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THE NEW NORMAL

Over ten weeks in and I still haven't got used to this 'new normal'.

Where ever possible I am clinging on to a sense of normality which is why I have continued to write the newsletters at the beginning and end of each term.

I think it is really important for us all to maintain that routine and hold on to the fact that even though we are not together we are still a community.

This has tested us all but I believe we will come through this stronger!

I am so proud of your children who are engaging so well. The survey showed that 91% of them were continuing with school learning and this is so impressive! You are providing wonderful opportunities for your children at home. As families I think we have all enjoyed the opportunity to spend time together.

VIRTUAL SPORTS WEEK

This week saw the launch of our virtual sports week and it certainly looks as if you have had lots of fun and been incredibly active.

I would like to thank Mrs Murphy for organising this. Sports Week is a highlight of the year for us, especially the swimming gala which would have taken place last night at the Sovereign Centre. Sorry Ezra-I am quite sure you would have come away with more medals to add to your collection.



Sydney & Reggie running their mile



Grace did a lovely 4km ride/walk



Lilie & Drew dressed in their team colours



Joshua doing the long jump





Leo's enjoying sports week



Mason doing mountain climbers

NATIONAL THANK A TEACHER DAY

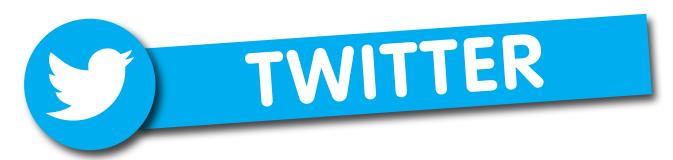
Yesterday was National Thank a Teacher day and so I would like to thank each of you, as parents. You have stepped up into the role of a teacher. I have to say it is harder teaching your own!

A job you possibly never thought you would have! I know you have done it brilliantly so a BIG thank you from each of us at Polegate. In fact, you have done so well, you can take a week off!

This is the final day of term 5 and next week is a holiday so no work will be set by teachers. On Friday 29th May teachers will again email out work for term 6.

Have a super, restful and relaxing weeksee you in term 6!





Please follow us on Twitter @polegateschool as I am adding the 'Whole School Visit' to this.

Share your funny home learning moments with us or those proud moments. It's a great way to stay in touch.

You can also see the posts from our school website home page (towards the bottom of the page).

Announcements will also be made on here first if we receive any guidance about the school situation.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

We will be waiting for the Government announcement on the 28th May regarding schools phasing in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 children. Key work children continue to come in and are a priority group. Depending on numbers this may limit the number of other children we can have in school.

It is important to note that nothing is decided yet and plans remain open to change.

SEPTEMBER 2020

It's hard to picture September at the moment but as usual at this time of year we are busy looking ahead.

In all this planning for a possible return to school for some year groups it would be easy to become a little preoccupied with that but we are still focused on our normal school planning as well. We are fully staffed for September and just managed to squeeze all our teacher interviews in before the lock down began. You can meet them below!

I will share the class structure with you in my first newsletter in term 6 and we will then begin transition for your children. Although they may not be in school we will be finding lots of creative ways to ensure both they and you feel you know their next class teacher and more importantly, that your child's class teacher knows your child really well. Never will transition have been so important. We will make sure they don't miss out and are excited about next year!

Meet our new teachers for September!

Grace Tobin



I love being a teacher and working with a classroom of lively and happy children.

Every day is different, with its unique mix of laughs and challenges and this is something that makes me love the career I'm in

When I'm not working, I love spending time with my family and friends, going for long walks or getting stuck into an arty, creative project. I also love to go to the theatre and travel to new places.

My all time favourite has to be Italy there is so much still to explore and I can't wait!

Jenny Rawlinson



Hello, I have been teaching for 6 years and I absolutely love what I do because every day is different.

When I'm not at school I love going to the theatre. I like travelling and have visited lots of places around the world. My favourite places are ones with sunshine.

