

news

January 2022



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THIS IS WHAT WORKING IN A SCHOOL DOES TO YOU!

Fortunately Mrs Bailey recovered during the holiday and is back to her normal self!

We had a fabulous end to the term with our fairytale inspired escape room challenge. The children loved it and once again saved the day and found Snow White. The Evil Queen apologised and the party went ahead!

See more photos inside!

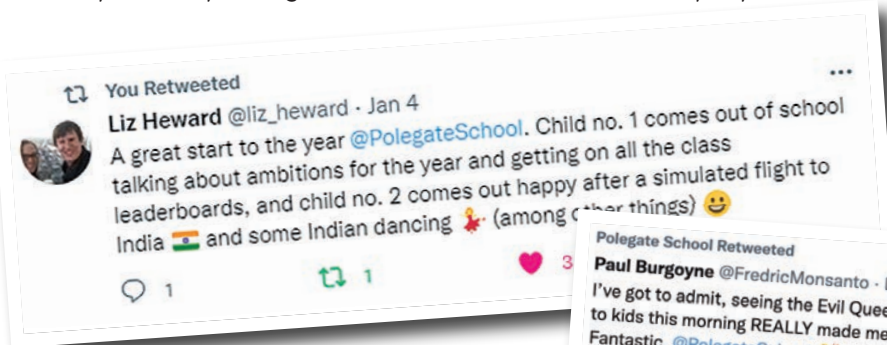
SCHOOL FUN

I think the photo below captures just part of what makes Polegate School so special- the staff, who embrace my many mad ideas in order to make school so special. This was the last day of an exhausting term - we were on our knees yet you would never know it from their enthusiasm, energy and the smiles.



Welcome back everyone, a very happy New Year to you all. I hope you all managed to see family and enjoy your Christmas break.

As always it is all systems go in school. The tweet below made my day when I saw it.



We aim to make learning memorable and irresistible and go to great lengths to make this happen so it was lovely to see this feedback.

Thankfully bagels have proved more popular than my apples!



DIARY DATES

7th February
Parent Consultations

9th February
Parent consultations

10th February 2.30pm
Think Tank Meeting

11th February
Last day of term

21st February
Start of term 4

1st April
Last day - end of term 4

19th April
Start of term 5

2nd May
Bank holiday

27th May
End of term 5

6th June
Start of term 6

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The children enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner. I would like to thank all staff for stepping in, serving and the kitchen for making such a delicious lunch.



YEAR 5 WERE FESTIVELY DAZZLED

The fabulous finish they enjoyed was a trip to London's Old Vic where they were immersed in A Christmas Carol. It filled the auditorium to the brim with music and merriment. They really enjoyed this uplifting story.



YEAR 5 DECORATIONS

Design Technology was brought to life and made meaningful for year 5 as they designed and made their own decorations. I have no doubt that these were hanging proudly on trees across Polegate and beyond! Really impressive skills displayed.



STUNNING START FOR YEAR 1

India is on that destination list for many travellers, and it's no mystery why!

The diverse landscape, colourful festivals, and spicy-hot cuisine are already reasons enough to pack your bags to visit Mumbai or Varanasi.

Year boarded their flight and jetted off at the start of Term 3, here is the flight attendant, Mrs Stockdale giving the on board safety instructions before take-off.

Did you know....

Even on crowded city streets, cows have the liberty to roam where they please without fear of being harassed by humans.

If you thought it rained a lot in Polegate. I have news for you!

Meghalaya village has won the Guinness world record title for the wettest place on Earth, with about 11,873 milliliters of rain annually. The monsoon season lasts six months, so I hope year one packed an umbrella!





ATTENDANCE OFFICER

Hi, I'm Natalie, pleased to meet you!

I've recently taken up the new role of Attendance Officer within the school.

I come from a back ground of working within Sussex Police for 16 years.

I have two teenagers and two crazy spaniels - all of whom definitely keep me on my toes!

I am enjoying learning about Polegate School and in particular enjoying the inclusive, nurturing environment it offers to parents and students.

You can email me at:

n.dicker@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

Or telephone the school and ask to speak with me.

It is essential that we hear from you each day that your child is absent - even if it is for the same ongoing condition. We need to hear from you every day your child is absent; we are not allowed to make assumptions about why a child is off school. This can be done via parent mail, or via the absence telephone. Either of these facilities can be accessed by yourself 24/7.

If a notification via either of these methods is not received for each day your child is absent I will make contact.

Your child's safety and welfare is paramount to us as a School and from a safeguarding perspective we are held responsible for ensuring any child not in school that should be is accounted for.

