

# news

March 2014



## The nation's favourite sports day

**The nation's favourite sports day will be kicking off in schools and nurseries on Friday 21st March but because of our INSET that day, we will be running our main events on Thursday 20th March.**

Polegate has decided to get involved and help raise money for this incredible cause.

To do our bit and raise money Polegate School will be;

- Running a mile for Sports Relief – each class will do this as a whole for sponsorship

- Hosting our very own 'Great British Bake Off' (application letters for contestants will be available soon!)
- Presenting our version of 'A Question of Sport' Quiz
- Cycling on fixed cycles for a stage of the 'Bike to Brazil' Challenge
- Dressing as our sporting heroes for a donation of 50p-£1

**More details will follow in a separate letter.**

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### Well done!

**A huge well done to all the children for their fantastic hard work last term, they certainly earned their week off!**

The office has never been busier with visits from children wanting to share their achievements. This is also reflected in their progress being made across the school in all year groups. Keep it up!

### Winning House

As always our weekly announcement about the winning house causes a great deal of excitement!

The winning house for last term was

**Orion**

## Parent Consultation Evenings

**A reminder that the Parent Consultation evenings are on Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th March.**

If you haven't already booked your appointment please do so via the link on the school website or speak to Kerry in the office.

### Club Cancellations due to Parent Evenings

- Football Club on Wednesday 5th March has been cancelled
- Dance Club, Numbers Club, Maths Master Class, Arts & Crafts Club and Writing Master Class on Thursday 6th March have been cancelled

# SPORTS DESK

## Hockey Kit

Mr Moore has become our 'Hockey Hero' he was so enthusiastic about the before school hockey club that he has shown incredibly generosity and bought the team a new kit!

To recognise this we would like to establish 'the Moore' Trophy for sporting achievement and Mr Moore will help decide the criteria for winning it. Our tag rugby team were the first to wear the new kit.

## Tag Rugby

Despite all the recent bad weather, the tag rugby tournament organised by the Eastbourne Schools PE Association took place this week at a very muddy Hampden Park.

Although we only managed to draw one game and win a friendly at the end of the tournament, we did see some fine team play and some individual genius throughout the afternoon. Well done to all involved and to Mr Holter for driving the minibus and Mr Moore for his support during the matches.

## Christmas Post

We raised £142 from the sale of Christmas Stamps. This is going to be put with the proceeds of £174 from 2012. The School Council would like to put the money towards a table tennis table.



## E-Safety

E-Safety is vitally important to ensure children stay safe online. To learn more about the risks facing our children when they use computers, please log on to [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

Another useful website you might like to visit is [www.childnet.com/resources](http://www.childnet.com/resources)



Taken at the beginning of the afternoon, the photo shows an enthusiastic Polegate Team sporting their new sports kit, very kindly sponsored by Mr Gary Moore.

WORLD  
**BOOK**  
DAY

6 MARCH 2014

## World Book Day

This year, World Book Day is on 6th March and we are encouraging all children to take part. We have a challenge for the children. We are once again inviting them to take part in 'extreme reading'.

- 1st Find your book
- 2nd Read in an unusual place
- 3rd Ask a parent/carer/sibling or friend to take a photo of you reading - we need to see the book
- 4th Bring in the photo by Wednesday 5th March

Please remember to be safe at all times while reading your book. Prizes will be awarded in each year group for the most extreme/creative photo.

# A longer School Day

**It seems that not a day goes by without another education announcement from Mr Gove. One statement was proposing a 9 or 10 hour day.**

It may not be happening in all state schools but it is at Polegate. We already have children arriving at school at 7.45am. Through tracking every child's progress we target pupils for additional intervention to ensure they either meet or exceed age related expectations in a range of subjects.

We also have year 6 pupils staying at school until 5.30pm to work on key aspects of their learning.

A range of homework clubs are provided during lunchtimes and after school for year 2 to year 6. We even have selected reception children benefitting from a reading club until 4.30pm. So, for us a 10 hour day is normal! It is also very worthwhile. Children taking part in these make accelerated progress often making as much as a years progress in just 10 weeks!

