

news

December 2016



In This Issue

Learning without limits	2
Reception Nativity	2
Parking	3
April Horscraft	3
Fundraising	3
Diary Dates	4
Think Tank	4
Great Work	4
Brilliant Club	5
Year 6 London Trip	5
Takeover Day	6
Sports News	7
New parent visits	7
Attendance	8

MERRY CHRISTMAS

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I can't quite believe this is the final newsletter of 2016!

Another very busy term with our reception and nursery nativity performances, sporting events, parent consultation evenings and so much more.

Although it is nearly time for the holiday we can't quite rest yet... We are looking forward to our final week which ends with our traditional staff panto! We cannot disclose which one yet, it is always a closely guarded secret and funny for all the wrong reasons!

I really hope you have a wonderful holiday, enjoy every second and I look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year!



LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS

As you know our vision of learning without limits extends to our whole school community and staff included.

We embrace training opportunities and always look to develop our skills and expertise. I have also had the chance to continue my own learning with the opportunity to work alongside HMI (Her Majesties Inspectorate) I have been invited to take part in a pilot project which is quite intensive and has meant I have missed some of the Christmas festivities taking place this week! I hate not being in school but this is an invaluable opportunity to look beyond our own school and see excellent practice around the country which will help us to continue to push the school forwards. Some of this work continues in the New Year and so if I am not in school you know where I am!

We have also been busy supporting other local schools with their curriculum development and teaching and learning approaches. It is a credit to the teachers we have in school that we are asked to carry out this work.



RECEPTION NATIVITY

The children in our reception classes did us proud with a wonderful nativity show.

They are such stars already and it doesn't seem possible that they only started school in September. All 90 children have settled in so well and I never fail to be impressed when I go down to reception and see them working so hard.

In addition I was also able to enjoy a nursery show which was really special. It is such a privilege now that we have the opportunity to get to know the children so well before they even join reception. It is hard to believe that the nursery has been open a year now and under the teams wonderful committed approach it has gone from strength to strength.



PARKING

Further to the excellent appeal published previously in your school newsletter, I am emailing to ask if you could please once again remind parents of children attending Polegate School that Polegate Library car park is for library users only.

We ask this for two reasons:

Firstly, it is often impossible for library users to park between around 14:45 and 15:40, and with many of them elderly or disabled it is therefore not possible for them to use the library.

The disabled parking spaces are filled daily by parents of children from the school who refuse to move when requested to do so.

Secondly, the sheer volume of cars and lack of common sense relating to how and where they are parked is creating a dangerous environment - including for the children who are being picked up there. On more than one occasion it has also caused a library user who has been able to park to become blocked in, in one case for over half an hour.

Whilst I know that many of the parents who continue to park in the library car park already know they should not and continue regardless, I am hoping that another appeal from the school may change the minds of a few of the more community minded ones and therefore at least slightly address this issue.

Many thanks in advance for your help in this matter.

Kind regards, Peter Gurr
Library Manager



The magic of books!
Callie's beautiful book art

THE UK'S CHAMPION CHILD GIFT WRAPPER



The UK's Champion Child Gift Wrapper 2016 is nine year old April Horscraft from 5R.

April won us over with her indomitable style, creativity and cheeky smile, and we think her finished present (complete with sparkly wand!!!) looks wonderful! Watch April's audition video here to be won over by her infectious enthusiasm (and keep an eye out for a special guest appearance from Alvin the dog):

As their Champion Child Gift Wrapper 2016, April has starred in her very own gift wrap videos showing us how to wrap Benji – the Save the Children charity teddy bear – a large book and a

Christmas jumper (coming soon!) for Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day. With some handy tricks for neat edges and beautiful decoration up her sleeve, April has inspired us to wrap the most spectacularly Christmassy presents this December. Watch her full videos below to find out her hints and tips for beautifully wrapped presents.

<https://blog.whsmith.co.uk/the-uks-champion-child-gift-wrapper-2016/>

April, as you are such an expert we will all be bringing our presents to you!

FUNDRAISING

Emily Lester Murphy wanted to raise fund for EPILEPSY LIFESTYLE, a local charity providing valuable monitoring equipment for people with epilepsy.

