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OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

It goes without saying that we would all prefer the children in school, we really miss the buzz of a full, busy, vibrant school.

There is a lot of focus in the media about the harms of lockdown to children however, it is the situation we are in and I can actually see many positives.

I don't believe that we should dwell on the negatives of this. Endlessly thinking about how awful things are does not help anyone.

This letter is a celebration of the total awesomeness of your children, you and our whole school community!

NEW SKILLS

The children have gained so many skills. They're learning self-reliance: joining live lessons, working the technology that adults use.

They have to help each other in the chat: they copy links if others can't get on. They're learning resilience. All really important life skills that even our youngest pupils are demonstrating.

Resilience is what gets us through stuff and is an underestimated quality. It is that word that appears frequently on our star of the week certificates because as a school we value it. Resilience gives us children that don't mind making mistakes and are not afraid to take risks or fail. They know failure is not the opposite of success,

it's part of it. They are prepared to struggle with things they find tricky in order to succeed. At the moment everyone, including you, are displaying Olympian levels of it.

So impressive and I am beyond proud of each of them! They are exceptional.

We are through endless January. Soon it will be Spring. Every day that passes brings us a little closer to more light, more warmth and more freedom!

RETURN TO FULL SCHOOL

We have no confirmation of when we will return to school. The Prime Minister has confirmed that schools will not return to full face-to-face education after February half-term and that current attendance restrictions will remain in place until 8 March at the earliest.

It is not the news any of us wanted as we are all desperately keen for all children to return.

If we do return on the 8th March it is highly unlikely we will be able to operate the breakfast and after school club as I am anticipating, we will need to retain 'class bubbles'. This makes it impossible to operate this provision. I would rather prepare you for this now so you can make alternative plans.

The earliest I would predict we are able to offer these clubs is in term 5, from 19th April.

VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES WITH NO LIMITS!

JOIN A LIVE 'COOK ALONG'

WITH MRS MO'D AND GUEST CHEFS!

Use this link for all future 'Cook along' sessions, every Wednesday at 1pm.

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join on your computer or mobile app

CLICK HERE

JOIN A LIVE CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Use this link for all future celebration assemblies on a Friday at 1pm.

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join on your computer or mobile app

CLICK HERE

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Once again we celebrate Safer Internet Day on 9th February.

Without the technology we have we wouldn't have been able to deliver remote lessons or had access to the wealth of support on the internet that has enabled us all to stay connected.

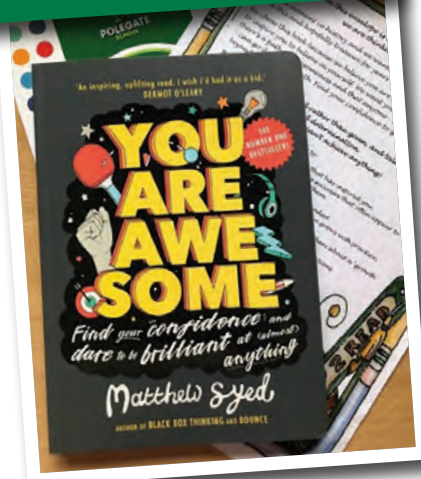
Certainly something to celebrate but also a chance to reflect on how much time we are all giving ourselves away from the screen.



YOU ARE ALL AWESOME!

We wanted to give the children something special to treasure and serve as reminder of this time as they grow up. As we are all about the reading, it had to be a book!

We hope you all enjoy reading the inspirational stories and that it reminds you of how special we think you are and how much we miss each of you.



DIARY DATES

Safer Internet Day
9th February 2021

First day of Term 4
22nd February 2021

Parent consultation
reminder
Mon 22nd February
Weds 24th February

Please do take the opportunity to book one of the slots on the days above. Teachers set this time aside and plan around these evenings. It is not always possible to book times outside of these evenings and can prove unmanageable for the teachers who are juggling a lot at the moment.

World Book Day
4th March 2021

Science Week
8-12th March 2021

Last day of Term 4
31st March 2021

INSET Day
1st April 2021

STAFF NEWS

MISS REGAN

We wish Miss Regan the very best as she embarks on a new adventure of her own, maternity!

We can't wait to hear your exciting news and are thinking of you.



POLEGATE SCHOOL NURSERY IS OPEN FOR ALL!



Nurseries were instructed to remain open in the third national lockdown and so the nursery team have continued with their inspirational learning!

Take a look at what our youngest children have been up to.



BIG COOK LITTLE COOK

Full of mouth-watering food, great cooks and celebrity guests (an occasional dog!)

