

# news

June 2019

## HINDLEAP WARREN



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more  
inside

## In This Issue

Welcome	2
Hindleap Warren	3
Our Swimming Pool	4
Attendance	5
Bedtime Stories	6
Flu Bug Poster	7
Staff News	8
The Big Pedal	9
Diary Dates	9
Community Hub Library	10
Building Update	11

# SATS SUPERSTARS

Firstly I want to start with talking about the very special people in school that matter the most! Your children!

This term our terrific year 6 experienced the dreaded SATs tests! Yes they were challenging, yes expectations are incredibly high as always but they really did take it in their stride!

Read  
more  
inside

# WELCOME

**This term our terrific year 6 experienced the dreaded SATs tests! Yes they were challenging, yes expectations are incredibly high as always but they really did take it in their stride!**

**I am so proud of our Year 6 who arrived at school to enjoy a breakfast with their friends each day before the SATs with a smile on their face (I think the bacon baps helped!).**

They really appreciated this relaxing, social time with their friends. They have reassured me that they didn't feel anxious and we gave them plenty of encouragement. I am sure they have done brilliantly! At the end of the day we all know that SATs do not test the

things that matter most: Kindness, honesty, teamwork, creativity... or even the skills a child might excel at such as art, music, P.E, speaking, drama...

We want to create confident well rounded children who are well prepared for the next stage of their education and beyond and yes, SATs are part of it but they are not everything! A big well done year 6.

We are so so proud of you!

**It was also lovely to read the really positive messages that appeared on Twitter as the week went by:**

I asked Gethin yesterday how he was feeling about the upcoming SATs tests... His reply was, 'I'm excited about the SATs breakfast!' He seems very chilled out about the tests, so thank you to Miss Murphy and all of Polegate School for making him so calm and confident.'



**That's what we like to see - lots of smiles, all very relaxed. Year 6 before their tests!**



**Even with SATs there is time for reading in the sunshine!**



# HINDLEAP WARREN

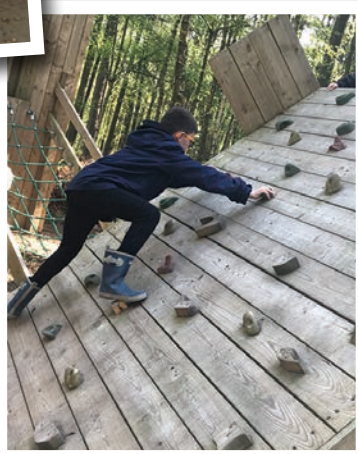
**Children return braver, stronger, more independent and muddier!**

## **Firstly, the children's account of the 3 days**

We went on the opportunity of a lifetime to Hindleap Warren where we experienced a selection of activities. The activities pushed us to our limits! We had to face our fears on the zip wire, leap of faith and the climbing wall. We had to work as a team when we went canoeing, took part in the obstacle course and negotiated as part of team building. We took aim in archery. All in all this trip hit its target!

The wonderful staff at the centre encouraged us every step of the way. We have come back changed 'we are braver, stronger, more independent and more confident. We were also a lot muddier'.

Yet another successful residential for our Year 5 children. I would like to thank the staff at Polegate who joined in, spent time away from their own families and also got muddy! As you see, the children gain so much from these experiences. The experience didn't even put Miss Jabbari off teaching with us next year- she has passed our initiation test with flying colours!





## MYTH BUSTER

# OUR SWIMMING POOL

**It is that really exciting time of the year and the children are LOVING swimming!**

**We believe that every child should have the chance to learn to swim at primary school.**

Swimming is a statutory part of the national curriculum, just like Maths and English, yet over 1,300 primary schools in England don't provide any swimming lessons at all.

Some parent comments have reached me about the voluntary contribution and it has been a while since I have shared the facts.

**Some parents believe the school HAVE to provide swimming**

Yes, all schools must provide swimming instruction either in key stage 1 or key stage 2 but this can be for a very limited period and restricted to only one year group. We do not have to provide swimming to all year groups.

**Government guidelines state:**

'Pupils should be taught to:

- swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- use a range of strokes effectively (for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke)
- perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations.

You will notice it does not specify both key stages. Most schools will only provide it for one year group and even then only for a term which really limits the opportunity for the children at the school. They also charge for the travel and swimming'

**There have been some comments made to other parents and Kerry that it is expensive!**

I think it might come as a surprise to see what other schools charge.