Each and every child is valued by the school and we love to see their faces in school learning, developing and socialising to prepare them for the challenges of the world ahead.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns regarding attendance and I will be more than happy to help if I can.

We have all been in that situation when our child says they are unwell but we are not sure quite how unwell and whether we should send them in. This might help with that early morning dilemma.

Did you know?

We do have a supply of Calpol and we can administer this. We will always phone to ask for consent first but sometimes this is enough to help and means your child does not miss out.

You no longer have to keep children off for 48hrs following a sickness bug if they are well in themselves to attend school.

A GREAT MATHS ACHIEVEMENT

Zac Hooper a Doodle Whizz

As of 10/01/22, Zak Hooper in 5T has achieved a 300 day streak on Doodle Maths!

He is now aiming for a 365 day streak - a whole year! We love the aspiration!

Maths Mantra - "practise till you can't get it wrong".

Times table Rockstar and Doodle

There is something that is well-documented called the 'testing effect' - this is the phenomenon that, following the teaching of a topic or concept, it is more likely to be remembered and recalled successfully if repeatedly tested on it (as opposed to simply studying the concept over again).

Low stakes tests complement classroom practice on topics in a helpful way - raising the stakes very slightly and resulting in significant effortful practice by pupils. Quizzes provide some valuable extra practice.

They offer the chance for pupils to celebrate their learning. Often, quizzes will be deliberately designed to generate a high success rate, whilst still requiring a reasonable degree of effort on the children's part.

Last but not least, they offer a chance for children who may suffer from anxiety about timed tests to realise that the world doesn't end if you do badly on a test and see small incremental improvements each time! Pupils know that underperformance in a test or quiz can be a really good thing.

LATEST ATTENDANCE FIGURES

RH	97.2%	2MA	95.9%	4D	96.1%
RM	96.7%	2R	95.7%	5W	94.8%
RB	95.01%	3L	94.7%	5M	96.7%
IS	96.2%	3Y	97.1%	5T	97%
IC	96.3%	3M	97.3%	6V	93.7%
IB	95.6%	4H	95.7%	6J	96.5%
2M	95.9%	4G	96.9%		

STAFF NEWS

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Meet our new members of staff



Miss Stewart

My name is Miss Stewart-Crocker (or Miss Stewart for short) and I am very excited to be teaching in Year 2 at Polegate School.

I have been a primary school teacher for three years and I enjoy helping children become more confident writers and mathematicians. I also have a degree in illustration so I love any opportunity to get creative! I used to coach gymnastics before becoming a teacher and I still attend gymnastics classes in my spare time. I also love to read and the Harry Potter series is still one of my favourites - I even named my two cats Luna and Arthur after two of the characters!

I am looking forward to meeting you!



Sabrina Standley

Sabrina is providing administrative support to Mrs Holbrook regarding all things inclusion.

She is also supporting the office and may well answer the phone on occasions. Sabrina replaces Mrs Bateman who many of you will have met over a number of years.

Hello Everyone,

I am very excited to be joining the SEN team, supporting inclusion for all at Polegate. I have already been greeted by welcoming staff and lovely pupils in the school, who have been great in helping me find my way around! I am very much looking forward to being part of the community.

At weekends I enjoy spending time with my family and walking our dog if the Great British Weather allows.



Kinga Janik

"Hi. My name is Kinga Janik and I'm from Poland. I've lived in UK for 17 years. I am a mum of two boys.

I am ambitious and positive person who has an enthusiastic outlook on life, I am passionate about my work and I get a great sense of achievement from seeing my children (students) develop and grow as individuals. If I can have a positive impact on their future, I feel I am doing my job well. "

Show off your writing

[illegible]

My green season

Backpack is a rather rare case. No hope. No way. I had learnt through the hard studying the best for every hour but just when I was about to get up then I had decided a flying school with my old friend. My flying friend was following through me like I have my whole life depending on happiness.


Months ago the bird had begged the owner. I started to drive. The morning was full of the hope would be perfect time to create a new world but my owner could not agree. The winged of morning started to turn into the sunset of my heart. A night came. The bird and flying owner finally slipped through the desperate hour of the finger that he did it.

Faded season was as soon as it got. The owner I kept with the different time. Suddenly the price I was with getting used to the riding is being high up but then WHOOSH! I started to plummet rapidly inside the ground. My whole body killed my heart was in my throat. I opened into the capital to find part of it spread all over everywhere. Oh! I could not get used to my whole. Just then I passed around. I felt like a great companion to the people below me; they were so small.

