

# news

June 2017



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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

There is too much to fit into this newsletter! I'm saving all the sports for next term. Didn't we pick a great week for all our outdoor events – I wish this always happened!

## This term our terrific year 6 experienced the dreaded SATs tests!

Yes they were challenging, yes expectations are incredibly high as you can see some of the questions below; I think you will agree that there are many adults that would struggle with these!

I am so proud of our Year 6 who arrived at school to enjoy a breakfast with their friends each day before the SATs with a smile on their face (I think the bacon baps helped!).

They appreciated this relaxing, social time with their friends.

They have reassured me that they didn't feel anxious and we gave them plenty of encouragement. I am sure they have done brilliantly! At the end of the day we all know that SATs do not test the things that matter most: Kindness, honesty, teamwork, creativity... or even the skills a child might excel at such as art, music, P.E, speaking, drama...

We want to create confident well rounded children who are well prepared for the next stage of their education and beyond and yes, SATs are part of it but they are not everything! **A big well done year 6.**

TRY SOME  
**SATS**  
 QUESTIONS  
 INSIDE

## STAFF NEWS

As far as I know we have all our teachers for next year!

We have appointed a total of 3 new teachers and we are delighted to welcome them to Polegate School.

## TOYS

**Thank you for the kind donations of toys for lunchtime.**

We do have a range of equipment out for the children to enjoy and we are extending this even further at the moment ordering new items however we can never have too much!

Please can we request that children do not bring in their own toys because it leads to many arguments between children who want to share and are not allowed or they get muddled up with our toys and we have no way of knowing which is which.

## BIKEABILITY BALANCE FOR RECEPTION

**My son has just finished his after school Bikeability Club and loved it.**

Professional trainers and excellent teaching. Now my son is much more confident not only on his bike and scooter but gained more personal confidence.

Thank you to all those involved and hope there will be more for reception when they go to year 1.

## HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

**There has been a great deal of publicity recently regarding holidays in term time. There has been a very high profile case which reached the high courts.**

**East Sussex County Council would like to update you on the stance they are taking.**

On Thursday 6th April 2017 the Supreme Court announced their ruling in the Platt versus Isle of Wight case. The Supreme Court ruled against Mr Platt, ending a long period of uncertainty for schools and Local Authorities around issuing penalty notices for unauthorised absences taken in term time.

A Department for Education spokeswoman said: "We are pleased the Supreme Court unanimously agreed with our

position – that no child should be taken out of school without good reason".

### Unauthorised Absence Requests

Taking a child out of school during term time disrupts both their education and the education of other pupils in their cases.

Sadly I have seen an increase in requests for holidays in term time this term. This is really disappointing especially as I really do stress to all families considering sending their child to Polegate School that we do not approve or expect families to remove children from learning for a holiday.

## PASSPORT SIGNATURES

**I have been a little inundated with passports to sign which I am more than happy to do.**

Some parents have made a donation to the school fund as a thank you. We have used this to go towards the pool. This has been greatly appreciated.

They recognise that most professionals such as doctors would charge a fee to do this.

I would like to make it very clear that I will not be signing any passports if a family is intending to take a holiday in term time!

## RECEPTION HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE

### A message from School Health

As you may recall, we wrote to all parents of reception-age children last December asking them to complete a questionnaire about their child's health.

The questionnaire is designed to identify any potential health concerns that could impact on a child's development, so we

can then offer advice, support and intervention. So far, the response rate has been low so if you have not already done so, we would be grateful if you could complete the survey by clicking here: [www.kentcht.nhs.uk/rq](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/rq)

**The questionnaire can be completed on your smartphone, tablet or computer. Thank you for your help**



# GOVERNOR NEWS

**You may not be aware but Miranda Thorpe our chair of governors joined her last governor meeting this month.**

Sadly, due to work commitments she is unable to commit the time to this role. I am sure you will join me in thanking Miranda for all the hard work she has put in over the last few years. A great deal is expected of governors and they do it voluntarily.

We are fortunate to have a really strong governing body that is fully committed to the school. The governing body have gone from strength to strength under Miranda's leadership.

