

news

October 2022



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AMAZING LEARNING

As term 1 comes to an end it is perfect opportunity to celebrate all the amazing learning that has happened this term.

As always the children have immersed themselves in their learning and thoroughly enjoyed a wealth of learning experiences including swimming, forest school, sports, debate... the list could go on.

Reception have settled into school life very well. They are following the 3Rs meticulously and having a great deal of fun at the same time!

Our staff inset on 27th September was a huge hit with all teachers. Bob Cox joined us to share his amazing approach to writing. Having this opportunity has inspired the teachers and children to go on and create some outstanding writing across the school.

I would like to thank you and the children for making my first term as Acting Headteacher so positive. The children amaze me every day with their resilience and determination and clear enjoyment for learning.

I hope you all have an enjoyable, well deserved half term break. We look forward to welcoming all the children back in term 2!

COMPUTING CLUB

We recently purchased new virtual reality resources which the children are thoroughly enjoying and learning new coding skills.

The children in computing club had fun being the first to try out our new robots! They explored the written code and edited it to make the robot talk to them, move their eyes, head and mouth and they had fun changing their voices! We look forward to exploring more robotics in our computing curriculum very soon.



POLEGATE PARLIAMENT

Congratulations to our newly appointed School Councillors.

The children had to go through a gruelling process to then be democratically voted in. They all wrote an individual speech that was delivered with flair to their class before the all-important ballot.

Polegate Parliament opened with a thoughtful debate around creating an eco-friendly school. We cannot wait to hear their ideas on developing and improving school.



JUNIOR ENTERPRISE

A group of Year 4 children took part in Eastbourne Junior Enterprise Challenge at the Town Hall.

They were tasked with the challenge to become a business team for the day! Our team was complete with a manager, sales team, marketing, finance and buyer representatives. The team met professionals from local businesses and the children were so inspired after talking with them.

The team's main challenge was to design a concept and marketing strategies for next year's Eastbourne Carnival; complete with an all singing radio advertisement! The marketing, sales and finance team worked hard to design a souvenir mask as well as working out a budget to ensure they made a profit. Our Year 4 team worked so brilliantly as a team and were very confident in delivering their sales pitch to a team of judges.

We are so proud of their brilliant team work!



YEAR 2 ART

Year 2 have recently been studying the artist Andy Goldsmith.

Using natural materials in our Forest School they went onto create their own art. This learning continued into photography with the pupils developing an understanding of the art of photography, lighting, mood and texture. The outcomes are outstanding!



ATTENDANCE

We strongly believe in tackling attendance early before it causes longer term problems for your child and there are many reasons why we address this from the very start of the year.

Pupils who missed 2 to 4 days in September were 5 times more likely than those who missed fewer than 2 days to be chronically absent for the year. Half the pupils who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.

This is a significant amount of time. We firstly aim to support. Please share with us any difficulties you face as a family - we want to help!

If attendance is causing a concern you will be invited in for a meeting to discuss the reasons behind it and offer support.

Higher attendance clearly equates with success and higher earnings later in life. This may seem obvious but if you were in any doubt attendance is the building block of pupil achievement. The bottom line is that if they are not in school then they are not learning.

RH	97.2 %	2S	97.8%	4H	97.9%
RG	91.9%	2C	98.2%	5M	97.1%
RB	97.6%	3L	94.7%	5K	95.3%
1B	94.9%	3T	97.7%	5T	97.9%
1S	97.8%	3GR	95.1%	6M	97.3%
1G	97.6%	4JD	93.6%	6MU	97%
2R	98.3%	4AD	97%	6W	97.1%

PUPIL VOICE

The children at Polegate understand the importance of their voice being heard, staying happy and safe.

To encourage this further we have introduced a Worry Box for the children to share any of their concerns. The children continue to develop an understanding of their own emotions through a range curriculum activities.



DIARY DATES

17th October
Parents Consultation

18th October
Individual School Photos

19th October
Parents Consultation

20th October
Olympic Athlete Visit

21st October
Last Day of term

24-28th October
Half term

31st October
Start of Term 2

1st November
Bags2School, PFA

3rd November
New to Reception 2023
Parents Meeting 9am

9th November
New to Reception 2023
Parents Meeting 2pm

10th November
New to Reception 2023
Parents Meeting 5pm

11th November
6M Assembly

14th November
INSET Day

17th November
Second Hand Uniform
Sale, PFA

18th November
2C Assembly

25th November
5T Assembly

25th November
Influenza Nasal Spray

25th November
Winter Extravaganza,
Fireworks

1st December
Wreath Making, PFA

KEEP READING!

