

# NEWS

March 2018



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# WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday brings the excitement of book characters that inspire us. Staff and pupils dressed as characters that inspired them in some way and throughout the day dropped everything to read!

We were delighted to host a reading breakfast, and reading tea party which provided a chance for children to share their love of reading with their families.

Read  
more  
inside

# WORLD BOOK DAY



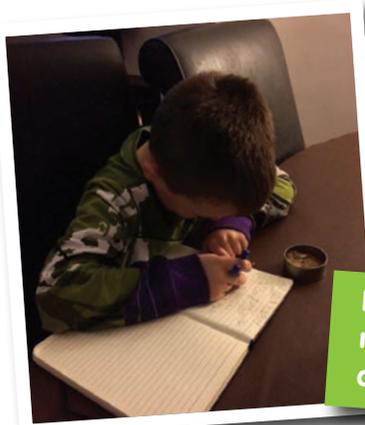
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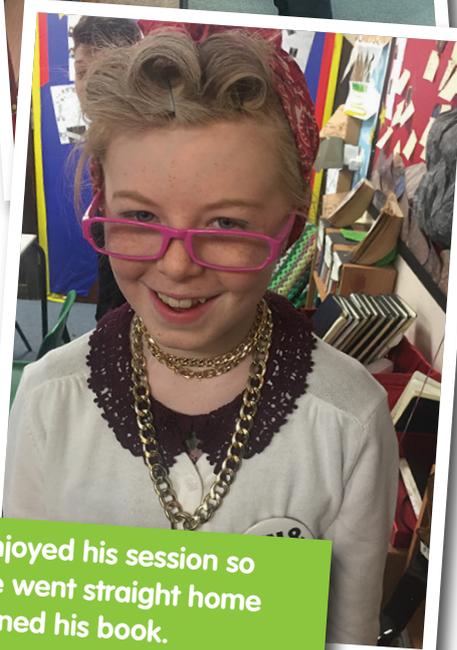
Some classes enjoyed workshops with a published poet throughout the day on Monday.



We also invited parents to join lessons and observe first-hand how reading is taught at Polegate School. Thank you if you joined us.



Noah enjoyed his session so much he went straight home and opened his book.



# LOVELY COMMENTS

This term I have received lots of comments from parents and visitors that have made me smile! It means so much to know that the hard work staff put in is recognised.

## OUR SNOW ANGELS!

Recently we hosted a visit from secondary school teachers who were looking at the standards achieved in primary.

They commented that their year 8's could learn a lot from our year 6 and were really impressed with the excellent behaviour across the school. They commented on how we encourage independence and responsibility.

We have recently interviewed for teaching assistants and the candidates all commented on the welcoming feel, happy children and wonderful displays.

One said: 'the school exudes happiness.'



A nursery parent took the trouble to email in about our school nursery:

" I just wanted to take a few minutes to let you know how much we appreciate the team at your nursery. Our son started there last September, and I cannot praise them highly enough. They are amazingly dedicated and clearly care very much about all of the children in their care.

They are flexible, kind and regularly go over and above what they need to do to help the children and parents with whom they are involved. We feel very grateful that we were able to find such a great nursery for Jake. I am sure that other parents feel the same way, but we so rarely take the time to say these things that I wanted to do something to make sure that these feelings were known to you. Yours, in appreciation."

Nursery Parent

Another comment from a governor that visited to observe maths teaching:

"It is evidently clear that you have a really solid vision for what makes outstanding provision at Polegate and this practice is already deeply embedded. The materials, lesson plans and the vision itself has been bought into by all the staff and it was a pleasure to see such high quality teaching and learning across all the year groups I was able to observe. What struck me most was the love of learning that was evident from the students themselves, it is something that cannot be manufactured for an observation. It is only through a consistent celebration of learning, progress and success that the students feel this enthused – it was delightful."

School Governor



# CHILDREN WITH CANCER

We are really pleased because with your support we have been able to raise £218.50 for selling the Christmas stamps designed by year 4. This money was awarded to the local Children with Cancer charity and we presented the cheque in an assembly at the end of last term.

You raised  
**£218.50**  
Well done!