Our new chair of governors are keen to introduce themselves to you. They have been governors at Polegate for a while but are now stepping up to take on this new role.



## Dear Parents

**We have become co-chair of governors for Polegate school and would like to introduce ourselves to you**

**Martin Falkner**

My name is Martin Falkner and I am looking forward to my new role as Co-Chairperson. I have lived in this area for 40 years and was born in Sussex. I worked in Mental Health Services all my life and currently serve on the Polegate Town Council. My youngest daughter is an ex Polegate pupil. My hobbies include Football, Boxing, Opera, and Ballet, Politics and Religion to name but a few!!

**Jan Meyer**

My name is Jan Meyer. I have lived in this area for 26 years. I was the headteacher of a school in Hastings and have been an Ofsted inspector. I have retired from full time work now but still retain a keen interest in schools and education. I have two daughters who both went to Willingdon secondary school. If you should need to contact us please do so via the school office.

We would like to thank Miranda for the time and commitment that she gave to Polegate School. She has been a caring and hardworking chair of governors.

**Martin and Jan**

# HEART OF GOLD AWARD

**Our very modest and humble Allen has recently acted very heroically and bravely when he faced an unusual situation.**

He did not want me to mention this in an assembly but was happy for me to share this in a newsletter. He was home on his own with his dad when his dad suffered from a severe fit. We can only imagine how scary this would have been. Allen kept a cool head and initially called his mum who was working. Unfortunately mum was not able to answer the call so Allen then made the decision to call the emergency services.

He calmly answered all the questions and as Allen followed the instructions to open the front door the ambulance arrived at the scene! The paramedics told Allen he was a star and dad was subsequently taken to hospital where he was kept in overnight.

I am pleased to say that Dad is home now and well.

**We have a special award for occasions just like this and I am very proud to award Allen our heart of gold certificate and trophy.**



## DIARY DATES

Wednesday 24th May am  
Infant Sports day

Thursday 25th May All day  
Junior Sports day

8th May SATs week Year 6

Thursday 25th May 6.30 –  
9.00pm Sovereign Centre –  
Swimming Gala

Friday 26th May  
Parents all welcome in to see  
'Wonderful Work' in your  
child's class.

Tuesday 4th July  
Change over day  
Children spend time with  
their new teacher.

Friday 21st July  
Last day of the year.

## LETTER

Lovely email from a supply  
agency that visited the  
school this week:

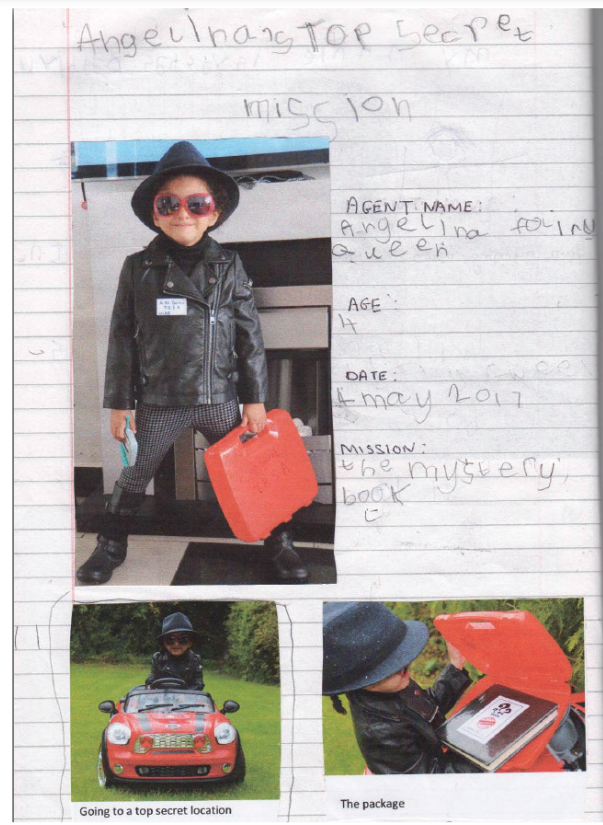
I just wanted to thank you  
once again for your time  
this morning and please do  
pass this on to Claire. Amy  
and I really enjoyed  
meeting you and were  
honestly blown away by  
Polegate School, there is a  
really nice atmosphere  
within the school and we  
were both very impressed  
with the displays and the  
behaviour and politeness of  
all of the children.