There can be few things as powerful as regularly reading to a young child.

It has astonishing benefits for children: comfort and reassurance, confidence and security, relaxation, happiness and fun. Giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story tells them they matter. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns. Please continue to read daily with your child during the half term break. Raffle tickets will still be given after the holiday. It is always gratifying to see a full raffle ticket box!

Reading to children is so powerful, so simple and yet so misunderstood | National Literacy Trust



TILLY COLLECTING HER BOOK PRIZE AFTER WINNING THE READING RAFFLE. LOOK AT THAT SMILE!



Isla won the KS2 reading raffle.

She chose *The Case of the Drowned Pearl* after a recommendation from a teacher at Willingdon secondary school during her recent transition visit.

We hope you both enjoyed your new books.

WINNING HOUSE

The winning house this term is Hercules!

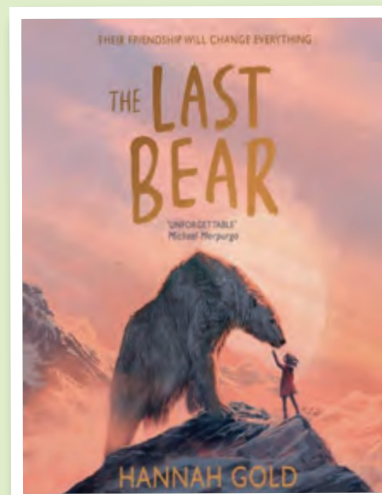


This was a very tight race, and as always very competitive, with possibly only a few house points in it

WHOLE SCHOOL READ

This term the children have been reading *The Last Bear*.

The whole school read develops a community of readers with children and adults in school sharing their views on the text. It appears that *The Last Bear* has been a hit with everyone!



THINK TANK

Think Tank is an opportunity to meet and discuss school ideas with a range of parent representatives from each year group has in the past proven very successful.

The Think Tank is a group of parent representatives, one from each year group at least, who meet to discuss general school-related issues. This Forum provides a valuable way to listen to your ideas, suggestions and seek your views on our ideas, helping to ensure the needs of the children and their families are met.

This has been a really successful initiative that has been in place for an unbelievable 7 years now! Part of the success of this group is down to the fact that the parents share the aims of the school to:

- To support and promote children's learning
- To help the school find out what parents and carers think about important issues
- To involve parents and carers actively in school decisions
- To make plans that support the ways the school wants to develop and improve outcomes for our children.

The school has benefited hugely from their support and I know Claire certainly appreciated their views and

commitment. They always have solutions and suggestions at the ready.

I don't want to put any parents on the spot by announcing who was in it before because your circumstances may well have changed. You may not have the capacity you once had. I know the parents that were representatives for different year groups and if you want to continue then that would be fabulous but equally if you no longer able to then I will open this opportunity out to others. You have the opportunity to return the slip to say you will continue or will not below. Just let us know.

The role of this group.

It is important that all parents understand this group is not in place to address specific concerns about an individual child or issues relating to individual members of staff. Parents who need to discuss these issues should follow school procedures relating to this, approaching their class teacher in the first instance.

We know that when parents are involved in their child's learning and in the life of the school, children do better. This is borne out by a growing body of research. Parental involvement is a key lever for school improvement and we are lucky to have such a committed group of parents.

If you are interested in this role then please return this expression of interest to the school office and we will approach you if there is a vacancy for your year group. Honestly there is no expectation you bring anything but yourself and your thoughts and opinions with an openness to listen and respect other parent's views. The more diverse and representative the group is of our community the better!

The Think Tank's first agenda item is Home Learning following a parent suggestion and recommendation that we also invest in Doodle spelling and Doodle English.

The meetings take place in the school day generally a Thursday afternoon, once a term, at 2.30pm just before pick up at the end of the day.

