

# news

**March 2021**



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# WE ARE SO HAPPY!

**This week sees the return to school for all children and we are thrilled!**

I am writing this just after the children have arrived on Monday 8th March and I can't tell you just how much it has lifted our spirits!

39 school days have passed since we were last open... I bet it feels longer for you!

# WELCOME BACK

**Apart from how much they have clearly grown throughout lockdown the children were their usual smiley selves and came bouncing in through the gates!**

It was lovely to see that you were all looking so well too and we noticed a few new additions to families and extra buggies- congratulations to you all!

Feedback just from the classrooms is that the children have been phenomenal and settled straight back in to their normal routines as if they only left yesterday. They have amazed their teachers.

We are so proud of them all and incredibly grateful to you for the simply amazing job you did at home throughout this lockdown. It was a steep learning curve for us all and you

embraced it. Sticking to the daily routines, logging in for live lessons and keeping that motivation going. We honestly think you are amazing because we know that many of you will have been trying to work from home at the same time. We take our hats off to you!

I really hope you are enjoying some quiet you time this week! You deserve it!

**I'm about to go and visit each class for the Star of the Week! A real treat for day 1!**



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**Appropriately our school full reopening was on International Women's Day and it was lovely to see this message of positivity on our Twitter page, thank you!**



**hilary kircher** @hilary\_kircher · 1h

Happy #IWD2021 ♀ @PolegateSchool and families. So lucky to have a school and community full of inspiring female role models and allies who promote strong, confident, compassionate and caring children to achieve their goals. #learningwithoutlimits

# HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



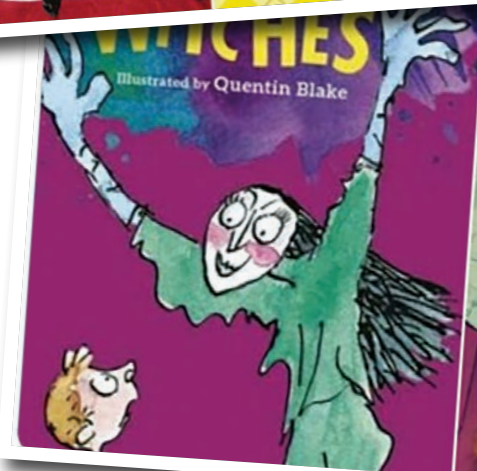
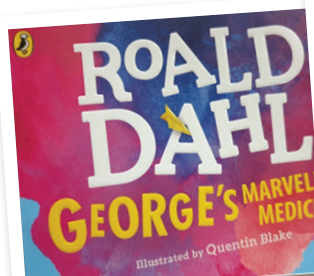
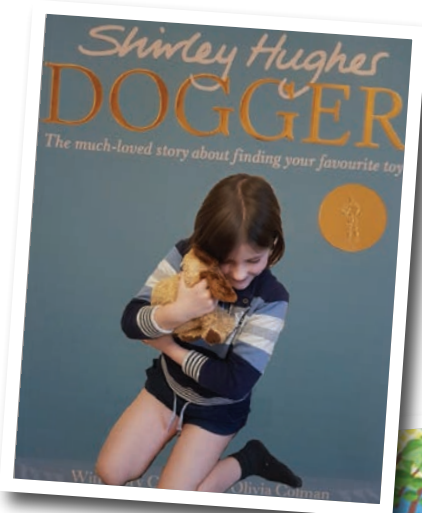
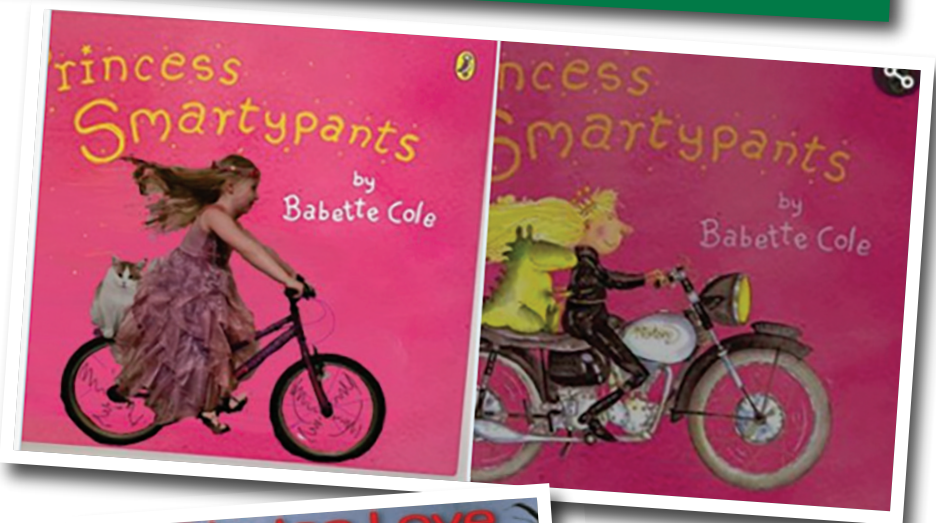
GIF





