

news

March 2023

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WORLD BOOK DAY

Wow, another incredible start to term! Thank you for your support with the incredible World Book Day costumes.

It was a real treat seeing the children arriving at school with huge smiles on their faces, even if their teachers looked a little scary!

I think these were the best ever and the effort you have gone to is so impressive.

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day celebrations started with an incredible assembly delivered by 4AD.

The children know that Friday is my favourite day of the week, not because it is close to the weekend but because we get to watch the children perform on stage. They always blow me away with their confidence and enjoyment.

The costumes as previously mentioned were stunning- The Gruffalo, Wednesday Addams, Miss Trunchbull..... I could go on. Wooden spoons were delivered to school in the droves. The outcome from the home challenge was very impressive. Miss Murphy and Miss Howland are working their way through the entries as I write this newsletter. The winning spoon will be announced soon

The children were introduced to the text It Might Be An Apple- all agreed that the text was, fun, engaging and entertaining-all in all a real hit!



RECEPTION'S FIRST SCHOOL WORLD BOOK DAY

Plenty of fun was had by all!



GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

Year 2 had fun learning about the Great Fire of London from a visiting theatre group.

To say the children have enjoyed this topic would be an understatement. The writing and work around the Great Fire of London has been incredibly impressive.



BOX TO BE FIT CLUB

After two weeks of training the Box to be Fit Sports Leaders have been helping Mrs Chadwick run the Box to Be Fit club this term.

They have been incredible helping and supporting the Year 1, 2 and 3 children who attend the club and have been designing different stations to run each week including trampolining activities, boxing skills, skipping activities and bench and ladder work.

We are looking to buy new t-shirts for our Sports Leaders this year. If there are any individuals/ businesses who might like to sponsor our new Sports Leader t-shirts please get in touch via the office, thank you.

If you child is in Year 5 and is interested in becoming a Sports Leader training will follow later in the academic year.



UNDERCOVER SPORTY STARS

This year, we are looking for children to become... SPORTY STARS!

As a sporty star we would love for you to share your talent (of your choice!) with our amazing in school. This sport could be anything, maybe swimming, football, climbing, gymnastics, dodgeball or any sport you can think

of. To become a sporty star, you would need to do something incredible in a sport either by being in a competition or winning a medal! So, get your sporty side on and show us you can shine! Tell Mrs Wallis about your talent and you could be chosen to be interviewed by a head of media to show your talent to the school/newspaper!



RECEPTION EQUIPMENT

Polite Reminder

The Early Years team plan and organise resources for rich learning experiences in the outdoor area. Learning from these resources is an important aspect of a child's development and progress. With this in mind can we ask that children do not play with the resources before the start of the school day.



DIARY DATES

10th March

1G Class Assembly

13th March 'Let's Dance' at Congress Theatre

13-14th March

Gifts for Loved Ones

17th March

3T Class Assembly

24th March

RH Class Assembly

31st March

3GJ Class Assembly

3-14th April Half term

Mon 17th April INSET Day

18th April 7 Term 5 Start

26-28th April

Year 5 Hindleap Warren Residential Trip

28th April

RG Class Assembly

5th May

King's Coronation Celebrations

9-12th May

KS2 Year 6 SATs

18th May

Class Photo Shoot

19th May

RB Class Assembly

22-26th May

Sports Week

25th May

Swimming Gala
Sovereign Swimming

29th May – 2nd June
Half Term

5th June Term 6 Start

7-9th June

Year 6 Residential Trip to Norfolk Lakes

ATTENDANCE

Our school Attendance Officer is Natalie Dicker

The legal duties placed on schools

All schools have a legal duty to monitor student attendance daily and to inform the local authority of any student who is regularly absent from school. They must also investigate any unexplained absences as part of their legal safeguarding duty.

Schools should Promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence ensure every learner has access to full-time education to which they are entitled, act early to address patterns of absence.

I want to explain the process we follow for all children whose attendance falls below 90%, this classes as persistent absence nationally and it is very rare for children to fall into this category without serious medical conditions which can be supported by medical evidence.

Here at Polegate, each term the Attendance Officer runs an attendance report for every pupil across the school - these are sent home so that parents/carers are aware what their child's attendance levels are.

We have a statutory obligation to then assess any child whose attendance falls below 90% and the reasons for absence. If we have not been provided with medical evidence to explain the absences, then we have a duty to inform individual families who will then be invited in for a meeting to discuss these. We need to ascertain if there are any underlying issues we are unaware of and to see how we can support attendance.

We know that there can be many reasons for low attendance, and these can be complex. When we know the reasons, we can work with families to put together an effective support plan.

Meetings are held at the School by Mrs Jones and the School Attendance Officer.

The outcome of these meetings will result in the following for a 10-week period:

In order to be approved any further absences MUST be supported by medical evidence – an appointment card/letter, a prescription. Without supporting evidence, the absence will be unauthorised.

If there are 10 sessions of unauthorised absences (5 school days) within this period, families will be referred to legal services with a potential penalty notice to be issued.

A penalty notice is a fine for parents or carers who don't ensure that their child goes to school. The fine is £120 per parent per child. If you pay within 21 days this is reduced to £60 per parent per child. We do not expect to get to this point with any of our families and the reason for meetings is to avoid this happening.