**Thank you for supporting these additional opportunities.**



**twitter**

**Be the first to hear the news.**

**Follow us on twitter. We now have 284 followers!**

## Parents & Friends Association

### Mother's Day Present Room

**The PFA are holding a Mother's Day Present Room on Weds 26th March and Thurs 27th March.**

A range of presents, wrapped on purchase, will be available for your child to choose from for £2.00 each. Cards are also available for 50p each

If you would like your child to be part of this please ensure they come with adequate money in a named envelope to avoid any disappointment.



**Facebook**

**PolegatePrimarySchoolPFA**

**The PFA have also set up a facebook page to keep you up to date on events so please join this group to find out more.**

### Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday 5th April 2014 starting at 12.00-3.00pm.**

This year our Easter Egg Hunt is taking place along the Cuckoo Trail. We will be setting off from the School playground at 12.15pm and all participants will need to bring along their bikes or scooters, which need to be in good working order and children must be wearing helmets.

Parents are more than welcome to join their children along the Cuckoo Trail and make it a real family fun day. However, if you are more of a spectator there will be plenty of other activities to enjoy, so please come along and soak up the atmosphere of the day with us.

**Thank you for your support**

### Upcoming Events

**26th & 27th March**

Mother's day present room

**5th April**

Easter Egg Hunt - see details

**15th May**

Bike It Breakfast: early morning 8.15-8.45am. Limited numbers so first come, first served.

**11th & 12th June**

Father's day present room

**21st June**

Summer Fayre

**26th June**

Bike It Breakfast: early Morning 8.15-8.45am. Limited numbers so first come, first served.

**28th Jul - 1 Aug**

Playscheme week

**Date of next meeting:  
Tues 1st April at 7.15pm**

The Playscheme is up and running again thanks to the determination shown by **Jemma Orange**. More details will follow but it will be during the week beginning 28th July. I know they would appreciate any offers of help no matter how small.

# Astronaut Training Day

Year 5 had an 'Out of this World Day' when they experienced the challenges of being an Astronaut.



## Swimming Gala 2014

We will be holding our annual Swimming Gala on Thursday 26th June at The Eastbourne Sovereign Centre starting at 6.30pm.

Full details to follow.

Date for your diary



## STAFF

### New Staff

We welcome two student teachers – **Hannah Shennan** and **Abigail Lee** this term from the University of Brighton. They will be working in Year 1. They will be sending out a letter to introduce themselves to you if your child is in a class they are teaching.

### Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a parent governor. If you are interested please speak to Mrs O'Donoghue

.....  
**Figures published last month showed that at least four in ten teachers fail to last longer than five years in the job!**

I think we should feel quite proud that our teachers not only last longer than the five years but also are so committed to Polegate School that they remain with us (despite a few maternities along the way!)



## Singer Song Writers

A huge amount of excitement is generated each week when the winning house is announced.

The pupils have loved the introduction of houses. We are asking pupils/parents to use a chorus of a well-known song and create new lyrics to match each of our school houses:

- **Orion**
- **Pegasus**
- **Hercules**
- **Phoenix**

This should be a celebratory song that can be sung immediately after the winning house is announced. We want a different song for each house. The name of the house should be mentioned.

**An example might be:**  
**Queen – We are the Champions**

# Meet the Author

On Tuesday 25th February several of our Year 6 pupils had the opportunity to meet Christopher William Hill, the author of the book "Osbert the Avenger" at Hawks Farm School.

The children have read his book, and four others, that have been short listed for the East Sussex Book Award this year. The children will shortly make their decision on who they think wrote the best book and should receive the award.

This was a wonderful chance to meet one of the writers and put some hard thought questions to him. All agreed that Christopher was a very engaging and interesting man. He kept a hall of 200 children enthralled for over an hour with his sense of humour and anecdotes including explaining his great interest in corpses and cakes.

For any who have read the book they will be familiar with the author's love of gothic mystery and his books are full of children who get to have their own back on horrible adults in very dark and deadly ways.

