

news

May 2014 Issue 2



In This Issue

Ofsted Visit	1
Forest School	2
Cycle Festival	2
Hindleap Warren Trip	3
Holidays in Term Time	4
Staff News	4
Star Writers	5
Bike it Breakfast	6
Dates for your Diary	6
Maths Challenge	7

This term and the Ofsted Visit!

Another busy, short term with the added bonus of a visit!

We are waiting for the final report to be sent from Ofsted. The earliest it will be with us is on Friday. I am sworn to secrecy and so even the teachers do not know the result!

I am incredibly proud of the whole team and look forward to sharing the report with you. I would also like to thank you for your support during these three days. We had so many words of encouragement from you

and the inspectors were overwhelmed by the support you offer the school as parents and described the school as feeling like a family. Thank you to everyone that completed the online survey we had a very high level of responses compared to other schools that have been inspected.


Ofsted
 raising standards
 improving lives

We really appreciate your support- thank you.



Check out some great photos from Hindleap Warren Trip on Page 3

Forest School is a big hit

Tom has been taking part in the Forest School club and has been so enthralled with it that it inspired him to go big foot hunting in his own garden!



Tom Wood in his garden with his 'Big Foot Camp'



Mud pots, who doesn't like playing with mud?



Forest School in Action



Making fire at Forest School

Cycle Festival



Come along to the Eastbourne Cycling festival on Sunday 1st June at the Seafront Western lawns from 8.30am-5.30pm.

Great family day:

- Races to watch
- stunt bikes
- Penny farthing races
- stalls
- circuits

Just turn up and bring your bike for:

Bespoke Blue plaque ride at 10am or
Bespoke family ride 2pm.

www.bespokecyclinggroup.org.

Contact Philip Manning for more details:

philip.manning@sustrans.org.uk

Enter official races at:

www.eastbourncyclingfestival.com

Sign up for the school relay race.

Cash prize to be won.



twitter

Be the first to hear the news.

Follow us on twitter. We now have 308 followers!

Hindleap Warren

WOW

The Year 5 trip to Hindleap Warren is an amazing experience for the children and we have included a report from a pupil about their experience.

Hindleap trip

A response to the residential

"Thank you so much to all the staff involved in the Hindleap trip, especially Mrs Bailey and Mrs Bedford, this has been such a fantastic experience for Thomas. It has enabled him to spread his wings and hopefully gain a little confidence, outstanding once again."

Hindleap Warren By Oliver Jones

When I was on my way to Hindleap Warren I felt so excited but nervous at the same time. My first activity was high adventure. I had to climb a large tree using a ladder then staples, and then jump from a wooden platform. It was really high up but I felt amazing knowing I had done it. My favorite activity was orienteering (Map reading) because we had to use teamwork to explore the forest and find markers. During the canoeing we had to paddle to the other side of the reservoir, when we finished we were allowed to jump in. I wish I hadn't; it was freezing!

There were things that made me happy and sad, things made me laugh and cry. Most things made me muddy, but ultimately the thing I was most... proud. Proud of myself trying, proud of my friends cheering each other on, and proud to be part of a wonderful experience.

By Oliver Jones Year 5



Holidays in Term Time

The school has always made its position on holidays in term time very clear. We will not authorise holidays and any period in excess of 5 days will initiate a fine. This is government policy, please read the extract below:

Thinking of taking your child out of school in term time?

New legislation introduced in September 2013 states that any application for holiday (this is now called leave of absence) must only be in exceptional circumstances, headteachers in England no longer have the discretion to approve absences of up to 10 days a year for family holidays.

The Headteacher must be satisfied that the exceptional circumstances warrant the granting of leave. The new rules introduced tougher criteria of 'exceptional circumstances', restricting it to absences for events such as funerals of immediate family members.

The law

The current law does not allow parents to take their child(ren) out of school during term time. Parents can be fined for taking their child(ren) out of school during term time without consent from the school. Parents and carers are legally responsible for ensuring their children attend school (other than home schooling). Failure to do so is an offence under section 444 of the Education Act 1996. Parents have no legal right to take their children out of school during term time for holidays.

What happens if an unauthorised holiday is taken?

Parents who do not have the school's permission for their child's absence face a maximum fine of £60 per pupil, per parent. That rises to £120 if not

paid within seven days. Those who refuse to pay can face court action and, if prosecuted, a fine of up to £2,500 and a possible jail sentence of up to three months.

Does a week make that much difference?

A child who takes a week's extra holiday each year at school will have missed at least 70 days – or the equivalent of more than three months of teaching – by the end of their time at school.

What are considered exceptional circumstances?

Exceptional circumstances could include:

- 1 Service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays.
- 2 Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue.
- 3 The death or terminal illness of a direct family member.
- 4 To attend a wedding or funeral of parents and siblings.

Exceptional leave is NOT:

- Availability of cheap flights and/or holidays
- Availability of desired accommodation
- Parent/carer work commitments
- Poor weather experienced during school holiday periods
- Overlap with the beginning or end of term, half term.

STAFF

New Teachers

We have just appointed 3 new teachers for next year. All familiar faces to you: **Maisie Allum Watts**, **Amie Ashdown** and **Jon Barcock**.

More baby news

Congratulations to **Mrs Chadwick** and her family on the birth of Alice.

Congratulations to **Eve Ayling** (our librarian) and her family on the birth of a beautiful baby girl- name still to be announced.

NEW INTAKE

Once again we were oversubscribed in reception. We look forward to welcoming our new children in September.

