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WORLD BOOK DAY FUN

Two weeks in and already we have a jam packed newsletter!

Thank you for your support with the incredible World Book Day costumes. It was a real treat seeing the children arriving at school today. I think these are the best ever and the effort you have gone to is so impressive.

Nothing puts your wonderful children off school, even this lot greeting them on the gates, although some took great lengths to keep their distance and behaviour has been great at school today.

More on World Book Day in the next newsletter!

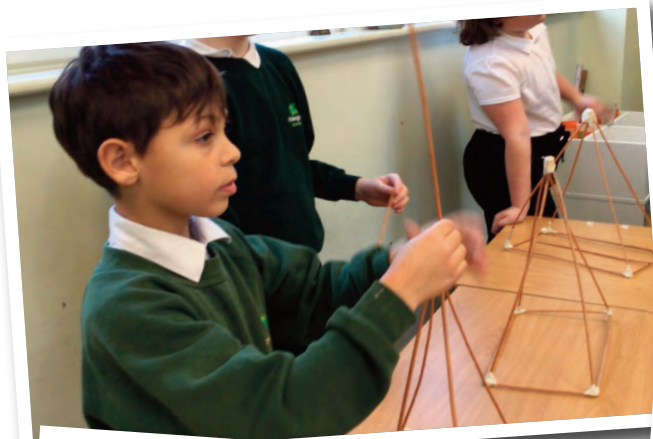
QUEENS JUBILEE



In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service. Year 5 have got involved in preparations to celebrate her Majesty's historic reign.

They spent the day with Same Sky creating these amazing lanterns.

We have more exciting events planned for the week itself.



WOW!

Here are the lanterns in place on Eastbourne seafront.



COVID UPDATE

As you know the government guidance has changed on 21 February, the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the government's COVID-19 response.

COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education remains.

Our priority is for schools, colleges, childminders and nurseries to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education and care to all children and young people. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, as well as mental and physical health.

The main messages are:

- Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors in classrooms and communal areas.
- Contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests, and contact tracing has ended.
- Children and young people previously considered CEV should attend school and should follow the same COVID-19 guidance as the rest of the population

The setting remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal. All students and staff, regardless of year group, should remain vigilant regarding COVID-19.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19. Advice is still to isolate, see below for details.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

We continue to promote all the measures to prevent the spread in school.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 18 and over can book COVID-19 vaccination appointments now. Those aged 16 and 17 will be invited to book an appointment: Who can get the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine - NHS (www.nhs.uk). Those who are aged 12-15 who are themselves clinically extremely vulnerable or live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable or meet JCVI recommendations (JCVI statement) are also eligible.
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

SWIMMING GALA

Our squad took part in a swimming gala at Bede's school last week. I am delighted to say they all brought medals back and came second overall out of all schools! An amazing achievement.



GRACE'S CYCLE RIDE

I thought you would appreciate an update on Grace and her fundraising efforts.

Grace completed her 10 mile cycle ride for @tinytickers for Pulse Oximetry Machines to go into Eastbourne DGH & Hastings Conquest, and Grace and dad were even interviewed about it live on Sky News!



Watch on Twitter

We are so proud of you Grace; resilience, determination, aspiration and reflection.... Every single quality of each of our houses demonstrated by you in this challenge!

ATTENDANCE

THERE HAVE BEEN STRONG STATEMENTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT 'BUSINESS AS USUAL' FOR SCHOOLS.

Attendance is once again at the forefront of their minds. Children have missed out on so much over recent years and there is now a real determination to ensure all children are in school as much as possible.

Our school Attendance Officer is Natalie Dicker.

Attendance: The legal duties placed on schools.

All schools have a legal duty to monitor student attendance daily and to inform the local authority of any student who is regularly absent from school

They must also investigate any unexplained absences as part of their legal safeguarding duty.

Schools should

Promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence ensure every learner has access to full-time education to which they are entitled act early to address patterns of absence

I want to explain the process we follow for all children whose attendance falls below 90%, this classifies as persistent absence nationally and it is very rare for children to fall into this category without serious medical conditions which can be supported by medical evidence.

Here at Polegate, each term the Attendance Officer runs an attendance report for every pupil across the school - these are sent home so that parents/carers are aware what their child's attendance levels are.

We have a statutory obligation to then assess any child whose attendance falls below 90% and the reasons for absence. If we have not been provided with medical evidence to explain the absences, then we have a

duty to inform individual families who will then be invited in for a meeting to discuss these. We need to ascertain if there are any underlying issues we are unaware of and to see how we can support attendance.

