

news

April 2018



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CREATIVE HOME LEARNING

Thank you to all our wonderful families for all your ongoing support this term, so many creative home learning tasks have been brought down to my office for the children to very proudly share!

It is really clear how much support and encouragement you have given them all and how much they have loved completing these tasks with you.

Teachers really appreciated seeing so many of you for our recent parent consultation evenings. We really value the strong links we have with families. Your children have worked exceptionally hard this term: I know from the number of children visiting the office with brilliant work. Thank you

all for attending parent consultations.

Thank you for attending and sharing your children's successes.

Yet another really busy term with lots happening! I can't believe we are fast approaching term 5 already!

We hope you all have an amazing Easter holiday and look forward to seeing you when we come back! Enjoy the break and the chocolate!

INSPIRING INDIA

Year 1 enjoyed a day full of Indian activities in our final week. Here they are painting Diyas. An oil lamp used in India and Nepal. These clay diyas are often used as lighting for special occasions often used in the religious festival, Diwali.



YEAR 6 ARE PROUD OF THEIR PORTRAITS!



INSET DAYS FOR 2018/19

We have once again planned in advance and attached many of our INSET days to holidays in the hope that our families can benefit from cheaper holidays and reduce the holidays taken in term time.

We have also matched as many as we can with Willingdon Community School days to make it easier for families.

- Monday 3rd September
- Friday 9th November 2018
- Thurs 3rd & Fri 4th January 2019
- Friday 5th April 2019

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

We encouraged all children of all ages and all genders find inspiration and courage from diverse women role models.

On the day children actively questioned and openly challenged stereotypes and bias. They took part in a trail around the school to find out which women inspired school staff.

Started by the Suffragettes in the early 1900's, the first International Women's

Day was celebrated in 1911. International Women's Day belongs to all communities everywhere - governments, companies, charities, educational institutions, networks, associations, the media and more.

GREAT WORK



DIARY DATES

Weds 28th March
Last day of term

14-18th May
SATs week

Tuesday 22nd May
Morning Reception
and Nursery Sports
day

Wednesday 23rd May
Infant Sports Day
(Morning)

Thursday 24th May
Junior Sports Day
(all day)

Thursday 24th May
evening
Swimming Gala

SWIMMING

Just a reminder that swimming starts after the Easter holiday. If you haven't already done so please make your contribution via your ParentMail account.

These menus would give M&S a run for their money! Not just any food... Polegate Year 6!

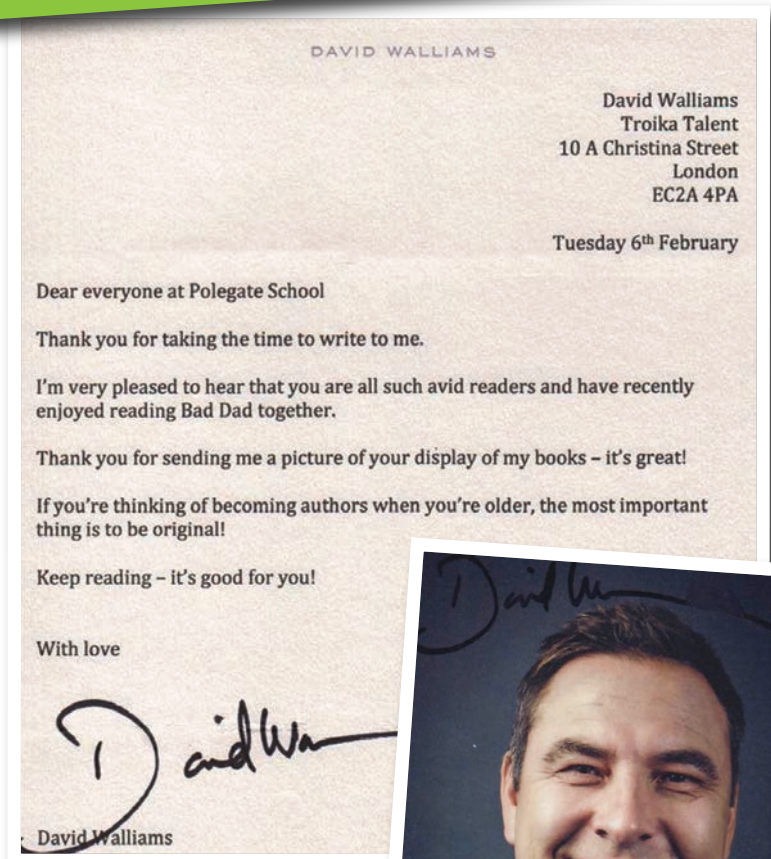
DAVID WALLIAMS

The children in year 6, inspired following the huge success of our whole school read of Bad Dad, put pen to paper and wrote the most wonderful letters to Mr Walliams himself!

