

Meet the Gritter



Our Infant children were invited to meet the Gritters on Wednesday at Polegate library and as you know we never like to turn down opportunities that come our way!

We learnt some fun facts about gritters, did you know?

- They use enough road salt for 800 million bags of chips!
- The spinner on the back which throws out the salt turns at the same speed as a CD
- They grit about 950 miles of road every time they go out - that's further than driving from London to Barcelona!

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"Thank you very much for sending wave after wave of enthusiastic, inquisitive and well behaved children to our 'Meet the Gritter' event at Polegate Library."

**Henry from the
East Sussex Library Service**



Brighton & Hove Albion

We were given the opportunity to watch a live football match at the Amex Stadium in Brighton to watch the B&HA v Doncaster game on Saturday.

The final score was 1:0 to the Seagulls!



Take Over Day award Winners

Each year we provide pupils with the opportunity to take on roles within the school.

Mrs Bedford is the member of staff responsible for making this happen and preparing tasks. Well, she did such a good job that we were awarded with £150 from East Sussex County Council.

We asked the children how they would like to spend this and they have asked for table tennis tables.

"The quality of the experience you gave to pupils is fantastic and it was great to read through the quotes from pupils. Please send my congratulations to all the children and staff involved. Thanks again for taking part. It really is a pleasure to read through what you did on Takeover Day."

East Sussex County Council

Playground Developments

We are investing heavily in the playground environment this year for the children. We have bought a wide range of toys and games for morning breaktimes for both key stage 1 and 2. Our prefects and buddies will manage these.

We are also providing the infants with an astro turf area to extend their playground and also provide an area for the picnic benches in the shade. The infant markings are all planned and ready to go; we are just waiting for dry weather!

The playground will be amazing: they will have roads, zebra crossings, traffic lights and shops. Of course no road system would be complete without a few cones and roadworks!

They will be immersed in their learning as well with phonics, number and opportunities to write. It is frustrating for us to wait but the children always have a wide range of toys, games, equipment and dressing up clothes available whenever they are out.

Chess is proving incredibly popular in KS2 so we are planning on additional chessboard markings for them.



Parents & Friends Association

The Playscheme is up and running again thanks to the determination shown by **Jemma Orange**. More details will follow but it will be during the week beginning 28th July. I know they would appreciate any offers of help no matter how small.

Like us on Facebook

The PFA have also set up a facebook page to keep you up to date on events so please join this group to find out more: **PolegatePrimarySchoolPFA**

Upcoming Events

26th & 27th March	Mother's day present room
25th April	Easter Egg Hunt - details to follow
13th May	Bike It Breakfast: early morning 8.15-8.45am. Limited numbers so first come, first served.
11th & 12th June	Father's day present room
21st June	Summer Fayre
26th June	Bike It Breakfast: early Morning 8.15-8.45am. Limited numbers so first come, first served.
28th Jul - 1 Aug	Playscheme week

Date of next meeting: Thursday 27th February 2014 at 7.15pm

Polegate School Choir perform at the O2



For the third year running our school choir performed at the O2. It is always a spectacular event and one the children love. The choir were superb and a delight to be with.

They had the opportunity to sing alongside Stacey Solomon and they sang their hearts out. I would like to thank the 'Polegate Parent fan club' at the O2.

We hope you could see us waving! It was great to have you there, thank you for supporting us.

Lifeguard Vacancy

Our pool will be opening in Term 5 and we are looking for a reliable person to work with a team of lifeguards on a casual basis at our swimming pool from April to July.

Hours negotiable. Full training will be given. Typical duties will include ensuring the safety of both swimmers and nonswimmers in and around the pool.

Please pop in to the office for more information.



Chinese New Year fun at the 3.20 Club

40 children joined the After School Club to enjoy an amazing banquet of Chinese food to celebrate the New Year.

There certainly wasn't a shortage of food! They had an amazing time and I enjoyed watching them attempt to use chopsticks!



