

news

May 2017



In This Issue

Welcome Back!	2
Staff News	2
Science Challenge	3
Past Pupils	3
Diary Dates	4
Sports Day	4
TV Programme	4
PFA News	4
Year 1 - A stunning start	5
Hats & Uniform	6
School Displays	7
Great Work	8
Attendance	9

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to term 5 and yet another really busy term! I hope you all had a fabulous Easter. The children came back with big smiles on their faces so it certainly looked as if they had a great holiday.

We have all of sporting events approaching: Infant sports day, Junior sports week and our swimming gala which is always a real highlight!

This is a very important term for year 6 who get the chance to show off everything they know in their SATs tests during the week of the 8th May. I know you will join me in wishing them lots of luck. We will be supporting them as much as we can and trying to make the experience as painless as possible!

During the week they are all invited in to have a breakfast in school with us and I am pleased to say that in true Polegate style all the pupils in year 6 seem ready for the challenge! I look forward to sharing their success with you when results are announced.

Read
more
inside

STAFF NEWS

NEW STAFF

Interviews are happening this week for teachers as we will have extra classes. We have been really lucky and had a lot of very strong applicants. I will share our appointments in the next newsletter.

NEW DEPUTY

As you know we appointed a new deputy headteacher to start in September, Mrs Dallaway.

Just after Easter she announced the news that she is pregnant! Whilst we are obviously thrilled for the Dallaway family that does mean we will only have Mrs Dallaway until the end of term 1 and so to cover her absence Mrs Jones will take on the deputy role.

Debbie Jones had only just accepted a promotion to Assistant Headteacher to start in September at Polegate when I then offered her this opportunity!

Those of you who know Mrs Jones will know that she is fantastic and takes everything in her stride so of course jumped at the chance. I am really looking forward to working with Debbie in this new role!

Please congratulate her if you happen to see her around school.

BABY NEWS

A little more baby news! Congratulations to Lisa Huggett, one of our teaching assistants who has just announced that she is expecting her second child. Exciting news for the Huggett family!

WELCOME BACK

We have our residential trips fast approaching: year 5 will be off to Hindleap Warren for an action packed, muddy week and at the start of next term year 6 head off to France!

Thanks to Mr Sandell's hard work on the pool during the Easter holiday we started swimming on the day we returned to school.

He has done an excellent job preparing the pool, carrying out all

the maintenance work and making sure the water tested positively for swimming. The children adore this time of year and many very excited children are telling me all about their swimming lesson when they pass the office.



I am sure that you have all heard that county have confirmed that because we were so over subscribed (176 requests for places) we will again be taking an extra 30 children in reception next year.

I am so pleased that quite a few will be joining us from our nursery which is always lovely. We are really looking forward to welcoming all our new families in September! I am in discussions, alongside the school governors, with county regarding the hall and playground space and hope to be able to update you on future plans to alleviate pressure extra pupils cause. This is such a concern to us all.

The existing mobile will be removed in the summer and we will have a much larger double mobile with a shared space between two classes. This will then mean both year 2 classes can be together for 2017- 2018. The year after we will have to think again!

I promise you that I am not going for world domination, honestly! We have

also been asked to extend our nursery to provide extra places for pre school aged children in the area and so we have been provided with the funds from the DfE to extend the nursery. This work will start in the summer but is unlikely to be completed by September. I have been told it is probably going to be finished by October.

So as you can see there is quite a lot going on!



Look! A forty foot dinosaur visits the office! Arrhhhh!

SCIENCE CHALLENGE MORNING

On Tuesday 25th April, we were lucky enough to host a KS0/1 STEM Challenge morning.

Throughout our curriculum at Polegate children are constantly involved in lots of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths learning and we wanted to give an opportunity for our pupils to shine in a fun, competitive environment.

Three other, local schools joined us for the morning where we used our skills to design marshmallow towers and bird nests made from natural materials.

Our children were fantastic and we managed to build the tallest free standing structure at 74cm! Well done team Polegate

Watch out for our next KS2 challenge in June



SUCCESS OF PAST PUPILS

Connor Jenkins one of our past pupils has gone from being Deputy Head boy here to Deputy Head Boy at Willingdon School.

Congratulations Connor you will do a great job! Connor is very interested in politics so watch out for his name in future elections.

We are very proud of you Connor!