The children greatly enjoyed the visit and now have the difficult decision to make on who should win the notable award this year. As always our children were praised for their excellent behaviour.



  
**Ofsted**  
raising standards  
improving lives

## Ofsted Parentview

This is an online facility that allows you to give your views about our school at any time during the school year.

Each year we need to collect your views even if you have completed it for the previous school year. Both parents can complete this separately and we would love as many responses as possible.

## Sainsbury Active Kids Vouchers

We are once again participating in the Active Kids vouchers. When you shop at Sainsbury's until 20th May you will receive vouchers – please donate them to us so we can then redeem them for sports equipment.

**HELP! If anyone has some spare time we would be grateful of help to count them (this can be done at home if it is easier)**



## STAR WRITER

It hovers above earth glimpsing at the everlasting surroundings. A galaxy not so far away glimmers in the darkness. Stars are like a thousand light bulbs lit at once. It was beautiful. Black holes emerge light years away yet they seem so close. Mars and Venus can be seen not far away. Water is scattered all around earth. Suddenly, a noise is heard.

The ship started rumbling as if there was about to be an explosion. Jumping out of the ship seemed risky. So what will happen? Gradually, the noise got louder and more deafening. Sirens are set off and the phenomenal view is changing into a sickening swirl as the ship growls. The clear blue sky burns into thick black clouds. What's happening? There are now sudden bumps HELP!

Crash! Silence is surrounding the ship. The sparkling galaxy is back where it was still and silent. Gleaming brightly the ships ruins are pulled away from this planet. It feels like monsters are lurking all around here. All of a sudden there are footsteps...

By Lauren Hunt



## WOW

"I love sharing the amazing work that your pupils complete in school and it also provides the children with an opportunity to have their work shared with an audience- something they love! This work was produced by a Year 5 pupil. Feel free to send in your thoughts on their work and we will share this with the children."

Mrs Martin-O'Donoghue  
Headteacher

# Meet our Breakfast Club

There are still vacancies if you need childcare before the start of school. Please pop in to the school office for details.

## Meet the Team

(From left to right) Sally Jenkins,  
Val Collins, Julie Bishop,  
Lorraine Wilkinson (Co-ordinator)



## Year 4 Creative Writing

Year 4 extracts of writing from our Viking myth topic where children wrote their own myths based on those from the Vikings.



Flying high Balder shouted "Watch out for the hills!" Finally they came out of the hilly hills. Balder pointed down on the lush green forest, they landed with a bump. Balder tied a rope around Toothless' neck and then tied a rope around the tree. He had looked around, but he couldn't find Arisborg anywhere. Then he remembered there was a waterfall and he also remembered there was grunting from the waterfall. So he tip toed into a cave (which was under the waterfall) and soon they came face to face.

By Finley Cassell

In the world of Helhim, where the goddess of Death lived, there was a dark and spooky forest. This was the forest of the dead. The tall trees were bare and bats hung from every branch.

The stoney ground was filled with animal bones and that's where the terrifying monster was known as, The Jagged Prince of Death.

By Kyle Moody

# Gallery Corner

It seems to be the newsletter for Year 5!

