

news

November 2018

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EXCITING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Even since the last newsletter just before the holiday so much has happened and so many exciting learning opportunities have been planned that I almost can't keep up!

This newsletter is simply bursting with the exciting learning opportunities that have been planned for your children to enjoy and I hope you enjoy reading about them all!

**Read
more
inside**

WELCOME

I am pleased to say that the building work is now well underway!

Apparently 900 tonnes of soil was removed from site during the recent holiday but it is still behind schedule and quite possibly will not be ready for the expected handover at Easter next year.

Summer Library Challenge

We have had a return visit from the very naughty Dennis the Menace and his friend the Cat in the Hat. This time I had to tell them they must behave and set a better example to our children. I am pleased to say they behaved themselves! They gave out the Summer Library Challenge to the children that completed the challenge during the 6 week holiday. Congratulations to all the children that took part.

It won't come as a surprise to you but this year we only had 49 children complete the challenge when in the recent years we have reached 200! I can confidently assume this is the result of closing Polegate library and this impact is very sad. I know how much you as parents support your

children at home with reading and so it is certainly not a lack of willingness on your part to read with your children but it is the inconvenience of travelling to another library that has impacted on these numbers.

Scarlett Isted was the lucky winner of the hamper full of jokes and tricks! I'm not quite so sure mum and dad would have been as pleased as she was! I have already heard that she has been busy making good use of these tricks!



Scarlett was the lucky winner of the hamper



ROMAN DAY

It may have been an exceptionally cold day but this did not stop the Romans invading Polegate in their Togas! It was worth it because our Year 4 Romans enjoyed a day full of activities that brought history to life!

Thank you parents for supporting this and providing such amazing costumes.



RAISING MONEY FOR CHARITY



Keira, Zac and Ady Boniface completed a walk around London raising awareness of and money for Alzheimers. They made a total of £500 which is very impressive!

DIARY DATES

Mon 5th & Wed 7th
November
Parent consultations - please
book if you haven't already

Friday 9th November
INSET day

12th -16th November
Anti bullying week
'Choose Respect'

School Open Day-
Prospective parent visits:
Thurs 8th Nov at 2pm
Wed 14th Nov at 10am
Tue 20th Nov at 5.30pm

Art Gallery - We will be
celebrating your children's art on:
Tue 27th Nov 3.30-4.30 and
then 5-7pm
Wed 28th Nov 8.30-9am

Fri 7th Dec at 2.40pm
Think Tank meeting

Reception nativity
11/12/13th December 10am

Friday 14th December
Christmas Fayre

Friday 14th December
Mufti Day

Tuesday 18th December
Reception Pop in and Play
between 2pm and 3pm

Wednesday 19th December
the eagerly awaited Staff
pantomime and no parents
are not allowed!

Wednesday 19th December
last day of term

Thursday 3rd January
INSET Day

Friday 4th January
INSET Day

Monday 7th January
Term starts

IT ALL WENT OFF WITH A BANG!

I would like to say a huge personal thank you to our marvellous PFA!

This year they were really brave and despite the many obstacles in their way involving building work they took the risk to go ahead!

I am so pleased their efforts were rewarded. It was a hugely successful event and actually many parents have told me they thought it was the best yet!

Thank you to the many families and staff that supported this event it was great to see you all there and chat to so many of you.

This event raised £2738.17!



Amazing Pumpkins



COMMENT FROM TWITTER:

'Fantastic evening at the fireworks. Well done and thank you PFA for all your hard work!'

SOME SPOOKY FUN!



Year 2 had a day full of mystery and creative magic.

The day was planned around spooky stories, pumpkins and film making. I shared their trailers on Twitter and joined them as they had hot chocolate and sat back to watch their own films!

The spooky theme continued to nursery this term with a fun dressing up day all based around the books they are reading- the much loved 'Room on the Broom'.

ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to class 3B who had the highest attendance for term 1 with an incredible 99.3%.

