

news

December 2014



In This Issue

Christmas Wishes	1
Reception Nativity Play	2
Take Over Day	2
Parents Evening Trial	3
Nursery News	4
Bloodhound	5
Reception Visit	6
Cross Country Runners	6
Diary Dates	6
Sponsored Sport	7
Year 4 Trip to Battle Abbey	8
Maths Challenge	8
Attendance	9

Happy Christmas

As this is the final newsletter this year we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Another very busy term with our reception nativity performances, sporting events, parent consultation evenings, engineering challenges and so much more.

We can't quite rest yet though....

We are looking forward to our final week which ends with our traditional staff panto! We cannot disclose which one yet, it is always a closely guarded secret.

We have the Infant and Junior Christmas party and the Thursday will be a mufli day, which if the children want to

come dressed in their own (appropriate) clothes they contribute tombola items for the Christmas Fayre. We hope you will be joining us for this event on the 18th from 5.30pm. The PFA have secured some very special visitors from 'Frozen' and our choir are launching the whole evening with some festive songs. We look forward to seeing you there.

RECEPTION NATIVITY

The children in our reception classes did us proud with a wonderful nativity show.

They are such stars already and it doesn't seem possible that they only started school in September. They have all settled in so well and I never fail to be impressed when I go down to reception and see them working so hard.



I must thank the whole reception team for preparing the children so well for their first show.

We have such dedicated staff and their passion is evident for all to see. It was lovely to receive so many appreciative comments from parents and grandparents after each show. I am so pleased you enjoyed it and the staff were thrilled to hear your comments as they worked so hard to put together these performances.

There was another slightly larger star (no offence Mr Barber!) who certainly deserves a mention. It was a surprise highlight for our audience when our caretaker (dressed as a Sheppard) serenaded them with his dulcet tones! Thank you Mr Barber, you are officially the best (possibly only) singing school caretaker. I wouldn't be surprised if you have your very own fan club now!

Take Over Day

On Friday 21st November the children took over!

We took part in the Children's Commissioner Take Over day where Year 6 pupils took over some important roles in the school including the caretaker teachers, head teacher and many other jobs. They realised how hard being an adult is, but thoroughly enjoyed their experiences!



FESTIVE FUN!



Mrs Barnard

Trial of new parent consultation evenings in class 5B

It was such a privilege to be involved in the Year 5 parent consultation evenings. I sat in on every one in class 5B as we trialled a new approach.

For me, it was a huge success. The difference was the child spoke about their own learning; their strengths, successes, areas of challenge, targets, favourite subjects. Each and every presentation was different and so personal to the child.

I think it was special for many reasons but for me, most importantly it was child led. The children were taking ownership of their own learning. They spoke with confidence, maturity and a great deal of passion. It was quite a daunting experience for them. They stood up and spoke to their parents, teacher and me! It only proved too much for two pupils and then the teacher read their presentation.

Following and during presentations the teacher and parents asked questions and of course there was the opportunity at the end to talk without the child. The children left beaming and we all felt proud.

I gained such a valuable insight into each child and their perception of school. Many spoke about how much they love French and the approach used to teach it, a credit to Mrs Williams, our French speaking teaching assistant.

It was clear to see the impact the introduction of the pen licence has had on pupils' attitude to their handwriting. This was mentioned on every presentation! They are showing

determination and persistence because they want to earn it. This can only be a good thing. We invited the parents and pupils to comment on this new approach and collected in questionnaires and feedback. This is what they said:

"more about the child as an individual and not all target driven."

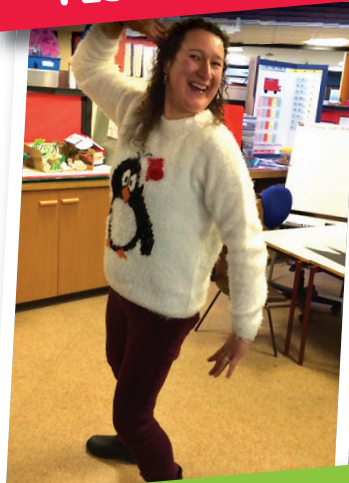
"fun and informative."

The benefits parents identified were: confidence building, child taking an active role in their own learning, supports presentation skills, opportunity for pupils to identify their own strengths and weaknesses.

In February at the next parent consultation we will now use this approach for all year 5 and year 6 classes.

Apart from the few inevitable ICT issues I felt that this approach was a huge success.