So, as you know, we always like to challenge ourselves here at Polegate! I decided to launch live 'cook alongs' on a Wednesday afternoon for anyone across the school that wanted to join. It was one of those things that seemed a good idea at the time- then I had a slight panic about how it would work, if it would work and all the things that could go wrong!

Needless to say, week one I was deserted by my Little Cook in school who had to isolate, good start! Week two, Big Cook and Little Cook needed to isolate! We didn't let that stop us though. Families joined me in my kitchen at home.

I didn't need to worry because as ever my Little Cooks have been superstars! It has become a highlight of my week and so far the recipes we have tackled together have been very successful. A recipe book will follow!

So far we have made the 'lockdown classic of banana loaf and pizza'

As many as 70 families have joined each week.



MESSAGES FROM PARENTS

Thank you Polegate for the amazing provision of online learning.

You are all working so hard to prepare and deliver lessons which are engaging the children in a fun way and keeping them learning. The lessons provide my daughter with great purpose every day and continuity, not only of learning, but seeing the children in her class and her wonderful teacher. Wow, a woman who is able to support and show great kindness to the children, whilst providing so much fun and engagement for the children to enjoy their learning.

We have only been at Polegate since November, but we feel so lucky that our daughter joined before this lockdown. Home schooling isn't easy and I am often tearing out my hair balancing all the balls in the air, but you are all working so hard to prepare and deliver remotely, that the least we can do is work with the children.

The cookalong was the tip of the iceberg! Fantastic fun and educational. A real highlight of the week. I'm sure there aren't many head teachers who would take such a big chunk of their busy days to run a cookalong - even coming back after it had baked. Impressive and thank you. But that's Polegate - even in a lockdown - learning without limits. Boom!

Dear Everyone at Polegate School,

I just wanted to say thank you really, I know how incredibly hard you must be working through these unprecedented times, and I understand the logistics must be very difficult. I have never felt so much admiration for all teachers, support staff and students alike, coping so well.

We really enjoyed the cook along and will be joining in each week, and the virtual lessons are helpful and nice for our daughter to be able to interact with her teachers and friends. Her class teacher is an amazing teacher - she is attentive, helpful and so very kind, we are lucky to have her.

Your all hugely appreciated and admired.

WORLD BOOK DAY

In 2021 World Book Day, just like everything else, will be different. We've adapted to make sure that World Book Day sends a powerful and positive message about books and reading, even in lockdown.

Look out for lots of exciting things we can enjoy together!

<https://www.worldbookday.com/2020/09/world-book-day-2021-announcements/>

World Book Day changes lives through a love of books and shared reading.

Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. Almost 15% of children do not own their own book before they are gifted a £1 World Book Day book.



EVEN IN LOCKDOWN EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS TAKE PLACE

We were invited to apply to become a National Behaviour Hub by the DfE. These Behaviour hubs will enable schools with exemplary behaviour cultures and practices to work with other schools that want to improve their behaviour culture.

There will be around 20 exemplary lead schools from across primary, secondary, special and alternative provision (AP) sectors with excellent behaviour management to support other schools improve behaviour.

We received this letter and enter the next stage of the process with a 4 hour visit later this month.

'Thank you for your application to become a lead behaviour school as part of the Department for Education's Behaviour Hubs programme.

I am delighted to inform you that your application for Polegate School has been successful in progressing to the next stage of the process.

We would now like to arrange one of the Departmental Behaviour Advisers, accompanied by officials, to conduct a school visit in order to hear more about your school and ascertain its suitability for the programme.

We will keep you updated but it is great we have reached this stage.

CELEBRATING SCIENCE

SCIENCE WEEK 8-12th March 2021

Planning is well underway for this year's science week. The event has been a huge success in the past and we are making every effort to ensure that this tradition continues despite the current restrictions! The theme of the week is 'Celebrating Science' and lots of exciting activities are being planned by the teachers to inspire our young scientists.

SPORTS

A chance to get away from a screen and get active.

The Sussex Virtual School Winter Games have now been released.

To see the video demonstrations, download the PDF descriptions of the activities and see further details about the event or submit scores, please visit the website <https://www.activesussex.org/virtual/>.

This is updated for each week at 9.30am each Monday morning. Scores can be submitted up until midday on Friday, and leader boards (for participation and activity scores) are released on it each Friday afternoon.

The challenge demonstrations are also available to view on social media:

Twitter: @SussexSchGames

Facebook: Specsavers Sussex School Games

Instagram: @SussexSchGames

ART: DID YOU KNOW?