THINK TANK PREVIOUS MEMBER ONLY

If you would like to continue as a Think Tank member this academic year, please email your name and your child's name and current class to let us know on office@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

PARENT CONSULTATION

Thank you all for attending Parent Consultation Evenings. It has been great to see so many of you and hear such wonderful feedback at the end of a very long term. The comments and emails I have received really reflect the amazing teachers and support staff we have at the school.

So grateful for all your feedback!

Please label your child's uniform and PE kit.

We have been staggered by the number of items of school uniform that I have found around the school- this is a real plea, PLEASE name your child's items so that we can return them directly to them.

PFA EVENTS

As always the PFA have been busy behind the scenes since we have returned to school.

Thank you so much to all those new parents and families that joined us at our first meeting of the school year, it is great to have new members to help raise funds to support the school in being the amazing place it is.

We will be having our AGM (Annual General Meeting) soon, more details will follow nearer the time, we'd love to see more of you join us then! If you would like to get involved or find out more please do get in touch via our email address pfa@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

Upcoming Events- Fireworks night

Our famous, Winter Extravaganza will be back again this year! We cannot wait to see you there. This event is happening on **Friday 25th November**



Wreath Making

We also have an exciting Wreath making workshop run by a local florist planned on **Thursday 1st December**.



Why not join our School Lottery?

Don't miss out on your chance of becoming a lottery winner! I have had a few Dominos pizzas thanks to my winnings!

Unlike most other lotteries, Your School Lottery lets you support your local school directly. We believe in the principle of raising money through the community for the community.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As a supporter, you can join for as little as £1 per week and for this, you will have the chance of winning a guaranteed weekly prize for someone within your school community. The more people that participate, the bigger this guaranteed prize becomes and the more money raised for your school.

On top of this, you will also be entered into a separate draw with a chance to win an amazing **£25,000 EVERY WEEK!** We are the first lottery organisation that provides both a guaranteed weekly prize AND a potentially life changing win.

www.yourschoollottery.co.uk



AMAZON SMILE



Donate money to the school as you shop on Amazon Prime without it costing you anything. I have just signed up myself- it was so easy and now when I buy anything on Amazon they donate a portion of the purchase price to Polegate School.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your selected charity.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.co.uk to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations to charities by Amazon. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for smile.amazon.co.uk donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing Amazon.co.uk account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on amazon.co.uk and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organisation to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to smile.amazon.co.uk you need to select a charitable organisation to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.co.uk will result in a donation.

Turn on AmazonSmile in the Amazon app to generate donations.

smile.amazon.co.uk



WEALDEN SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Polegate has recently become a member of the Wealden Schools Partnership.

This a collection of state and independent schools that are working in partnership with the aim of enhancing learning experiences and opportunities for all pupils.

The first shared event was a shared school council meeting where our Year 6 class councillors joined pupils from other schools including Ringmer, Bedes and Parkmead.

The collaboration of both primary and secondary pupils discussed ways to work together in the future with a particular focus on our planet and sustainability as well as pupil mental health and well-being. All of the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the event and impressed all of the adults with their maturity and confidence; they were great ambassadors for the school.



MATHS AT POLEGATE

This term we introduced new maths workbooks. These have been a great hit with the children!

They are completing so many maths problems during maths sessions that we felt they needed to provide more.

See the maths problem below.

Maths books, maths problems and TT Rockstar and Doodle are only some of the maths fun happening in and out of school. Keep Doodling!



MATHS PROBLEM OF THE MONTH

Trading cards are sold as single cards or in packs of 5 or 10

- A single card cost 50p
- A pack of five cards costs £2
- A pack of 10 cards costs £3.50

Max max has £10 to spend.

What is the maximum number of trading cards he can buy?

Solve the problem and send your answer to Mrs Murphy to earn yourself a learning sticker!
e.murphy@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

CHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO YOUR CHILD

We just wanted to let you know that due to the new GDPR regulations we will not be sending out data collection sheets any more. We do still need to know if there are any changes to information relating to your child.

Changes we need to know about are:

- Medical details (any new allergies, asthma etc)
- Change of address, telephone numbers or email address

Keep us informed

It will be up to you to keep us informed and you can do this by emailing the school office at:

office@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

with any changes or by completing the form which you can find on the download section on our website

www.polegateschool.uk

PARKING

Please remember to park legally. We need to ensure that all the children leave school at the end of the day safely. Parking opposite school places all children at risk.



Diary Date

Friday 21st
October
**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
1,332 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