We were hoping that their talent and wonderfully crafted witty letters would convince Walliams to pay us a visit but unfortunately not!

Instead David wrote back to us and sent us a signed photo- in case you are reading this Mr Walliams we are very grateful, we will frame your photo but we would have preferred a visit!

And so we can now introduce our next whole school read - Rebel Girls, Part III!



BIKES AND SCOOTERS

It is wonderful that children are scooting and cycling to school and I really want to encourage this!

What I do need to insist on is that on arrival at the school gate the children walk with their bicycle or scooter to avoid any potential accidents. The path that runs alongside the nursery is particularly narrow and it would be easy for a very young child to be injured.

We will be supervising this and will be asking children to walk rather than ride across playgrounds and paths in the school day.



OUR SPORTS STARS



Our Polegate Netball Team!



Congratulations team Polegate! Our swimmers did us proud coming 3rd!



Our amazing hockey team ready for action!



We started the Hockey tournament so well! Winning all 3 first games!



Team Polegate at inter schools football tournament!

YEAR 6 QUIKSTICKS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

On Wednesday 14th March, a group of fab year 5 & 6 pupils participated in the South Downs Area Quiksticks Hockey Tournament up at the Saffrons Hockey Ground.

There were 16 teams altogether from local schools including Ocklynge, Willingdon, PAWS, Heron Park and Lewes Old Grammar. In the first round of the competition, we won 5 games and drew 1 which left us high up in the rankings for the knock-out stages.

Polegate Team one was; Matthew Moore, Hattie, Ben Board, Curtis and Leah Barber.

Team 2 was; Annabelle, Max, Tyler, Henry Johnson and Jack Selby.

Both teams had to play against last years winners Lewes Old Grammar and despite our best efforts, LOGS won both games (one of them after extra time. So Polegate came 5th & 6th .

We were all worn out from working so hard! We are all proud of ourselves and each other!

The hockey tournament was AWESOME!!!

By Annabelle and Hattie.



WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

Coinciding wonderfully with our Sports Week we are trailing our walking bus. I am hoping it will take off , be a huge success and something that we can sustain.

Are there any parents willing to volunteer during this week, on any day or all days, to walk up to school with us?

We will meet at the Co-op car park by the train station and walk from there at 8.30am to arrive at school in plenty of time. Please fill in the form if you can.

Polegate Walking Bus

Everyone welcome!

8.40am - 21 to 25 May 2018

During walk to school week, a walking bus has been arranged from Polegate Train Station to Polegate School



DARING DAISY!

Daisy Purdey recently asked to have her beautiful, long, curly hair chopped short so that she could donate it to The Princess Trust.

They turn the donated hair in to wigs for children who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment.

Daisy asked her mum to set up a page to accept donations for the charity to aid with supplying wigs.

Following closely behind was Grace Dicks who almost the following week also donated her hair to Children with Cancer!

We are all very proud of you both and love the new look!



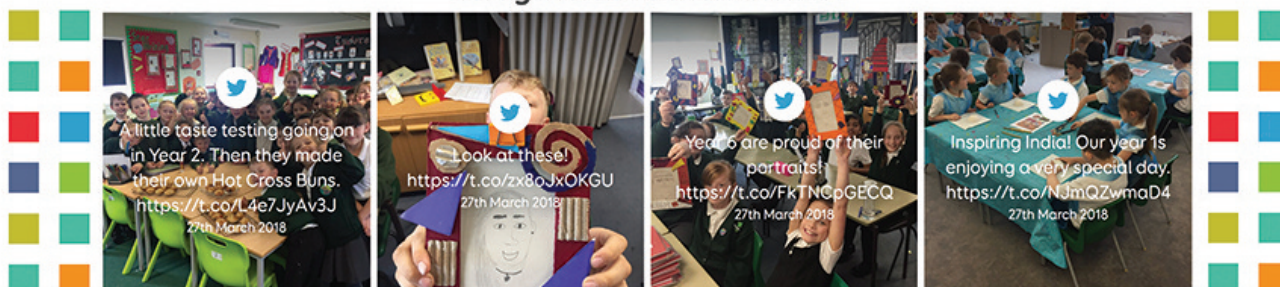
TWITTER

We have
859
followers

You don't need to have a Twitter account to view the school posts.

These are available from the home page of our school website towards the bottom of the page. This is a really quick way for us to get messages out and we frequently post children's achievements for you to see.