# WORLD BOOK DAY

Whilst we are on the theme of reading we managed to celebrate books with a range of exciting activities all delivered remotely! Take a look at these awesome book covers!



# READING

## HOW TO IMPROVE READING WHILE WATCHING TELEVISION - YES, YOU DID READ THAT CORRECTLY!

**We wanted to share this brilliantly simple idea with you – turning on the subtitles can double the chances of a child becoming good at reading. Incredible isn't it?**

So the next time your child is watching TV or the tablet, there could actually be an opportunity to improve their reading skills at the same time! In fact research has shown that it can double the chance of your child leaving school as a proficient reader. You can turn them on for the whole family or most streaming services will now allow you to do it just for individual children if you like.

Turning on subtitles while children are watching TV can greatly improve their reading skills. A quick, simple, free way to make TV time, reading time. #turnonthesubtitles

**"As a parent I wish that my children wanted to spend all their time reading... but actually they love television! By turning in the subtitles I can assuage my guilt slightly as I know it is improving their reading without them even noticing. Both of them are good at reading and I am convinced having subtitles on has contributed to that."**

**Marsha Robinson**

**Follow this link to find out more!**

**<https://turnonthesubtitles.org/parents/>**

**What age range does this work for?**

It's actually less about age, rather the stage the child is at.

As soon as they can decode basic phonemes they will see a benefit. However, the real benefit starts when a child is a sufficiently competent reader that decoding is done subconsciously. In the UK and US this tends to be around the age of six to seven. The challenge is then about speed, vocabulary, confidence and comprehension. Same Language Subtitles has been proven to be remarkably effective at improving these skills.



**"By turning on the subtitles, my children are reading without even knowing it. With extra screen time - let's be honest. it's pretty much unavoidable at the moment - it's great to know I can benefit thier literacy through something so simple and free."**

**Marion McGillivray**

## PARENT SURVEY

**Please take a moment to fill in the quick survey which will be coming your way soon.**

**While the lockdown is still fresh in your memory I want to capture your thoughts on some of our arrangements.**

Whilst we are very pleased to return to some kind of normal I would like to consider the positives from this experience.

Some of our new measures may have suited you better and we want to hold on to these as we move forward and use this experience to develop and improve. We are always open to change and would like to involve you in this.

**Arrangements such as:**

The opportunity to offer remote parent consultations may have made things easier for you. We could continue to provide a choice in how you meet.

Recording assemblies, many of you have shared that you loved the recordings. You may prefer to see the star awarded in the classroom rather than taking time off work to sit in a hall and it also give the opportunity to share the proud moment with other family members.

We value your thoughts on all aspects so please feel free to contribute to this discussion. The link will be with you before the end of the week.



# BEDTIME STORIES

## OUR VIRTUAL LIBRARY

Are you so busy at night, with dinner, baths, and then rushing for bedtime, that you're skipping reading a bedtime book? I get it. Really I do!

**To help you we have decided to give you a bank of bedtime stories so that you can have a night off and not feel guilty!**

We are launching our 'Virtual Library', full of bedtime stories read by familiar faces! You will find them all on our school website. Although we can't be there in person we would be delighted to read your child a virtual bedtime story!

So let's talk about those benefits of story time, apart from our raffle tickets for reading every evening! What are they exactly? Why is it so important that children do not miss out?

### Why stories are important

Research shows that people without good literacy skills do worse in education and are more likely to be unemployed or even suffer from health and relationship problems.

