

# news

April/May 2016



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## YEAR 5 RACE TO COMPETE

**Year 5 took a trip over to Plumpton Agricultural College to race the go kart they had built and prepared over the past ten weeks.**

It was a foggy start with about fifteen schools raring to go. Charles Springer, an engineer for STEM, has been giving Year 5 his help, guidance and expertise and was there on the day to prepare the go kart and coach the team.

We took part in every heat; slalom, drag race and the final exciting sprints. Despite everyone's grit and determination our kart just wasn't quick enough to beat the other participants this year.

However, we are excited about the prospect of racing again in 2017 and already have some sponsorship lined up to turbo charge Buzz the go kart in to a chance of first place.

**More photos inside!**



# YEAR 5 RACE TO COMPETE PHOTOS

Year 5 took a trip over to Plumpton Agricultural College to race the go kart they had built and prepared over the past ten weeks.



## 'WORK IN' - CAN YOU HELP?

**Now we are making really good use of the wildlife garden and outside environment we would like to organise a 'work in'.**

We would like to tidy and clear areas of the wildlife garden and make some improvements. I also have ideas for the nursery garden but

obviously depending on numbers that come along I may be being a little ambitious!

Any help would be great but if you have any expertise that would be even better! We have done these in the past and a lot has been achieved in a short time. It won't just be work it will be fun and sociable as well!

**We will provide refreshments.**

Please fill in the slip if you are able to help so we know how many to expect.

**Saturday 2nd July from 9am-1pm.**

If you can spare even ½ an hour it would be a great help.



## SCHOOL HATS

**Now the weather is improving...dare I say that? Well, I am being optimistic and expecting good weather over the next few terms.**

**Please ensure your child has a cap every day until the end of this year.**

Now we are in the summer term we do expect all children to wear a hat when outside. Sun safety is really important and we want to protect the children during the hottest part of the day.

If children don't bring one in they will be asked to sit in the shade or stay in.

# STAFF NEWS

## NURSERY

**Mrs Trent has now officially joined the team at Polegate School Nursery.**

We are delighted to welcome her to the nursery team. She is a very experienced early years teacher who will bring a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the nursery.

## NEW CARETAKER

We have been without a Caretaker since January which has been a challenge but everyone has pulled together. I would like to thank Mr Holter for stepping in and really helping us out when we were without such a key person. Thank you all for your patience especially if the gates haven't quite been opened on time. I am delighted to say that we have now appointed a site officer, Nigel Sandell, who is starting on Monday. Some of you many know Nigel from the early morning girls' football club as he has been voluntarily coming in to support the girls football team.

## NEW TEACHERS

Interviews have been taking place over the whole first week back. I am delighted to share that we have now appointed 4 new teachers to join the team in September. They will introduce themselves to you in the next newsletter but I am thrilled that we had such a strong field to select from. We are all really looking forward to working with them.

## MRS BEDFORD

Many of you will remember Kerry Bedford who left at the end of last year. I am delighted to share her good news with you. She has just had a beautiful baby boy! I am sure you will all join me in congratulating her! (I am hoping this is not going to give any of the staff any ideas!)



# PFA NEWS UPDATE

**Another great disco for the children that is raising valuable funds for a MUGA.**

They are reaching their target and I fully expect we will be able to provide a MUGA for the children to use in September! This is really exciting. Please support the PFA with their future events.





# SWIMMING UPDATE

Contributions have been continuing to come in. The current picture across the school is:

**RH 17 have paid out of 30 pupils**

<b>RP = 21/30</b>	<b>1J = 19/30</b>
<b>1A = 17/30</b>	<b>2M = 15/31</b>
<b>2R = 16/30</b>	<b>3B = 21/31</b>
<b>3P = 16/32</b>	<b>4EM = 13/30</b>
<b>4M = 19/30</b>	<b>5C = 15/30</b>
<b>5P = 23/33</b>	<b>6T = 12/30</b>
<b>6M = 13/30</b>	

Thank you everyone that has returned the questionnaire. I have so far received 126 back! A great response – I have read them all.

Overall the response shows families think the school needs a pool, with only 3 families that were indifferent but felt it was a nice extra. Everyone felt children needed to learn to swim in all year groups. There were many children that did not have lessons outside of school. 80 children in total and for these children the pool is even more important.

Your comments were also interesting to read. I agree that a pool that could be used all year round like the pool at Ocklynge but without starting again and rebuilding the pool this just isn't possible for us. Another parent offered the suggestion of each class having a longer session. The difficulty with this is that we wouldn't be able to fit all classes in during a week and this would become very confusing for parents, teachers and children - timetables would be changed from week to week!

Another suggestion was to open the school pool outside school hours to cover the cost – a great idea, we have considered this in the past but the challenge is pool testing which must be carried out three times a day and finding trained lifeguards. If we opened it at weekends then someone would need to come in to add chemicals and manage this.



Once our new site officer is fully trained we will be able to offer after school sessions again or hire it out to club. We have also considered opening in the Autumn term but we would need to keep the pool running during the summer at additional cost which would not make this viable.

**Please keep any thoughts or ideas you have coming in! All suggestions welcome.**

**It is not too late to make your contribution.**

**I thought it worth adding a letter from another school (not local) regarding their pool. Worth at look at the amount they expect parents to pay:**

'Running costs for the pool and tuition fees have to be met by the joint Junior/Infant schools. In order to meet these expenses a contribution of £16.00 for each child plus £13 for additional siblings has therefore been requested. This equates to £1.60 per session). If this contribution would cause you hardship please do not hesitate to contact me.'