## SECRET AGENT READERS

Our Secret  
Agent Readers  
are in action all  
over the school!  
Sssh, don't tell  
anyone!

Just take a look at  
this amazing entry  
from our agent in  
reception.  
A brilliant entry in  
the mystery book  
journal!

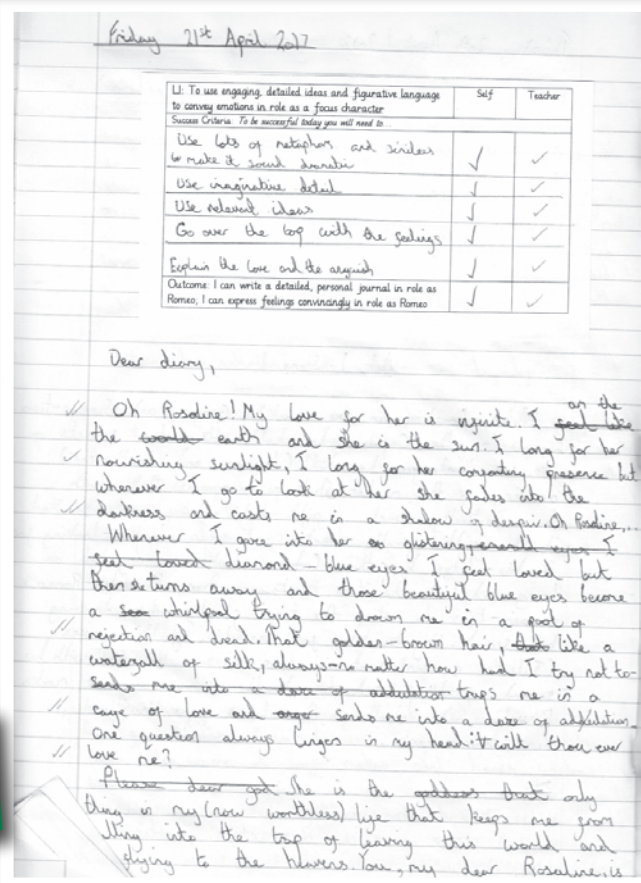
BY  
ANGELINA  
DERIAS



## AMAZING WRITING

It is hard to  
believe this  
writing is  
produced by a  
pupil in year 6  
at a primary  
school! The  
quality of the  
writing is  
exceptional.  
Have a read for  
yourselves.

BY  
DREW  
CARTER





# HINDLEAP WARREN

## The children's account of the 3 days...

We went on the opportunity of a lifetime to Hindleap Warren where we experienced a selection of activities. The activities pushed us to our limits! We had to face our fears on the zip wire, leap of faith and the climbing wall. We had to work as a team when we went canoeing, took part in the obstacle course and negotiated as part of team building. We took aim in archery. All in all this trip hit its target!

The wonderful staff at the centre encouraged us every step of the way. We have come back changed 'we are braver, stronger, more independent and more confident. We were also a lot muddier'.

Yet another successful residential for our Year 5 children. I would like to thank the staff at Polegate who joined in, spent time away from their own families and also got muddy! As you see, the children gain so much from these experiences.





# IN THE NEWS

## towner art gallery

We even feature in  
the Towner Art  
Gallery newsletter!



Children at Polegate Primary School with their Carnival artwork.

### FUNDING CUTS

Impact of funding cuts  
on our school budget

**Schoolcuts.org.uk/** show  
that in East Sussex an  
estimated £22 million in  
budget change by 2019,  
that's roughly £369 per  
pupil a loss of 591 teachers.

