

news

April 2014



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Here comes the sun!

We have had a fantastic term made even better with the arrival of the sun!

I have loved seeing the children learning outside, take a look at photos. On one day almost all the infant classes made the most of learning opportunities outside the classroom.

We have taken part in a wealth of sporting opportunities, we had an amazing Sports Relief week, visits to castles and galleries in addition to all the inspiring topics the children are studying.



You will notice this newsletter includes a maths challenge.

There is a small maths prize for the first winning answer I receive. It would be brilliant if you tackled these as a family. They are going to be a regular feature from now on.

Look out for lots of opportunities for your to come in to school to find out more about the way we teach Maths and changes we are going to introduce with the new curriculum coming in to force from September.

I would like to thank all those parents that come in to school to help out. It is great to see familiar faces return every week. We really appreciate offers of help so if you have anytime or grandparents would like to come in please speak to your child's class teacher.

BREAKFAST CLUB

As you know Lorraine Wilkinson has taken over the Breakfast Club, we were delighted to receive this glowing e-mail...

My son is having an amazing time and really enjoying himself at Breakfast Club. He is full of enthusiasm and being given endless opportunities to learn and try new things.

I dropped him off this morning for the first time in several week, there were lots of wonderful smiley faces, happy busy children with endless activities being completed. I wanted to stay!!!!

I know parents/carers are very quick to contact you with negative concerns, and not so good at telling you the amazing things you do (though I can see many), so wanted to make sure I sent this, to say a massive thank you, to you, Lorraine and all the staff. All their hard work is not going unnoticed, and I really appreciate all their hard work. **Thank you all**

READING UPDATE

Raffle Tickets

Keep those raffle tickets coming in; we regularly have a long line of children arriving to put their tickets in.

In case you have forgotten all you need to do is read with, or to your child every night for seven consecutive days and they are awarded with a raffle ticket.

As you know reading has been a whole school focus for the last two years and we continue to raise standards with a high proportion achieving above age related expectations.

It is easy to draw conclusions. We see exceptional progress in those children who are well supported at home through regular reading, visits to libraries and being exposed to a variety of texts such as newspapers, magazines etc.

All staff in school have signs up sharing the books they are currently reading to show pupils that we read for pleasure and that it is not something only children do at school.

The strength in reading is supporting the improvements in writing that we are now seeing. The children will bring home their writing journals for Easter. Please encourage them to be as creative as possible. We want to see variety in these: newspaper reports, adverts, diaries, biographies, letters... Anything at all!

PFA Easter Egg Hunt

The PFA at Polegate School are holding an Easter Egg Hunt, along the Cuckoo Trail, on Saturday 5th April 2014 to raise money for new lockers for the children and some outside storage units for the school.

As the Tombola was such a success at the Christmas Fete and enjoyed by many, we would like to do the same for the Easter Egg Hunt. This time we would like to add a little twist and are asking you to kindly donate wine/spirits (for the adults) or Chocolate Easter Eggs (for the Children).

Corks!

Mr Hale is still in need of corks for an art project he is working on. If you have any or know of anyone in the pub/restaurant trade who could help please pass them on to the school office.



Bins in the Playground

Please note that the bins in the playground are for general refuse only and NOT dog waste. Please use the dog bin at the entrance of the cuckoo trail.

E-Safety Movie Star Planet

It has been brought to my attention by some very concerned parents that their children have become members on this social networking site allegedly aimed at children.

Their children have received numerous requests to be 'girlfriend' or 'boyfriend' from other online users and even requests for telephone numbers. Obviously these may be requests from anyone. I would urge you to check your child is not using this website.



Please bring your contribution along to the Muffi Day on Friday 4th April.

Many thanks for your support.

Year 2 trip to

HEVER CASTLE

On Friday 8th March Year 2 visited Hever Castle on a rather wet and windy day! We arrived in the pouring rain and headed straight for the castle.

Once we got there we met Henry VIII who showed us where to go and told us all about the castle defences.

Once inside the castle we explored the rooms and learnt much more about the Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII and Tudor lifestyles. We also shared some facts we already knew with staff, visitors and well... anyone who would listen!

After the castle it was time to explore the vast grounds surrounding Hever, we all explored the Tudor gardens and even stopped to sketch some Tudor statues.

Towards the end of the day we visited a wooden Tudor maze, it was great fun

and a few children got so lost they had to be rescued by Miss Bartholomew!