45 minutes of creative activity significantly lessens stress in the body, regardless of artistic experience or talent!

We really value creativity at Polegate School and so we wanted to bring the school community together through a shared 10 by 10 art project. Every member of your family is invited to take part.

We believe, everyone is creative and can be expressive in the arts.

Art is proven to de-stress!

You don't have to be good at it to benefit from its stress reducing effects. Making art is actually, factually, good for the body, mind and soul. Even if said art resembles the deranged scribbles of a toddler throwing a tantrum!

Forget the glass of wine- pick up a pencil instead!



"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."

Pablo Picasso



WE ARE ABOUT TO GO WILD!

The pond and wildlife area is now all finished now apart from drying out and settling down. When the weather improves there is a little more planting to do but that is another project completed thanks to our wonderful PFA and your generous support.

Creating wildlife friendly habitats in our school garden was a priority for many reasons. There are no limits! We take learning wherever we can and learning does not just happen in the classroom.

It provides many teaching and learning opportunities right across the curriculum. The Forest School now has a special area complete with fire pit. There are many magical surprises for the children to discover. Mysterious doors and who knows maybe a fairy or two!

Wildlife surrounds us in Polegate and we have created a haven for mini-beasts, pond life and visiting birds. There are many features to attract them and encourage diversity.

We know that nature is good for everyone's wellbeing and we know this will be very well used when we return from lockdown and move away from those screens!

A study by the University of Derby showed that children exposed to the natural world showed increases in self-esteem. They also felt it taught them how to take risks, unleashed their creativity and gave them a chance to exercise, play, and discover. In some cases, nature can significantly improve the symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), providing a calming influence and helping them concentrate.

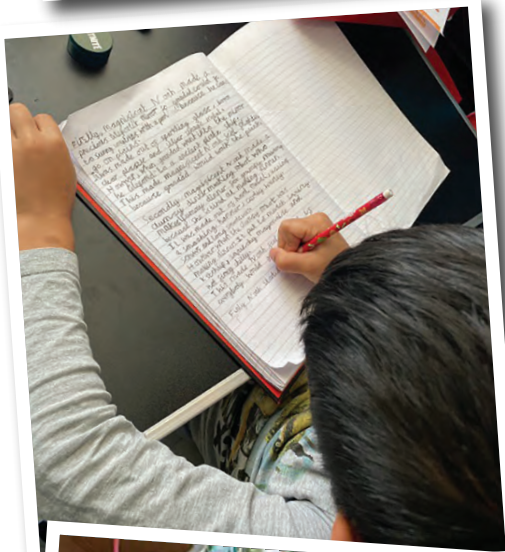
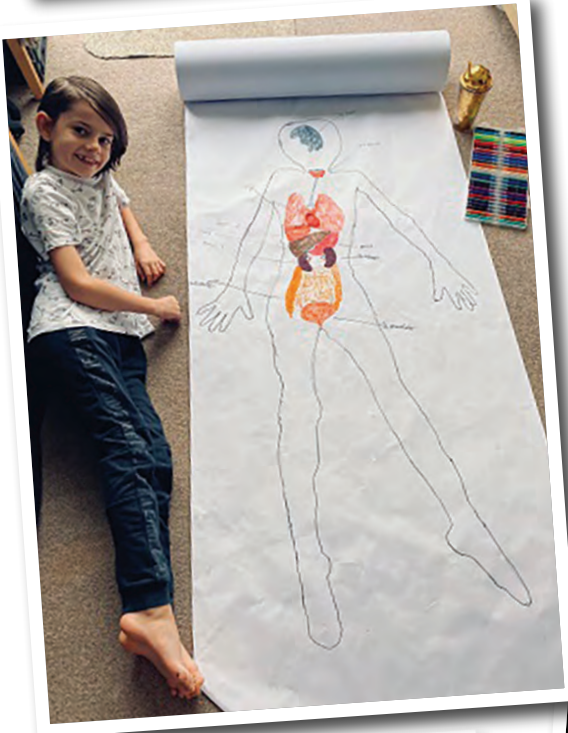
'by interacting with it, spending time in it, experiencing it and appreciating it we can reap the benefits of feeling happier and healthier as a result.' If they learn in the process, then that is a bonus!



We know that nature is good for everyone's wellbeing!



AMAZING HOME LEARNING



More Amazing Home Learning



A super Secret Garden! Amazing Ruby and very magical!

Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES

We have small recycling battery boxes in the office.



Diary Dates

**31st March
2021
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
1,153 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

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