A group of children from Polegate School with Emily (Scarlett Lester Murphy, Summer Collop, Freddy and Rose Scoble, Owen Groombridge, Dylan Nye, Troy Long took part in a 'Fox Trot around the block'. Emily also

wanted to hold a coffee morning which was also very successful raising a total of £225.20.

We are very proud of the children for showing such determination and contributing to such a good cause.



DIARY DATES

CHRISTMAS SHOWS

Thur 15th December 3.30-5pm
Year 4 Christmas event

Fri 16th December – pm
Year 1 & 2 Christmas party

Mon 19th December – pm
Reception Christmas party

Tue 20th December – pm
Junior Christmas party

Wed 21st December
INSET DAY - CLOSED

Tue 3rd January
INSET DAY - CLOSED

Thursday 26th January
Family Science Challenge in
school hall at 3.30pm

Thursday 9th February
Our Wonderful Work and last
day of term 3

INSET DAY - CLOSED

Monday 20th February
First day of term 4

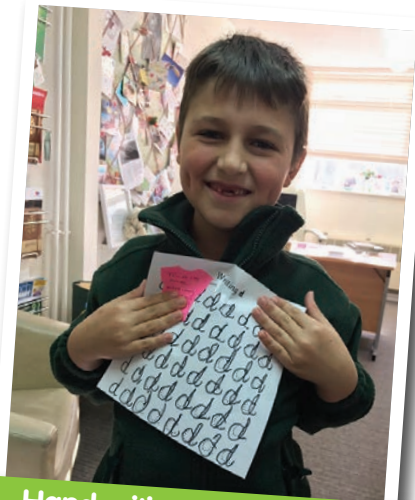
THINK TANK

We welcome 2 new members to our Parent Think Tank from reception.

We felt that as we now have 90 children in reception we should accommodate extra representation from parents in that year group. The Think Tank's aim is to represent the diversity of our parents so we get different viewpoints and for that reason we are very pleased to welcome our first dad! He is very brave!

Your new representatives are Neil Martin & Nikki Danika Pain

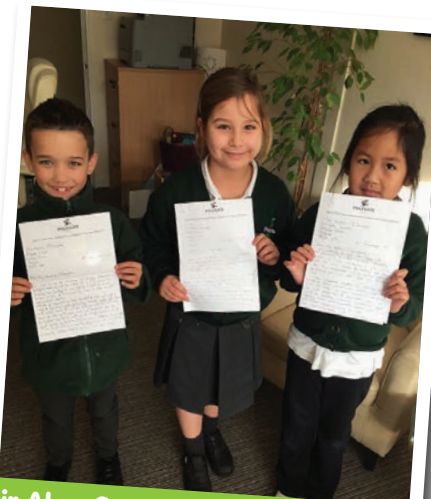
GREAT WORK



Handwriting practice is so important. Great job Finlay.



I know every planet in the solar system. Wow indeed!



Sir Alan Sugar may have met his match with these 3 young entrepreneurs!



Well done Joe for becoming a runner up in the Maria Caulfield MP Christmas card competition.

COMMENT FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

We were visited by a school nurse the other day to do administer the flu vaccinations.

She came in to the office at the end of the morning to say how lovely our school was. She was so impressed with our children and said how polite they were.

She felt very welcome and just felt she had to tell us!

Always nice to hear such lovely comments and a wonderful reflection of the great children you send to Polegate!

THE BRILLIANT CLUB

Some of our pupils in year 6 are currently involved in a brand new project for us. This really exciting initiative means that we are working with highly selective universities as part of what is called 'the Brilliant Club'.

The pupils are now involved in small group tutorials delivered by a Phd tutor. The tutorials emulate university style learning. The aim is the pupils then have the ambition to apply to a top university.

It all started this term with a visit to Southampton University. During the launch trip the children experienced lectures, tutorials and had a tour of the university campus.

The children will all face a significant academic challenge when they complete a final assignment. These are sent in to be graded in the same way a degree would be and it even ends with a graduation ceremony at another university.

