

news

April 2015 Issue 2

Welcome back

Well, it was certainly a
stunning start to Term 5!

We try to keep an element of surprise for the children to make the start of new topics really exciting and so hook them into their learning.

They arrived back to see their classrooms transformed – please pop in and have a look – there are some spectacular displays.

It was quite a sight on the first day to see pirates, wild animals and ancient Greeks arriving at school!

Thank you so much for the effort with costumes and support you give us in making learning irresistible for your children. I hope the photos will give you a flavour of just how magical the day was.

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School Clubs

We have really committed staff who offer their time to run many clubs but it is impossible to meet the demand for clubs across the school.

Naturally we jumped at the opportunity to offer another club when a parent in Year 1 offered to run a craft club for Year 1 children. I would like to thank Sarah Rooney and Val Hale for volunteering.

The club has been incredibly popular and a real success. Just look at the range of craft activities they did last term. We are incredibly grateful that Sarah is continuing with the club this term.

If you think you might be interested in running a club feel free to pop in and have a chat with us. We are happy to offer any support and advice to get you started.

PHOTO FRAME FRIDGE MAGNETS



MOTHERS DAY CARDS



KEYRINGS



FRIDGE MAGNETS



ROCKING BIRD CARDS



Amazing work



Thomas in Reception made a super diary of his Easter holiday. Full of writing, photos and collected memories.



Amazing writing from Henry in Reception. Such fantastic progress.



Elsie achieved 100% today on her AR book. She is rightly very proud.

Our devoted Year 4 Readers!

I had another surprise on day 1. Two pupils arrived at my office to tell me their class had to 66 Reading Raffle tickets between them during the holiday.

Class 4B have broken a school record with this! During the week very proud pupils have been giving me regular updates and so far in week 1 every child is reading every evening! We are all very proud of you 4B – Keep it up! The challenge is now open to the rest of the school – can you match that?



Maths Challenge

A cage contains birds and rabbits. There are 16 heads and 38 feet. How many birds are there in the cage?

Hand your entry in to Mrs Jones for a chance to win a maths prize!

LATEST SCHOOL NEWS

Assessment

We are always looking for ways to enhance and improve the information we share with you. One class in Year 4 has trialled a new system called 'Alfie Cloud'

It is an online assessment system based on the new National Curriculum which children can complete on the ipads or computers. This generates a very detailed report showing strengths and areas of development in reading and maths. We received such a positive response from parents and pupils that we have invested in it. Look out for workshop dates so you can find out more.

Parking Patrol

The school council were concerned about safety outside the school and have held assemblies and have been monitoring parking before school.

They have been surprised and disappointed to see parents park in the disabled bay without a badge and stop on double yellow lines to drop off. They want to ask all parents to put the safety of children outside the school first by following the Highway code.

New Reception children in September

Our eagerly awaited list of new pupils for September was announced last week.

We were oversubscribed and we are really sorry that we are not able to accept all our first choice places. We know there are many disappointed families which is such a shame. We have already had some great Twitter comments from our excited new families. We are looking forward to getting to know our new children before they start in September.

SUN HATS



With the sunny weather arriving please ensure your child has a hat to wear. It may not last for long but during term 5 and 6 please make sure your child has a hat in school. On hot sunny days we do not let children out without one.

SWIMMING UPDATE

What a perfect week to start swimming!

I had the pleasure of teaching part of 5B's first lesson and it just reminded me why we keep our pool going. They absolutely love it! It is such a special time of the year for them.

'We are lucky to have a swimming pool' 'it is fun' 'Thank you for keeping the pool open' are just some of the quotes from parents and children.

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £10 for the swimming sessions. Currently a very low number of families have contributed (only 40% so far!). Whilst some have contributed as much as £40! We are incredibly grateful but do not expect this. We appreciate any amount you are able to afford as it helps us keep our pool.

ANNUAL SWIMMING GALA

We are once again hiring the Sovereign Centre swimming pool for our gala giving our most able swimmers the chance to compete against each other. It is a great event and everyone is welcome to attend and cheer on our competitors.



Sports Star of the Term

Luke Jago has been chosen to be the next sports personality. This is what he says:

My Report

"I enjoy taking part in sport, I am lucky enough to have the opportunity to try different sports and have achieved some Man of the Match trophies in football, bronze, silver and gold medals and badges in swimming and have collected different running medals for various events from 1 mile to a 5K.