**CHILDREN WITH CANCER FUND**  
Children With Cancer Fund (Polegate) Registered Charity Number 1110644

Your donation will make a difference to children like these.



To: Polegate School  
For raising a total of: £218.50  
Signed: *Shirley* Date: 7/02/18  
**Thank You**

64 Windsor Way, Polegate, East Sussex, BN26 6QF 01323 488561  
info@childrenwithcancerfund.org.uk info@childrenwithcancerfund.org.uk

## YOUR WONDERFUL PFA

Our PFA is busy planning future events including an Easter Egg hunt with a nearly new sale, a quiz night and a summer fayre. If you want to get involved with any of these events please get in touch with the PFA either through their facebook page, the school or email.

The PFA raise much needed funds to support all the extra things we couldn't otherwise afford. You may not be aware but in recent years the PFA has funded:

Lockers, Ukeleles for Year 4, the sound system in the hall, school radio station, class Christmas presents, playground games and equipment, attendance awards, the Muga, Learning without Limits certificates and stickers, Walkie Talkies, African dancer, Prefect jackets, the scrapstore, the outdoor gym....

Children throughout the school have benefitted from all these items and without our PFA we would not have been able to provide these experiences or equipment. Our aim

this year to further develop our Forest School and wildlife garden so please support them in their fundraising efforts.

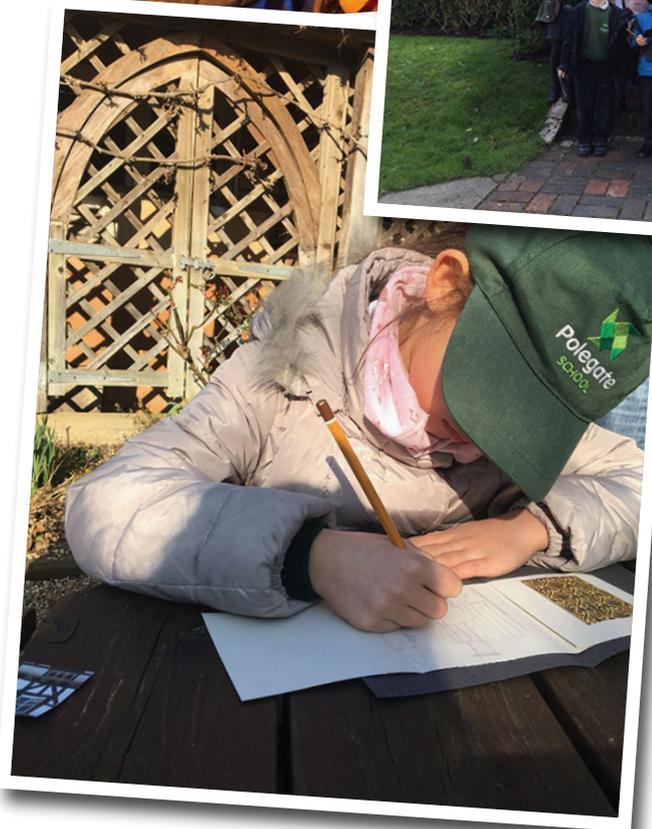
**Next PFA meeting is on:**  
Tuesday 22nd May at 7pm at school in the staffroom.

### Future events

13th July - Quiz night at school  
7th July - Summer Fayre 11-2pm

# YEAR 2 TUDOR EXPLORATION

Year 2 went off to Lewes on a Tudor exploration! They had a wonderful day experiencing Tudor life first hand.



# FUN IN THE SNOW!

**We all had lots of fun this week. The boys in year 6 loved throwing snowballs at me when I opened the doors on Wednesday! I will find a way to get them back (watch out Danny King and Adey Mckay!)**

I would like to thank all staff for going to such great lengths to get into school. One teacher walked an hour to get a train in to school. A lot of staff live quite a distance from school - Brighton, Hastings, Heathfield and everyone made it in. I appreciate their dedication and commitment to your children and the school.



## LOCK DOWN

**Last term we carried out a 'Lock down procedure'. We are now required to carry these out routinely.**

The day before we explained the procedure to the children. They were given clear instructions about what they would do in the event of a lock down. It was shared in a very factual sensitive way. We did not cause alarm by talking about why we may need to do it and I also did not want to make it into a big drama for the children by giving too long advance warning as this would have caused anxiety for some of our children.