But there's evidence to suggest that the benefits of being read to frequently as a child go way beyond just literacy skills.

### Stories shape & expand our world

The stories we hear as children shape our view of the world.

Most small children live their lives in quite a limited environment. Reading stories to children can show them far-flung places, extraordinary people and eye-opening situations to expand and enrich their world.

It can also be a great way of helping them deal with real life situations that they need help to deal with. Researchers have found that the brain activity that occurs when we read fiction is very similar to experiencing that situation in real life, so reading about a situation helps children work out how to solve it in reality.

### Making children into nicer people

It gets even more surprising when you look at the effects of reading fiction to children on their social behaviour.

Scientists have found that children who have fiction read to them regularly find it easier to understand

## BOOKS

There are over **70 books** to choose from on our website!

other people – they show more empathy and have better developed theory of mind (the ability to understand that other people have different thoughts and feelings to us, which is essential for understanding and predicting other people's thoughts and behaviour).

### Why we need to ask questions

The benefits children get from having stories read to them are hugely increased when we talk and ask questions about the story as well.

Simply asking them if they can remember what happened in the story or checking if they know what some of the more complicated words mean can really extend their understanding and vocabulary. More complex 'inference' questions like, 'why do you think this character did that?' helps children to think about and understand other people's motivations.

## Who is it?

Can you guess who is going to be reading your book?



See them all on our website: [www.polegateschool.co.uk/virtual-library](http://www.polegateschool.co.uk/virtual-library)

# BIG COOK, LITTLE COOK

**In my moment of madness I suggested recording a 'live cook-a-long' and when I announced this to staff there was a lot of laughter. This happens a lot when I have my ideas!**

I have to say for me, it has been a highlight and again, something that has shown there really are no limits. I never expected it to take off as much as it did and to be joined by around 150 families each week was quite incredible!

Due to its success this is another enrichment idea I am keen to continue. I have handed over to a little cook for this week. You will all be sent a link and a video. Faye Murphy was brave enough to volunteer to lead the way in the kitchen. She is making Falafels and I know she would love it if you make your own and share on Twitter.

If any other Little Cooks would like to host their own cookery session then all you need to do is email the school office with your chosen recipe (ingredients and method).

**Film yourselves making it and send us your recording. We will do the rest!**

As a fundraising idea and to provide a lockdown keepsake we have also decided to produce our own Polegate Lockdown Cookbook with all our favourite recipes and our own school apron. More information to follow.

Miraculously there has not been one disaster in the kitchen and every recipe we tried has been a big hit. We want to share these and more so are asking for a favourite recipe from each family. The tried and tested shortlisted recipes will make their way into our cookbook!

**Please send them to the school office so we can start work on this next project.**





# ART SHOW

## Young Artists' Summer Show

**The Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 5-19 years.**

**We have registered as a school so feel free to start submitting your work!**

Each student can submit up to three artworks of any type and there is no theme. When you enter, we'll ask for images of your artwork plus some information about the piece such as title, size, and a little text about the artwork and why you made it. Your artwork will be seen by our panel of judges and the selected pieces will be shown in our online exhibition. Some of the artworks will also be shown at the Royal Academy of Arts.

don't mind when you made the artwork as long as you are between 5-19 when you submit it. We also welcome collaborative pieces made by more than one student, a whole class, or even a whole year group! If you are doing art at GCSE, A Level or BTEC level, we suggest entering artworks that won't be part of your exams.

### How can I enter?

Submitting artwork is completely free and is done online. First, a teacher needs to register your school. Once the school is registered, your artworks can be submitted. If you're 12 or under, a teacher or parent/guardian will need to enter for you; if you're 13 or over you can submit artworks yourself.

### What kind of artworks do you accept?

The artwork can be made using any medium (a word for the materials you've used to create your piece). It can be a painting, sculpture, photograph, installation, video, drawing, or a combination. There is no theme so artworks can be of any subject and we

### Prizes

Prizes are awarded each year for two inspiring artworks from each key stage, as chosen by the President of the Royal Academy, and you can also vote for your favourite artwork in our annual People's Choice Award. Take a look at the 2020 prize winning artworks.