I love football and play for the school team and the Polegate Grasshoppers and I'm normally the goalkeeper and really enjoy it. My favourite player is goalkeeper, Peter Cech and the new goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois who both play for my favourite team Chelsea. I also do Karate and I'm currently a green strip belt and I swim at Smith's swimming club, my favourite stroke is breast stroke.



GREAT WRITING

Here are some excellent examples of writing.

By Sam Laycock

Dear diary,

I can not believe what has happened! I started the evening with such high spirits being surrounded by luxurious food and delicate wine. Then I spotted one of those despicable Montagues who had once again destroyed everything!

The anger had boiled onto my surface, how dare they trespass our privacy! All I wanted to do is change them on the spot, I was ready to go for them; however my uncle stood in my way! What's wrong with him? I went to lunge my way forward but my uncle forced me back surprised, and dropped me, he reminded me of the prince's orders; I was still outraged by what he had just done to me, I never knew that he would do that to me.

These Montague dogs will pay! How dare that foes come in here and be so impertinent to us, now it's my turn to show him who is the boss in this town. No one messes with me! How dare they humiliate me and dance in front of our faces, swipe the good from our guests and, most of all, pour our expensive wine down their backs. The Montagues are unforgotten until he realises that he dares not to mess with this family!

Tybolt

STAR WRITER

1 & 1.5

*Wow! You really do share Tybolt's arrogance and aggressive attitude towards the Montagues. I really like your short exclamations to express your anger. It is great to see you using 1.5 punctuation and deliberate vocabulary choices for effect.

By Iyca May

Dear diary,

I was having a wonderful evening with my friends and eating the delicious buffet. The party was amazing with my relatives and friends, especially Lord and Lady Capulet who were in fantastic costumes. I was standing next to Sampson and Gregory, but then I saw the sly Montagues! I felt livid. I found my uncle and asked him if he should sort the sneaky, sly Montagues out (especially Romeo). My very own uncle refused! So I lunged at Romeo, but my uncle pulled my arm and slapped me round the face. I felt shocked because I thought my uncle hated the Montagues. Romeo must pay the price for what he has done! I will have to be careful with my revenge and wait for the right moment. Then I will torcher Romeo and he will regret ever crossing me!

This will happen! ✓

Tybolt

STAR WRITER

1 & 1.5 - Please show Mrs M's O.O.

*What an impressive piece of independent

Our Charity Donation

Thank You!

To
Polegate School

For raising
£169.61

Date
March 2015

With best wishes from everyone at
Chestnut Tree House
www.chestnut-tree-house.org.uk

Chestnut Tree House
Children's Hospice

Mrs Martin-O'Donoghue
Polegate School
Oakleaf Drive
POLEGATE
East Sussex
BN26 6PT

26/03/2015

Ref: 39112

Dear Claire,

Thank you so much for your kind donation of £169.61 raised from collections at your Christmas productions. We are so grateful that you chose to support Chestnut Tree and please do pass my thanks to those involved, with a very special thanks to all the pupils at Polegate School.

Thanks to the generous support of people like you, we are able to provide hospice care for local children with life-shortening conditions, their siblings and families, giving them the chance to live life to the full - for as much time as they have together. Each year we need to strive harder in raising more money, as for every child we are currently caring for in East Sussex, there is another family waiting for our help.

In 2015 we are continuing to expand our team of Community Nurses in order to help more children in East Sussex who need our care. Our Community Nurses provide this care in the comfort of the child's own home, allowing parents and carers to take a well-earned break from the round-the-clock responsibilities of caring for a sick child. They also provide end of life care and our team of nurses will support the child and their family throughout this difficult time.

Save the date! Children's Hospice Week is the UK's awareness and fundraising week for children with life-shortening and life-threatening conditions and the services that support them. This year, it takes place from 11 - 17 May 2015. Please keep an eye on our website www.chestnut-tree-house.org.uk and social media for details of the exciting events and activities coming up and how you can get involved and help Chestnut Tree House.

Our care costs now total well over £3m per year and, as we reach out to more children, our costs will increase. The funding we receive from central government currently provides less than 8% of this so your support is very much appreciated. Together we can make every day count - the good days, the bad days and the last days.

Thank you once again for your kind donation and please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to arrange for us to come and speak to the staff, parents and pupils about the services of Chestnut Tree and how their support makes a real difference to local families.