FESTIVE FUN!



Mrs Shoesmith

Christmas Dinner

The school enjoyed their Christmas Dinner this week.

A big Thank you to our friends at the Treacle Mine for donating the crackers!

Thank you to our marvellous cooks who put on such a festive feast!



Thank you to our marvellous cooks who put on such a festive feast!

NURSERY NEWS



We are so excited about having the opportunity to establish a nursery as part of Polegate School. This nursery is independent of any other in the area and is to be lead and managed by Polegate School.

It has been brought to our attention that there is some confusion in the community related to the management of the new nursery. To clarify, Polegate School have appointed a manager and are currently appointing other nursery practitioners. This team will be ably led and supported directly by Debbie Jones our Early Years Specialist and leader of reception and year 1 whilst the senior leadership team in the school will help shape the strategic developments of the nursery and future appointments. Polegate School has established a very clear vision for the nursery which you can read below. We believe we can offer something unique and different from other settings in the area.

We have also been asked by county to lead a project to improve the provision for all 2 year olds in the area in all settings. We are the lead of this Early Excellence Hub in which we are aiming to involve all our local pre-school settings and child minders. It is a huge compliment to have been approached and recognised for our outstanding Early Years provision.

Whilst the nursery is yet to open its doors to our very first 2 year olds we have very clear aims and aspirations.

Learning without Limits

At Polegate School Nursery we aim to develop a unique, family-like approach with absolute integrity to the children as our primary motivating factor. Our aim is to provide the superior care and education for our nursery children. Our ethos is the same across all age ranges, 'learning without limits'. This vision establishes a strong connection between the nursery and school. We will both support and also challenge children to make the best progress they

can. Polegate School Nursery is built on a firm foundation of staff sharing high expectations of themselves and of the children and their families.

The belief we hold is that children will undoubtedly flourish in every way when genuinely valued, respected, and made to realize how special they are. Not only will the children benefit in such a situation, but also parents will experience real peace of mind whilst apart from their children. Parents and carers will be actively encouraged to become involved with their children's learning in the nursery. This will start at the very first home visit.

First-Class Care & Education

Polegate School Nursery aims to provide first-class care and education within a safe, happy, interesting, family-oriented environment in which each child is encouraged to develop their full potential whilst having LOTS OF FUN! The young children (ranging from two to four plus years) in our care will be encouraged to develop lively, enquiring, imaginative minds, to enjoy learning, and to improve their social and personal life skills. Every single member of our team is prepared to go that extra mile for the children.

Careful planning will take into account each child's individual needs, informed by sensitive listening, observations and reflection by our skilled staff. Staff will support child-initiated and spontaneous play exceptionally well, and because they will know children's needs they will be able to ensure that all are challenged and helped to make outstanding progress.

Warm, Kind & Loving

We place great emphasis on making the Nursery warm, kind and loving, where special care is taken to ensure that each child feels nurtured and cherished. We fully realize the vital necessity of guiding children well in their formative years; thus, by means of warm, positive encouragement we stimulate children's natural enthusiasm for life and their desire to understand the world around them.

Children are encouraged to appreciate the need to take responsibility for the care of the natural environment. We aim to develop a genuine "outdoors" nursery, making full use of the varied outdoor areas available to us in ALL weathers, for many hours at a time. Staff will be fully trained in the forest school approach. We will go to great lengths to ensure that the children are able to enjoy doing as much as possible outside - for as long as possible each day - wholeheartedly embracing the elements as a sensory experience!

In addition, we want to develop proactive recyclers, gardeners, wildlife watchers! The nursery benefits from full access to the school's extensive outdoor areas and wildlife garden.

We believe happy children give of their best and achieve their full potential. We will strive to give both children and parents a delightful, never-to-be-forgotten experience of the precious and unique nursery and pre-school years.

We have information packs available from the school office. There is a waiting list for future places.

Bloodhound



Bloodhound is a supersonic car (supersonic means faster than sound). The Bloodhound team are trying to break the land speed record.

On Tuesday 25 November we went to Eastbourne Academy to learn a bit more about the Bloodhound.

Firstly we went into the 3d printing room where we saw a 3d printer.



Neave and I with our finished rhino.



The 3d printer

To understand how the titanium tip of the car was made we decided to pile shapes on top of shapes to make a rhino which turned out pretty well.

After that we went to the hall where we learned more about how Bloodhound is going to be made and how it works. We had loads of fun shooting air rings everywhere and even going on a simulator.