The *Ravilious & Co* exhibition is also the foundation for another exciting project as we have teamed up with **Eastbourne Sunshine Carnival** to take our much loved **Annual Schools Exhibition** on the road. This year it will take the form of a friendship themed carnival display, featuring artwork made by more than 1,500 children from 32 local schools who have taken part in free workshops with carnival artists **Same Sky**, all of which has been possible thanks to the generous support of The Williams Charitable Trust.

The carnival, which is now in its sixth year, will take place on the same day as *Ravilious & Co* opens – 27 May, and the artwork made by the children will be displayed in Towner's section of the carnival procession which takes place 2pm and will follow the established route down Eastbourne's seafront from Western Lawns to Princes Park. We hope to see you there!

## OUR SWIMMING POOL

**Thank you to all 298 parents that have contributed towards the cost of swimming. I think it might come as a surprise to see what other schools charge.**

**Stone Cross** who use the Lagoon in Hailsham charge £27.50 for 10 weeks of swimming. **Willingdon** charge £30 for 10 weeks, once a week at Ocklynge School.

All we ask for is £10 for 12 weeks and in one term children swim twice a week. Compared to other schools this is less than half! Amazing value.

We also don't have to waste valuable learning time by travelling to a pool. The Think Tank, as you know feel upset and disappointed that parents don't pay,

have suggested that lessons in Term 6 be focused on those parents who are really committed to their child swimming and value this experience. All children have benefitted from swimming across the school – no one has been excluded. So in term 6 those children whose parents have indicated they want them to swim and have paid will have lessons. Other children can continue with their learning in class. This is in line with music tuition such as piano and guitar which is offered to children at a cost. If you would like your child to benefit from lessons in term 6 please ensure that if you haven't already paid that you do so before the start of Term 6. The swimming payment has been open on ParentMail since

October last year to give you the opportunity to pay over a period of time. The exception to this will be year 6.

**It is compulsory for one year group to swim and so we have made the decision to offer this to year 6. Every child in this year group will continue to swim throughout term 6 regardless of whether parents have paid or not. For all other children only those whose parents have paid will swim.**





# SCHOOL TRIPS

**We cannot afford to subsidise trips and very reluctantly we have needed to cancel a year 2 trip to Kidzania due to lack of contributions which totalled £621.**

**It is heart breaking when we have to do this because we know these experiences enrich the curriculum and provide such memorable experiences for the children.**

I hated doing this and we all agonised over it sending out so many reminders in the hope that parents had simply forgotten. Sadly this was not the case and despite

consultation in advance of any planning in which all parents said they would pay – they didn't. Teachers work hard in pre planning, with risk assessments and logistics and that time has now been wasted. We also gave plenty of time to pay allowing parents to spread the cost because we appreciate how hard it can be to find money at short notice.

## Year 2 Kidzania trip cancelled!

**Last week I had to make a really difficult decision regarding a trip planned and organised for our year two children.**

**I think it is worth sharing how parents felt when they heard the news that this trip was cancelled:**

.....  
I just wanted to send an email to say how disappointed I am that the trip has been cancelled. I understand it's beyond your control and I feel deeply disappointed for the children that have had to miss out. I cannot understand why certain parents could not pay the reasonable cost when the school gave us plenty of time to save for it.

I really feel for the teachers and staff that have organised this trip and activities leading up to it, for it to now be a no go.

There have been many parents commenting on social media today expressing their disappointment.

.....  
It's so upsetting to hear that the Kidzania trip for Year 2 has been cancelled due to lack of sufficient contributions. Are there any other plans to give the year 2 children a school trip this term - I know it's probably unlikely due to time

constraints but it's just such a shame for the children who have worked really hard all year and taken SATS this term. There are so many of the parents upset about it and cross at the situation (in no way blaming the school).

.....  
I just wanted to email to say how sorry the vast majority of us are to hear that the trip has had to be cancelled, we totally understand that the trip cannot go ahead with so few payments

I find the financial priorities of some parents unexplainable especially considering our year have all had free school dinners from reception saving over £1000 since our children started school. The fact that the trip was planned following the vast majority agreeing to pay in the first place adds insult to injury

We have a year 2 parents group on Facebook and this morning there were many messages of support for the teachers regarding the trip (from those of us who paid)

This must be extremely demoralising for Mrs McGovern and Miss Baker please reassure them that we appreciate all their hard work and that we thoroughly support and value them.

