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# CHRISTMAS CHEER



**I am so pleased to be writing this newsletter as the new substantive Headteacher at Polegate School.**

It has been a privilege for me to work as Acting Headteacher with all the children and families recently and I am so pleased that I can continue this journey. Thank you for all your kind words and encouragement and I look forward to driving the school to **'Infinity and beyond!'**

**Debbie Jones** Headteacher



# IT'S CHRISTMAS - WE MADE IT!

School has been filled with the usual Christmas cheer, nativities, carol concerts, cards, decorations, pantomime and Christmas dinner day!

With life, to some extent, back to normal we can return to our normal pantomime - oh yes we can! Rehearsals are ongoing, and will be for some time I am sure, but the Pantomime will be a HIT!

The Reception Nativity did not disappoint. Brilliant acting, dancing, singing and a hint of comedy were shared with 3 packed audiences. It always amazes me how brave the children are even at 4 years old sharing their lines with confidence. I

am sure the reception children could teach the pantomime team a thing or 2 - no pressure teachers and support.

**Thank you for supporting the children at home they were all amazing stars!**

I'm convinced we will have future actors and comedians in our midst - watch this space.

It has been a busy term as you will see when you read this newsletter. Not only do the children need to rest and recharge but the staff do too. A huge amount of effort, energy and dedication have gone into this term's events and I would like to say a huge thank you to them and wish them a very peaceful, relaxing holiday.



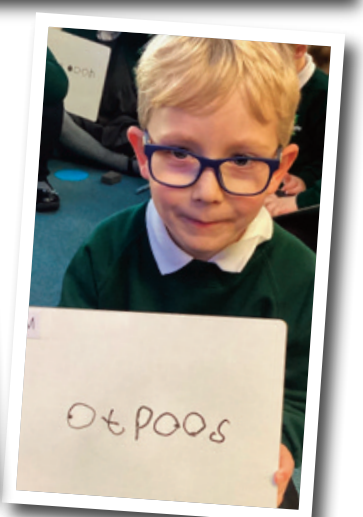
Thank you so much to our amazing PFA for the beautiful Christmas tree this year. The children have thoroughly enjoyed it. I may ask the PFA to decorate my tree at home - the decorations are stunning as always!



## RECEPTION LEARNING

The children continued their learning about the Nativity story in class and have thoroughly enjoyed sharing their understanding in a variety of ways. I particularly like this beautiful stable including all the main characters.

And some amazing reception phonics - The children have thoroughly enjoyed developing their phonic knowledge and are wowing the reception team with their learning. They are exploring exciting vocabulary, confidently attempting to spell trick words - octopus.



# CHILDREN IN NEED



The children in nursery thoroughly enjoyed Pudsey day - What lovely Dotty and Pudsey accessorised children.

We were lucky enough to meet Pudsey on his journey to Eastbourne pier. Much was fun was had with plenty of high 5s! A team from BBC South East came to school at the end of a five-day challenge – walking from Gravesend in North Kent to Eastbourne for Children in Need. A cup of tea, a chocolate biscuit, a visit from Pudsey and off they went.



# REMEMBRANCE DAY

A proud moment for Will and Alaya representing Polegate School at the Polegate Memorial remembrance service. As always the children represented the school impeccably.



# SPECTACULAR SCIENCE!

Why not have some fun together as a family this Christmas? Try one the science challenges below and share your results with us on Twitter – we would love to see a video of your racing reindeers! There might be a prize for the most original designs!

## 2

## RACING REINDEER

### You will need

- \* Cardboard (from a box or a piece of old packaging is ideal)
- \* Scissors
- \* Ramp

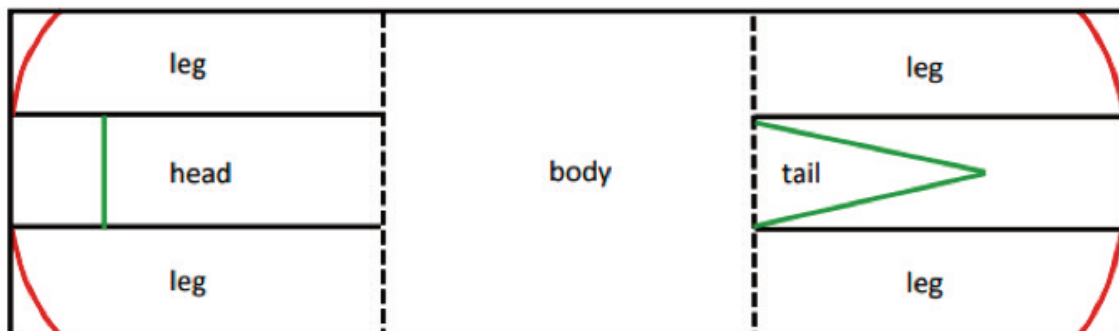
Use the template below to cut out your reindeer. Fold the four legs down and the tail and head up. Remember to cut the shape of its feet. If you want, draw a face on the head and cut out and stick on some antlers. You could give your reindeer a name too .... be as creative as you like!