Later we went into another room where we had to make a car out of K'nex and attach a rocket to it. Our one went the second farthest.

Then we said our thank yous and went back to school and went home.

I really enjoyed it and would like to learn more

Poppy Gibbons, 5C



Shooting Rings

Mrs Lisa Terry
Nursery
Supervisor

I am very excited to be joining Polegate school in January, and being part of the fantastic new nursery opening soon.

I have over 15 year's experience working with children and I am looking forward to sharing my thoughts and ideas with the staff at Polegate to make the nursery a fun and exciting place to learn and make friends. I am looking forward to meeting all the children and parents and welcoming them through the doors of the nursery. Outside of my working career I enjoy being a mum and spending time with my family, I enjoy reading when I have a spare 5 minutes and walking our dog along the seafront or on the downs.

CONTACTS

It is very important that you keep the school office up to date with any change of contact details. If you change your telephone number please let Kerry know.

FESTIVE FUN!



Great Jumpers!

Reception visit

There was a marriage and a christening during the recent visit to the church!



Diary Dates

18th Dec - Christmas fayre

19th Dec - INSET Friday

26th Jan - O2 Young Voices choir to attend

29th Jan - Think Tank meeting

3rd Feb - Art exhibition

Fri 13th Feb - Last day of term

Fri 13th Feb - PFA Disco

23rd Feb - Start of term 4

2nd March - Parent Consultation

4th March - Parent Consultation

11/12th March - Mother's day presents

26th March - Polegate School exhibit Year 4 artwork at the Towner

Thur 26th March - Mufti day 50p

Friday 27th March - INSET Day

Cross Country Run



On one of the coldest days of the year, 13 runners from Polegate School arrived on a muddy Hampden Park pitch, ready for a fun packed afternoon.

Polegate School came up against fierce competition from St Thomas a Becket and Ocklynge. The girls set off first across a boggy Hampden Park. After that, the boys set off – the results were dominated, in both races by St Thomas a Becket, Stone Cross and Ocklynge.

Although we didn't win any medals we all did a superb job. Thank you to the teachers who had given up their time to get muddy! (Mrs Palmer, Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Thorpe and Miss Garland)

Our Runners: Sam Laycock, Oliver Akehurst, Joshua Akehurst, Fletcher Sheppard, George Fenton, Jamie Hamilton, Robbie Joiner, Thomas Stuart, Callie Gent, Neave Martin-O'Donoghue, Amy Bateman, Grace Piper, Katyanne Deboick.

FESTIVE FUN!



Xmas Jumpers!

Baguettes

Baguettes not available from January



Sponsored Sport

Our sponsored sporting event really inspired the children.

I am sure they came home talking about it. Thank you for collecting the sponsor money, we are looking forward to receiving some new sports equipment now.

The performance Danny gave was quite spectacular and the children were astounded with his gymnastic ability. Take a look at the photos!



GO MISS GARLAND!



Parent feedback

I am extremely pleased with Jack's progress in reading and writing, his confidence has also improved greatly.

Once again an extremely pleasant Parents Evening this being the sixth year!

The children's work around the school is astounding!! I felt it reflected a rather impressive Arts/Crafts Gallery.

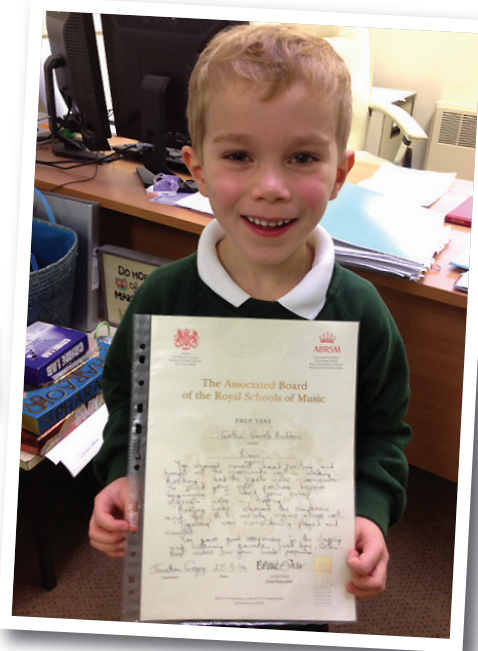
Very well done to you all at Polegate School!



Well done Gethin!

Gethin entered his piano prep-test.