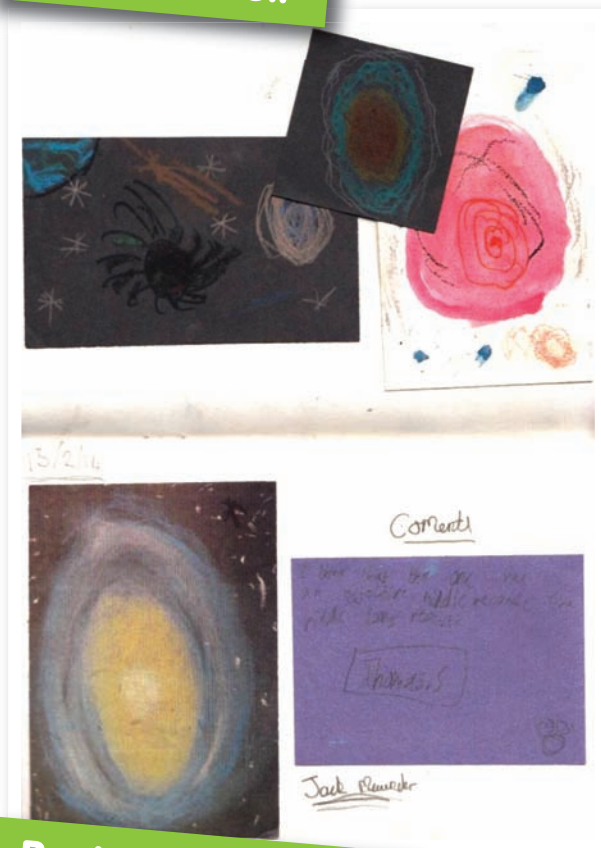
Here are a few great pieces of artwork from the Year 5 sketchbooks exploring the space theme.



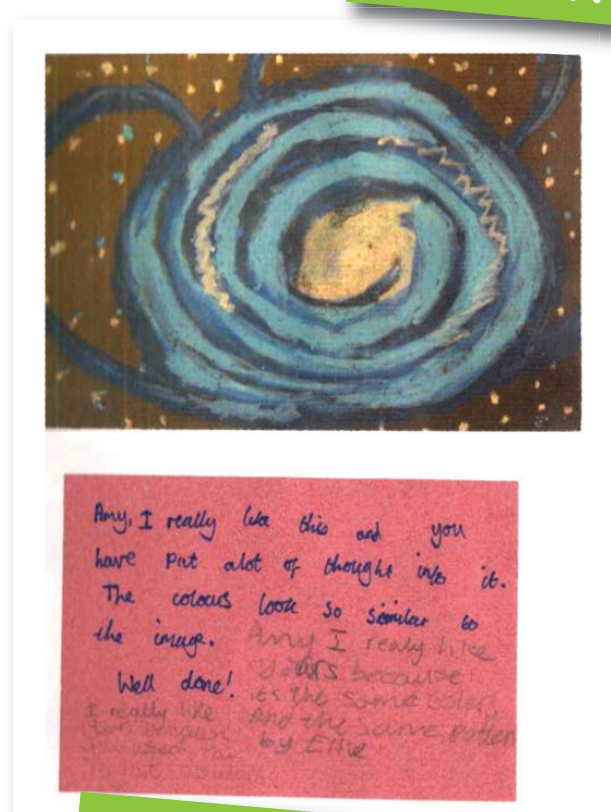
By Alicia Bell



By Lauren Hunt



By Jack Maunder



By Amy Bateman

# Attendance

## Days off school add up to lost learning

There are 175 non school days a year. That's 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments.

<b>190</b> School Days a Year  190 days for your child's education  <b>100%</b>	<b>10</b> days absence  180 days of education  <b>95%</b>	<b>19</b> days absence  171 days of education  <b>90%</b>	<b>29</b> days absence = 1 Term missed  161 days of education  <b>85%</b>	<b>38</b> days absence  152 days of education  <b>80%</b>	<b>47</b> days absence  143 days of education  <b>75%</b>
<b>Good</b> Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start		<b>Worrying</b> Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress		<b>Serious Concern</b> Not fair on your child. Court action!	

If your child's attendance drops below 85%.  
You should expect a visit from a member of  
the school's leadership team with work for  
your child to complete.

We have unfortunately needed to do this quite recently. We  
have to refer any child with attendance below 85% to the  
Education Welfare Officer who will then provide support to  
improve attendance. Please contact the school for support  
before it gets to this stage.

Our average last year was around 96%

## 97% is our target

## Class figures

Please compare your child's attendance to the  
average & look at the table above.

RJ = 94%	2BW = 96%	5T = 96%
RP = 95%	3G = 97%	5B = 94%
1A = 96%	3K = 96%	6C = 97%
1R = 95%	4M = 96%	6T = 95%
2B = 97%	4EM = 96%	



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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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