Polegate School on Twitter



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: 96.25%. A little way off our target of 97% but it has dropped since last term.

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

Free school meals	94.14%	Non FSM	96.75%
SEND	95.9%	Non SEND	97.36%
Whole school	96.25%		

PFA NEWS

This term has been another successful one for the PFA. Our latest news is that we have applied to become a registered charity!

So now it's a case of just waiting to see. It's a very exciting time for the whole school. As well as this, we currently have 2 Willingdon Secondary School students, also past pupils helping us. They are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award and as part of this need to work supporting a charity. They have been a fantastic help and definitely deserve their awards.

Our most recent event, an indoor table sale and Easter Egg Hunt, was held on Saturday. We would like to thank everyone involved in making the event a success, from stall holders and cake donators to our amazing PFA team for organising and helping. Also not forgetting all you wonderful people that attended. A profit of £148 was raised to go towards the Wildlife Project funds.

The Wildlife Project is what the PFA

are currently raising funds for. This project is set to see the wildlife area receive a huge make over as well as an outdoor classroom. The whole project is most likely going to cost over £20,000 so every penny counts. The more we raise the more that can be achieved in these ambitious plans!

Lastly, don't forget your children will be coming home with a tube of smarties from The PFA. You would have received Parentmail explaining what these are for. But in short they are for the children to fill with 20p pieces, which they earn by helping out at home. These then need to be brought back in when they return to school after Easter and the class that raises the most will win a prize! So get your children enthused and helping out around the house to raise money for The Wildlife Project.

Thank you everyone for your continued support. If anyone ever fancies helping out with anything or attending a meeting etc, please do.

We always need more helpers and ideas. And the more that help, the easier the work load. The PFA are a great team to be a part of and we'd love to welcome you aboard.

FUTURE EVENTS

22nd May PFA Meeting 7pm at school

13th and 14th June Fathers' Day Gift Sale

7th July Summer Fair 11am-2pm

13th July Quiz Night Doors open 7pm

20th July Year 6 Leavers' Event

WHAT'S MENTAL HEALTH?

The World Mental Health Organisation defines mental health as a state of wellbeing on which every individual achieves their potential, copes with the normal stresses of life, works productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to their community. Mental health includes our emotional, psychological and social wellbeing. It affects how we think, feel and act.

Like physical health, mental health is something we all have. It can range across a spectrum from healthy to unwell; it can fluctuate on a daily basis and change over time.



Mental health doesn't mean being happy all the time.

Neither does it mean avoiding stress altogether. Coping and adjusting to setbacks are critical life skills for children, but it's important that they develop positive, rather than negative, coping skills.

Negative coping skills

Negative coping skills are attitudes and behaviours that have often been learned in the absence of positive support and in the face of stressful and often traumatic events and experiences which, over time, may put good mental health at risk.

Example: children at risk of or experiencing maltreatment in the home may have learned to react quickly and in a certain way (flight or fight or freeze) to survive and keep themselves safe. But in a classroom, these reactions may not work well and could get them into trouble, disrupt learning and make them unpopular with teachers and peers. In the longer term, these learned behaviours may also impact on their mental health and wellbeing, sense of belonging, educational achievements, peer relationships and life chances.

Positive coping skills

Positive coping skills are ways of thinking, attitudes and behaviours that allow children to deal with stress or adversity and which help them flourish. These positive coping skills form an important part of a child's ability to be resilient in the face of setbacks and challenges. Children who have cultivated robust coping skills can still thrive with support, even when they are mentally unwell.

For more information about mental health click on this link:

https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/?utm_source=Place2Be&utm_medium=Email

ARE YOU A TV STAR?



The Secret Life of 4 & 5 Year Olds

The award-winning Channel 4 series is returning to follow 4 and 5 year olds, as they play, learn and interact with other children in a nursery. They will be observed throughout by leading scientists and psychologists, who will give insights into child development.

We are currently looking for **4 and 5 year old children** and their parents to take part. Your child would be needed for a week or two of filming during the summer holidays.

If you are interested please go to the below link to fill out our online application form

<https://www.shortaudition.com/The-Secret-Life-2018>

We are committed to promoting inclusion and welcome applications from parents of children living with a disability. All communications with us will be treated in confidence.

Any information you give us will be kept securely and confidentially and in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 (and your right of access to the information is as provided under that Act).



GREAT WORK



A scrummy home learning task! Complete with cake stand!



Amazing homework from Year 3!



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 **859** 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

Designed by Prowork: www.prowork.co.uk