When I'm not travelling I like spending time with my family and going for long walks with my dog.

Libby Hayes



Hello! My name is Libby and I am thrilled to be joining Polegate School in September.

I have been teaching for the past five years and am lucky enough to have spent the last two years teaching Reception, in Dubai. I have recently moved back to Eastbourne to be closer to my family and settle back into my hometown.

I am passionate about providing opportunities for children to learn through play-based discovery, experimenting and risk taking, in a creative, fun and happy environment.

When I am not at school, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, running and going out to eat. During the school holidays I love to visit new places and go on exciting adventures. As well as this, I enjoy getting stuck into a good book (whilst sunbathing on the beach of course!)



Jess & Elsie's made Doctor Who cakes EGGS-STIR-MIX-BAKE!









Michael is learning another life skill - painting and decorating. Learning to use tools safely and always supervised.



As always we celebrate learning and here is a taste of what has been going on in the homes of children at Polegate School!



Jack getting to look under cars



The Cutting girls have been busy with DIY woodcraft this week. They have been making home made bird feeders.



Josh doing some weeding



NATIONAL THANK A TEACHER DAY

www.thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher-day

We received a lovely email from our PFA on 20th May which marked National Thank a **Teacher Day.**

I just wanted to send a quick message on National thank a teacher day, to thank every single one of you for everything, not just through this very difficult time, but always. You all go above and beyond for our children, and I know I speak for many in saying that we are so grateful!!!! I feel so privileged to have Jade and Joshua, at such an amazing school/nursery, with such amazing teachers.

THANK YOU EVERYONE, YOU ARE AMAZING!!!!

Happy National Thank a Teacher Day.

Lots of love

Rachel and the PFA Team

I would like to echo Rachel's words and personally thank the incredible team of staff we are fortunate enough to have at Polegate. They have not only risen to this challenge, that none of us could have expected, but embraced it! Everyone has been exceptional.

Send your thank you!

To celebrate Thank a Teacher Day 2020, award-winning illustrator Axel Scheffler has designed a special edition e-card. Anyone can send a card, to any member of staff working in UK schools and colleges; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as lunchtime supervisors, caretakers and cleaners. You can even send your card to the whole school.

If you have already sent a card, your teacher will have received the ecard with Axel Scheffler design. We will send your personalised message as soon as we can (we have to moderate all thank you messages).

Thank you for the words of encouragement and support- here is the most recent:

Dear Mrs Martin-O'Donoghue

I hope you are keeping well. I have wanted to write to you for sometime but keep getting distracted with other things. I just wanted to express our gratitude to you and all of your team for being AMAZING throughout this awful time. You have all really gone the extra mile and surpassed our expectations of what you would be able to deliver remotely. It confirms what a truly excellent school we have.

My daughters are both desperate to return to school/nursery which demonstrates just how much they love their school. She has really enjoyed all the home learning she has undertaken. She has been really upset lately that she would miss Sports Day so it was lovely to do some long jumping and running around the field 4 times with her this morning!! She was determined that it was 4 times, I suspect she has your race for life challenge mixed up.

It must be a very stressful time for you all and hopefully the right decisions will be made but I am hopeful we will return before the school year finishes. I know that you will take whatever measures you can to keep our children safe while in your care.

Anyway, that is enough of my rambling and I am sure you are too busy to read this for a while but I just wanted to say a huge THANK YOU!

VE DAY CELEBRATIONS



RESOURCES TO SUPPORT WELL BEING

https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/your-mind-plan-quiz/

https://woebot.io/
The mindshift app
https://www.headspace.com/

Royal Academy

Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES

We have small recycling battery boxes in the office.



Congress Show

This event has been cancelled but we are in the process of rebooking it for next year!

Something to look forward to!



You can read all the previous newsletters on our website.

Be the first to hear the news. Follow us on Twitter. We now have 1109 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