DIARY DATES

Wednesday 24th May am
Infant Sports day

Thursday 25th May All day
Junior Sports day

8th May SATs week Year 6

Thursday 25th May 6.30 –
9.00pm Sovereign Centre –
Swimming Gala

Friday 26th May
Parents all welcome in to see
'Wonderful Work' in your
child's class.

Tuesday 4th July
Change over day
Children spend time with
their new teacher.

Friday 21st July
Last day of the year.

PFA NEWS

I would like to thank the
PFA who are purchasing
Ukuleles for the school.

We thought it was time for
a change and rather than
continue with the recorder
we thought it might be nice
to give children in year 4
the opportunity to all have
tuition in the Ukulele next
year. Without these extra
funds we would not have
been able to provide this.

SPORTS DAY

There is a difference in the sports days between the infants and the juniors.

Last year this caused a little confusion with parents and so I wanted to explain the sports day for children in year 3 and above.

We like to challenge them and ensure there is a progression of skills and so they take part in a week full of sports, including team sports. This gives every child the opportunity to participate in a meaningful way. There are heats and finals for each team sport. You will be told which sport your child is participating in.

Sports day is split into a morning of events and an afternoon of athletic races. The morning consists of

challenges that every child takes part in and a further letter will explain these in more detail.

Parents support and encourage and move around with their child. The PFA will be selling refreshments. You are all invited to have a picnic lunch with the children and this is a really special time.

In the lead up to sports day we hold athletic races and children compete against each other in classes. The fastest runners in each class are selected to run in the many finals on sports day itself. This means that not every child competes in the afternoon as it is the final.

You will be notified if your child is competing in any race. Any questions please just ask.

THE SECRET LIVES OF 4 & 5 YEAR OLDS TV PROGRAMME

My name is Rebecca and I'm an Assistant Producer at RDF Television - the makers of Channel 4's 'The Secret Life of 4&5 Year Olds'.

We are currently casting for the next series of 'The Secret Life of 4 Year Olds' and 'The Secret Life of 5 Year Olds' for Channel 4 and looking for a diverse group of children to take part in the new series.

This exciting television series will follow four and five year olds as they take their first steps towards independence and embark on the new challenges of going to school. The series will follow their development from the moment they meet for the first time, through the forming of friendships to learning social rituals and friendly competition. The entire process will be observed and monitored by leading scientists and child psychologists who will

provide occasional comment on the children's stages of development.

We are looking for children aged four and five years old and their parents to take part.

Filming is likely to take place at a location in London and the days are led by two highly trained teachers. We cover the cost of travel and accommodation for all children selected to take part in the series. The children are filmed for no more than 5 hours per day and they would be needed for up to three weeks filming over the summer holidays.

I would be most grateful if you could forward news of this opportunity to the parents of your pupils, if of course you feel it is appropriate.

If parents would like to apply they can apply here:
<http://bit.ly/sloyoapply>

YEAR 1 - A STUNNING START

Day 1 for year 1 was a little unexpected! They went digging for dinosaur bones!

They then had a lot of fun becoming palaeontologists and each had their own areas of specialism. These images were taken by the year 1 photographers themselves.

A big thank you to Mrs Barber's husband for coming in the following day to answer lots of their questions. We have been so impressed with the really challenging questions they have asked.

They have certainly made us think hard!



HATS & UNIFORM

Hats

We want to ensure we keep children safe in school and this extends to sun safety at break and lunchtimes. School policy for term 5 and 6 when we hope to see the sun is that children wear hats when they are outside. It really helps when children bring them every day and just get into the habit of wearing them even on cloudy days. On hot sunny days we will insist that children wear a hat to go outside. Please check the school handbook for further guidance.

Uniform and hairstyles

It is fairly typical that at this time of year we send out a few reminders so I thought it was worth a mention in the newsletter. This is an extract from the school handbook:

Dress Code

We expect a high standard of dress from our pupils and strongly encourage the wearing of School Uniform as this helps to foster a school identity. We believe that children should take a pride in their appearance as this encourages positive attitudes.

While our uniform allows for some individuality we do insist on a degree of uniformity. We are sensitive to gender issues and have minimal differences between boys' and girls' uniforms.