## KEY DATES FOR 2021

**REGISTRATION & SUBMISSION OPENS  
11 JANUARY 2021**

**SUBMISSION CLOSES  
26 APRIL 2021**

**JUDGING  
MAY 2021**

**ONLINE & ONSITE EXHIBITIONS OPEN  
11 JULY 2021**

# YEAR 2 POETRY!

Here is some incredible Year 2 Poetry Inspired by Michael Rosen.

Down behind the dustbin  
I met a rabbit playing chess  
"Can I join you in a game" I said  
Perplexed the rabbit said "I guess"  
by Michael Rosen



Illustrated by a very kind grandparent, Malcolm Laverty, at Polegate School who also happens to be a professional illustrator, known as Stan! We are so grateful, thank you for supporting us and giving your time to support the children's learning.

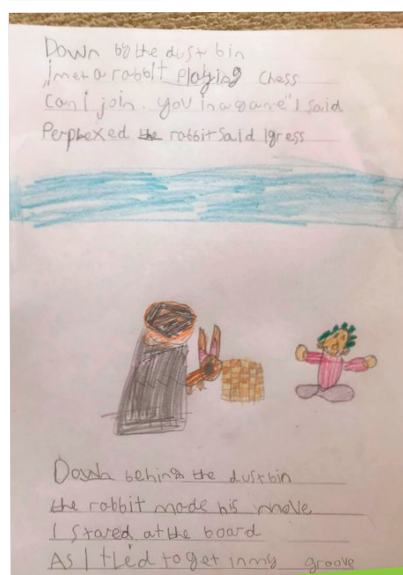
Year 2 studied Michael Rosen's poem, 'Down by the dustbin' poem. The children then followed the theme of down by the dustbin or changed it to down by the sofa or as Santos did 'Down by the reef!'

**We think you will agree this poet, Grace Martin, certainly got in her groove!**

Down by the reef I met a lion fish  
it asked me... What can you do?  
Watch me swish!

Down by the reef I met a little polyp  
'Where is all my money?' he asked  
'It might be in your wallet'

Down by the reef I met a sea snake  
'What are you eating?' he asked  
'I'm eating a slice of cake!'



**BY GRACE MARTIN**

## KEEP ON RUNNING LUCY & ISLA

It's been great to hear what you have all been up to during lockdown and the personal challenges you have set yourselves so I was delighted to hear about Lucy and Isla's running achievements for February.

In an attempt to reduce screen time and get active both the girls set themselves a challenge to run 25 miles in the month of February.

However due to Lucy being in isolation for the first 9 days and later, Isla injuring her knee they did not quite manage the 25 miles, instead Isla achieved 21.5 and Lucy 20.5, however I am still incredibly proud of them and they did so well.

They received medals for this achievement and have brought them into school to show their class but I also thought it would be nice to include this in our newsletter.