We know that there can be many reasons for low attendance, and these can be complex. When we know the reasons, we can work with families to put together an effective support plan.

Meetings are held at the School by a member of staff from Education, Support, Behaviour & Attendance Service (ESBAS), Mrs Martin-O'Donoghue and the School Attendance Officer.

The outcome of these meetings will result in the following for a 10-week period:

In order to be approved any further absences MUST be supported by medical evidence - an appointment card/letter, a prescription. Without supporting evidence, the absence will be unauthorised.

If there are 10 sessions of unauthorised absences (5 school days) within this period, families will be referred to legal services with a potential penalty notice to be issued.

A penalty notice is a fine for parents or carers who don't ensure that their child goes to school. The fine is £120 per parent per child. If you pay within 21 days this is reduced to £60 per parent per child. We do not expect to get to this point with any of our families and the reason for meetings is to avoid this happening.

How you can help:

- If you have any difficulties getting your child to school, then please call us to discuss this. You do not need to wait until we invite you in for a meeting.
- Always provide a specific reason for

absence - this helps accurate recording and avoids unnecessary phone calls home. Without this information any absence will be recorded as unauthorised. If you have medical evidence, please provide it. We keep it on file and it ensures we are fully up to date with your child's health- it may be we decide they require a health care plan.

- Please always report via the absence telephone line or by parent mail. Please avoid passing absence information on to a member of staff at the gate in the mornings as they have many other responsibilities and the message may not get passed on.
- Any medical appointments must be supported with evidence in order for these to be authorised - please bring these in to the front office.
- Please remember that the school are able to administer Calpol (with parental consent) and often this is enough to keep a child feeling well enough to be in school. If we are ever concerned about a child, we will always ring home.

It is also worth bearing in mind that if you have made the decision early morning to keep your child at home and by mid-morning they've made a miraculous recovery then please do bring them in - we would prefer a child comes in late than not at all!

With the recent changes to Government restrictions around COVID, we as a School have now been advised to begin recording absences relating to COVID as an illness. This means that if your child tests positive and is therefore off School, the absence will impact on their attendance.

Government advice is that while legal self-isolation rules have been lifted, anyone testing positive is advised to stay at home for at least five full days.

LATEST ATTENDANCE FIGURES

RH = 95.5%

RM = 95.9%

RB = 94%

1B = 95.7%

1C = 97%

1S = 97.1%

2M = 96%

2Ma = 96.7%

2R = 96.6%

3L = 94.9%

3Y = 97.4%

3M = 97.2%

4G = 97.2%

4D = 96.1%

4H = 95.7%

5W = 94.9%

5M = 97.2%

5T = 97.5%

6V = 95.1%

6J = 96.7%

PFA EVENTS

Mother's Day 27th March

The PFA will be selling gifts for loved ones on 23rd and 24th March.

Father's Day 19th June

The PFA will be selling gifts for loved ones on 15th and 16th June.

School Disco - Friday 20th May

We will see the return of the disco - Further details closer to the time.

Summer Fair - Saturday 16th July 2022

Firework Night - Looking ahead even further the fireworks are booked for the 25th November 2022!

Last year the PFA raised £9733.58 profit for the school, which is simply incredible in a lockdown year! So far this is funding the bike shed and contributing to the refurbishment of the pool. I would like to thank you PFA members for their tremendous efforts and commitment to the children at Polegate School.



**LAST TERM'S
WINNING HOUSE
WELL DONE
HERCULES**



LET'S DANCE

EASTBOURNE
2022

We are proud to
send our amazing
team of Polegate
dancers to this
event on **Monday**
14th March



LET'S DANCE
Charitable Trust

In association with



Congress Theatre // Monday 14th March 2022

7.00pm | Tickets £12 | Box Office 01323 412000 | www.eastbournetheatres.co.uk

READING

Ice cream on a sunny day, splashing in muddy puddles, building dens - this is what childhood is made of.

A story before bedtime is another essential part of our younger years and one which has the potential for lasting impact on our lives.

As you know we promote a love of reading, there is nothing I loved more than snuggling up at bedtime with my children and reading to them or listening to them read. It is magical and I really miss that now they are teenagers. Funnily enough they don't want me to read to them anymore!

There is nothing more important you can do to help your child succeed- the bonus is it reduces stress, anxiety, it's fun and relaxing.

Reading shouldn't be a chore, if your child doesn't want to read then just let them listen to you.

Five or ten minutes every evening really does make a difference. No one should be too busy for this.

'We even read over the holidays- No one at Polegate would do this in their Home School Journal.'

After all, don't we all take a book with us on holiday?

Why?

