

news

January 2019



In This Issue

Stunning Starts	2
Amazing Display	3
Don't Dis My Disability	4
Diary Dates	4
Nursing Home Visits	5
Staff Panto	5
Attendance	6
Calendar Winners	7
School Photos	7
Staff News	8
Christmas Fair	8
E-Safety	9
Fabulous Finishes	10
Great Work	11

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope you have all had an enjoyable and restful Christmas– the children have returned to school refreshed and ready for this term's learning. They have been so enthusiastic and engaged!

Your children make my job so rewarding. I have had so many visitors to my office (It is only Tuesday!) sharing their love of reading- telling me all about the books they read over the holidays; this is all under their own initiative not directed by teachers and I have been so impressed with how much they managed to read during a very busy holiday!

**Read
more
inside**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In my assembly this week their maturity, confidence and compassion really shone through in their comments.

What a start to the term! Day one was fabulous across the school with so much going on. I hope the children have shared some of their special moments with you. I think the staff at school have really excelled themselves this term. The quality of displays and the environment they have created for the children is stunning! So imaginative and creative. I would like to thank them for their hard work. I have loved walking around the school admiring their classrooms. These are created during the holidays to make sure the children get a lovely surprise on the first day.

I know you all appreciate the hours teachers dedicate to their job and it does continue into the school holidays. The lengths that everyone goes to in order to make our displays capture the children's interests and inspire them is exceptional and always commented on by visitors to the school.

Please do come into school and take a look for yourselves, you would be most welcome!

Stunning Starts



From Tudor kings to India to surviving in the Stone Age our first day back was full of adventure!



AMAZING DISPLAYS



Don't DISmy ABILITY

We are really excited to offer a whole school focus for a week all about disability.

The aim is to teach our children about equality and respect whilst also showing our children that they can achieve anything. The aim is to make this event inspirational through looking at how disabilities and challenges have not prevented people from achieving their dreams. We want to encourage them to be aspirational and have belief in themselves. To recognise the achievements of others who may have greater barriers than they do.

The aim of Don't DIS my ABILITY week is to challenge perceptions surrounding disability. We will consider society's stereotypes around disability and celebrate difference.

We have a range of inspirational speakers and events planned for this week.

Enabled NOT disabled

We are delighted to be welcoming Ryan Raghoo to Polegate to join us for the week. Ryan is a young British man with cerebral palsy (CP) has made it his mission to change the way the world perceives people with disability.

Rather than seeing someone as 'disabled' because they can't do the things that other people can do, Ryan Raghoo is determined that we see them as 'enabled' which is exactly what we want our week to achieve.



Ryan is quoted as saying:

"It is my belief that as a society we should not be focusing on what people can't do but rather what they can do, spending more time to 'enable' people so they can achieve whatever they want to. This is not about sport, this is about giving people with disabilities, whether they be learning/mental or physical disabilities, the tools to go out and achieve anything and everything".

"Disability' is a very negative and limiting word, in my opinion. I think we need a positive, empowering approach."

DIARY DATES

Monday 14th January – Friday 18th January
Don't dis my ability week.

Monday 14th January
No pens day
back by popular demand!

Friday 25th January
BINGO night

Thursday 7th February
Think Tank meeting

Monday 11th February
Parent Consultations

Wednesday 13th February
Parent Consultations

Friday 15th February
Last day of term

Monday 25th February
First day of term

Monday 4th March
No Pens Day

Thursday 7th March
World Book Day
'Share a Story'

"There is no greater disability in society, than the inability to see a person as more."
Robert M. Hensel

WHOLE SCHOOL DEBATE

The whole school debate for this week is:
The term disability is offensive.
Do you agree or disagree?

Dilemma: Is it time to stop using the word "disability"? Rebecca Atkinson

The children will be engaging in research and consider this statement.

Please have conversations at home about this. What do you think?

NURSING HOME VISITS

Class visits to residential homes in Polegate

The children brought lots of joy to local residents at nursing homes in Polegate. I had some lovely comment from relatives about the Christmas cheer they brought.



CHARITY

We raised a fantastic £156.33 for the Young Minds charity biscuits which were sold just before the holiday.

THE STAFF PANTO!

A fabulous slightly under rehearsed finish unique to Polegate! The Wizard of Oz came to Polegate (written and performed by the children's teachers and TAs) on the children's last day of 2018. A one off performance the children really enjoyed! Oh yes they did!



ATTENDANCE

I know we are always striving to do better but occasionally it is good to reflect on how far we have come. Back in January 2014, at the same time of year, our whole school attendance was only 93.75%. It is staggering to think it could have been this low!

So far this year we are achieving our whole school target of 97.5% and we are seeing year on year improvements for all groups.