The small houses of the night lit up on the bottom of darkness. I could see the darkness of the evening hour was in the family gathering city stand as a sort of a building that looked foreign from where I was sitting. Some were piled high on top of each other. I appeared



I drift up through the heavens, I watch a bird circle
the sky,
In my horror, the bird is being yellowed, I call out
"Fly!"
The bird tries to escape - too late,
I land my balloon on the tail of the beast!
A mechanical flying monster!

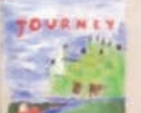




I climb to the edge and gaze in disbelief,
I gaze the bird, as I grab the night and its
glorious I soar
They run after me, shouting their curses,
I let the bird free, it calls its name - you
The meaning of life - freedom!

They throw down my crumpled
and look me up.

Anna was outside the fort. She was sitting on the freezing stone steps. Anna did her room to play and her room ignored her. Anna went to the stairs and sat on the bed. She spotted a bright red person on the floor. She is going to be a dancer. The girl went into the forest of lights and lanterns. Anna walked over a light blue river. She drew a dark brown boat and she found herself. Anna went to a Kingdom and it was a sunny day. Finally she made it to the Kingdom and it was spotless. She came to see the one friend off the road.

from the sea who she saw men wearing a purple band. They like the bright bird in a golden cage. Anna jumped and ran for the bird and ran away with it. The men were disappointed that the clever girl freed the bird. The bad men captured the girl. Quickly she drew a royal red carpet and flew with the bird.



Writing without Limits

WRITING JOURNALS ARE BACK LET'S GET CREATIVE

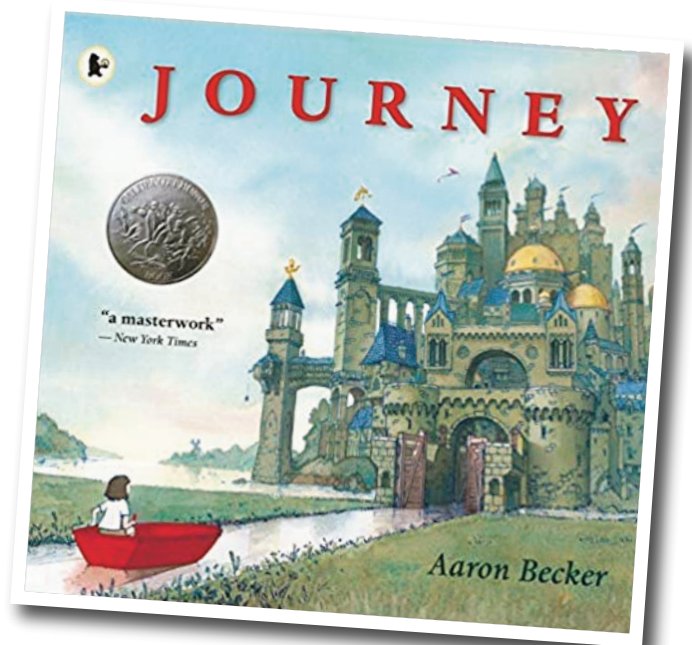
Theme: Oh, what a Journey!

We are going on a reading adventure!

Every class in the juniors will take part!

We read the picture book *The Journey* to inspire us. You can watch a video of the book here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMtc_QFlu9Q



Our writing challenge

Imagine you have a magic crayon or pen. Anything you draw with it comes to life.

Create a first person piece of writing that leads your reader on a mini adventure. This can be an idea for a story OR an idea of your own! Use the book and examples and next page to help inspire you.

**Writing
without
Limits**

There will be a winner from each class and an overall winner for Lower Juniors and Upper Juniors.

Due:

Hand in to your class teacher when complete.

Final deadline:

Monday 24th January 2022



EAST SUSSEX BOOK AWARD

Six children's books have been shortlisted for the East Sussex Children's Book Award 2022. If your child is stuck for a good read these would be a great place to start to inspire them.

Children aged between 8 and 11 years old are being invited to read the newly published books before voting for their favourite in May. An awards ceremony to announce the winning author will be held in June.

All the shortlisted books are available to borrow for free from East Sussex libraries, and families and primary schools across the county are being encouraged to take part.

As a school we are taking part and our avid readers have been invited to join Mrs Jones and myself on a Thursday lunchtime at our Book Club.