They have decided their reward is going to be a 'chocolate themed baking day', sounds good to me! Especially as I have been promised one!

Reminder: Any attendance above 97.5% will be entered into our prize draw at the end of the year to win a bicycle!

The whole school is currently at: 97%

RH = 96%	2A = 98%	4D = 97%
RHi = 98%	2H = 97%	5GD = 97%
RV = 97%	2M = 98%	5W = 95%
1Y = 97%	3B = 99%	6M = 96%
1B = 97%	3M = 96%	6R = 98%
1C = 96%	4B = 97%	

TEACHING SCHOOL

We are now a National Teaching School so behind the scenes lots of work has been going on to provide an offer to other schools.

We are delighted to be in a position to provide some very high quality training to schools within county and more detail about the work we will be doing as a Teaching School is available on the [school website](#).

In addition we have a number of trainee teachers in school for this year as part of this work.

We have Heidi Jabbari in 3M and Charly Dinnage in 1Y. If they haven't already then they will soon be introducing themselves to parents in these classes.



POLEGATE
TEACHING SCHOOL

LETTERS

Post box letter

Sometimes we get lovely surprises in the post and today one arrived!

Delivered to the post box in Southfields with no stamp but our kind postman delivered it directly to us!

A delightful card from Jessica, I think I know which Jessica!

Thank you, it made us all smile.



INTERIM REPORTS

You will remember that after some discussion we decided that there were an excessive amount of reports being sent home and that each one didn't give any additional information that you didn't already know.

The Think Tank felt that it was not necessary to receive a report every term about their child. We discussed this at length because I am really keen that you, as parents, receive as much information as possible about your children and their progress. The Think Tank reassured me that they felt well informed through parent consultations in Term 2 and the Interim Report only repeated what they found out in the meeting.

I also know that if we are concerned about a child we do not wait until it is time to send out an interim report to tell you this. So this term only your child completed the Interim Report themselves as they normally do and this is powerful

because it allows them to reflect on their learning and behaviour and take ownership of it.

You will however receive the very detailed Interim Report at the start of term 2 which indicates attainment.

We will review this and as you know are very happy to listen to your views on these changes.

Nationally there is a big agenda to reduce the workload of teachers and I fully support this. Teachers in school work exceptionally hard for your children. Often starting at 7.30am and staying well beyond the time children go home. I have a duty to make sure that the tasks they are carrying out are necessary and worthwhile. I am sure you will agree that the most important use of their time is planning exciting learning to ensure your children make accelerated progress so we have taken this step to ensure we facilitate this.

ACTIVE TRAVEL CHALLENGE!

STAFF AT POLEGATE ARE THE BEST TEAM IN THE ACTIVE TRAVEL CHALLENGE!

Dear Travel Champions,

I am pleased to announce that your workplace has won a charitable prize for coming first place in the 'best team' category. We will donate £50 to a registered charity of your choice. Please could you let me know what cause you would like this donated to asap so I can arrange payment.

Well done and keep up the good work. We hope to see you again next year!

Best wishes

Janie Burrage

Active Travel Officer, East Sussex Sustrans

There are some benefits to not having the carpark at school at the moment! All that cycling has been worthwhile, I may not have lost any weight but at least we have supported a good cause!

Staff are trying really hard to reduce the number of cars parked in our surrounding areas and lots of us are cycling when we can.

Table Size 51-100 Staff

1. Polegate School
2. Posturite
3. 15 Below
4. St Wilfrids Hospice
5. Optivo

Staff that took part in order of points scored:

Ruby Murphy - train

Claire Martin-O'Donoghue - cycle

Monika Bailey - cycle

Lorraine Wilkinson - cycle

Mike Clayton - cycle

Cathy Young - cycle

We have decided to donate our prize to a local charity: The Children With Cancer Fund.

STAFF NEWS

Staffing- there is lots to share!