- Stone Cross who use the Lagoon in Hailsham charge £27.50 for 10 weeks of swimming
- Willingdon charge £30 for 10 weeks, once a week at Ocklynge School.

These were fees in 2018, they may even be more now.

**All we ask for is £12 for 12 weeks** and in one term children swim twice a week. Compared to other schools this is less than half! Amazing value.

**The school should pay for it- they get the money in the school budget.**

We get no money towards the pool in our school budget. Budgets have been hit hard in recent years and in real terms we have less money than we once did. We do however subsidise the cost of the pool with our Sports Premium Funding quite heavily because we think swimming is such an important life skill.

It is important to bear in mind that any money we spend on the swimming pool is money that is taken from somewhere else in the school.

This is the reason why over the years that many schools have taken the decision to shut their school pools.

**If you would like your child to benefit from lessons in term 6 please ensure that if you haven't already paid that you do so before the start of Term 6.**

The swimming payment has been open on ParentMail since October last year to give you the opportunity to pay over a period of time.

If you have not yet paid then your child will not have the opportunity to swim in term 6.

**Thank you to the 428 parents that have contributed towards the cost of swimming. This does mean we can keep our pool.**

**We also don't have to waste valuable learning time by travelling to a pool.**



# ATTENDANCE

**There are 365 days in the year and 190 days in the school year.**

If we take the days in school away from the days in the year we see that for 175 days children are at home with their parents.

If a child takes leave of absence during term time, 10 school days, attendance starts to fall to only 180 days in school. If the child is then ill for 5 or more days in a year, they start to be at home more than they are in school.

$$365 - 190 = 175$$

**The whole school is currently at: 96.8%**

RH = 95%	2H = 97%	5M = 97%
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RHi = 97%	2M = 97%	5G = 97%
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1Y = 97%	3B = 97%	6M = 97%
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1MC = 95%	3M = 97%	6R = 98%
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1C = 95%	4B = 97%
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2A = 97%	4D = 97%
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**Congratulations to Class 6R won the last attendance award and celebrated their success with a water slide!**



# BEDTIME STORIES

**Thank you for your over whelming positive feedback on this new idea! I was excited about it and it was so lovely to see how much excitement it caused in school amongst the children.**

If your colleagues at work or family would like to film themselves reading a story please do and send it in to us!

I think the children would love to see a police officers at the station or a surgeon at the hospital reading! The possibilities are endless!

New stories will continue to be added every Friday! The old ones remain on there so that children can catch up on any they missed.

## DO YOU FANCY BECOMING THE NEXT LOTTERY WINNER?

**The Polegate school lottery is now up and running with prize winners already! All the funds raised go to the school and the more parents that take part the larger the prizes. Friends and family are also welcome to join. <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play>**

## What kind considerate pupils we have!

It is not uncommon for me to receive wonderful emails from parents and I felt this was worth sharing because I have had several comments about the same theme. Our pupils really do show a mature attitude towards their community and environment. Many are now picking up litter while they are out and about at weekends and on the way to school! Yet another reason why we are so proud of them!

"I have been extremely proud of Francesca's unprompted, thoughtful and caring attitude towards the rubbish problem in and around the school. Every day to and from school, Francesca has been picking up rubbish by the handfuls. When I asked her why it was important to her, she said it made the school look nicer and she didn't want animals getting hurt by it."



# FLU BUG POSTER

In April, we took part in a 'We need YOU, to help STOP the flu' competition to help the Immunisation Service find a flu bug!

I am pleased to announce we won the competition. The winning bug was designed by Thomas at Polegate Primary School and will be used on the flu programme materials in October 2019.

The health service had 707 flu bugs to choose from. They said there were so many fantastic entries it was extremely difficult to choose a winner.

**Well done Thomas!**



# STAFF NEWS

## A warm welcome Amy Durbidge!

**Hello, my name is Amy and I am so excited to be joining the Polegate team in September.**

I was lucky enough to spend my final teaching placement as a student teacher at this wonderful school, so I am thrilled to come back and start my teaching adventure here! I

am just about to finish my last year studying Primary Education at Brighton University where I particularly enjoyed focusing on Literacy and cannot wait to bring my excitement and love for this into the classroom!