NUT ALLERGY

We have several children in school who have nut allergies so we ask that no child has peanut/nut items in their packed lunches this includes peanut butter in sandwiches.



School Dinners

Please help the kitchen staff by giving your child's dinner money in a named purse or envelope.

The easiest and best way of paying for school dinners online at www.parentpay.co.uk.

If you are interested in paying this way Mrs Gillbanks in the office will issue you with an activation code.



School Uniform

A few reminders about our uniform policy.

We do ask that girls with long hair have this tied back in school. There are many reasons for this, you can guess the first one I am sure... to prevent the spread of head lice!

Also it prevents any distraction from learning in class and looks so much smarter.

We are very surprised at the moment by the number of girls with dyed hair. Our school handbook states:

'Tramlines and dyed hair are not permitted at school. Any hair accessories should be green, black or grey and not too decorative'

BOOTS

Boots are not part of school uniform. While they are fine for walking to and from school they are not allowed to be worn in school.

WANTED

We are in need of:

- girls socks & tights •
- boys socks •
- boys school trousers • (Infant sizes)

Please bring them in to the school office if you have any.

MATHS

Any help you can give at home in encouraging and supporting your child to learn their times tables is invaluable.

It is expected that by Year 4 they know all their tables. This skill underpins so many aspects in maths.

CLUBS

Construction club has now finished.

Running club will not be continuing during Term 4 - the weather is just too bad.

All other clubs will continue as normal.

STAFF

Una Holbrook our new SENCO has been with us a full term now and she has been incredibly busy getting to know the children across the school. I would like to thank those parents that attended the coffee morning our Inclusion Team hosted. Lots of really good ideas came from this.

We welcome back **Mrs Hadley** from her maternity leave. She is re-joining her old class but in Year 2.

Mrs Barnard is leaving to start her maternity and I will update you as soon as 'Little Barnard' arrives!

Mrs Geer our Teaching Assistant gave birth to twin girls Florence and Rubie.

Governor Vacancy

We are looking for more parent governors. If you are interested in finding out more please speak to me and I can tell you more about what the role involves.

Photo

'Pop in and Play' in reception. It was lovely to see so many parents in.



Sainsbury Active Kids

If you shop at Sainsbury's please collect the vouchers and pop them in to the box in the lobby by the school office. If anyone has any spare time to help us count the vouchers we would be really grateful!



Writing Update



Progress across the school in writing is very exciting at the moment. I was so impressed when I recently looked at books across the school and wanted to share this success with you especially as it is our whole school focus at the moment. This is a piece of work completed by one of our very talented Year 6 pupils.

- Date:** Monday 27th January 2014
- Learning Intention:** To be able to write a diary entry as Romeo after meeting Juliet at the masked ball.
- My Success criteria**
- Include Romeo's feelings
 - Write about each event in detail
 - To use a range of correctives (targets)

Dear Diary

To get over the sorrow of Rosaline, I decided to visit the masked ball at the Capalet household. The main hall was magnificent. I was taken aback at how easily I was able to slip into a place like this. Thousands upon thousands of people were squeezed into the massive room; through the small eye holes of my tin mask one person stood out to me. My heart soared so high I thought it might take wing. As I pushed through the masses of people, each one's mask more strange than the other. She was dancing with someone I recognised as the county Paris. She swooped and dived in an elegant dance. She was like an angel fallen from the heavens and covered in the sweetest sugar. Not even the greatest artist could capture all her beauty.

I moved behind a pillar and we locked eyes. I gazed into the pools of brown and black. I am hypnotised by her beauty. Unwillingly, my hand slips into hers and we slip away to a quiet corner. The sights and sounds of the party melt away into the background. We lean forward and kiss. Time seems to stop for a moment before we let go.

A woman runs up to her and, in a strong Italian accent informs her that she wishes to speak with her quietly. I watch them ascend the steps up to the balcony and like a shadow, I follow them. My eyes widen until they're as big as the moon and I let out a strangled gasp. She's Juliet, a Capulet.

