term Thursday 13th February

Friday 14th February– INSET day

Monday 24th February– INSET day

Monday 3rd March– parent consultation

Wednesday 5th March– parent consultation

Friday 21st March—INSET day

Last day of term Friday 4th April

Friday 9th May– class photos

Test Dates

Year 1 Phonic Tests take place during the week beginning 16th June.

Year 6 SATs take place in the week beginning 12th May

It is vital children are in school during these weeks.

PFA NEWS

We are delighted that the PFA and Playscheme have now merged. This now means a holiday club will be running the week commencing Monday 28th July until Friday 1st August. More details to follow. They will be holding a disco on Thursday 13th February. Infants (including Reception) 3.30–4.30pm. Juniors 5.00 - 6.30pm more details will follow

The next PFA meeting will be on Thursday 30th January at school at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Start of the School Day

At the start of the year we had a big push on handwriting and asked if you could support this by bringing children in at 8.45 so they could benefit from handwriting support for a full ten minutes. The impact of this has been immense and across the school the presentation in books is very impressive. Due the success of this we would like to continue to encourage the children to come in promptly for 8.50am. Across the school the children will continue to develop their handwriting for two of these mornings on another two mornings they will work on their number skills, especially times tables and on the final morning pupils will respond to marking in their books to help them make even better progress. We really appreciate your help and support. We will be aiming to open the doors earlier at 8.45am so that children can get to the classroom for 8.50am.

Be the first to hear the news.

Please follow us on twitter we now have 257 followers!



Many teachers have raised concern that many children across the school do not have the correct PE kit, or in fact, a PE kit at all.

Please refer to the school handbook available on the website if you are not sure of the school requirements for uniform.

Their PE kit should consist of black shorts and jogging bottoms (logo free) A white T shirt with school logo and a black tracksuit top for the colder weather.

Infant Playground Development

The children have now planned their playground. It will be wonderful. We have ordered a range of equipment. After consulting the company that would lay the markings they advised us to wait for dry weather!! (don't laugh). The markings will not take as well if it rains. As soon as we can we will proceed. It will be worth the wait. We are also exploring developments in the Junior playground as well and hopefully to apply for a grant to facilitate this.

Clubs

Clubs continue to be in high demand. We are trying to ensure that every child has the opportunity to join a club at some stage during the year. Staff willingly volunteer their time to run these and they are very popular however there is a limit to the clubs we can provide with all the other demands placed on teachers' time. If you have any talents or are interested in running a club or supporting one please speak to us.

If you have returned a slip requesting clubs for your child you will receive a letter this week notifying you if they have a place or not.



Year 6 trip to London.

Cabinet War Rooms

HMS Belfast



Trips

FEES

Fees for breakfast Club and After School Club **must** be paid in advance. Whilst this has always been an expectation we have made allowances in the past. We cannot continue to do this because we have fees outstanding from parents that have used this service. All our outgoings are paid in advance which means we then do not have the funds to cover the costs.

Staff will not be able to accept children at either club if the fees have not been paid in advance. Please do not put them in a difficult situation by saying, 'I will pay tonight.' or 'I will pay later.' This will no longer be accepted.

Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Very excited Year 3 classes, off to see Walking with Dinosaurs- a private screening!

We still have places left at after school club if you need childcare after school. Sessions run after school until 4.30pm (£4) or 6.00pm (£8). Please ask for more details from the office.

If your child wants to come along to our Chinese banquet on Friday 31st January please return your form and money by Friday 17th January.



Singing at the Mayor's Tea Party



Some of our
Year 2 children
were invited to
sing at the
Mayor's Tea
Party

Photos taken by
Dan Dunbar



Science Fair– I was very proud of our
Polegate Scientists and the explana-
tions they gave!



Science Week

The word "Science" is derivative of the Latin word "Scientia" which means knowledge. Science is probably the most important and helpful subject of study for human race.

Science is everywhere in today's world. It is part of our daily lives, from cooking and gardening, to recycling and understanding the daily weather report, to reading a map and using a computer. Advances in technology and science are transforming our world at an incredible pace, and our children's future will surely be filled with leaps in technology we can only imagine. Being "science literate" will no longer be just an advantage but an absolute necessity. We can't escape from the significance of science in our world.

We think Science is so important which is why we have dedicated this week to inspiring the children about the many aspects of Science.

The world we live in today would no doubt be a different place if it weren't for the amazing discoveries produced by this list of famous scientists. Their ideas, research, experiments, publications and determination are an inspiration to those that follow in their footsteps. Covering a broad range of scientific fields such as biology, physics, astronomy and chemistry, these men and women have pushed the world of science forward, allowing the human race to answer seemingly impossible questions while at the same time opening the door to new fields of research and discovery.



Our launch assembly with our scientists demonstrating how Science can appear to be magic! Take a look at the cans balancing!



Just some of our Scientists! Look out in the next newsletter for more about our wonderful week.

Good websites

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/>

If your child has been really inspired by the week why not have a look at this site full of experiments, games, facts, images, lessons and more.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/science.shtml

Attendance

Days off school add up to lost learning

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR

175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments

Our average last year was around
96%

97% is our target!

190 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR 190 days for your child's education	10 days absence 180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	19 days absence 171 DAYS OF EDUCATION	29 days absence A term missed 161 DAYS OF EDUCATION	38 days absence 152 DAYS OF EDUCATION	47 days absence 143 DAYS OF EDUCATION
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Good Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start		Worrying Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress		Serious Concern Not fair on your child. Court action!	

Class figures

RJ - 91.4%	3G - 94.8%	6T - 95.7%
RW - 93.8%	3GW - 94.5%	6C - 94.7%
1P - 93%	4M - 94.8%	
1H - 93.5%	4EM - 93.9%	
2S - 92.6%	5T - 95.1%	
2B - 94.2%	5F - 93.5%	

If your child's attendance drops below 85%. You should expect a visit from a member of the school's leadership team with work for your child to complete. We have unfortunately needed to do this quite recently. We have to refer any child with attendance below 85% to the Education Welfare Officer who will then provide support to improve attendance. Please contact the school for support before it gets to this stage.

Please compare your child's attendance to the average and look at the table above.