Some super news - Mrs Giggs loves her class so much she has offered to remain full time for the rest of this academic year so the children have stability! I am personally over the moon because this consistency with a teacher they love is brilliant. Mrs Giggs has made me promise however that she can return to part time in September! This really reflects the incredible commitment of the teachers we have in school and on behalf of parents in 5D and myself I would like to say a HUGE thank you to Mrs Giggs.

In her own words, 'After an amazing 13 years' Mrs Burke has announced she is leaving after Christmas. Mrs Burke

has been on maternity leave for the last year and has decided she would like to spend more time with her family. She will re-join us very briefly for the last 8 days of this term. I would like to extend my thanks to Mrs Burke for being incredible during the 13 years she has worked at the school. She is an outstanding teacher and we will all miss her very much!

Mrs McGovern is thrilled that she can now remain with the year 1 class she adores! I think I can share with you that when she was offered the opportunity she became quite emotional in a good way! Once again this class will have stability for the remainder of the year and I would like to thank Mrs

McGovern for her commitment to the class and school.

Mrs Dedman has some very exciting news! She is having a baby and will be starting her maternity around Easter time next year. I am currently advertising for a year 4 teacher to cover this and will keep you updated.

Come and join our wonderful team!

We are looking for an After School Club Assistant from 3.30pm until 6pm to work in our highly successful fun 3.20 Club. Please contact the office for details.

Year 4 maternity cover from Term 4 end date is negotiable.

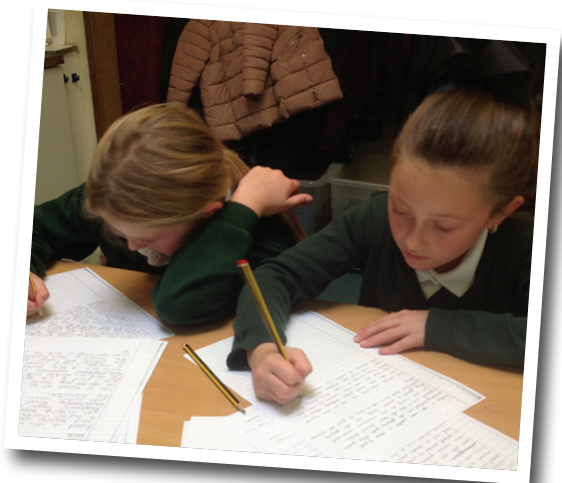
YEAR 3 & 4 ABLE WRITERS WORKSHOP

Maya Bruce was one of the pupils that attended and worked alongside the author, Matt Whyman.

Matt Whyman is a best-selling author who has written widely for all ages across a range of subjects - in fiction, advice and memoir. A graduate from the University of East Anglia's MA in Creative Writing, Matt is often invited to teach the subject for writers of all ages; hosting workshops across Russia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, as well as in schools throughout the UK. He has also

served on judging panels for the Costa Children's Book of the Year Award and the Booktrust Teenage Book Prize.

I had been promised that the workshops would be lots of fun as well as being very educational. Thankfully they didn't disappoint! Maya told me she 'had a lot of fun at Able Writers'. They worked Throughout the time they worked on various news reports as part of the 'Daily Gerbil' and this involved interviewing witnesses.