Shortlisted Books & Authors

The shortlisted books, which include fantasy, adventure and mystery, are:

The Hatmakers by Tamzin Merchant

The Way to Impossible Island by Sophie Kirtley

The Valley of Lost Secrets by Lesley Parr

Jaz Santos vs. the world by Priscilla Mante

A Shelter for Sadness by Anne Booth

The Boy Who Met a Whale by Nizrana Farook

For more information on each book and details of how to register and vote, visit www.eastsussex.gov.uk/ESCBA

COVID CHANGES

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period.

Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.

PCR tests

From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

This is a temporary measure while COVID-19 rates remain high across the UK. Whilst levels of COVID-19 are high, the vast majority of people with positive LFD results can be confident that they have COVID-19.

Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms.



Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed.

The new approach reflects similar changes made this time last year in January 2021, when there was also a high prevalence of infection meaning it was highly likely that a positive LFD COVID-19 result was a true positive. This meant confirmatory PCRs were temporarily paused and reintroduced in March 2021 following a reduction in prevalence.

YOUNG ARTISTS SUMMER SHOW

IT'S TIME TO GET CREATIVE

Submissions are now open for Young Artists' Summer Show, an exciting opportunity for young artists aged 4-19 to exhibit their work online and onsite at the Royal Academy of Arts.

It's free to enter the young artists studying in the UK.

We can't wait to see what you been crazy to find out more and get involved.

Deadline for submissions is 30th of March 2022.

This could be a great way to get creative at home and to encourage your young artist to make an original artwork of their own.

There is no theme to the exhibition, and they accept artworks in any medium at all, so your young artist has the opportunity to create a piece of work that truly expresses their own creative choice. I know first-hand how talented our Polegate pupils are so would encourage everyone to enter.

Key dates

Registration and submissions open:
10th January 30th March 2022

Judging: May 2022

Online exhibition opens: 19th July 2022

Display at the Royal Academy Opens:
July 14 August 2022



BAGEL BREAKFAST

This initiative has been a BIG hit! I have never been so popular!

These are available for all children on arrival at school. Our junior children take them as they arrive and they are taken to our infant classes for them to have once settled.

For some reason bagels taste much better in school! Children that won't eat them at home have miraculously decided they now like them! This is great.

The staggering bagel facts are:

85 bagels for key stage 2

100 bagels for Key Stage 1

185 bagels daily in total!

Over a week its 925!

I would personally like to thank the parents that volunteered to help make this possible. You are total superstars. It has taken about an hour and a quarter to prepare these.

In reality it would be great to have another two parents every day. It's a lot to get through.

Please contact us if you are able to help out.



For your reference the ingredient list is here.

New York Bakery® Bagels (Frozen)	
Ingredients	Wheat Flour (Wheat Flour, Calcium Carbonate, Iron, Niacin, Thiamin), Water, Sugar, Maize, Rapeseed Oil, Yeast, Salt, Wheat Gluten , Malted Barley Flour , Flour Treatment Agent (Ascorbic Acid).
Allergens	Wheat flour (gluten) , Wheat Gluten , Malted Barley Flour (gluten) .
Advisory note	May also contain traces of sesame . Contains yeast. Contains maize.
Good to know	Suitable for Vegetarians and Vegans. Free from artificial colours and flavours. Made on a nut-free site.

The spread is any of the following which are all vegan friendly.

Asda plant based vegan spread:

Water, Vegetable Oils (45%) [Palm, Rapeseed, Sunflower, Palm Kernel, Linseed], Salt (1.0%), Acidity Regulator (Citric Acid), Flavouring, Vitamin E, Colour (Carotenes), Vitamin B6, Vitamin B12, Vitamin A, Folic Acid, Vitamin D

Vitalite dairy free spread:

Vegetable Oils (Sunflower 21%, Rapeseed, Sustainable Palm), Water, Salt, Emulsifiers-E471, Sunflower Lecithin, Preservative-Potassium Sorbate, Acid - Lactic Acid, B Vitamins (Niacin, B6, B2, Folic Acid & B12), Flavourings, Colours - Annatto Bixin, Curcumin

Pure dairy free vegan spread:

Vegetable Oils (Sunflower (32%), Palm, Linseed), Water, Salt (0.75%), Natural Flavouring, Vitamin E, Vitamin A & D, Natural Colour (Carotenes), Vitamin B12

SUNDAY TRIP TO FOOTBALL

My thanks to Mr Vigor for organising this trip.

Sadly, he tested positive for Covid that very weekend and so couldn't go with the children!

The trip went ahead with the help of parents and staff. They enjoyed watching Brighton Ladies play Manchester United Ladies.



Diary Dates

**11th February
2021
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
1,234 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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