Too soon it was time to get back on the coach, Year 2 had a fabulous day and were incredibly polite and well behaved - we even had comments about how wonderful we were from people visiting the castle.

Well done everybody!



Maths Challenge

Here is this month's Maths Challenge:

Kieron has three cats.
Each is a different weight.
The first and second weigh 7kg altogether.
The second and third weigh 8Kg altogether.
The first and third weigh 11kg altogether.
What is the weight of each cat?

The first correct answer handed to Mrs Martin-O'Donoghue wins a small maths prize.

WANTED

We are in need of Action Men and Cindy dolls in good condition please



Not just an opportunity to have lots of fun whilst raising money for a good cause but also an opportunity to learn about the hardships faced by children in other parts of the world.

The children showed a great deal of empathy and discussed issues in class and assemblies with maturity and sensitivity.



Well done Louis

A special mention should go to Louis Savadkouhi and his mum who cycled in to school dressed as Michael Jackson complete with big wigs and raised £40.

A huge thank you to Mrs Wallis and Mrs Bedford for organising the numerous events.



Amazing Cakes

Winners of the amazing cakes were: **Angelina Sidwell, Ashton Orange, Sarah Mae Doe & Spencer Schotel.**

The cakes were made by Mr Barcock, Mrs Murphy, Jessica Hawes and Lilly Mae Murray.

Swimming Stars

Hattie Clarke in year 2B swam at Moira House as part of the Mermaids Team for Sport Relief Swimathon. Hattie managed an amazing 10 lengths non stop and got her 200 metre badge and raised £89 for Sport Relief.



On Saturday, **Oli Ward** swam 200 lengths in 2 hours 38 mins. **Barnaby Ward** swam a strong 120 lengths.

As a family team (for the third year), they swam 5k on the Sunday. The family total for the weekend was 18,500m (740 lengths) and raised just over £100.

GRAND TOTAL

These are the totals raised during the week

Cake Sale	£83.90
Sponsorship	£30.60
Mufti Day	£317.70
Teachers' Sweep Stake	£30.00
Total	£462.20

STAFF

Mrs Geal

After working at Polegate School for 21 years **Mrs Geal** (3G teacher) has made a personal decision to change direction in her career. We recognise how demanding teaching is and the pressures are increasing all the time.

We wish Anna every success in the future. I know she is looking forward to a life beyond school work enjoying her many and varied hobbies such as sailing and swimming. Her last day will be Friday 4th April. If you wish to contribute to a leaving gift please bring your contribution to the office in an envelope marked AG.



Mrs McGovern

We have secured an experienced teacher Mrs Mary McGovern who will be taking over as class teacher after Easter. She has 4 years' experience teaching in key stage 2 in very challenging school. She graduated as an 'outstanding' teacher.

About Mary:

I am originally from Birmingham and moved down to sunny Eastbourne in 2006.

I have always wanted to be a teacher and was really excited when I started my first teaching post at Bourne School four years ago. I love animals, especially cats - of which I have two, the countryside (I really enjoy walking on the downs), photography, period architecture of the Victorian and Edwardian era and I especially love watching films (I make good use of Netflix!).

I'm really looking forward to starting at Polegate Primary and getting to know everyone!

Good luck Dale!

Unfortunately Dale in Year 1 has left to move to Ireland. We received this lovely email. We wish Dale every success. His mother sent us the following message...

I just wanted to thank everyone at Polegate school for all the help and support my son has had there. Today has been hard as it was Dale's last day with you all and saying goodbye was hard for him.

He will be so advanced in his new school in Ireland, all because of the excellent start he has had at Polegate. He will truly miss all his friends and teachers in 1A. I appreciate everything you have all done for him. He was always happy going to school and what he has been through there has given him an amazing start to his education and I will always remember and appreciate it.

Thank you all so much Michelle Bingham



Swimming

Thank you to those that have already paid towards your child's swimming sessions. We had a lovely comment from a parent saying:

Thank you

Thank you so much for making this effort and dedication towards our school. My son is not so keen on swimming but hope he will overcome his fear and love swimming.

Hello Paris!