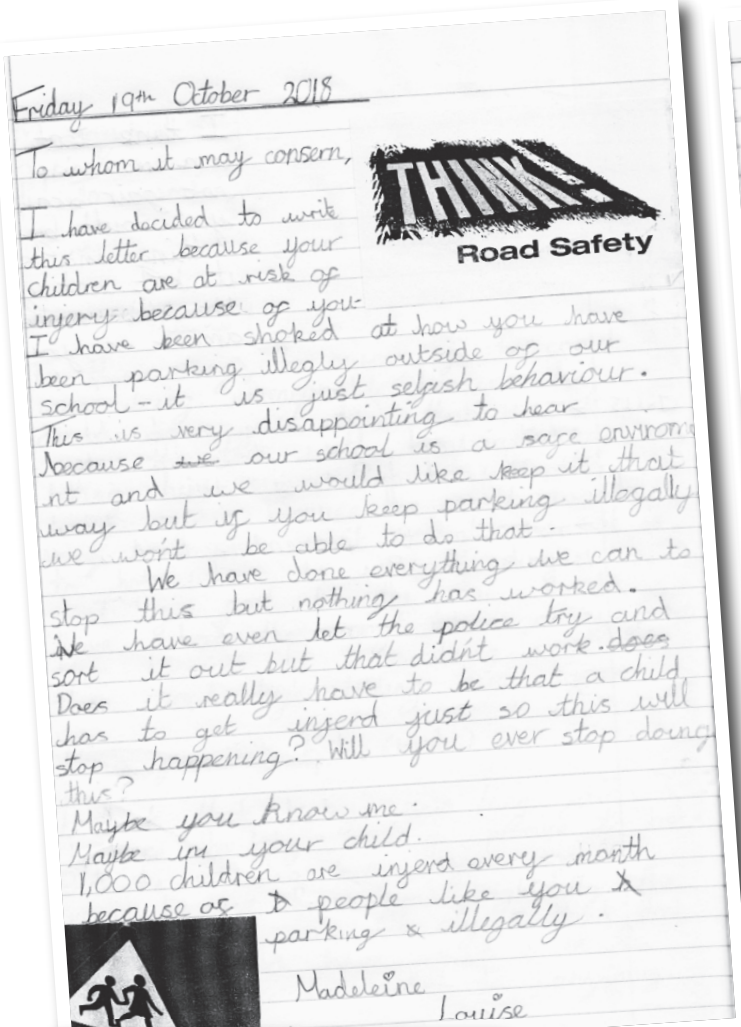


TRAFFIC

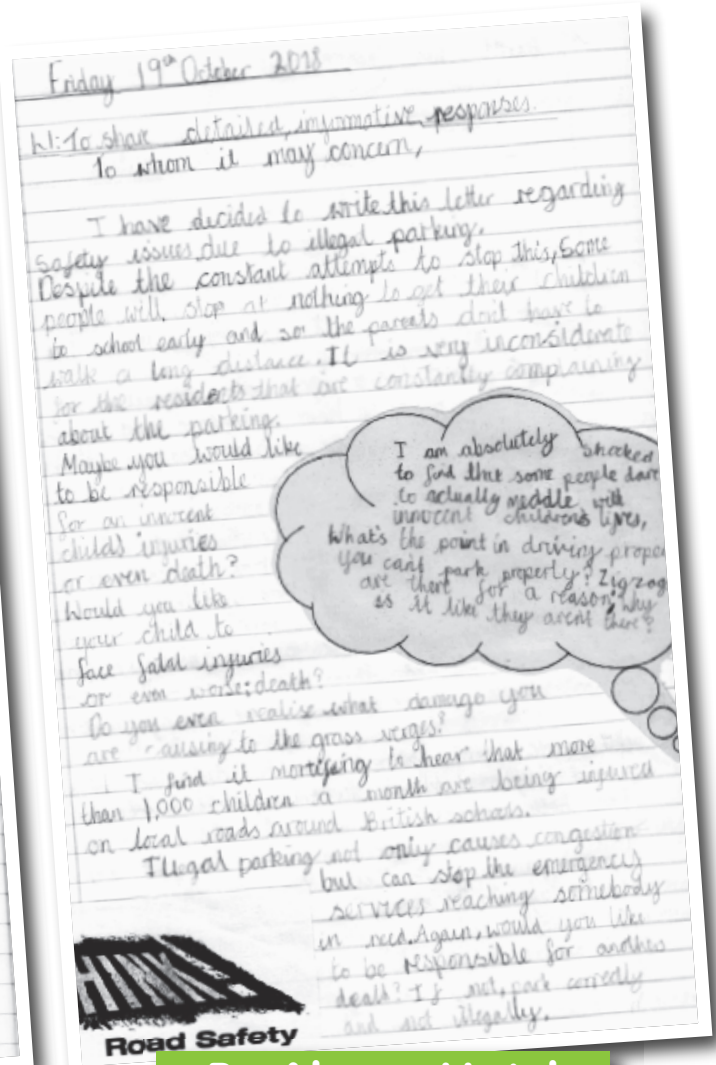
I will continue to share the thoughts of your children on the parking and traffic issues we face.