The only vague positive I can see from this is now maybe some parents will realise that these are not empty threats and that if things aren't paid for their child really will miss out. Wishing the teachers a good weekend.

.....  
I am writing to express my sadness and disappointment that the year 2 trip has been cancelled. As a family with only one income I can understand the financial strains and burdens that others may face. However the planned trip to Kidzania was reasonably priced and would have offered the children a fantastic experience. Parents who did not pay should have looked on the website to see how expensive it is and how reasonably priced the school fee was.

.....  
**I would like to thank all those parents who wrote in with these words of support.**

You have shown your support and understanding and that means so much to us all. You made some excellent points and perhaps these are even more powerful coming from you.

# PFA NEWS

**The PFA have been hard at work raising more funds to support the children at Polegate School.**

**Recent events include:**

- The Lego film - which made £700 profit
- The ever popular disco raised an amazing £600
- We supported the Children with Cancer run on Sunday and the PFA raised £40 from teas and coffees sold

## Can you help?

There is always space for parents to join. You don't have to support at the actual events. You may like to help behind the scenes. You may have a specific skill or contact and would be happy to just send out letters requesting raffle prizes from businesses etc.

Take a look at the roles below and if one particularly interests you please pass your details to Kerry in the office.

We are looking for anyone who works in or is skilled in any of the areas below and would like to contribute to the work of the PFA:

- social media
- banking
- promotions/advertising
- catering
- baking

- tickets
- secretarial
- events organising

You may think of other roles this; is not exhaustive!

## PFA Meetings

You are all invited to attend meetings. They are very informal and friendly – cakes and coffee are provided! They are held in the staffroom. The next meeting is on 4th July 7.00pm. We had an excellent turn out at this week's meeting with parents whose children are starting in September joining us. It was so lovely to meet you all. Thank you for coming along.

## Future events

Father's Day Gifts will be sold in the school library on Tuesday 13th Wednesday 14th and Thursday 16th June. Children love the opportunity to be able to buy their own gifts for special days like this.

## Quiz Night - challenge the teachers!

Friday 7th July – doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Teams of 6 £3 a ticket. Bring your own food and drink,

## Firework Night

Friday 13th October – more details will follow.

## What have the PFA paid for?

You may not be aware of how important the PFA are to the school. It is likely that in the years to come the funds they raise will become even more crucial. Over the last few years the PFA have raised funds for items such as: the MUGA; our reward system; sticker and certificates, Craze of the Week and equipment for playtime and lunchtimes; our African drummer in October and more recently board games for wet play.

An incredible range of things both on a large scale and small that benefit all the children. Next year they are funding a full set of ukuleles for Year 4 to enhance our music tuition - I think you will agree more exciting than recorders! These are all extras that government funding does not cover. Next year they are raising money for an outdoor gym!

**So please support their events.**

# HATS AT LUNCHTIME

**In term 6 please can you ensure your child has a hat with them every day regardless of what the weather looks like in the morning. Our weather can be very changeable and if it is sunny without a hat your child is limited to sitting in the shade.**





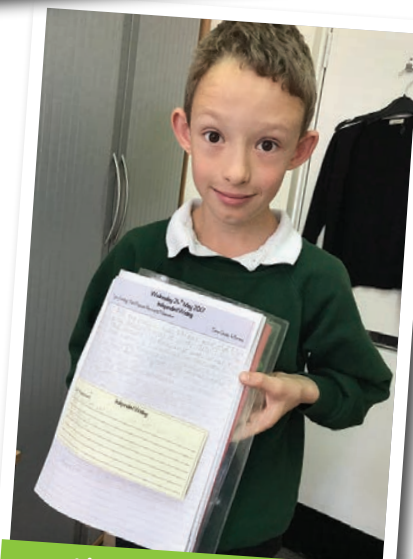
# GREAT WORK



Terrific work in maths today Alfie!



Traditional African pancakes made in homework club this morning! Yum!