The windows were closed and doors locked, lights were turned off, children sat under tables out of sight and minimised movement, they stayed silent throughout. The children found it very exciting and enjoyed it – they were amazing. I am quite sure they told you all about it!

**We can't plan for every eventuality however the times where we may need to initiate a lockdown are:**

- **An incident or disturbance in the local community which poses a risk to the school**
- **An intruder on the site who could be a risk**
- **Local risk of air pollution, smoke plume or gas cloud**
- **A dangerous dog roaming loose**

This is just another routine practice and will be carried out in the same way we carry out fire drills. We will not be notifying parents in advance as we don't do this with fire drills and if we were required to carry out any emergency procedure for real we would not be in a position to notify parents in advance.

# LITTER PICKERS

We have a litter free playground thanks to our amazing litter pickers from Year 2!



# YEAR 5 CHINESE TOPIC

As a marvellous middle to their China topic Year 5 cooked culinary delights and celebrated the Chinese New Year with a feast!



# ATTENDANCE

The gap between different groups is widening again in the school. We were beginning to close this and I want all children to have the same opportunities and experiences no matter whether they are SEN or on free school meals. There is no reason at all for these groups to have lower attendance than other children.

## School Attendance

Whole school is now: 96.5%. We are only a little way of our target of 97%

RH = 96%	3M = 97%
Rhi = 96%	3Mc = 97%
RV = 95%	4D = 97%
1N = 96%	4M = 96%
1B = 97%	5GK = 97%
1Y = 96%	5W = 96%
2A = 97%	6M = 97%
2B = 97%	6R = 97%

Free school meals	94.14%	Non FSM	96.75%
SEND	95.9%	Non SEND	97.36%
Whole school	96.46%		

## ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Advance warning – these will be going out at the end of the week. Please remember to pop in and tell Kerry if an absence was due to a hospital appointment.

## MEDICINES IN SCHOOL

We are very happy to administer medicines in school that are prescribed by a doctor but we are not allowed to administer any medication with the instruction 'as required'.



## GREAT WORK

Brilliant home learning from Year 2. You all visited wonderful Tudor places in the holiday!



# GIRLS FOOTBALL

Having spent every Thursday lunchtime since the start of the year football training with Mark Potter, 12 of our girls Year 2 squad recently attended a Girls Football Festival at Eastbourne Sports Park.

The afternoon started with a carousel of skill-based activities run by the students at Sussex Downs College and culminated with a number of competitive games against teams from The Haven, Pevensey & Westham and Cavendish.

The girls were buzzing about their experience which was the first time most of them had ever competed in a match against other schools. Many thanks to Mrs Wilkinson and Mr Sandell for taking the group and providing these lovely photos.



# WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

**A date for your diary is our Walk to School Week which runs from 21st May to 25th May.**

The week will end with a 'Bike Breakfast' on the Friday. Walk, cycle, scoot every day and enjoy a breakfast on the Friday.

## Cycle Sustrans Challenge

**This year's challenge will run from 23rd April - 4th May and is open to individual classes as well as whole schools.**



On each day of the challenge schools compete to see who can record the greatest proportion of their pupils, staff and parents cycling or scooting to school. A school's best five days will determine their final position, but they can log journeys on all ten days if they wish.

**Winners of the Big Pedal Challenge will receive an exclusive Sustrans Big Pedal trophy.**

## There are prizes on offer too!

Schools and classes will be entered into daily prize draws for rewards including bike and scooter stunt shows and equipment if over 15% of your school cycle or scoot on each day of the challenge.