They feel very strongly about it. I think you will agree their words are quite powerful and I hope make parents stop and

think before they place children's lives in danger. This writing is from our Year 6 pupils. It also demonstrates the very high standards they reach in writing as they move through the school. Well done Year 6!



By Maddie Lucas



By Alyssa Hatch

PHOTOS REMINDER

I am more than happy for parents to take photos and film special occasions such as Star of the Week but please can I just remind everyone to make sure that if you are posting them on social media they do not have any other children or parents in the background.

Thank you.

Diary Date

**Friday 9th
November
INSET DAY**

EASTBOURNE COLLEGE

SWIMMING GALA

Our swimming team recently took part in the Eastbourne College Gala – experiencing for the first time their brand new state-of-the-art swimming pool.

Several schools from our area were competing – including St Bedes, St Andrews Prep school, Pevensey & Westham and Stafford.

Although we had some brilliant individual efforts, neither the girls team nor the boys team finished in the top three. However, after the placing medals had all been collected, the prestigious Head Teachers Award for the most improved team was announced. And guess what? Polegate girls won it! Here is a picture of them with their trophy which will be proudly displayed behind the office.

Well done to everyone that took part – Izzy Gunter, Daisy Lawrence, Jessica Wagstaff, Bethany Wood, Hollie Bibiloni, Alex Gunter, Alfie Hanmore, Ezra Hartland and Matthew Redstone.

Izzy Gunter has also just become our Sports Champion of the term which is well deserved!



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Good morning Polegate School,

My name is Mark Sowerby and I represent The Royal British Legion, Polegate as Vice-President.

This year 11th November falls on a Sunday, Remembrance Sunday, and The Legion will be marching (walking really) from Victoria Road to The War Memorial on Wannock Road. If any of the students/parents/teachers of Polegate want to join us they are welcome. I have clearance from the local council who will provide a police escort for road safety. Meet at British Legion before 10am.

If they would like to go directly to the memorial please arrive by 1030am. In the past we have had the head boy & girl of Polegate School lay a wreath on behalf of the youth of the town. We hope you will continue this tradition, especially as this is the 100th year since the end of WW1.



OUR YOUNG MUSICIANS

Gethin and Arianwen played trumpet and percussion in my Remembrance Concert last night, they raised £906.25 for The Royal British Legion.

48 musicians involved and 107 in the audience. Gethin opened the concert with Last Post & Reveille. I have been able to listen to this since and he played this challenging piece exceptionally well!

POLEGATE SCHOOL OUTDOOR CLASSROOM & LEARNING AREA PROJECT

The PFA have been very busy and applied for a grant to go towards the outdoor classroom and wildlife project. We need votes on the Aviva website in order to be awarded the funds so we need as many people as possible: friends, staff, relatives, neighbours, the community to vote online. Please spread the word. All you need to do is follow this link. It really takes less than a minute.

The Aviva Community Fund offers you the chance to get funding for causes important to your community.

Get enough votes from friends, family and supporters in your community and your project could make it to the Finals, where a judging panel will award the funds.