Our basic uniform is as follows:

- short or long grey or black trousers (not denim or cord or sports/tracksuit bottoms)
- grey or black skirt or pinafore dress (girls only)
- green gingham summer dress (girls only)
- white shirt/blouse/polo shirt (with school name)
- green crew necked sweatshirt with school name
- green cardigan with school name
- green fleeces with school name
- black jogging suit (optional)
- smart shoes (or sandals for summer) - no high heels
- Black school shoes
- plain white or grey socks
- green baseball cap with school logo
- green (winter) woolly hat with logo
- The items marked with a symbol are available for purchase through the School

All items of school clothing should be clearly marked with the child's name. When 30+ children are changing for P.E. clothing does sometimes get muddled up! Save the tears now by making sure that all of your child's clothing is easily identifiable for both the child and the teacher. Name tapes can be obtained through the school. The baseball caps have been introduced to raise awareness about over exposure to the sun and to help identify our children on school trips to crowded places. We now expect all children to wear a green baseball cap when on a school trip. If a polo shirt is worn as day wear it should not be worn as P.E. kit as well - a change of clothing is essential.

Plastic "jelly" shoes are not suitable for school use. We do not approve of trainers as daily footwear. The school reserves the right to determine whether certain items of clothing are or are not appropriate for school use and whether or not they conform to our dress code. If a child is repeatedly abusing our uniform policy we may phone home and request the correct uniform to be brought to school immediately.

We expect parents to support our decisions.

Hairstyles

When considering what is appropriate for school regarding hairstyles we have to make a judgement as to what is in the best interest of the school overall. Allowing children to adopt the latest fad or trend is not always consistent with this. Extreme haircuts are not allowed but this is open to interpretation, so in the interest of clarity we have tried to be specific about what this means.

- Collar length hair should always be tied up
- No elaborate hair bands/clips/braids or wraps. Any hair accessories should match school uniform and be discrete
- Hair should be neatly cut, combed and maintained
- Undercut styles are not acceptable
- Tracks and lines are not acceptable
- Dramatic layered effect of levels are not permitted
- Hair should not be tinted or coloured
- Hair must not be shaved

To read it in full please follow this link:

<http://polegateschool.co.uk/about-us/handbook/>



SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

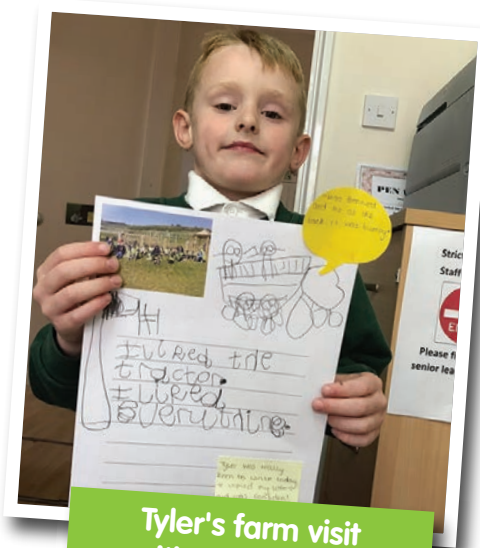
You will see from the photos just how hard staff have worked to make the school look terrific for the children.

The long corridor is magical! It has been transformed into a Harry Potter themed street. Please do come in and take a look. The children's writing and work on display is exceptional. I think even JK Rowling herself would be proud!

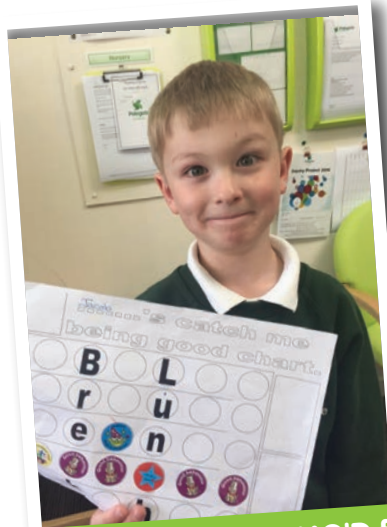
Classrooms, as always, look equally inviting and it is worth sharing the time staff invest in this because it is something that all visitors to our school comment on. I am very grateful for the commitment all staff show to making learning irresistible for our children. If you are particularly creative, artistic or have a flair with design please speak to us. We would love to use your skills during the year when we change displays, an extra help is always welcome as it is such a big job.