Because by crossing out the week you are sending a powerful message to your child that reading is work, not fun, a chore and something we only do at school. It should be viewed as enjoyable, exciting and something to look forward to.

Did you know?

Good reading at the age of 10 is a predictor of the number of GCSEs children will achieve and beyond that it can even predict future earnings at 42! Needless to say this is a positive correlation!

The children that are achieving less well in school and are being left behind are those children that are not reading daily at home. It is really important that children leave year 2 being fluent, secure readers or the gaps widen and become increasingly hard to close.



THINK TANK

My next Think Tank meeting is on Friday 1st April and the focus will be gathering parent views on Chartwells school meals. If you have a view, please feel free to share it with your representative or pass in to me.

Chartwells management will be there to gather your thoughts so this is your opportunity!

They will also be talking to the children themselves about what they think about school dinners.

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.

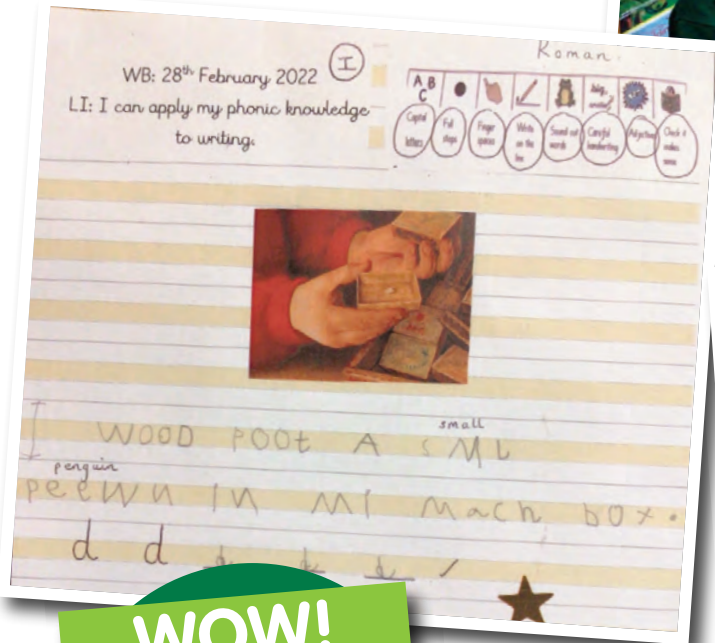
So grateful for all your feedback!

4H and 1C will be in touch with their new dates.

RECEPTION

Reception were thrilled to receive their very own matchboxes.

The children thought carefully about a little treasure that they could make to keep inside and then wrote a sentence to explain what they had chosen. The children then created their piece of treasure out of recycled materials and personalised their matchboxes.



WOW!

We are so impressed with some of the writing!



SWIMMING POOL

Thank you for helping us so much over the two Mondays that we needed to close the Infant playground! You managed yet another change brilliantly - it could have been chaos!

Hard to believe but this is the swimming pool!

I will keep you updated and promise it will look more impressive than this!



ASSEMBLIES

We are reverting back to our whole school assemblies and I very much hope to be in a position to invite you back in again soon to enjoy them with us!

Monday we saw the whole school in the hall for our star of the week



SPOTLIGHT MOMENT

Congratulations to Beau Dollin for achieving a spotlight moment for his incredible dedication to learning his times tables. He shared his top tips with the whole school very confidently!

Two pupils are really learning without limits, they stood out as exceptional examples of this with their Home School Journals and deserve a special mention.

Alfie Bourne and Faye Murphy, have not missed a single day of reading or Doodle for the whole year, including holidays and weekends. I am exceptionally proud of these pupils and would like to also congratulate the parents who are clearly supporting this so well- thank you.

DIARY DATES

8th March
International Women's Day

21st March – 1st April
Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel

23rd March
PFA 'Gifts for loved ones'

24th March
PFA 'Gifts for loved ones'

1st April
Think Tank 2.30pm

1st April
Last day - end of term 4

19th April
Start of term 5

27-29th April
Year 5 Hindleap Warren Residential trip

2nd May
Bank holiday

27th May
End of term 5

6th June
Start of term 6

PFA NEWS

smile.amazon.co.uk

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.

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



Don't miss out on your chance to win one of three extra

£100 cash prizes!

That's right! As well as knowing you're supporting YOUR school AND a weekly chance to win up to £25,000 sign up today and you could also win one of three extra £100 cash prizes.

JOB OPPORTUNITY



We currently have an apprentice role see details here
<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/-718083>

This maybe suitable for a recent school leaver or someone who wishes to get back into work and obtain a qualification at the same time.

Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



Diary Date

Friday 1st April
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
1,262 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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