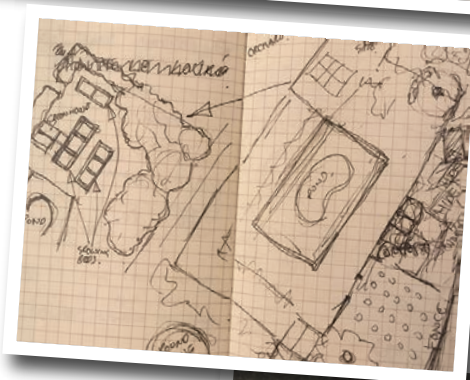
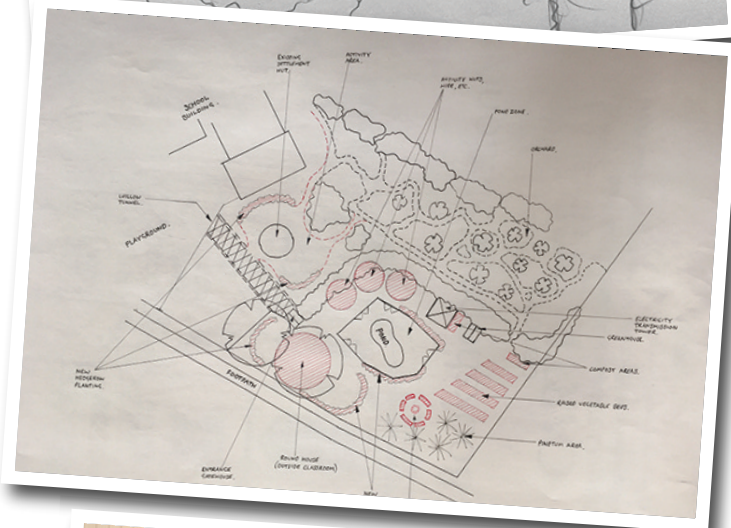
The Aviva Community Fund will finance over 500 projects across four different fund levels and three categories, giving money to communities across the UK.

<https://www.aviva.co.uk/services-and-support/more-from-aviva/aviva-community-fund/>

So far we have 878 votes but we need lots more! Every person gets 10 votes.

The project includes further development to the wildlife garden so that is more accessible to the children. It includes an outdoor classroom in the environment so that the space becomes even more flexible and practical. Plans have been drawn up but we are still in discussion about these so it is likely they will develop further.

We are also building an Anderson Shelter to bring history to life in this same area. We have secured funds for this and we have builders ready to go but this is on hold until they can gain access through the current building work!



Anderson Shelter

SCHOOL TRIPS & VISITS

Sadly we came very close to cancelling several recent school trips.

This was the Year 4 Lion King trip.

The efforts we made to ensure we explored every last option before cancelling took up a huge amount of our time unnecessarily and this was frustrating: calling parents; sending texts; writing letters and liaising with coach companies and the theatre itself. Please can I ask all parents to reply by the deadlines we set. As the school is growing, we now have over 700 pupils if you include nursery, it is unsustainable for us to keep issuing reminders as we have done or chasing parents up- it wastes a huge amount of time and generates lots of extra work.

As a result of the time it took to get a response from parents we then lost our original booking and had to start all over again with the coach company and theatre in order to get a new date!

Thankfully this means that the trip will go ahead and our incredible children do not miss out on such a marvellous opportunity so it was worth it in the end. There will come a time however when regrettably I have to make a decision without extending deadlines.

Many parents were so frustrated when we were close to cancelling and spoke to me and I share these frustrations completely. The common request is, 'Can't the trip go ahead without the children whose parents haven't paid?' The answer is, 'No' because we have to follow the **Department for Education policy May 2018 when organising school trips.**

I thought you might be interested to read the clear advice they give schools.

Voluntary contributions

Nothing in legislation prevents a school governing body or local authority from asking for voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or any school activities. However, if the activity cannot be funded without voluntary contributions, the governing body or head teacher should make this clear to parents at the outset. The governing body or head teacher must also make it clear to parents that there is no obligation to make any contribution.

It is important to note that no child should be excluded from an activity simply because his or her parents are unwilling or unable to pay. If insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a visit, or the school cannot fund it from some other source, then it must be cancelled. Schools must ensure that they make this clear to parents. If a parent is unwilling or unable to pay, their child must still be given an equal chance to go on the visit. Schools should make it clear to parents at the outset. what their policy for allocating places on school visits will be.