The lecturers that worked with our children were stunned at their confidence. They were by far the youngest there working alongside secondary pupils from schools across the county. University style learning relies heavily on the skills of debate and it just proved the value of the work we are doing with all our children on debate. When the group was asked to explain what rebuttal was the lecturers were all amazed when Layla Higgs confidently gave a precise definition!

"What I enjoyed yesterday at the university in Southampton was the tour around the campus. The ambassador that took us around was really nice. She gave us quite a lot of information about the university - it was like a big town!

Quite a lot of things surprised me when I went, there were loads of shops - they had restaurants, café's and even shops that you would find in Eastbourne. When we took a look around there was a block for each subject. I thought there would only be a couple of buildings.

I love going it was terrific. We met our tutor, Emily Magrath, and we did a lesson with her. We also did another lesson when we got there and that was about arguments. It was great. I would choose Southampton university as one of my choices if I do go.

What did disappoint me was that on the way back it took us three hours. Apart from that everything was brilliant"

by Tillymay Goldsmith

We hope this is successful and that we can continue to offer this experience to pupils at Polegate each year. It has inspired some of our pupils to begin thinking about which university they would like to go to and what they need to do to get in.

YEAR 6 VISIT TO LONDON

Year 6 enjoyed a fabulous day in London to consolidate all they have learnt about World war I and II. As always their behaviour was exemplary and all thoroughly enjoyed the day.



TAKE OVER DAY

A phenomenal success - I think I could easily be out of a job!

Our heads and deputies did a terrific job leading the school and having to try to tackle the many and varied tasks that can crop up during a day! I was quite mean and I did try and give them a real flavour of the role.

A comment from one of the children that took part:

'I really enjoyed Take Over day as it really showed how hard people (staff) work to make our lessons enjoyable and keep our school a safe and healthy place. I feel like it showed me and my team that school isn't only hard for children, it is hard for adults too!'

I think this comment serves to show how mature and reflective our year 6 pupils are this year. They did a stunning job in all the roles they were allocated. Positions ranged from Headteacher, deputy, secretary, ICT support and teachers to name just a few.

It provides the pupils with a really valuable insight into life behind the scenes at school. It also allows them to see the relevance of their learning in real life and how they may apply the skills learnt.

A few words from Clare Marsh who organised the day:

It was all change in school on Friday 18th November! From 8:45am to 15:20pm year 6 took full control of the whole school and what a successful team they were! Every child took part in the experience from writing out their applications to participating in training sessions and then finally being thrown into the day to day routines, rewards and stresses of working life! They were a fantastic team and every member of staff were very impressed with the enthusiasm and maturity they gave to the day. Well done year 6!



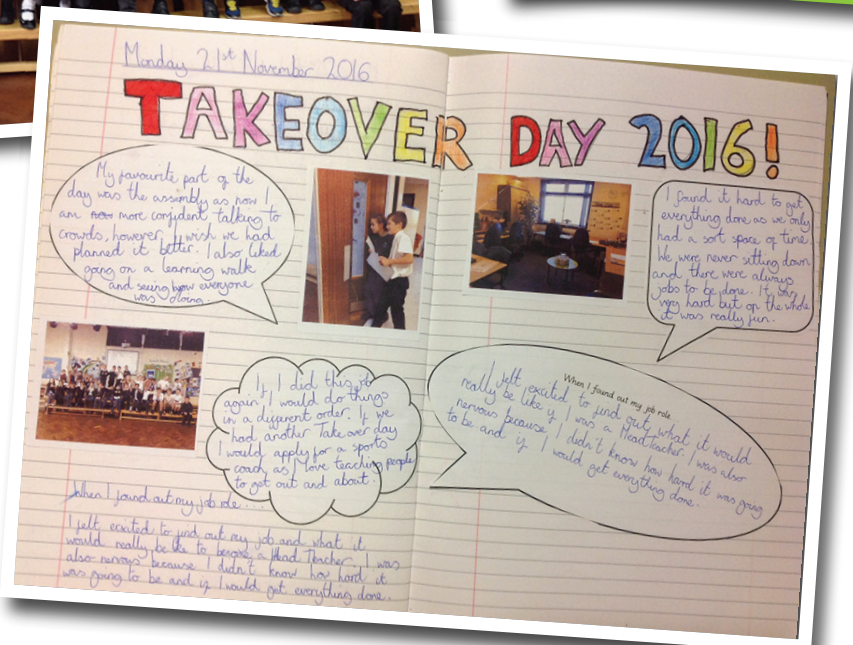
Our Assembly



Our Caretakers



Our sports coaches



SPORTS NEWS

Our cross country runners excelled! The course was a gruelling mile and a half.