We would like to welcome Paris as a new pupil, replacing Dale in 1A

STAR WRITER

Some fabulous writing from Rhia in year 2

Once upon a Tuesday the king was in a hurry to give his son a kiss but he was in a hurry. When he gave the kiss it missed! It bounced around the room and out the window! The king raced into the room and told his nurse and he had a chat with his guard. To go and look for the kiss so the guard opened the door and got his torch and went looking for that kiss! Guess what he found it was the kiss and he took it home and gave it to the prince. When the prince got his he was so happy that he looked like he had exploded but he did not because he fell asleep and animals jumped on to the castle and jumped through the window and attacked the prince so when the prince woke up he looked in the mirror and saw scratches where he was attacked. Oh said the prince, mummy, daddy he screamed. From now on your window is shut. In the end they never ever ever came back.



WOW

A lovely poem written by Cerys in Year 3 about the school at home just because she wanted to! A lovely gift on a Monday morning – Thank you Cerys.

This school is the best school.
No fuss, no rest,
I will never doubt, no less
I thank you for my Art and
Literacy too,
So thanks for being special
Just thanks for being YOU!!!!

By Cerys Year 3

Good Behaviour

Lovely comments from a parent
that came in for the Star of the Week assembly

A beautiful Assembly..

So much so I just have to pass comment on one particular young lady who was being rather squashed sitting on floor by our feet & who I invited to sit up on a spare chair with us in the far corner right next to fire escape (possibly year 5/6) she was incredibly polite & so lovely with it her thank you was sincere & she also sat still for the whole half hour & didn't speak until it was time to leave.

I'm sorry I didn't ask her name (she will know who she is because I was commenting on my iPhone being useless in taking pictures to which she replied her mum has a Samsung) What an amazing reflection of Polegate school she was.



twitter

Be the first to
hear the news.

Follow us on
twitter. We now
have **293**
followers!

SPORTS DESK

Sharp Shooters

On Wednesday 5th March, we arrived at Pevensey & Westham School for a fun morning of Netball.



Standing: Hannah Tucker, Lily May Hicks, Poppy Ireland, Lucy Jones, Matthew Roberts, Jamie Hamilton, Sitting: Minnie Sheppard, Alfie Wait,

First up we played Ocklynge A and played well but lost 5-1 to the eventual winners.

Next we played St John's Meads and performed brilliantly to win 4-1

Against Pevensey and Westham, Lilymay salvaged a 1-1 draw

Next we played Parklands and after 3-0 down some superb teamwork by Matthew and Minnie set a nail biting finish with Matthew scoring in the last few seconds to draw 3-3.

The last two games bought us two wins against the Haven 3-2 and Ocklynge B 4-0 leaving us second in the tournament – a fantastic result and morning.

Thank you to Mrs Ireland and Mrs Nanuck for their encouragement throughout the morning.

Towner's Annual Schools Exhibition

Year 4 are creating a masterpiece to exhibit at the Towner's Annual Schools exhibition.

They have used the local landscape and the Towner's collection to inspire their work. They visited the exhibitions currently on display and were lucky enough to see all the works that are kept in the stores. Our Year 4 pupils were a credit to the school and made some wonderful observations about the work they viewed.

This is going to be the biggest exhibition yet!

Go down and see the exhibition between 3rd May - 16th June. Entry is free.



Extreme Readers

It was well worth reading in the bath and the cupboard for Luke Smith and Bradley Burgess!

Their prize - a new book of their choice.

Luke 2B



Bradley RJ



Chinese Banquet

Year 3 are experiencing a week of Chinese feasts!

The smells wafting through the school are delicious. The children loved eating their meals and awarded themselves a generous 10 out of 10 for their culinary skills.

What a fabulous finish for their topic!

Attendance

Days off school add up to lost learning

There are 175 non school days a year. That's 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments.

190 School Days a Year 190 days for your child's education 100%	10 days absence 180 days of education 95%	19 days absence 171 days of education 90%	29 days absence = 1 Term missed 161 days of education 85%	38 days absence 152 days of education 80%	47 days absence 143 days of education 75%
Good Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start		Worrying Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress		Serious Concern Not fair on your child. Court action!	

If your child's attendance drops below 85%. You should expect a visit from a member of the school's leadership team with work for your child to complete.

We have unfortunately needed to do this quite recently. We have to refer any child with attendance below 85% to the Education Welfare Officer who will then provide support to improve attendance. Please contact the school for support before it gets to this stage.

Our average last year was around 96%

97% is our target

Class figures

Please compare your child's attendance to the average & look at the table above.

RJ = 95%	3G = 97%	6T = 96%
RP = 96%	3K = 97%	6C = 97%
1A = 97%	4M = 96%	
1R = 96%	4EM = 97%	
2B = 98%	5T = 96%	
2BW = 97%	5B = 94%	



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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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