The rest of the party lasted a fraction of a second. Before I knew, myself and some of my friends were sitting in the carriage waiting to leave. A mix of emotions and thoughts welled up inside me. I had to see her again! I flung the door open; within a minute I was running toward the Capulet house. The cries of my friends faded away into silence, as I, heart racing like mad vaulted the wall. I got stung several times by nettles, however, I didn't care. Sweat trickled down my forehead and soaked the ground.

I arrived in a courtyard underneath a balcony. I called Juliet's name softly. She emerged, beauty radiating from every inch of her body. She asked me "Romeo, Romeo, where art thou Romeo?"

After exchanging romantic comments we spoke of marriage. It was agreed that we would get married in secret tomorrow. But who would perform a marriage ceremony at such short notice.

By Max Clare 6C

WOW

"It shows excellent understanding of a demanding text and is a powerful piece of writing written with all the skill of a professional author!"

Max Clare, we are all looking forward to receiving a signed copy of your first book!"

Mrs Martin-O'Donoghue
Headteacher

Ofsted

Please could you take a moment to complete the Ofsted questionnaire.

There is a link from our website. Whilst we are not expecting Ofsted anytime soon it is a good way for us to collect your views.


Ofsted
raising standards
improving lives

Fridge

We have a 5ft Beko fridge (no ice box) in good working order that needs a new home. Please ask at the office if you are interested.

Breakfast Club

Mrs Cassell has decided the early mornings are just too much for her! The breakfast club was started in 2009.

Mrs Cassell played a key role in establishing a club that offered the children something special and reflected the school's values and ethos. She did a superb job and numbers have grown steadily over the years.

Mrs Cassell has made a really difficult decision to hand over her role to allow her to focus her energies on her role as a reception teaching assistant. I would like to thank Mrs Cassell for all her hard work and all the 7.30am starts (even in the snow!) She is handing over to Mrs Wilkinson, who has also worked at the Breakfast Club since it started.

I know Mrs Wilkinson has lots of exciting plans!

ILLNESS

If your child has a sickness or diarrhoea bug they should be kept off school for 48 hours.



My Special Letter

Portia wrote a letter to the queen asking her about her life and work and this is the reply she received.



LOST

LOST SCOOTER

A child in Year 2 has lost his JD Bug Scooter. It is black with white wheels.

Dates for your Diary

Test Dates

- Year 2 SATs will take place between **23rd April-23rd May**.
- Year 1 Phonic Tests take place during the week beginning the **16th June**.
- Year 6 SATs take place in the week beginning the **12th May**

It is vital children are in school during these weeks.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Wednesday 5th March 6.00-7.30pm • Thursday 6th March 3.30-6.00pm

Please book online via the school website or speak to Kerry in the office

Inset Days

Our next INSET days are on:

Friday 14th February • Monday 24th February • Friday 21st March

SPORTS EVENTS

Sponsored Sporting Event

We will be fundraising for Sport Relief on Thursday 20th March. Children will be taking part in sporting events, be challenged by sports quizzes and do something great for a great cause! **Further details will follow.**



Sports Day **Infants** - Thursday 10th July • **Juniors** - Friday 11th July

Sports Week Week commencing 7th July

Swimming Gala Tuesday 26th June at the Sovereign Centre.

Attendance

Days off school add up to lost learning

There are 175 non school days a year. That's 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments.

190 School Days a Year 190 days for your child's education 100%	10 days absence 180 days of education 95%	19 days absence 171 days of education 90%	29 days absence = 1 Term missed 161 days of education 85%	38 days absence 152 days of education 80%	47 days absence 143 days of education 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!	

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.

Our average last year was around 96%

97% is our target

Class figures

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

RJ = 95%	2B = 98%	5T = 96%
RP = 95%	3G = 98%	5B = 95%
1R = 96%	3K = 96%	6T = 96%
1A = 97%	4M = 96%	6C = 97%
2BW = 97%	4EM = 97%	



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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

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