Thank you.

Groups	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Whole school	96.3%	96.5%	96.78%
Pupil Premium	93%	93.28%	94.38%
SEND	93.96%	95.12%	96.05%
LAC	94.12%	94.29%	96.84%
Below 90%	25	25	18

ATTENDANCE BY CLASS

RH = 94%	2A = 97%	4D = 98%
RHi = 96%	2H = 98%	5M = 97%
RV = 96%	2M = 98%	5G = 97%
1Y = 97%	3B = 97%	6M = 97%
1Mc = 96%	3M = 97%	6R = 99%
1C = 96%	4B = 98%	

The whole school is currently at: 96.9%

The class with the highest attendance last term was 6R and for their reward they will have a special session with our Paralympic athlete. Congratulations 6R - you achieved attendance of 97.9%.

I am incredibly concerned about the level of attendance in our youngest classes, especially RH. It doesn't matter what year group children are in being in school matters and when children miss learning it really does have an impact.

If your child's attendance is below 95% and not related to a serious medical condition or operation then it is worrying. I would really encourage you to talk to us because there may be ways we can help.

CALENDAR WINNERS

We were really pleased to be invited to take part in a calendar competition organised by 720 taxis.

Our talented artists were:

Alfie Adamson
Sydney Stewart
Natalie Bednarz
Joshua Lavender
Miley Dartnell
Alfie Hanmore
Gracie Ford

The won a voucher each, a copy of their framed artwork and a copy of the calendar to keep.



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Following Think Tank feedback we collected your thoughts on the school photos, below are the findings:

Style of photograph you would prefer.

37.2%

TRADITIONAL
STYLE

22.1%

MODERN

40.7%

DON'T MIND

Size of photograph,
either square or long?

Long - 23%

Square - 30%

Don't mind - 46%

Was the photograph too
close?

Yes - 23%

No - 41%

Don't mind - 35%

Would you like a white
Background colour?

Yes - 43%

No - 7%

Don't mind - 49.4%

The company are happy to change based on your preferences and so in the next photographs we will have a more traditional pose in a square frame with a white background. Lots of you didn't mind at all and were happy. You know we are always open to feedback but recognise it is impossible to please everyone.

STAFF NEWS

We are really pleased to announce we appointed a teacher at the end of last term to cover Mrs Dedman's imminent maternity - **Caroline Wheelhouse**



"I am very much looking forward to joining the Polegate family and getting to know 4D!"

I have been teaching ten years now, yet every day is still an adventure; you never stop learning and usually it is the children who enlighten me the most!

When I am off-duty I enjoy reading and going to the cinema. I try to learn at least one new skill each year, but the bucket list continues to grow longer!"

MR CLAYTON & MR TRENT

We are also welcoming back some familiar faces! Mr Trent has returned who, along with Mr Clayton is teaching in year 5. I told people are never allowed to leave Polegate School!

Diary Date

Friday 25th
February
**BINGO
NIGHT**

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The PFA raised £906.11 at the Christmas fayre. Thank you to everyone that supported the school by attending or selling raffle tickets.

We are raising funds to support a number of really exciting projects:

Modernising our library to make it a really inspiring space with additional storage for the books we love so much!

Turning the Hub into a children's kitchen so that we can develop a progressive programme of cookery throughout the school.

Developing the wildlife garden further and creating an outside classroom.



E-SAFETY UPDATE

E-safety - Recent statistics released by Ofcom revealed that over 50% of children aged 3-4 go online for nearly 8 hours a week, and 1 in 5 children aged 3-4 have their own tablet.

How young is too young to start engaging with my child about online safety?

It's never too early to start taking action to keep your child safe online. As soon as your child starts talking about or exploring the online world, you should initiate conversations with them about their online activities and begin to put support in place. Research has found that children form 'digital habits' during early development (such as using devices after bedtime), and so it is important for parents and carers to support children to develop positive – and lasting – digital habits from an early age.

What can I do to support my under 5?

There are a number of things you can do to further support your under 5 as they begin to navigate the digital world. This is not an exhaustive list, but a range of strategies which you can use to help improve your child's online experience:

- **Explore together:** As a parent or carer, you will be aware of what your child does on a tablet; but as well as being aware, explore their favourite apps and websites with them. This can be a fantastic way to find out what your child enjoys doing online, as well as having fun and learning together.
- **Talk to your child about their online experiences:** Start and continue regular conversations with your

under 5 about what they enjoy doing online, opening a dialogue about their internet use as well as introducing online safety messages. The earlier these conversations start, the better – introducing a culture of talking openly about the online world. These conversations can be a great way to reinforce messages that if your child sees anything online which makes them feel worried or sad, they can tell you or another adult they trust and they can help.

