

news

February 2015



Once again the choir made their annual visit to London to perform as part of young voices at the O2 in London. See more photos inside.



In This Issue

Our Nursery	2
Students Work	2
Students Work	3
Maths Challenge	3
Assessment & Training	4
Active Kids Vouchers	4
Young Voices at the O2	5
Sports Update	6
Sports Star of the Term	6
Attendance	7

**Where has this term gone?
It seems to have flown by.**



Nursery

The nursery is set to open its doors on Monday 23rd February. If you would like to have a look around and meet the staff there are open mornings next week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am-10.30am.

I think you will agree it is looking great!



Amazing work



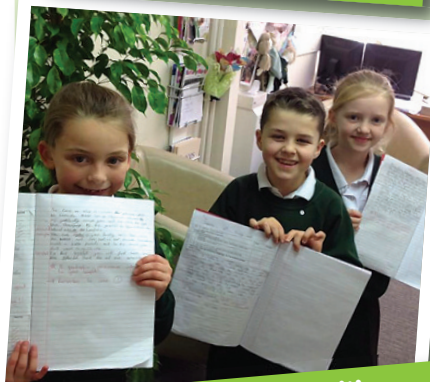
Brilliant number work, Finlay!



Super maths in reception!



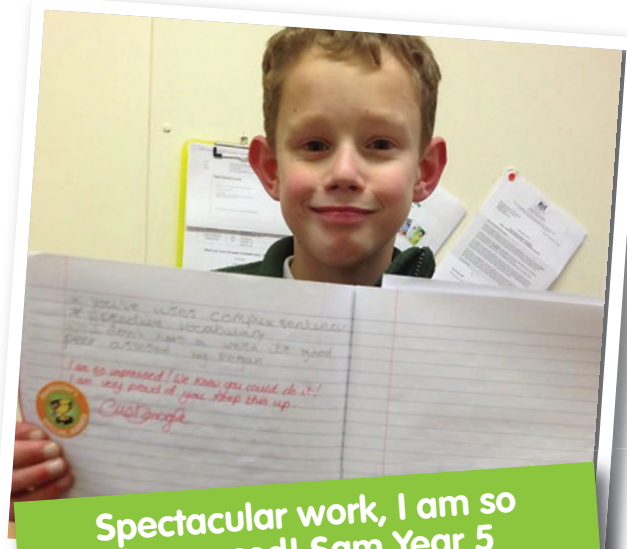
Cayden does not think Mr Cameron should extend the school day! Very persuasive!



Super high level writing from year 3



Ten 1A children arrived at the office with their super stories today. Well done everyone. We can't wait to read them.



Spectacular work, I am so impressed! Sam Year 5



Kyle made a 29 sided shape!

More Great Work!

Maths Challenge

The Letter T Puzzle

Print out the page and then cut out the shapes.

Once you have the shapes try and assemble them into a letter T as shown.

Bring your completed challenge in and give to Mrs Jones. The winner can choose from a range of maths prizes- games, books, calculators etc.



IMPORTANT CHANGES TO ASSESSMENT & TESTING

There have been many changes that schools have had to implement from September 2014:

- A whole new National Curriculum
- The removal of levels to assess the attainment and progress of pupils on the national curriculum
- A new SEND code of practice

We want to keep you well informed about these changes and the implications.

From September 2014, the system for assessing the attainment and progress of children in KS1 and KS2 changed. Although children who are currently in Year 2 and Year 6 will continue with the previous Maths and English curriculum and its end of year assessment procedures, children in Year 1, 3, 4 and 5 will no longer be assessed using 'Levels'.

In school we have traditionally reported to you your child's attainment in Maths and Reading and Writing as being low (c), secure (b) or high (a) within a certain Level and we have done that at the end of each term. We have also discussed their rate of progress in relation to the number of sub-levels they have moved. Nationally this has now changed as the government felt that schools

should have greater autonomy in deciding how they assess pupil achievement, and that the Levels system had become outdated and was no longer fit for purpose. It was also felt that parents did not feel that Levels were clear enough in explaining their child's attainment and progress. You may well disagree with this!

This is a challenge for all schools nationally at the moment! We are continuing to track each child's progress and we are continuing to provide you with information about the standards your child is achieving in each subject- well above, above, average etc. We are very clear on how well each and every child in the school is doing and continue to use all forms of assessment as a means to improve their progress.

There is much work to be done with other local schools, both primary and secondary to ensure consistency. While as a school the Department for Education will provide us with more specific information as to what the end of Year 6 expectations will be, it is up to us to use the National Curriculum document to decide what end of year expectations for Years 3 to 5 look like across all the subjects so that we can report confidently to parents.

The National Curriculum has changed significantly. What is really important for you to understand is that expectations have been raised!

There is increased challenge across the whole curriculum. For example, in maths formal written methods are introduced earlier. Long division and algebra will be an expectation for Year 6.

There are greatly increased expectations for both Infants and Juniors in grammar and punctuation. Children in Year 2 next year will have a grammar and punctuation test. The key issue here is that a child who may have always been achieving the expected level (average) may not achieve this level within the new curriculum, in fact they may drop into the 'below average' bracket. This will not be an indication that your child is not working as hard (or the teacher!) It will not necessarily be a problem.

There will be a transition period in which the children adapt to the new expectations and teaching addresses all the new elements that have not previously been covered.

