

news

January 2016



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Happy New Year!

We hope you have all had an enjoyable and restful Christmas – the children have returned to school refreshed and ready for this term's learning.

What a start to the term!

Day one was fabulous across the school with so much going on. I hope the children have shared some of their special moments with you. I think the staff at school have really

excelled themselves this term. The quality of displays and the environment they have created for the children is stunning! So imaginative and creative.

I would like to thank them for their hard work. I have loved walking around the school admiring their classrooms. These are created during the holidays to make sure the children get a lovely surprise on the first day. Please do come into school and take a look for yourselves.

You can see more photos on page 4.



NEW TIMES TABLE TEST

All children will be tested on their times tables as part of their KS2 Sats, under new plans unveiled by the education secretary Nicky Morgan.

The tests will examine multiplication skills in every 11-year-old.

Pupils will be expected to know all tables up to 12x12, with the skill measured using an "on-screen check" examination. This is going to be introduced in 2017 so our current year 5 pupils will sit this new test.

A small number of schools will pilot the test this year, we wait and see if we will be asked!

As always controversy surrounds this decision and there are different educational viewpoints:

Professor Boaler believes: "It is not terrible to remember maths facts; what is terrible is sending kids away to memorise them and giving them tests on them which will set up this maths anxiety."

She added that although some children were fine with

timed tests, others were not. But she said the message of timed tests was that being able to memorise things quickly was the same thing as being good at maths.

"Governments saying everybody has to memorise their times tables to 12x12 is absolutely disastrous," she added.

But Ms Morgan insisted the tests were right for pupils. "They will help teachers recognise those at risk of falling behind and allow us to target those areas where children aren't being given a fair shot to succeed."

The new tests will see children complete multiplication challenges against the clock, which will be scored instantly, with the DfE saying it is the first use of on-screen technology in National Curriculum tests.

At Polegate we are already working hard at supporting pupils to develop a good understanding of their tables through a variety of methods such as our maths passport and so we hope by the time our pupils reach the end of year 4 they will know their times tables up to 12 well.

Once again any help you provide at home will only help your child succeed.



NURSERY NEWS

We are delighted to welcome Sharon Trent to the nursery team. Sharon is a very experienced early years teacher who will bring a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the nursery from the start of term 5.

It is not just a coincidence that she shares the same surname as another member of staff; she is in fact Mr Trent's wife!

"I have always wanted to teach and have had the privilege of being an early years teacher for many years now.

I particularly enjoy imaginative play, getting excited alongside the children as we discover and learn new things and of course any opportunity to learn through 'The Great Outdoors.'

I am really looking forward to being part of the Polegate school team. It is a wonderful school and already very important to me as it is also where both my children and my husband attend.

Outside of school my family are my world. I enjoy going exploring, watching films, baking and of course the obligatory dancing in the kitchen. I also enjoy inventing new play dough recipes and finding things to celebrate.

I am really looking forward to joining you all in April and wish you a very Happy New Year."

Sharon Trent - Nursery

We welcome Annaick Le Maul to our nursery team on a supply basis until Mrs Trent starts.



STAFF NEWS



Mrs Burton

Unfortunately Mrs Burton has taken the difficult decision to leave Polegate School. Just before Christmas she was offered a job a little closer to home. She is very sad about leaving as she has been here six years and will miss the whole school community. We are very sorry to be losing her at the end of this term. She has contributed a great deal to our music curriculum, from choir to shows and performances and has always been a regular at Hindleap Warren even if she is not teaching in year 5. I am sure she'll spring a surprise visit on the children this year as well! Mrs Burton has had a considerable commute to school for many years and on top of the paperwork, marking and preparation expected from teachers she has decided that she will achieve a better work life balance by reducing the journey to school. I don't blame her and wish her all the best in her new school.



Mr Clayton

Mr Clayton, who thought he was semi-retiring, has agreed to take over until the end of the academic year! He is thrilled to come back and teach your children! We are advertising the vacancy for a September start to ensure we get the best possible candidates.

Sharon Sturley

We welcome Sharon as our new Transition TA. She will be working between Polegate and Willingdon Community School this term getting to know all the children. She will support children from year 6 as they move to Willingdon.

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre was another great success for our dedicated PFA!

They are working really hard to raise money for a MUGA, this is a multi-use games area.

Our field gets so boggy that it becomes virtually unusable during the winter months and so this would provide much needed additional space for sports that we can use all year round!

Look at their board outside the school office to see the amount raised so far. These cost about £50,000 so please help us raise this by attending and supporting events. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS SHOWS

I would like to thank Willingdon for hosting our final Christmas shows- these were great.

In each show I was delighted to see children we would not necessarily expect to see in main parts take to the stage confidently and excel. I loved to see their success and felt very proud of them all.