When I'm not in school I enjoy getting stuck into a good book or spending time with my family and our lovely golden retriever Dexter! I also love dancing, singing and performing in local shows.

**We have another teacher joining us next year whose introduction will follow in the next newsletter-when you will be able to read more about Mr Evans.**



## Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office





# THE BIG PEDAL



**First prize: Annecy Catholic Primary**

**Second prize: Seaford Head School**

**Third prize: Polegate Primary School**

This year's top prize is a performance and music workshop for 20 pupils by PunctureKit, the bicycle drummer.

Seaford Head School and Polegate Primary School, who topped the leaderboard in their adjacent 5 day category will receive a one off 15 minute performance. All will be delivered on the 10th or 11th July.

**Thank you for making Big Pedal 2019 a great success**

With the Big Pedal over, we thought you might be interested to hear about this year's superb achievements.

This year's Big Pedal saw more than 1,682 schools and over 559,000 pupils taking part in the challenge. By cycling, walking or scooting to school pupils travelled the equivalent of 11.9 million miles – that's 50 trips to the moon, or 480 trips around the world.

In total, a record 2.3 million pupil journeys and close to 1.5 million supporter journeys (parents, siblings and teachers) were made by bike, foot or scooter.

**Thank you to all the families that took part! The prize sounds really exciting!**

## WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES

We have small recycling battery boxes in the office.



## DIARY DATES

**Tuesday 21st May**  
**Sports Day**  
**Morning Nursery (Rising 5's) & Reception**

**Wednesday 22nd May**  
**Sports Day**  
**Morning Year 1 & 2**

**Thursday 23rd May**  
**Sports Day**  
**Morning only KS2**

**Wednesday 12th & Thursday 13th June**  
**Father's day gifts**

**Saturday 22nd June**  
**Afternoon Summer Fair**

**Friday 5th July**  
**PFA Quiz night**

**Tuesday 2nd July**  
**Class change over day?**

**Tuesday 2nd July**  
**Meet the new teacher after school – 3.30pm**

**Thursday 11th July**  
**Wonderful work 8.00am and 3.30pm**

**Tuesday 23rd July**  
**Last day**



# COMMUNITY HUB LIBRARY



**Willington**  
**Community Hub Library**  
invites you to  
an Opening Garden Party

Saturday June 22nd 2019  
10.30 – 2.30

Official opening at 11.00  
by Dame Jacqueline Wilson OBE

Craft stalls • live music • a raffle  
tombola • plant stall • book stall • refreshments  
homemade cakes & produce • activities for the kids

...and of course an opportunity to join the library.

Free  
Entry

Coppice Avenue BN20 9PN  
Registered Charity Number 1182568.



# UPDATE ON BUILDING WORK

**We have a very impressive looking building that we have been unable to move into!**

I am hoping to hear today when we will have a hand over. I will keep you updated and you will of course be the first to get the opportunity to take a look inside! Once again thank you for your continued support and patience. It has been very frustrating for us.



## CHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO YOUR CHILD

We just wanted to let you know that due to the new GDPR regulations we will not be sending out data collection sheets any more. We do still need to know if there are any changes to information relating to your child.

### Changes we need to know about are:

Medical details  
(any new allergies, asthma etc)  
Change of address, telephone numbers or email address

## Keep us informed

It will be up to you to keep us informed and you can do this by emailing the school office [office@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk) with any changes or by completing the form which you can find on the download section on our website [www.polegateschool.uk](http://www.polegateschool.uk)

## Diary Date

**Friday 5th July**  
**PFA QUIZ NIGHT**

## 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 960 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](http://www.polegateschool.co.uk)



## **Volunteers Needed!**

Funding has been secured to reopen our precious library.


PCL management group are working hard in the background to make this a reality.


However, without volunteers this will not be possible!

## **Can you help?**

Do you have time to spare?

Contact us...

 [polegatecommunitylibrary@outlook.com](mailto:polegatecommunitylibrary@outlook.com)

 07707 799792 (Secretary - Sandy Fuggle)

 [www.facebook.com/PolegateCommunityLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/PolegateCommunityLibrary)

 [www.twitter.com/PolegateLibrary](https://www.twitter.com/PolegateLibrary)

 [www.instagram.com/polegatecommunitylibrary](https://www.instagram.com/polegatecommunitylibrary)