**Comments on questionnaires from you:**

"I think part of the problem is that some people get so much for free they begrudge paying for anything and also perceive services to have no running costs. Even if they genuinely couldn't afford the £10 I'm sure everyone could pay something towards it, even £1"

"I pay £10 for half an hour 1-1 swimming. I am disgusted to hear most parents don't pay, maybe if you don't pay you don't swim!!"

"I strongly believe if a parent is unwilling to pay a minimal amount of £10 then sadly their child should not swim...."

This view was shared by most parents. In school we are never allowed to ask for money for a trip or event in school time if it is not a "voluntary contribution". This is to prevent children missing out because parents may not be able to afford the cost. It does mean however that some parents then interpret this to mean, if they can afford it they don't need to pay.

We are able to cancel trips if we receive insufficient funds. Thankfully I can only remember one time many years ago when we actually had to do this. I provide as much information about the costs of the pool so parents are fully informed and can make decisions based on knowing all the facts.

# SWIMMING POOL AND EARRINGS

**As a reminder because we have had a surprising number of children getting their ears pierced just before swimming starts, which is such a shame!**

No jewellery, including ear-rings are allowed in the pool as there is the possibility of damage to the pool liner.

If your child has pierced ears it is the parents' responsibility to remove the

ear-rings on swimming days – unless you feel your child is mature enough to take them out, keep them safely and replace them without help. It is not possible to cover earrings with tape for swimming or PE they must be removed.

This is not us being difficult, we are following Health and Safety guidance and I have included this for you:

## Health and Safety guidance

There have been a number of calls to the Health & Safety helpline recently regarding taping earrings for PE. The issue also came up recently at Health & Safety training for Headteachers and has also featured in the recent Health & Safety Executive Newsletter. Therefore detailed below is clarification:

### Primary Schools

- Generic risk assessments for PE Activities (Athletics, Dance, Games and Gymnastics) were issued in August 2009. These replaced the PE guidance in the Primary Schools Code of Practice 25.
- The assessments require that all jewellery is to be removed. They do not allow for taping as detailed in the Primary Code. This means that if pupils cannot take their earrings out they will have to sit out PE until they can remove their earrings.
- This policy must be applied within all Community and V/C Schools.
- For any Community or V/C Schools who have not been aware of this policy until now, if there is a difficulty implementing this policy with immediate effect the Headteacher can allow taping of newly pierced ears until the end of the Spring term 2015 only. The PE teacher in charge may still decide that taping is not appropriate for certain PE activities. With effect from the start of the Summer term 2015 the policy should be implemented. Hopefully this will allow enough time for this to be communicated to parents.
- It is advised that all Schools remind parents of this policy towards the end of the summer term as well so any pupils who plan to get their ears pierced can hopefully do this at the start of the summer holidays.

East Sussex County Council's policy is that studs must be removed during all physical education and swimming instruction. The child is responsible for ensuring that this takes place. If your child is unable to remove/replace

their own studs they should not be worn to school on P.E. or swimming days. This is due to the number of accidents in schools as a result.

# DIARY DATES

**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**

**5th July  
'Meet for the Move' a chance for parents to meet their child's next teacher**

**20th July at 7pm  
Leavers' Service at Hailsham Pavilion**

**22nd July  
Last day of the school year!**



# YEAR 4 - THE LION KING

Year 4 enjoyed a wonderful day in London watching the Lion King.



## CONGRATULATIONS 3P

Attendance, as you know, is always a focus, last term we tried a new approach.

We wanted to reward the class with the highest attendance that term. 3P were the winners with 97%. They were rewarded with an afternoon of illusion and magic on Tuesday 19th April when a special guest visited.

So the challenge starts again this term. Only looking at term 5 attendance figures we will reward the class with the highest percentage. 6T were a very close second so may be this time 6T will win.



3P class - winners of attendance for last term!



# CONGRESS SHOW UPDATE

**I am sure many of you have realised, at about the same time I did, that the Congress theatre is in fact closed when we would be due to host our next show!**

It is officially closed for 18 months from January 2017. We have been in touch to find out more and the manager has informed us that it is highly likely to overrun and not be

available for 2018 either. We are really disappointed about this- we had already started planning it and had a theme already!

We have been busy considering alternatives but it is looking very unlikely that we will find a suitable venue, not only for the size of the audience but one that is also able to provide adequate space for the 430 children backstage!

There is a sizeable tick list of requirements which at the moment we appear unable to meet.

**We would have to consider something very special for year 6 as we are aware that they would have been looking forward to their final show at the Congress. We are thinking very carefully about this.**

## More Great work



A trophy for his team winning the under 9s cup. Well done Tyler. On to the under 10a team next!



Sydney took part in the mini mile Brighton. Great time, amazing running, lovely Medal. Well done Sydney!



Fabulous take home task Tia!



April Horscraft & her cheerleading team went to Cardiff & came 1st



Lots of wonderful things we can create with cable reels.



We are having great fun in reception!

# School Attendance



## 100% Attendance

There are 365 days in each year. With 190 school days, that leaves 175 days to spend on family time, playing, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments. Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve.

Congratulations to these children. They have achieved 100% attendance so far this year. 90 children across the school have achieved this so far! I have written to each of them and attached a voucher for a free meal.

**Please help them to achieve this!**

## Class figures

Overall school attendance is currently at **95.7%**. Our school target this year of **97%**.

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

**97% is our target**

## Diary Dates

**Friday  
27th MAY  
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 579  
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)**

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