**I'm giving plenty of notice so that those bikes can be dusted off, punctures repaired so we are ready to win!**

# SCHOOL MEAL SURVEY WE'RE ALL EARS

LOVE  
SCHOOL  
- Meals -  
WE'RE  
ALL EARS



**HAVE YOUR SAY**

*12<sup>th</sup> March - 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018*

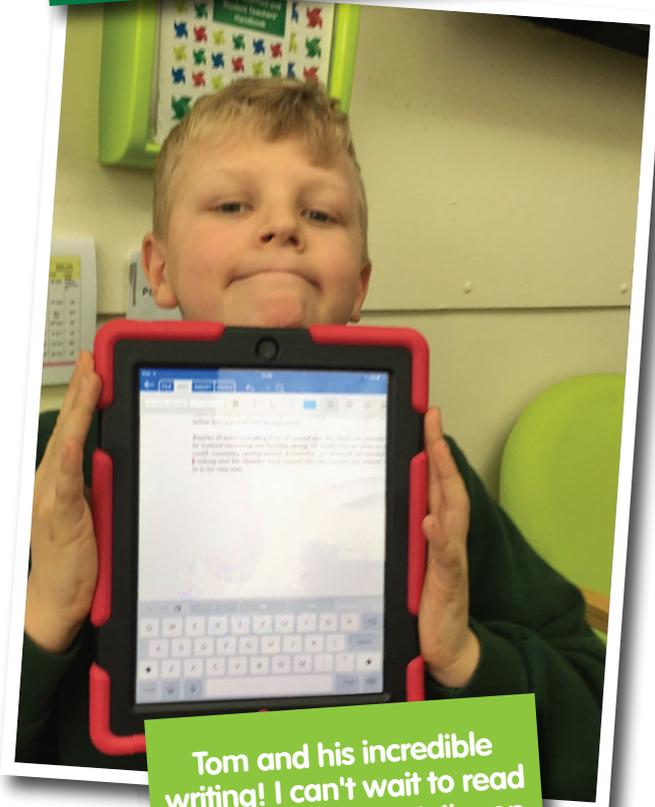
**COMPLETE OUR SURVEY**

*For your chance to win*

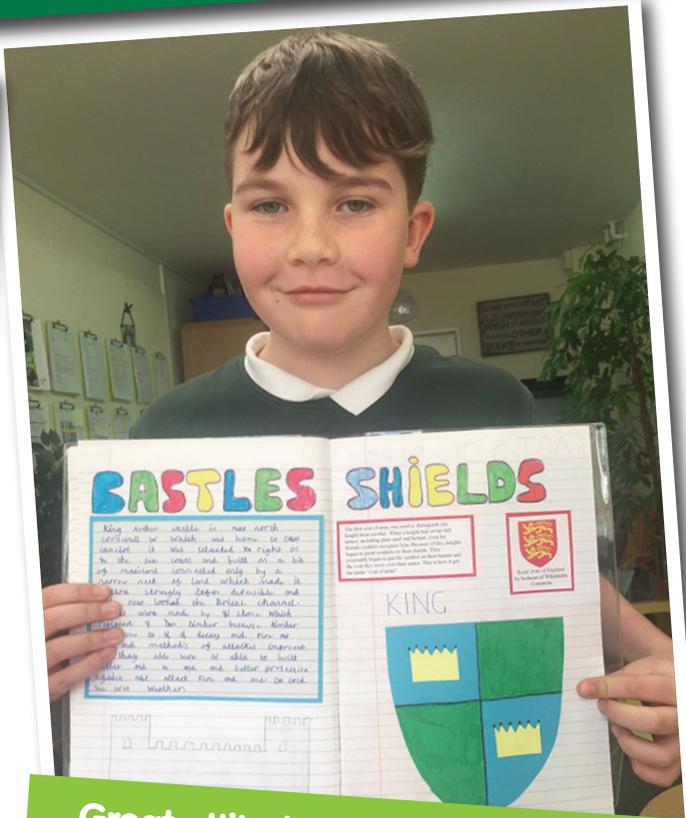
**A FAMILY TICKET TO DRUSILLAS,  
KNOCKHATCH OR DIGGERLAND!**

**GO TO [WWW.LOVESCHOOLMEALS.CO.UK/WAE](http://WWW.LOVESCHOOLMEALS.CO.UK/WAE)  
TO TAKE THE SURVEY**

# GREAT WORK



Tom and his incredible writing! I can't wait to read the next instalment. I'm on the edge of my seat!



Great attitude Danny towards your home learning! I crown you King of homework!

**Diary Date**  
**Thursday 29th March**  
**INSET DAY**  
 (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 **845** 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](http://www.polegateschool.co.uk)