

news

February 2016



Year 5 at the O2 Arena

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Well, this may only have been a short term but we have certainly packed a lot into it!

Well, this may only have been a short term but we have certainly packed a lot into it!

There is so much that I always feel proud of and with each and every newsletter there are exciting things or wonderful achievements to share with you.

This newsletter is no exception.



Bow Ties for Winston Churchill Week

WONDERFUL EXPERIENCES FOR YEAR 4!

Year 4 have certainly had a stunning start to this year. They arrived to a chilly classroom where they had to reveal the clues to their topic by cracking through the ice blocks.

They were visited by a pack of huskies who displayed their skills to both classes!

Year 4 are now joining Ernest Shackleton on his expedition to Antarctica. Through these rich experiences the children have created some stunning writing.

During this term they have also been learning outside the classroom and I think you see from the photographs, they had a great time!



Finding the clues in ice!



PFA NEWS

Playscheme

Unfortunately our Playscheme will not be running again this year, we simply don't have the support to keep this running every year.

Some dates for your diaries

18th March from 6.30pm the PFA are holding a quiz night! £3 per person for teams of up to 6 people. This is an adult only event. Please support them raising funds for the Multi Use Games Area.



DROP OFF

Please do not drop your child off outside the school gates, on the zig zags or double yellow lines. There have been several parents recently stopping at the school gates to let their children out, this causes problems for staff and deliveries getting into the car park and is dangerous as it means reversing out into traffic.

Year 1 Forest School

Forest school on Tuesday was a massive success! We made fires to toast marshmallows, we found fires around the school using maps and we even made swords!



Staff star of the week!
Mr Bridge

CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to Oliver Ward who came 25th out of 65 in the cross country run at Lewes on the 26th January.

What an incredible achievement especially in the wind and rain. Thank you for your commitment Oliver and for representing the school so well!

OUR AMERICAN VISITORS!

We often host visits from American teachers who want to see the education offered in England and it was lovely to get this feedback from the tutor that organises the placement and these visits:

'The feedback from your previous students was so positive, one of them said she would leave everything in the US behind to move here and work at Polegate! They also commented on how welcome they felt and how well supported they were, so thank you so much.'

New Debate Initiative

We are about to embark on an exciting new initiative!

Every year group across the school is having some time each week to develop speaking and listening skills through debate. Each week the school will focus on the same topic and spend half an hour as a class discussing, researching and presenting. We hope this will lead to radio shows and whole school debates.

Research shows that debating skills raise children's confidence and self-esteem, and it pays to start early, "It's the only way to help equalise the life chances of children from less privileged backgrounds," she says. "It's the confidence and the commitment and the manner of their speaking which is going to make that critical difference for them." The Guardian

Debate lessons improve critical thinking skills. Research (Kuhn and Powell), shows that debate forces children to consider two perspectives, not just their own. It encourages children to anticipate objections to their arguments. Our first week of debate has been a real success.

Why not see if you can continue the debate at home over dinner!

SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS IS BACK FOR 2016

We are again saving the Active Kids vouchers so if you shop at Sainsbury's you will be given one voucher for every £5 you spend. Please pop them in the collecting box by the school office.



Admissions for September 2016

We have been informed that we have 160 requests for a reception place in September! That is an incredible amount and reflects the reputation Polegate School has in the community.

Children with Cancer Fund Fun

On 22nd May 2016 the school is the starting point for a 'Fun Run' to raise money for this local charity. More information will be out nearer the time but everyone is welcome along to support or take part! The PFA will be supporting this event and also holding the summer fayre on the same day. Refreshments will be available.

LOOKING FOR A 'BIKE IT CHAMPION'

We are continuing to promote cycling to school. We are looking for an enthusiastic parent to support us develop our cycling activities.

It would involve working with a member of staff to organise events for families and pupils around encouraging cycling and scooting.

Ruth is our 'Bike it Officer' and she would happily support you and work with you.

All you need is enthusiasm and a little bit of time!

Please let Kerry know or speak to me to find out more.



DIARY DATES

9th February
Safer Internet Day ' Play your part for a better internet'

11th February 3.30pm
'our wonderful work'

12th Feb
Last day of term 3

22nd Feb
Start of term 4

7th & 9th March
Parent Consultations

24th March INSET Day
start of Easter holiday

11th April
Start of term 5

27th-29th April - Hindleap Warren
(year 5 residential)

9th May - Key Stage 2 SATs
week (Year 6 only)

16th May - Science Week with a focus on the environment, using our school grounds.