The school has sent letters out to parents asking for contributions towards a school visit, do parents have to pay?

A. Head teachers or governing bodies may ask parents for voluntary contributions towards the cost of:

- any activity which takes place during school hours;
- school equipment; and
- school funds generally.

Children of parents who are unable, or unwilling, to contribute may not be discriminated against. However, if insufficient voluntary contributions are received to cover the cost of the visit, or activity, and there is no alternative method to make up the shortfall, then the school should cancel the activity/visit.

It would be advisable to make parents aware of a possible cancellation to the activity/visit if insufficient voluntary contributions are received from the outset.



YEAR 5 VICTORIAN DAY

SPARE THE ROD AND SPOIL THE CHILD

Did you know this saying originated in Victorian times?

You might think it means that people didn't want to hit children and preferred to give them treats. However most adults of the time believed that a good whack with the rod (or cane) would help children become more resilient. If they didn't receive the rod (cane) as punishment then they would likely end up spoilt and rotten!

Thankfully Year 5 did not have to experience this!

Year 5 experienced a day that brought the customs and traditions of Victorian times to life. They did learn that Victorians were very fond of proverbs and that life was not easy for many people in this period.

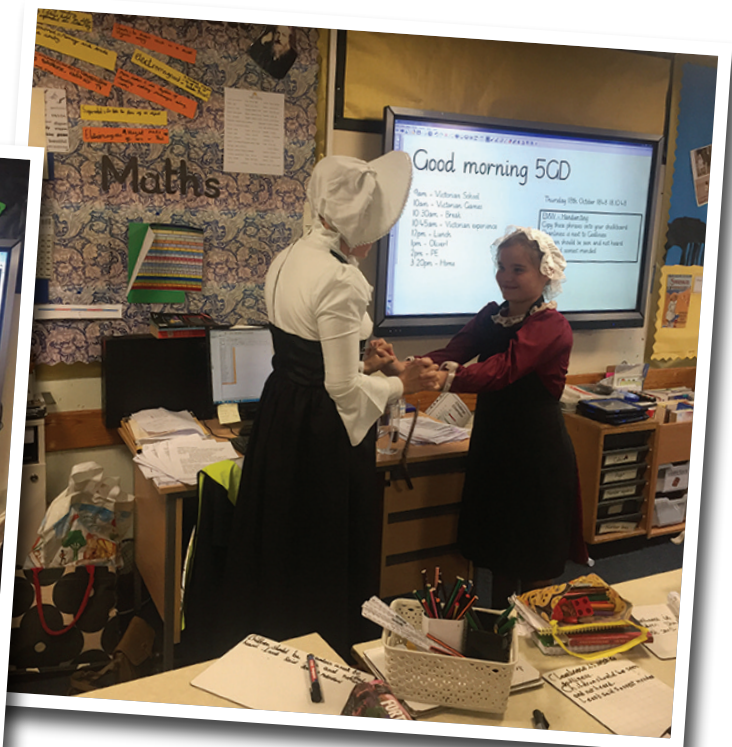
Victorians liked short and sharp moral lessons or wise observations that could be shared easily and drilled firmly into the minds of children. Common proverbs from the 19th century can tell us a lot about the ideas, beliefs and daily lives of those who professed them.

Another proverb from the Victorian times was children should be seen and not heard

But in 1850s classrooms, and many households, the opinions of children were not wanted and they were expected not to speak without being spoken to first.



The children have been taken back in time!



BLACK HISTORY

As you know as a school we have recently focused on Black History Month and this work inspired Shylah who then went home and wrote this poem. Her mum sent it through to me and I felt it was worth sharing with everyone.

I love black history month because I learn about everyone that fought for my rights.

The civil rights movement was a very important and difficult fight.

Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison,

Because he stood up for every black person,

It was a long battle but he won

And he said "it always seems impossible, until it's done".