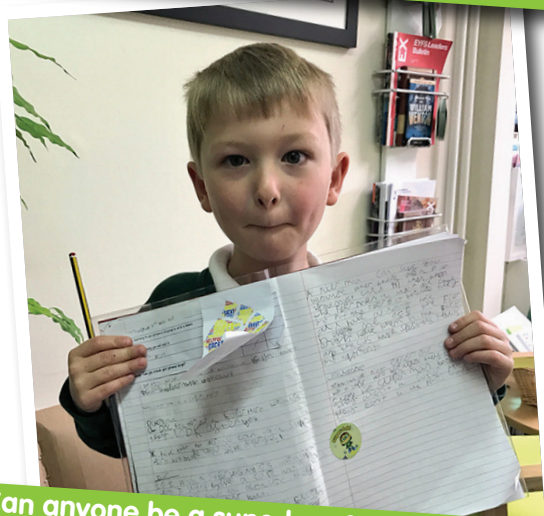
Alex has produced an outstanding account of life living in a slum.



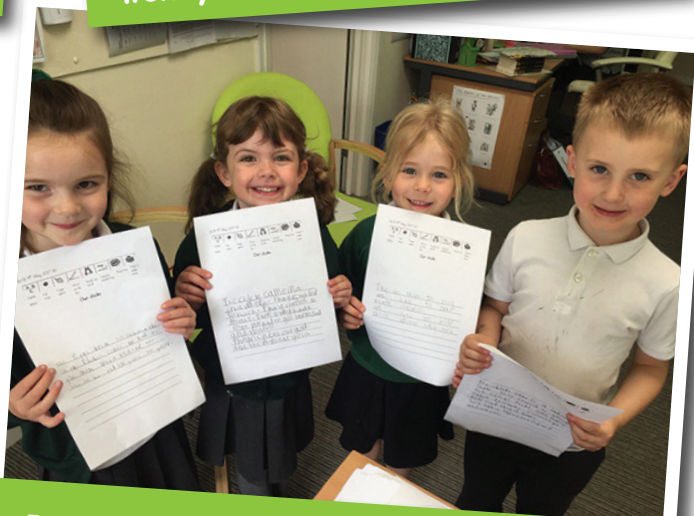
Well done 2B. Keep up the impressive writing!



A brilliant end to the week with visitors from year 1 with their stunning stories!



Can anyone be a superhero? Y2 are debating about it. Jacob has written a very long and detailed argument for and against.



Eggcellent writing about our chicks hatching!



# EAT WELL FOR LESS



## We were sent the email below from BBC1 Television:

I am writing from the hit BBC One prime time series 'Eat Well For Less?' which is in currently casting for the fifth series!

My reason for writing is that we are currently on the lookout for fun and lively families who would like to save some money on their weekly shop and eat more healthily. We would love it if the school would be willing to share

some information with your staff and parents in case any of them would like to apply? I've popped some information about the series below for you.

The show follows Masterchef's Gregg Wallace & award winning greengrocer Chris Bavin on a mission to prove that it is possible for families to save money on their food budget without scrimping on taste and nutrition. They hope that

by analysing the shopping habits of UK families, they can help to show where we can source the best and cheapest quality food.

Eating healthily and to a budget is something we feel affects most of us and we'd be really grateful if you could help us spread the word about the new series amongst your families at school.

# GYMNASTICS TOURNAMENT

Sam Hamilton

As students may know, a gymnastics tournament went down on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April, at the Hinkshan Community College. Emily, Laila, Poppy, Annabelle, Alesha, Sasha and Sam all competed, and overall we came sixth tied. But we have been very proud that in the floor routine, we were the highest scoring school in that particular routine. We also had two second places in the two routines thanks to, Miss Oram, Mrs Wallis and Zara for training us really hard for our performance.