25th May - KS1 Sports Day

23rd May -Sports Week for KS2
with Sports Day 26th May

26th May
Swimming gala at the Sovereign Centre

27th May
Last day of term 5

6th June start of term 6

7-10th June
French Trip (Year 6)

13th June
Phonics screening check (Year 1 and 2 only)

5th July
'Change over day' a chance for your child to spend time with their new teacher

12th July
'Meet for the Move' a chance for parents to meet their child's next teacher

22nd July
Last day of the school year!

YEAR 5 AT THE O2

**Year 5 had the experience of a lifetime!
How many 10 year olds can say they
have sung at the O2 in London?**

To sing in a huge arena alongside some of the most talented & well known artists from the world of music. They have followed in the footsteps of Jason Derulo and the Libertines!

They performed as part of the Young Voices Concert at the O2. The largest Children's choir in the world. Young Voices provides an unrivalled musical opportunity for primary school children to perform all styles of music including folk, pop, rock and classical. Young Voices is designed to unify children from across the region, boost their confidence and provide lifelong memories for them and their families. Teachers & Pupils practice the dance routines and learn the songs in their music lessons for many months before they excitedly come together for the penultimate show at their local arena.



And we are ready!



The show is about to start



COMMENT FROM A PARENT

I just wanted to say a big THANK YOU to Mrs Burton, Mrs O'Donoghue and anyone else involved in organising the Young Voices school trip yesterday!!!

Emily and I came away absolutely buzzing after what was one of the best shows I've ever seen. Polegate school seems to go above and beyond in giving these experiences to the children and I feel so lucky to have Emily enrolled there. These memories will last a lifetime.



On the coach back, heading home after an exciting day!

WINSTON CHURCHILL WEEK



Great work Frankie

Everyone looked splendid in their bow ties! So why did our history subject leader choose Winston Churchill as our historical figure for this week?

As you all know Winston Churchill was Britain's prime minister for most of World War II. He was famous for his speeches, and for his refusal to give in, even when things were going badly. For a time he was the most famous person in Britain. People all over the world know the name Winston Churchill.

People remember Churchill as a war leader. But he did other important jobs in a long life full of adventures. Winston Churchill loved history and in his life he made history.

What a great role model. He didn't give up! This is a life skill which is going to be essential in the future. We want all our pupils to develop that same resilience and see that everyone, no matter how influential they have become experiences disappointment and sometimes finds things hard.

If you want to find out any more with your child have a look at this link:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/famouspeople/winston_churchill/

NO, I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP JUST YET. NOT UNTIL I'VE TRIED EVERY POSSIBLE WAY. I WON'T SAY I CAN'T. I WILL.

We want pupils at Polegate to have this belief and determination. They learnt so many historical skills and had fun! They will not forget arriving at school on Monday 18th January wearing bow ties and this is exactly what we want to make learning memorable! Thank you for supporting this at home, we never cease to be surprised by your creativity and ingenuity! The homework was great.



Superb Bow Ties



Did you know?

- At 7, Winston was sent away to school. He hated it. He was beaten (hit) by his teacher, and never got enough to eat.
- He liked his next school in Brighton. It was by the sea. He learned to swim and ride horses.
- Then came exams... Winston was so puzzled by one exam paper, he wrote his name - and nothing else!
- Winston liked reading. He liked history and learning poems by heart. But his writing was bad, he was often late for class, and he lost his books.

MATHEMATICS AT ST RICHARDS

A group of year 6 are participating in some extra maths sessions in Bexhill.



WINSTON CHURCHILL PORTRAITS

Can you believe these are Year 1?



By Samuel Lain



By Jazmin Rush



By Edward Wagstaff



By Alfie Short

Goosebumps

WIN A WHOLE HOST OF GREAT PRIZES



To celebrate the launch of the *Goosebumps* movie on February 5, we're encouraging young writers to pen their own adventure story for the chance to win *Goosebumps* and Sony goodies.

All your little authors have to do is finish the *Ghost Car* story started by RL Stine in the form below or post your entry alongside your (the parent/guardian's) name, address and email along with your child's first name and age to the below address before the closing date, 23.59 on 21.02.16.

Goosebumps Competition, METHOD, Level 13, News UK, 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF

The competition is split into two age groups, 8-11 and 12-15 years. RL Stine himself will choose one lucky winner from each age group, who will each receive a set of Sony headphones, a W830 compact camera, £100* worth of Scholastic books and a full set of *Goosebumps* books for their school. Plus two runners-up from each category will receive a set of *Goosebumps* books by RL Stine. Good Luck!