How you can help:

- If you have any difficulties getting your child to school, then please call us to discuss this. You do not need to wait until we invite you in for a meeting.
- Always provide a specific reason for absence – this helps accurate recording and avoids unnecessary phone calls home. Without this information any absence will be recorded as unauthorised. If you have medical evidence, please provide it. We keep it on file and it ensures we are fully up to date with your child's health- it may be we decide they require a health care plan.
- Please always report via the absence telephone line or by parent mail. Please avoid passing absence information on to a member of staff at the gate in the mornings as they have many other responsibilities and the message may not get passed on.

- Any medical appointments must be supported with evidence in order for these to be authorised – please bring these in to the front office.
- Please remember that the school are able to administer Calpol (with parental consent) and often this is enough to keep a child feeling well enough to be in school. If we are ever concerned about a child, we will always ring home.

It is also worth bearing in mind that if you have made the decision early morning to keep your child at home and by mid-morning they've made a miraculous recovery then please do bring them in – we would prefer a child comes in late than not at all!

Latest Attendance Figures

RB = 95.8%

RH = 95.4%

RG = 94.7%

1B = 95.1%

1G = 96.3%

1S = 95.9%

2C = 97.1%

2R = 96.3%

2S = 96.5%

3GJ = 95.8%

3L = 94.2%

3T = 94.6%

4AD = 97%

4H = 96.6%

4JD = 91.4%

5M = 95.9%

5K = 94.8%

5T = 95.6%

6M = 96.2%

6MU = 96%

6W = 95.5%

YEAR 5/6 HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

SAFFRONS 28TH FEBRUARY 2023



On a very cold and damp Tuesday afternoon at the end of February, our fabulous hockey squad took part in the annual inter-schools' hockey tournament at the Saffrons in Eastbourne.

With 16 teams taking part, we were split into two groups and each of our teams played 3 matches before a play-off game to determine placings in each group. The team consisting Tyler, Rufus, Dylan, Eloise, Ellen and Finley won their first two games against Ocklynge and Pevensy. In the 3rd game against Gildredge House, both teams were very evenly

matched until a single deciding goal from GH put us in the 3rd/4th play-off game against Heron Park which we won 3-0. On the other pitches, the Polegate team consisting Seb, Freddie, Isla, Iris, Vinny and Jade had 2 fantastic wins (one of them 6-0!) and a draw that put them in contention for top position in their group.

In their play-off game they drew 0-0 with Gildredge House, putting them in joint first place. That meant that overall we came 2nd to Gildredge House – but only just – and our players should all be very proud of themselves. I certainly am, along with Mr Moore and all the parents who came along to cheer us on!

FAIR TRADE

The children in year 5 have become inspired by their work around Fairtrade Fortnight.

As always the children shared their thoughts passionately on fairness and protecting our planet.



TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

Lots of brain power was required during the family technology challenge. Fun was had by one and all. Although I have to say the rebuilding of the computer looks very challenging!



MYHAPPY MIND

We have introduced a program to all year groups at school called myHappyMind. MyHappyMind is all based around helping children to understand how their brain works and to support them in developing positive skills and habits to be their very best selves!

myHappyMind is delivered in school through a series of interactive lessons and then the children apply these learnings throughout the day. To further embed this learning and ensure that you are able to engage in these topics with your child, myHappyMind has

developed a set of resources for parents. These resources can be accessed online on your computer, or through an app on your phone. The resources allow children to continue to practise some of the habits they have developed at school, such as happy breathing, for you to learn more about what they are learning in the program. Also included are activities for you to do together at home, to complement the in-school lessons.

To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email, and authentication code. Your authentication code is: **114435**

We really encourage you to make use of this free content so that you can support your child in getting the best out of the curriculum. If you have any questions about the curriculum, please contact your class teacher.

If you have any technical questions about accessing the resources, please contact hello@myhappymind.org



YOUNG VOICES

Miss Durbidge and Mrs Giggs supported our school choir on their annual Young Voices performance. The children performed in front of a huge audience alongside Heather Small. Congratulations to the Polegate School choir who performed brilliantly.



CHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO YOUR CHILD

We just wanted to let you know that due to the new GDPR regulations we will not be sending out data collection sheets any more. We do still need to know if there are any changes to information relating to your child.

Changes we need to know about are:

- Medical details (any new allergies, asthma etc)
- Change of address, telephone numbers or email address

Keep us informed

It will be up to you to keep us informed and you can do this by emailing the school office at:

office@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

with any changes or by completing the form which you can find on the download section on our website

www.polegateschool.co.uk

PARENT CONSULTATION

Thank you all for attending Parent Consultation Evenings. It has been great to see so many of you and hear such wonderful feedback at the end of a very long term. The comments and emails I have received really reflect the amazing teachers and support staff we have at the school.

So grateful for all your feedback!

BABY NEWS

More very exciting baby news!

Mrs Rawlinson in 2R is expecting her first child, she will be with us until the end of this academic year (great timing Mrs Rawlinson!!). We are all very excited to meet baby Rawlinson.

Diary Date

Monday
17th April
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
1,341 followers!



Polegate School
Oakleaf Drive
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

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