Yours sincerely

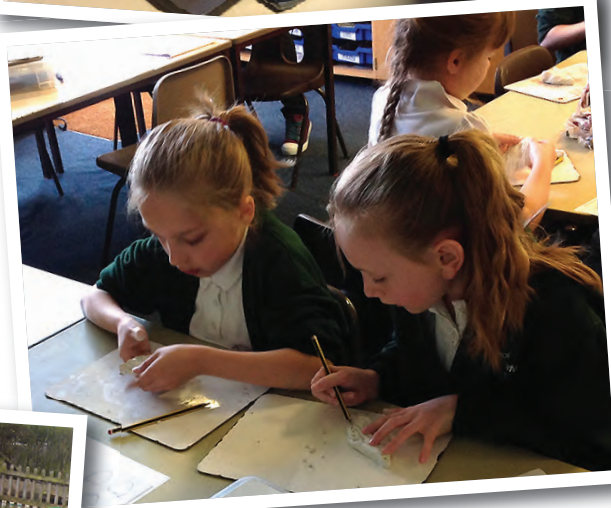
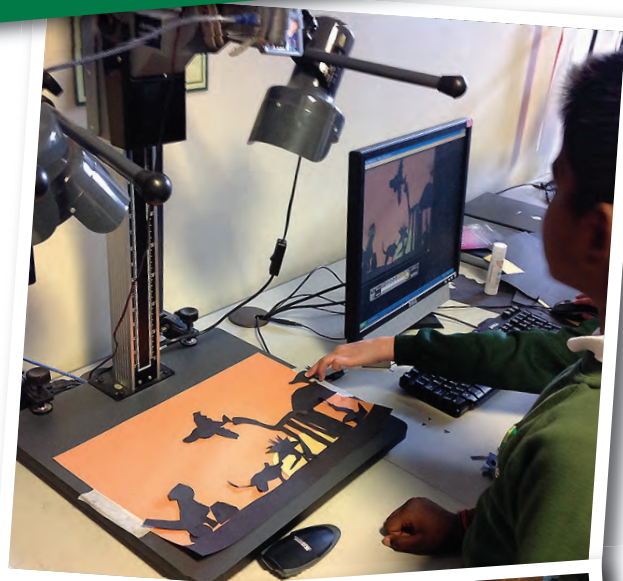
Charlie Weeks - Community Fundraiser
Tel 01323 725095 / Mob 0782798658
Email charlie.weeks@chestnut-tree-house.org.uk

NEW TOPICS

Year 4 - Africa

Year 4 have begun their journey into **Africa** by looking behind the scenes of the West End stage show **The Lion King**.

They researched the meanings of the character's names, started their own animations and created clay masks in an African style.



Year 3 - Litter Bugs

Year 3 have begun their **'Litter Bug'** topic- it's more than a lot of rubbish! They have been exploring the outside environment.



Reception - Under the Water



TOWNER ART GALLERY

Year 4's masterpiece did not look out of place at the Towner Art Gallery. If you have not had a chance to view it yet, you have until 31st May.

The children had to look at the built heritage of the South Downs and use this as inspiration to create a 3D piece of art. This is a very popular event with many schools taking part both primary and secondary. It is free to visit.



DIARY DATES

21st April 3pm French Trip meeting Year 6 parents

21st April Polegate School gymnastic group at Hailsham

22nd April – Year 4 to London Theatre Lion King

**22nd April
Year 1 to Drusillas**

**Week commencing
Monday 11th May Year 6
SATs week**

**Wednesday 29th April
Year 5 Hindleap Warren
residential trip**

**Year 6 French trip
2nd – 5th June**

**New parents meeting
Thursday 11th June 6pm**

**Tuesday 30th June –
Congress Show**

**Wednesday 1st July –
Inset Day**

**Thursday 2nd July –
Infant Sports Day**

**Tuesday 7th July -
Change over Day.
Children move to their
new classes for the day**

**Friday 10th July
Junior Sports Day**

**Friday 10th July –
Reception to Beach via
open top bus**

**Thursday 16th July –
Swimming Gala
Sovereign Centre
6.30 – 9.30pm**

**Wednesday 22nd July
Last day of term**

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%. Our school target this year of 97%.

RP = 95%	2R = 96%	5B = 97%
RH = 94%	3B = 96%	5C = 97%
1A = 91%	3P = 95%	6T = 95%
1J = 95%	4M = 96%	6M = 95%
2M = 96%	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

HOUSE POINTS

The winning house last Term was **HERCULES** who scored **647 Points** Well done!

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 **426 followers!**



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Polegate
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

Designed by ProWORX : www.proworx.co.uk