I know this may all seem confusing and as this is such an important area I will be holding meetings to discuss these changes. Please look out for dates next term.

Sainsbury Active Kids Vouchers

We are once again collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers and we are on the lookout for any very kind parents that wouldn't mind helping with the counting!



YOUNG VOICES

Once again the choir made their annual visit to London to perform as part of young voices at the O2 in London.

It is now the fourth year we have taken part as a school. The children, as always, were exemplary and so excited to be performing at such a special venue.



Parents Quote

To all staff that supported the Young voices concert.

"I would like to say a big thank you for an outstanding trip at the O2 on Monday. Aidan had a thoroughly amazing, magical experience! He hasn't stopped talking about it since he came home. Thank you for arranging such a wonderful trip.

I also want to say a big thank you to Mrs Burton for her choir lessons and for organising this trip. Aidan's confidence has developed even more so, not only in his singing but in his overall self esteem. It's lovely he is always singing about the house."

Congress Show

We have now been given a date for the Congress Show.

It is booked for Thursday 2nd July 2015 at 7pm. The following day is an INSET day. I believe tickets will be on sale from the 2nd March 2015.


Ofsted
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Ofsted Parentview

Please can we encourage you to log onto the Ofsted Parentview website and complete the questionnaire.

We very much value your thoughts and opinions and this is one way of collecting them.

You can find the link on our home page.

SPORTS UPDATE

The Run

On Tuesday 3rd February I took part in the South Downs Area Cross Country Finals. It was held at Lewes Rugby club. We had to run one and a half miles in freezing conditions. It was very muddy and cold. I was proud to represent Polegate School. I came 48th out of more than 65 other runners.

Samuel Laycock Year 6



Sam Laycock in year 6 took part in a cross country run.

We are so proud of him especially as he wasn't feeling all that well on the day!

Sports Star of the Term

We are delighted to announce the first winner of our 'Sports Star of the Term' award.

The award is made every term to acknowledge the individual efforts and achievements of Polegate students who enjoy taking part in any sport both in and out of school.

This term (3) the award goes to Billy Knight in Year 4.

As you can see by the report Billy has written here, he plays a variety of sport, his favourite being football.

Congratulations Billy on being the first sportsman to receive this prestigious award!!

If you would like to be considered for this award in term 4, write a short report about your sport (why you like it, where you do it, if you take part in competitions or a league etc.) and some advice on how other people could become involved in it. Give it to the office or Mrs Wallis along with some photographs and maybe you can be featured on the sports board soon!

At the end of the year, a very special '**Sports Star of the Year**' award will be awarded to the person who we believe has made a great contribution towards sports success in school and who demonstrates great sportsmanship to others.

Don't forget to look at the sports board for regular updates of competitive sports events.

My Report

My name is Billy, I am 8 years old. I love all sport, but my favourite sport is football. I play on a Sunday for Seaford Wasps under 9's. I've been with them since under 7's. In our first season we won all our matches and I played up front and scored 52 goals, I also got the managers player of the year. I was chosen in year 3 to play for the school team, which I love doing and score some goals too. We played in a tournament at Ocklynge School and got through to the semi finals. I was the youngest player in the team but I really enjoyed it. I also go to Hockey club on a Wednesday morning at school which I really enjoy and cant wait to play some matches. I also took part in the swimming gala in year 3. I also go to pro-direct football academy to learn more which I've been doing since I was four. I was scouted by Brighton & Hove Albion last year and went along to some sessions but didn't enjoy it. I love to help others in sport that find it difficult.

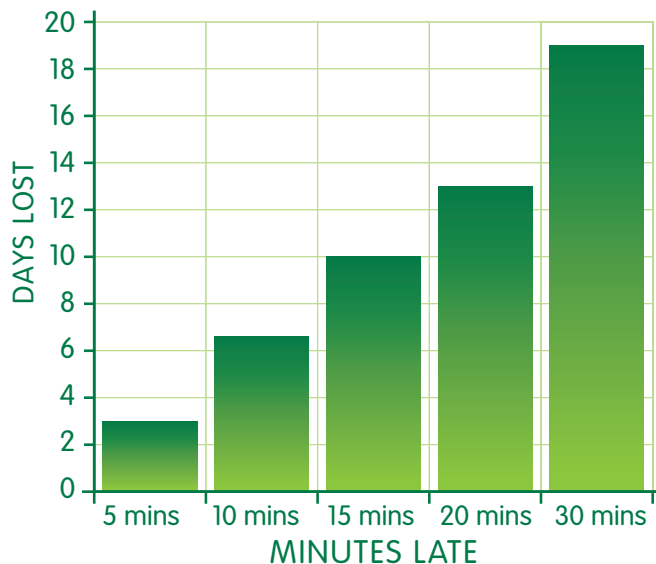
Billy Knight - Year 4



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 95%. This is so close to our school target this year of 97%. Keep it up!

RP = 95%	2R = 95%	5B = 97%
RH = 94%	3B = 96%	5C = 97%
1A = 91%	3P = 94%	6T = 95%
1J = 95%	4M = 96%	6M = 94%
2M = 96%	4B = 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

Parent Consultation Evenings

Mon 2nd & Wed 4th March 2015
Book Online!

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 408 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 Provax: www.provax.co.uk