His first experience of taking an exam! The certificate was full of positive comments about just how well Gethin performed. Gethin had to play from memory three tunes, two songs and complete a listening game. What an achievement Gethin! Well done!



Charity Donations

Julie's Pantry in Polegate are taking in donations of dog food for the charity Waifs and Strays based in Seaford.

Dog food is urgently required over the Christmas period. If you would like to donate dog food items please take to Julie's Pantry or pop them to the school office.

If you would like further information about the charity please look at waifsandstraysdogrescue.co.uk

Year 4 Battle Abbey Trip

By Drew Carter & Callie Gent Y4

We arrived in Battle and walked all the way down to the Abbey it looked very old but not at all ruined.

4B went to a work shop to act out the Battle of Hastings they had a pretend fight and got soaking wet. We also saw the spot where Harold Godwinson died. Meanwhile 4M were with Mr Hale in the Novice room eating their snacks.

We also went down a long path where we saw signs that told us more information about the Battle of Hastings. We walked to the café and everyone ate their lunch.

When we finished our lunch we went to an expedition that was near the café, we tried to lift a heavy shield, axe and a sword with one hand which is harder than it sounds.

There was a video playing about what life in 1066 was like. Finally our trip had come to an end, so we walked back to the coach and talked about our wonderful trip.

We recommend people at all ages to visit Battle Abbey as it is fun and exciting. Year 4 all said it was a brilliant trip and we would love to visit again.



Maths Challenge

Pass your answer to Mrs Jones. The first correct answer wins a prize.

Maths Challenge KS1

The Tomato & the Bean

Tom's Dad sowed some tomato seed in February. He gave Tom one of the tomato plants in a pot.

At the beginning of May, Tom put his tomato plant outside. On the same day he sowed a bean in another pot.

Ten days later the bean plant was just 1 cm (centimetre) above the soil surface. Tom measured his tomato plant which was already 38cm tall. Each evening Tom measured his two plants.

On the evening of the next day the little bean plant had grown another 2cm so it was 3cm high. Each day it continued to grow double the amount it had grown the day before.

The tomato plant grew at a steady 5cm a day. After how many days were the two plants the same height when Tom measured them in the evening?

How high were they?

Maths Challenge KS2

TWO
+ TWO
FOUR

Each of the different letters stands for a different number.

How many solutions can you find to this word-arithmetic challenge? How can you be sure you found them all? Can you find other word sums that work? Here are some suggestions to start you off:

ONE + ONE = TWO

ONE + TWO = THREE

ONE + THREE = FOUR

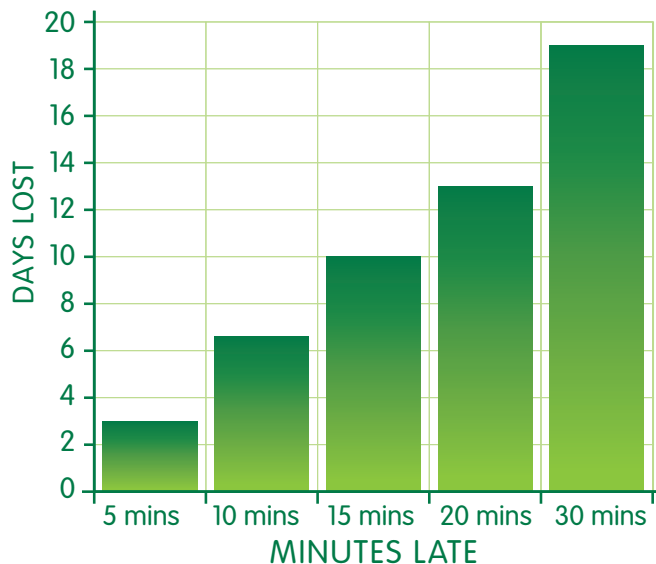
FOUR + FIVE = NINE

Can you make a word subtraction?

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.



- 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**

Class figures

Overall school attendance is currently at **96.8%**. This is so close to our school target this year of **97%**. Keep it up!

RP = 94%	2R = 96%	5B = 97%
RH = 93%	3B = 96%	5C = 96%
1A = 91%	3P = 94%	6T = 95%
1J = 95%	4M = 96%	6M = 94%
2M = 97%	4B = 95%	

97% is our target

Overall school attendance is currently at **96.8%**. This is so close to our school target this year of **97%**. Keep it up!

Diary Dates

The next
INSET Day is
**Friday 19th
December**

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 **382
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

Designed by Prowork: www.prowork.co.uk