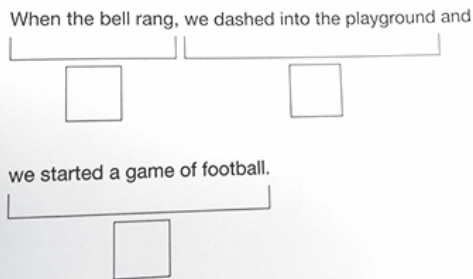




# TRY SOME SATS QUESTIONS

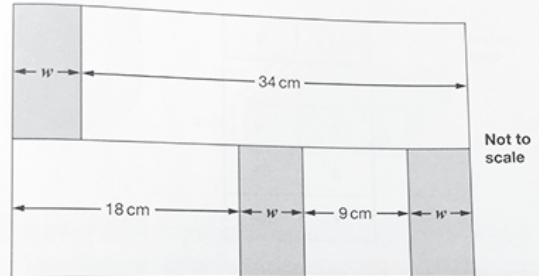
32

Label each of the clauses in the sentence below as either **main (M)** or **subordinate (S)**.



22

In this diagram, the shaded rectangles are all of equal width ( $w$ ).



23

Which underlined group of words is a **subordinate clause**?

Tick **one**.

If you want to, you can walk with us.

☐

This is the best fishing spot we have found.

☐

We change places when the bell rings.

☐

We planted the parsley next to the mint.

☐

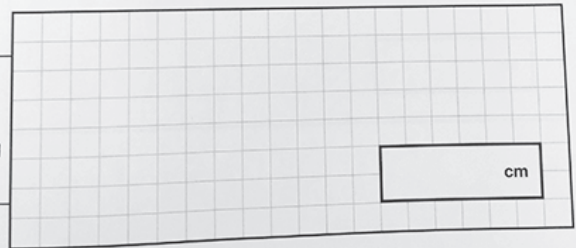
24

Circle the two words that are **antonyms** in the sentence below.

What looked like a worthless collection of rusty metal turned out to include ancient coins and valuable jewellery.

Calculate the width ( $w$ ) of one shaded rectangle.

Show your method



19

Dev thinks of a **whole** number.

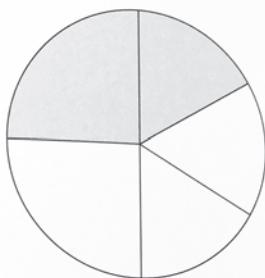
He multiplies it by 4

He rounds his answer to the nearest 10

The result is 50

Write **all** the possible numbers that Dev could have started with.

In this circle,  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{6}$  are shaded.



What fraction of the whole circle is **not** shaded?

Rewrite the underlined verbs in the sentence below so that they are in the **present progressive** form.

Jim learns French at school. He plans to ski in the Alps in the spring.

The numbers in this sequence increase by the same amount each time.

Write the missing numbers.

1

$1\frac{5}{8}$

$2\frac{1}{4}$

# Attendance

I am so pleased the 100% attendance reward was such a big success.

Thank you to all the parents that have shared how popular these were. This is part of our 'Attendance Miles' initiative that school council suggested. Each term there will be a new reward to collect. Over the course of a year the children will be able to collect 6 different rewards.

Those children with chronic illness will not be disadvantaged, this will be taken into consideration and they will still be entitled.



## Class figures

Overall school attendance is currently at 96.2%. Our school target this year is 97%.

RH = 95%

RP = 97%\*

RJ = 95%

1A = 96%

1N = 97%\*

2M = 96%

2B = 96%

3B = 97%\*

3W = 96%

4M = 98%\*

4EM = 96%

5R = 98%\*

5GK = 96%

6M = 95%

6O = 96%

\* The star classes have reached or exceeded our 97% target

## INSET DAYS FOR NEXT YEAR

Monday 4th September 2017

Monday 30th October 2017

Tuesday 2nd January 2018

Monday 19th February 2018

Thursday 29th March 2018

I have added these deliberately onto the holidays in the hope you can benefit from cheaper prices and plan your holidays out of term time. I am staggered and disappointed by the very large number of holiday requests this term!

## Diary Dates

Friday  
21st July  
LAST DAY OF  
THE YEAR

## 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 751 followers!



Polegate School  
Oakleaf Drive  
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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)

Designed by Prowork: [www.prowork.co.uk](http://www.prowork.co.uk)