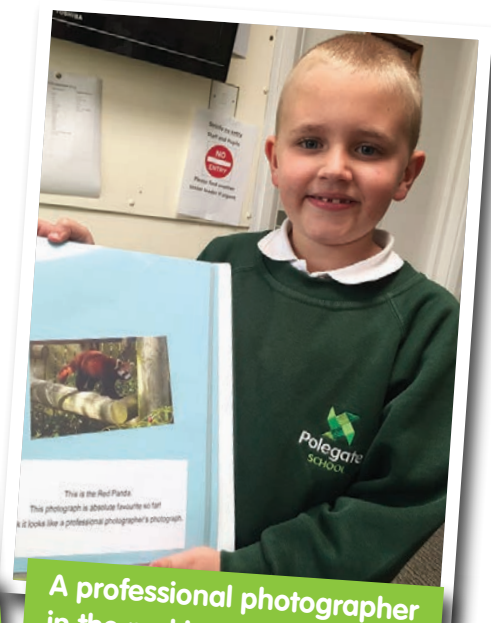
GREAT WORK



Tyler's farm visit writing is amazing



A trip to see Mrs MO'D for being absolutely brilliant!



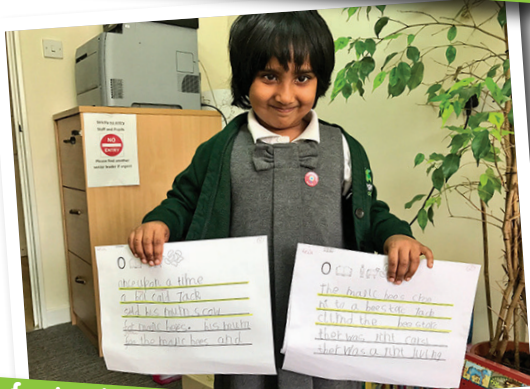
A professional photographer in the making! Great holiday photos Zak!



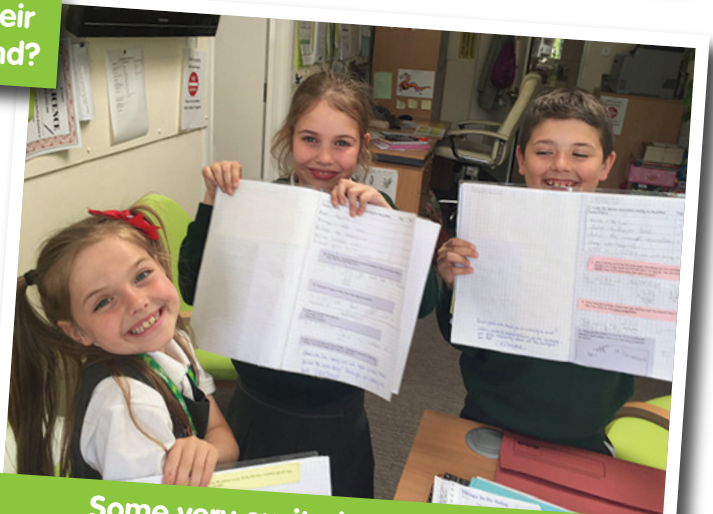
The year 3 castaways have been busy on their new project! Will they escape the desert island?



We kicked off the new term with some stunning Y6 short stories yesterday.



A fantastic story Leia. Jack and the Beanstalk over 3 pages. Amazing phonic knowledge to write this so well.



Some very excited mathematicians! Who knew maths could be so fun!

Attendance

A MASSIVE thank you!

At the moment our attendance is 96.5%- the closest we have ever come to 97%, our target.

We are nearly there. It would be absolutely amazing if we did reach 97%!

The reward for the class with the highest attendance this term is changing. I thought it may be good to offer something different and have a bit of variety. This term the class with the highest attendance will enjoy a roller disco on the playground! This will be led by professionals, all fully trained! I didn't think broken bones would help our attendance!

'Attendance Miles'

Children that have managed to gain 97% so far this year will soon be collecting their first reward.

We are waiting for the delivery at the moment and as soon as they arrive we will distribute them.

Also really pleased to report that attendance for our free school meal pupils and SEN pupils increased last term. The school has an average of 96.5%. Free school meal pupils have an average of 93% and SEN pupils have increased to 93.85%.

Class figures

Overall school attendance is currently at 96.5%. Our school target this year is 97%.

RP = 97%

RH = 94%

RJ = 95%

1A = 96%

1N = 96%

2M = 96%

2B = 96%

3B = 97%

3W = 95%

4M = 98%

4EM = 96%

5R = 97%

5GK = 96%

6M = 95%

6O = 96%



Yasmin showed great empathy and sensitivity; visiting London to pay her respects at Westminster

Diary Dates

Friday
21st July
LAST DAY OF
THE YEAR

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 744 followers!



Polegate School
Oakleaf Drive
Polegate
East Sussex BN26 6PT
Tel: 01323 482404
Email: info@polegateschool.co.uk



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