- **Supervise your under 5 while they're online:** Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an appropriate adult is able to supervise. Children under 5 should not access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in their bedroom or bathroom.
- **Parental controls:** Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet enabled device in your home (including the 'Internet of Things', such as smart speakers and toys which connect to the internet). You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website, or by viewing advice/step-by-step guides available on the internet matters site. If you need any help setting up parental controls, you can also call up the NSPCC/O2 Helpline or visit an O2 store (you do not have to be an O2 customer to access this support).

- **SafeSearch:** The use of 'SafeSearch' is highly recommended for use with young children. Most web search engines such as Google and Bing will have a 'SafeSearch' function, which will allow you to limit the content your child is exposed to whilst online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, which is often shaped like a small cog. It is important to understand that no 'SafeSearch' function is 100% effective, and this cannot be used alone to protect your child from being exposed to harmful and inappropriate content. Remember: nothing is more valuable than open and frequent conversations with your child about their online activities.
- **Set boundaries:** As a family you can agree a set of rules, such as locations in the house where devices can be used, times of day your child can use devices, or which age appropriate apps or websites they can access (ones that don't allow them to talk to people they don't know online). On devices you do not wish your under 5 to access, use passwords and keep these devices out of reach of your child.
- **Lead by example:** Modelling the digital habits you expect from your child (for example, no tablets during meal-times) can be a really effective way of supporting young children to develop their own positive digital behaviours from an early age.

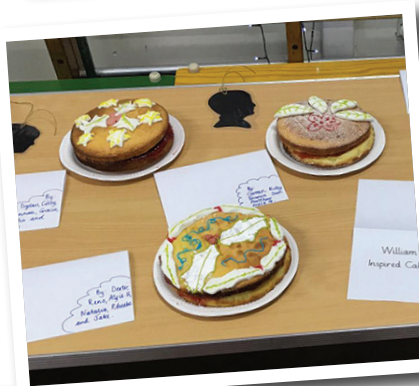
This is a brilliant website with lots of support for parents:
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/keeping-your-under-five-safe-online>

FABULOUS FINISHES

YEAR 5

Year 5 hosted a very special Victorian Christmas celebration.

They designed and made decorations, baked stunning cakes, designed artwork and entertained their audience in the final week of term! Thank you for everyone that came along to support and celebrate the end of their topic with them.



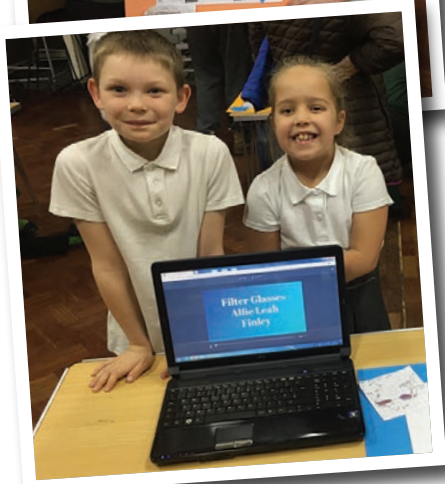
I think you will see we work the children right up to the very last second at Polegate School.

There is no 'lost learning' time here!

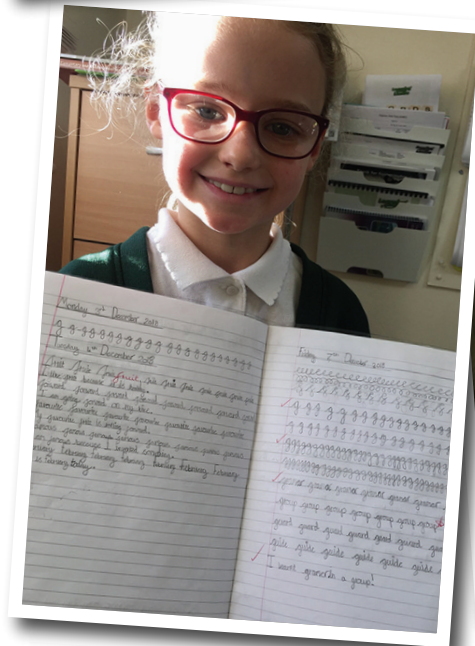
YEAR 3

Meanwhile our Year 3 inventors showcased their marvellous new inventions!

They were so innovative and passionate about their designs as they pitched them to potential investors- otherwise known as parents!



GREAT WORK



Isabella has visited to show her beautiful handwriting!



How incredible 22 books read over the Christmas holidays! What an amazing effort!

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 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.uk

Diary Date

Friday 15th
February
**LAST DAY
OF TERM**

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
941 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