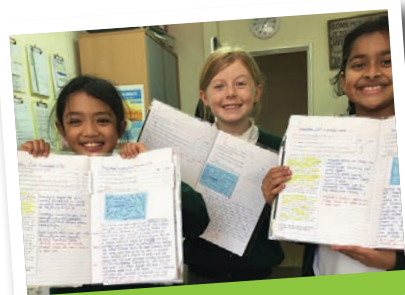
Out of 96 boys running from all schools Joshua Akehurst came 5th and Leo Groombridge came 8th so they will now be competing in the county finals. All runners finished the course and out of our girls Annabelle and Sasha crossed the finishing line first.



The Girls Team



The Boys Team



Girl power! These 3 have impressed me with their stunning writing!



Brilliant homework from year 4!



2M came to show us their stunning puppets.

NEW PARENT VISITS

We hosted our information sessions for potential new parents this term over three weeks and were incredibly busy!

As usual our year 6 prefects took parents on a tour of the school and once again they were very impressive!

So impressive we had a number of emails from the parents looking around.

"We have just been on the tour and I would like to say the three children who took us round were fantastic and a great credit to your school. We have been and seen a few schools and the children from Polegate are by far the best and most confident."

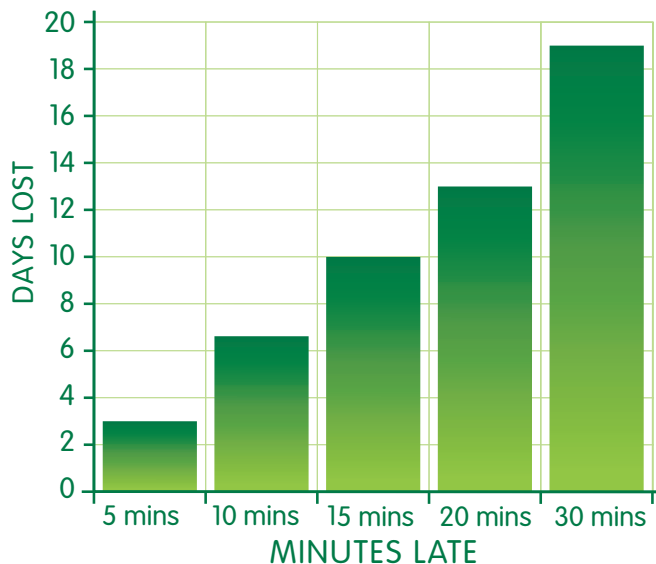
"I just wanted to message to say thank you to Owen and Riley for our school tour yesterday. They both seemed like lovely boys and were full of enthusiasm and were very informative and positive about the school."

I would personally like to thank our heads and deputies for opening the session with a speech they wrote themselves. A daunting prospect but as we expected they excelled.

Every School Day Counts

Being Late adds up to a loss of learning

- If you are 5 minutes late every day that adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- 15 minutes late is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.



Class figures

Overall school attendance is currently at 96.1%.
Our school target this year is 97%.

RH = 95%	2B = 95%	4EM = 95%
RP = 98%	2M = 96%	5R = 98%
RJ = 94%	3W = 95%	5GK = 97%
1A = 97%	3B = 97%	6O = 96%
1N = 96%	4M = 98%	6M = 95%

- Being late every day can add up to a lot of lost learning time
- Please help your child to be punctual

If you are worried about your child's attendance please talk to us at school about it or speak to: **Education Support Behaviour & Attendance Service** on **01273 481967**

97% is our target

Diary Dates

**Tuesday
20th DECEMBER
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 709
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

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