WANTED

Mrs McFarlane is collecting jam jar lids. If you have any please pop them in to the school office.
Thank you.



Lauren tells Mr Gove exactly what she thinks!

Lauren is clearly not very happy about some of Mr Gove's decisions and policies (nor are we Lauren!) We try to link learning to topics that are relevant and interest the children and this is an excellent letter demonstrating the skills of persuasion and argument. I'm not sure if it was sent to Mr Gove; if not it should be!

Dear Mr Gove

I am writing to complain and disagree with your choice of extending school days. My name is Lauren Hunt, I am a 10 year old girl who enjoys school. Although I enjoy school I think nine or ten hour school days are unnecessary.

First of all, I know you have said one of the reasons for extending school days was to complete homework. Homework should be done at home and at my school if you have not completed your homework you are expected to go to homework club at lunchtime.

My next reason is thinking about our freedom. After school, if it is a nice day my brother and I would go out on our bikes. If you extended school days we would lose our freedom and I'm sure a lot of the other children would too.

My final reason is about the teachers. The teachers have enough planning and marking on their hands, they don't need any more! Our school days are from 9.00am-3.20pm if we had a nine hour school day our day would finish at 7.30pm. If we had a ten hour school day it would finish at 8.30pm. Don't you think that's a bit harsh on the teachers and children?

I hope my letter has changed your mind about extending school days.

Yours sincerely

Lauren Hunt

WOW

Year 2 Sports Experience

I just wanted to let you know that Hattie came out of school beaming today because of her 'amazing' day.

She couldn't stop talking about her morning at the Sports Park with friends doing all sorts of exciting sports and activities (fortunately it was indoors!). And then went on to tell me about how she and Chloe had met with the very important man who was in school at the moment to tell him about what she liked at school and how well she was doing. So all in all, right up there with one of her best days since starting school! Thank you.



Writing Stars



Reception Writing Stars



Year 2 Writing Stars



Well done Anthony

Bike It Breakfast

Thank you to everyone that got on their bike and joined us for a breakfast in the school.



Competition Winners

Winners of the colouring competition awarded with their prizes from the Co-op!



Year 6

A big well done to Year 6 who have all just finished their SATs tests.

They couldn't have worked any harder and they all took it in their stride. We are all very proud!

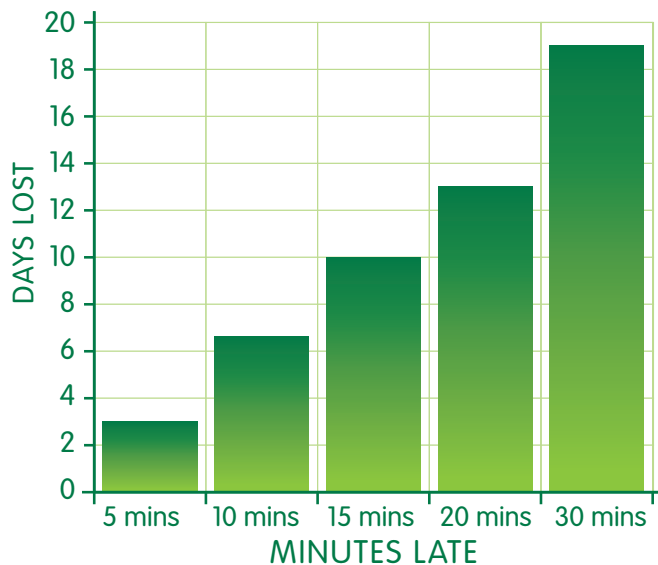
Dates for your Diary

3-6th June	Year 6 off to France
12th June	Brighton & Hove, whole School football training
16th June	Phonics testing for year 1 (All week)
20th June	Class photos
21st June	Summer Fayre 12pm-3pm
23rd June	Maths Week whole school
26th June	Swimming Gala at the Sovereign Centre
26th June	Bike It Breakfast
27th June	Summer Book Fair
1st July	Change Over Day All classes move up to meet their new teacher
4th July	Day of Change
7th July	Sports Week - A celebration of sport for a week culminating in a sports day
10th July	Infant Sports Day
11th July	Junior Sports day
14th July	End of year reports
23rd July	Last school day of the year! Phew

Every School Day Counts

Being Late adds up to a loss of learning

- If you are 5 minutes late every day that adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- 15 minutes late is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.



- Being late every day can add up to a lot of lost learning time
- Please help your child to be punctual

If you are worried about your child's attendance please talk to us at school about it or speak to: **Education Support Behaviour & Attendance Service** on **01273 481967**

Class figures

Please compare your child's attendance to the average & look at the table above.

RJ = 95%	2BW = 97%	5T = 96%
RP = 96%	3G = 97%	5B = 94%
1A = 97%	3K = 97%	6T = 96%
1R = 96%	4M = 97%	6C = 97%
2B = 98%	4EM = 97%	

97% is our target

Overall school attendance is currently at **96.8%**. This is so close to our school target this year of **97%**. Keep it up!

Are you ready for this Months Maths Challenge?

Dan the Detective

1. Dan the detective looked for a number

He found a two digit number less than 50. The sum of its digits was 12. Their difference was 4

What number did Dan find?

2. Dan found a two-digit odd number

One of its digits was half the other. The number was greater than 50.

What number did Dan find?

Pass your answer to **Mrs Jones**. The first correct answer wins a prize.

Well done Luke!

The Winner of the last Maths Challenge was Luke Jago!



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 Provax: www.provax.co.uk