The egg hatched today in year 1!

IN THE PRESS

EASTBOURNE HERALD

School league tables show rising standards

Bourne primary shows major improvement

BY HERALD REPORTER
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The majority of primary schools in the area have met or beaten Government expectations in reading, writing and maths.

The final league tables of 2015 for Key Stage 2 were published on Thursday (December 10) and East Sussex as a local authority matched the national average for the second year running.

The results mean 80 per cent of 10/11-year-olds in the county achieved the expected level of competence or higher in the three Rs.

Most Eastbourne schools saw an improvement from last year, with Bourne showing the biggest improvement with a leap from 46 per cent to 62 per cent.

John Maxwell, Headteacher of Bourne Primary school said, "We are very pleased with the results. They are part of the picture of rapid improvement across Bourne School, and they reflect the outstanding progress that the vast majority of pupils made last year.

"There is still more work to be done, and further improvements to be made but these results reflect the fantastic work which is being done by the children, staff, parents, governors and East Sussex County Council."

While Bourne saw major improvements, several other schools in the area have slipped back and recorded lower figures than in 2014: Heron Park dropped one percentage point from 50 to 49, Shinewater fell from 70 to 67, Stafford dropped from 88 to 81 and West Rise dipped from 88 to 83.

Alfriston School recorded the top figure in the area with

93 per cent. Following closely behind is Polegate with 92 per cent, then the Haven School and Pevensey and Westham with 90 per cent each.

Alfriston head Lindsey Hudson said, "Everyone at Alfriston School is absolutely delighted by this year's results that reflect the hard work in and out of the classroom.

"I would like to pay tribute to all the pupils, parents and carers, staff and governors at the school in bringing about this achievement."

Other schools in the area also showed improvement: Hankham saw 74 per cent of youngsters make the grade, 77 for Langney, 70 for Oakwood, 78 for Ocklynge, 78 for Parkland, 87 for St Thomas a Becket, 83 for Stone Cross, 89 for Tollgate and 87 for Willingdon.

Since 2012, when East Sussex failed to reach the national average - then 75 per cent - the authority has logged a nine per cent improvement.

DIARY DATES

18th January 2016 Churchill Week a whole school focus on this historical figure

26th January
Year 5 sing at the O2!

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

7th June-9th 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 Jul
last day of the year!

92% of our pupils achieved a Level 4 in English and Maths. This actually places us in the top 10% of schools nationally and for progress we fall into the top 1%! This was quite an achievement. Well done everyone!

MORE OF OUR FABULOUS DISPLAYS



STAFF XMAS PANTO

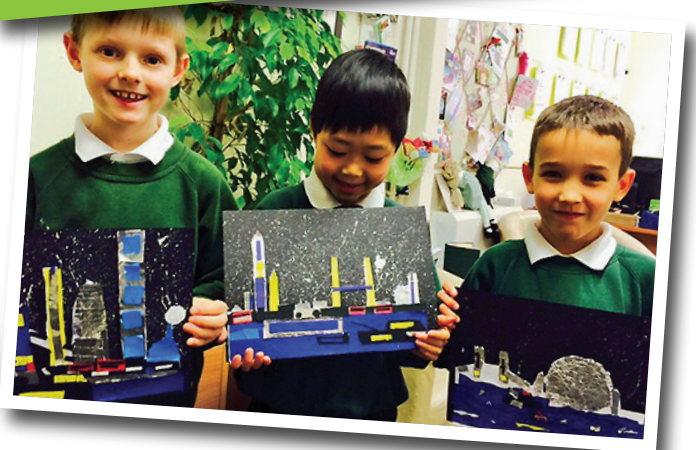
Once again we entertained the children with a pantomime on the last day of term. I hope they didn't come home too disturbed after the experience! They certainly participated enthusiastically with lots of 'Boos' and 'behind you's'!



Great work



Incredible London scenes from Year 3



HEALTHY EATING

This is the time when we all make new year resolutions and it also appears to be the time when our County Council and government want us to consider the foods our children eat.

The amount of sugar that our children are eating is always in the news at the moment with some very high profile people (Jamie Oliver and David Gandy) supporting the reduction of sugar children are eating.

Latest data collected as part of the National Child Measurement Programme shows that in 2014/15, one in five (19.9%) reception year children in East Sussex were classified as carrying excess weight, with this rising to almost one in three (29.6%) by the time pupils reach year 6.

Schools play a key role in encouraging and providing opportunities for children and young people to learn about food and to eat a healthy diet as part of a whole school approach. Resources have recently been published (or are soon to be released) and are designed to support schools in teaching about healthy eating.