GOOSEBUMPS™ Scholastic, Movie ©2016 CPIL. All Rights Reserved.

**CLICK HERE TO VIEW
& PRINT STORY**

* For prize winners based in ROI, it is the EURO equivalent at the time of issue of prize (amount may fluctuate)



POLEGATE PULSE!

A dedicated team of DJs are working hard to get our radio show back on the air waves! We visited the DGH on Tuesday 19th January to see a radio station in action! The children absolutely loved the experience- I have never had such excited children in my car!

We would like to thank Phil Masters for organising such a great experience and Stuart Tanner, a parent at Polegate for kindly putting us in touch with Phil.

'They are a great bunch, full of enthusiasm and excitement. It was a pleasure to have you. They did you proud.'

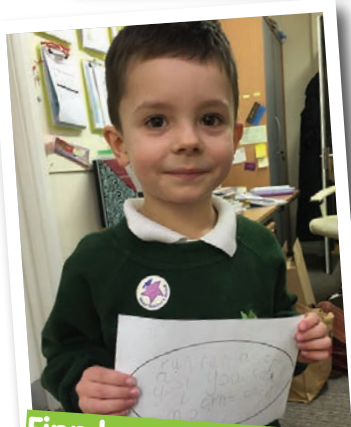
Phil Masters Radio DGH



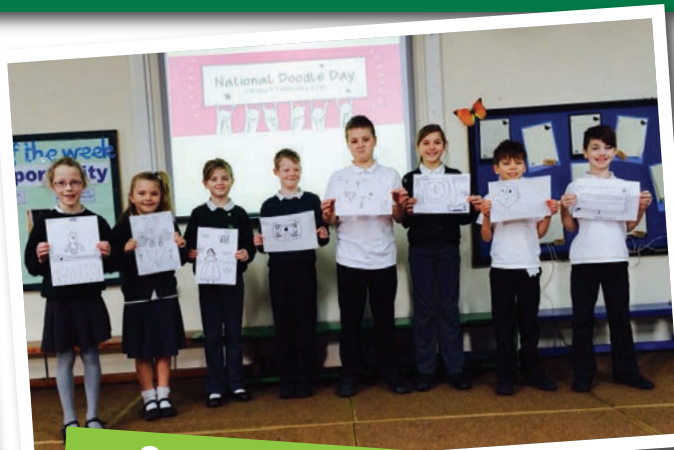
Thank you to Eastbourne DGH Radio - we had a great time!



More Great work



Finn has amazed us with his incredible writing!



Our assembly about National Doodle Day. Are you a doodler?



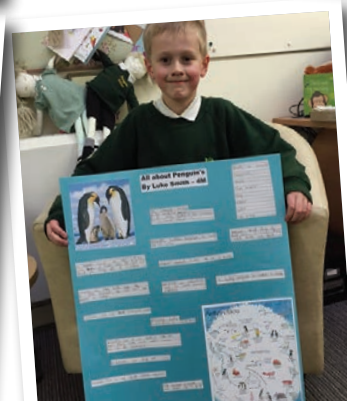
Elsie is persuading me to visit India!



An incredible portrait Arthur



Stunning writing from year 4

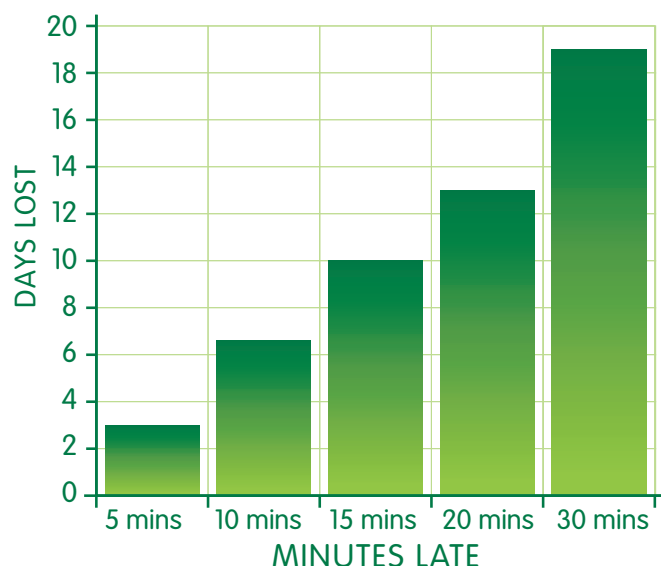


Luke's amazing homework!

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 **96.3%**. Our school target this year of **97%**.

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

- 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

**Thursday 24th
March
INSET Day**

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 567
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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