Martin Luther King Jr had a dream, That we would all be judged by our character and not the colour of our skin.

He knew it doesn't matter what we look like, It matters what's within.

He also defended Rosa Parks, when she refused to give up her bus seat, For a white person, there's no way she'd be beat.

Although these people are important and I'm thankful for what they have done,

There are lots of people we don't talk about so I'd like to mention some.

There's Katherine Johnson, who works for NASA guiding rockets through the milky way,

And no I don't mean chocolate bars,

And Mae Jenison who flies those rockets through the beautiful stars.

There's Madan C. J Walker, the first black millionaire

And Oprah whinfrey, the first black, female billionaire!!

Black history has lots of stories to be told in sports.

Serena and Venus Williams slay the tennis courts.

Simone Biles is a gymnast who somersaults her way to gold,

And the fastest man alive you may know him? His name is Usain Bolt.

Pelè is known as the greatest footballer for scoring lots of goals,

Muhammad Ali and Nicola Adams hold all the boxing golds.

In music there are lots of black stars that are all very well known,

But did you know in the 50's there was a singer called Nina Simone,

Who had to fight for her own parents to be allowed to sit in the front row?

Josephine Baker was a Broadway star, but in world War 2 she was a spy!

And Stevie Wonder plays piano even though he's blind in both his eyes!

There are 2 strong black women who fill my heart with pride and inspiration, You all know Beyoncé! She's a massive pop sensation!

But I also love Misty Copeland who is a leading ballerina,

She's beautiful and talented and I wish that I could meet her.

She uses her success to encourage more black kids like me to dance

And when I see her centre stage I know I've got a chance.

It's a big world out there and lots of people are black,

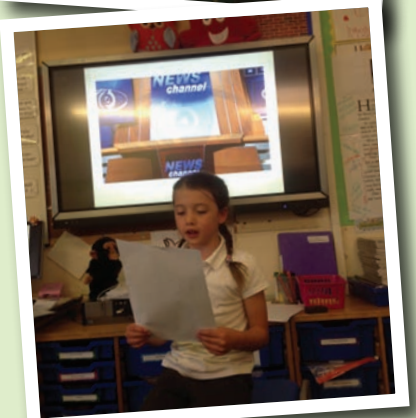
But the one I love the most... Is definitely my dad!!

By Shylah Samuel 3m

YOUNG NEWS REPORTERS

Some of our very talented year 6 were given the opportunity to work alongside John Young, a BBC news reporter at a recent workshop in Eastbourne where they gained an understanding of the work involved in media and reporting on events.

Watch out for these future news reporters!



SUPER SCIENCE!

We place great importance on the wider curriculum at Polegate and recently lots of exciting Science events have been taking place.

Year 1

Year 1 visited Herstmonceux Science Centre. I have been told they were exceptionally well behaved on their first school trip together. They had a wonderful day and made everyone very proud! The chaperones were also very impressed with our Year 1s!

Year 3

Had a brilliant day full of Science as part of their inventors topic. You will see from the photos themselves that they were fascinated and full of awe! The day got a big thumbs up from them all.



AUTHOR VISIT

We were very lucky to have a visit from David Fuller. He shared the inspiration behind his stories with children across the school.

I was so pleased to read on Twitter that it inspired our boys to switch off the Xbox and read!

'Mum he inspired me to read.'
Switched off the Xbox and grabbed a book.
Thank you.

Dylan (year 6)



CHARITY FUNDRAISING

Bethany Sharma and her cousin (Chloe) sadly lost their Grandad in a motorbike accident in the summer holidays.

During the October break they stood outside the local co-op for 8.5 hours raising money for the air ambulance who attended to their granddad. The air ambulance call out costs around £3700.

We thought what a lovely thing to do. Bethany's Father and I ran the Beachy Head 10k whilst the girls did Co-op and Morrison's bag packing.

Altogether they raised an amazing £557. In total we raised £1640.



Diary Date

**Friday 9th
November
INSET DAY**

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 921
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