Look out for Change4Life's new healthy eating campaign due to launch in January 2016. Focusing on the new sugar guidelines, the campaign will provide families with the knowledge and tools they need to help them cut down on sugar. This will include a new app to help parents to visualise the sugar lurking in foods, with sugar content brought to life on the screen with a visual of sugar cubes. Further resources, including recipes and ideas for healthy swaps, will be available online to help parents take control of the sugar in their child's diet.



We have a duty to promote healthy eating and this is why we have a policy that sweets and chocolate are not allowed at any time- even if included as part of a packed lunch.

It is often difficult to distinguish sweets from cake bars, biscuits etc. To clarify anything found in the sweet aisle is not allowed. It is important to note that whilst we would not encourage it anything found in the cake or biscuit aisle would be permitted. Fizzy drinks are not permitted and this includes sparkling water. If prohibited items are continued to be brought in to school we will remove these for the duration of the time in school and returned to the child at the end of the school day. All staff will continue to follow this policy.

Thank you for your support with this.

SPORTS STAR OF TERM 3

Sports Star of Term 3 was awarded to Elsie Thorpe in Year 5

Elsie was nominated by Mark Potter our Sports Coach for the determination she always shows in PE lessons and clubs. She has represented Polegate in the Eastbourne Schools Cross Country competition this term and her skills as a gymnast are developing every week. Well done Elsie!



SCHOOL TRIPS

Some excellent visits took place at the end of last term, both to London.

Year 3 visited the Natural History Museum and took in the sights with a River boat cruise whilst Year 6 visited the Imperial War Museum and enjoyed 'Goodnight Mr Tom' at the theatre. We bumped into an agent of one of the actors at the show, who happened to live in Hellingly-it's such a small world! She not only

commented on how amazed she was to see a school from the Eastbourne area all the way up in London but also how well behaved our pupils are.

The children all had a wonderful time and as always behaved superbly. I had the pleasure of joining them and enjoyed every second!

'Was the best trip so far'

'Thank you for giving year 6 a fabulous opportunity'

'Awesome'



Are we fit and strong enough?



Natural History Museum



Imperial War Museum



A great day out!



In the air raid shelter



SCHOOL DEVELOPMENTS

Hooray!!

On Friday I will be given the key to our new extension. It is a great space and we are all really excited about being able to use this.

The breakfast and after school club will begin to move over during next week.



JUNIOR DOORS

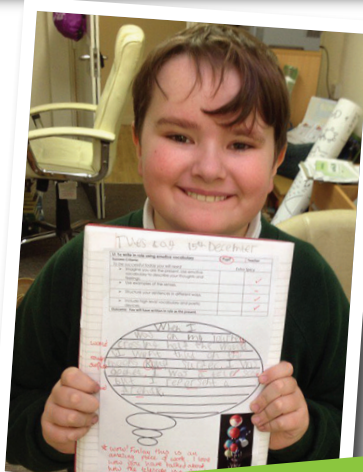
All the classes in the juniors have had new doors fitted to replace the concertina doors. Everyone is really pleased with the impact this has had on learning! The junior area is now a much quieter space because doors can be shut whilst the glass windows mean they are not so closed in.



More Great work



Intrepid news reporters came with a wonderful account of the Battle of Hastings!



My superb writing!

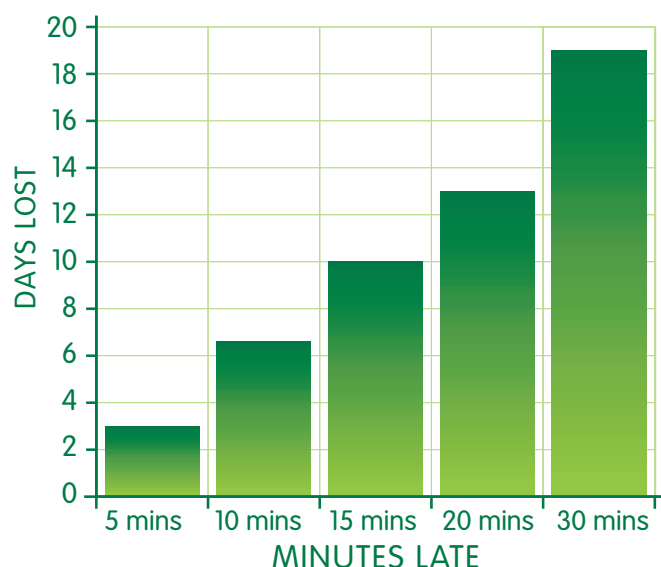


A superb London skyline in art from 3B

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 96.2%. Our school target this year of 97%.

RH = 94%	2R = 96%	5P = 96%
RP = 97%	3B = 97%	5B = 94%
1A = 96%	3P = 97%	6T = 97%
1J = 96%	4M = 96%	6M = 97%
2M = 97%	4EM = 97%	

- 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 554
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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