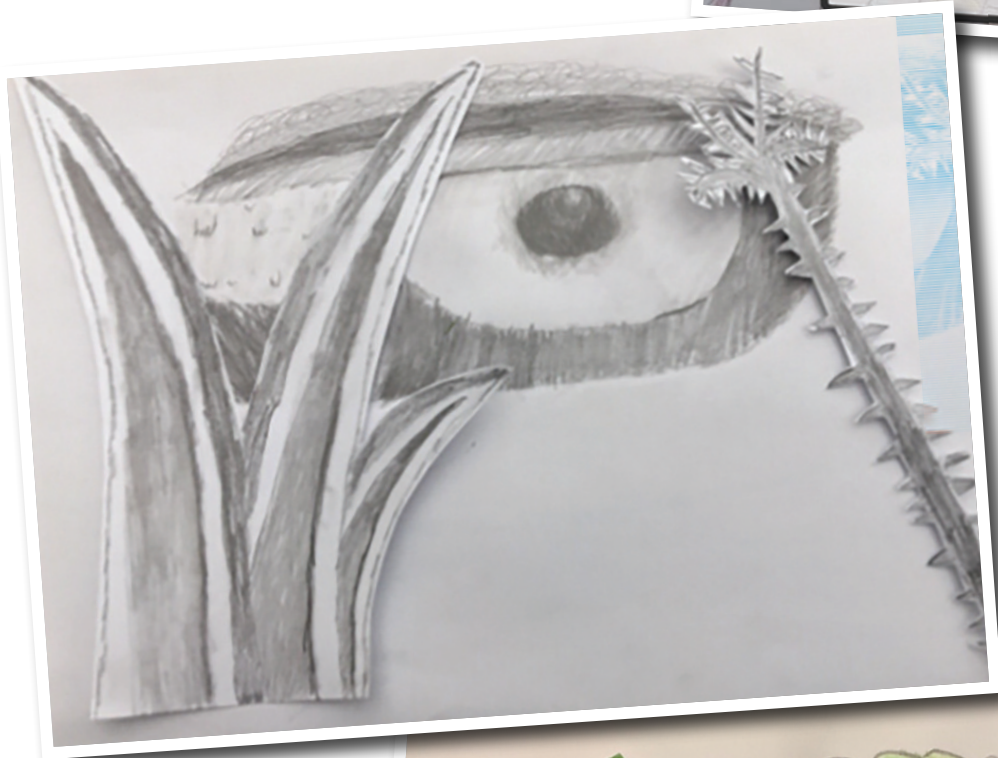
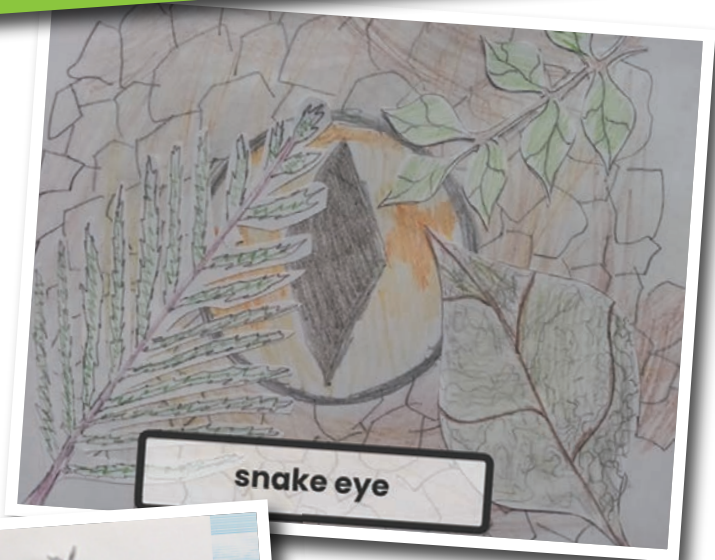
**Whilst I was cycling home one day I past the girls running in the opposite direction! Keep going girls - I will be looking out for you.**



# YEAR 5 ART

What's peering out of the undergrowth?

In Year 5 we have been learning about Henri Rousseau. After exploring leaf sketching and observational drawings of animal eyes, we have now begun creating our own compositions combining all our work so far and texture, shadow and highlights. Such quality already!



SUCH BEAUTIFUL WORK!

# RECEPTION FUN

## I WILL HUFF AND I WILL PUFF...

**There has been lots of excitement happening in Reception.**

The children worked together to build houses made from different materials. They used sticks, straw and wooden blocks to make their creative houses.

The children then made predictions about what houses the wolf would be

able to blow down and which ones were going to be durable and strong! We then tested out our predictions whilst acting out the story of The Three Little Pigs.

**Our lovely Holly made a fabulous wolf! Lots of creative and real life learning, it was so much fun!**



## DIARY DATES

**Monday 8th March**  
school reopens for all

**Thursday 1st April**  
INSET day

**Friday 2nd April**  
Start of the Easter holiday

**Monday 19th April**  
start of term 5

**Monday 3rd May**  
Bank holiday

**Monday 24th May**  
start of our Sports Week

**Tuesday 25th May**  
EYFS sports morning

**Wednesday 26th May**  
KS1 sports morning

**Thursday 27th May**  
KS2 sports morning -  
6pm provisional  
swimming gala

**Friday 28th May**  
last day of term 5

**Monday 7th June**  
start of term 6

**Friday 23rd July**  
last day of the year!



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.polegateschool.uk)

## Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



## Diary Date

Thursday  
1st April  
**INSET DAY**

## 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  
**1,154 followers!**



Polegate School  
Oakleaf Drive  
Polegate  
East Sussex BN26 6PT  
Tel: 01323 482404  
Email: [info@polegateschool.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.polegateschool.co.uk)

Designed by Proworx: [www.proworx.co.uk](http://www.proworx.co.uk)