Find something to use as a ramp – this could be a plank of wood, or a big book, or a chopping board – anything that is at least 30cm long and has a flat surface. Prop one end of your ramp on some books or a box, so that you have made a slope ready for your reindeer races.

**Now see if you can get your reindeer to walk down the ramp!**

It might not work first time – you may need to adjust the angle of the legs or its head and tail. Or your ramp might be too steep, or too shallow. **Be patient** and keep trying as it will work!



- Cut along solid lines
- - - Fold along dotted lines
- Cut along red lines to create angled foot shape
- Cut head and tail shapes along green lines

**Why not get friends and family each making their own, and then have reindeer races?!**

**WHAT DO YOU NOTICE? Things to talk about ...**

- What difference does the size of the reindeer make? Why not try a **HUGE** one? Or a tiny one?
- What happens if you make the reindeer with longer legs? Or shorter legs? Or thinner or fatter legs?
- What happens if the ramp is too high or too low? Can you find out the best height for the ramp?
- Does the reindeer keep walking on a really long ramp?
- What if you change the surface of the ramp?
- What difference does it make if you don't cut triangles off the ends of its feet? Or you cut off bigger ones?

# SCIENCE FUN AT HOME CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!

Have some festive fun at home with these science activities from **Science Sparks** and the **Primary Science Teaching Trust**

**BEFORE YOU START!** Please read through this with an adult:

- \* Please make sure you have read the 'IMPORTANT NOTICE' at the bottom of this page
- \* You can do these activities indoors, or in a safe space outside.
- \* Talk to your adult about the science you have done and if they want to share any pictures on social media, please tag **@ScienceSparks** and **@pstt\_whyhow**



## 1

## FLYING SANTA

Draw a circle with diameter 7cm (or draw round a small plate) on a piece of paper. Cut out the circle and then cut it in half. Each semi-circle will make one Santa. Bend the semi-circle round to make a cone. Overlap the straight edges and stick them together with tape or glue. Colour in your Santa. You could start by cutting your circle from paper that you have already coloured red, and then cut out a belt, bobble and beard and stick them on.

Next you need an **empty** plastic water bottle or milk carton with the lid off. Put your Santa cone over the top of the bottle or carton and make sure you aren't pointing it towards anyone's face. On a count of three, squeeze the bottle as hard as you can by clapping your hands with the bottle in the middle, and watch Santa go flying!

**WHAT DO YOU NOTICE? Things to talk about ...**

- How far can you get your Santa to go?
- What happens with a really big or a really small Santa?
- Or with a narrower cone, using a third of a circle?
- What happens if you tilt the bottle or carton?
- What difference does it make if you use a bigger bottle or carton? Or a smaller one?

### You will need

- \* Paper and pens
- \* Scissors
- \* Tape or glue
- \* Empty plastic bottle or milk carton



# TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

The children had a brilliant experience designing a contraption that would help Aladdin and the Genie escape from the cave. They worked in teams brilliantly and designed such thoughtful vehicles.

The competition was tough but...Emily and Blake came second! Congratulations!

In true Polegate pupil style the children read their books at every opportunity - on route, at the competition and on the way back! I wonder - did they quiz when they returned to school?



## DOODLE SPELL

Doodle maths is a hit with the children with many receiving certificates for 365 day streaks!

The children report that the program is 'great' an 'fun'. Remind your children to access the APP to build their streak.

Filled with interactive exercises and fun games, DoodleSpell is specifically designed to boost confidence and ability in spelling. Filled with thousands of interactive exercises, rewards and fun spelling games, DoodleSpell ensures that learning is

always fresh and engaging, encouraging children to use the app 'little and often'. DoodleSpell can be used offline and on tablets, phones, laptops and desktops, letting children learn anywhere, anytime.

Happy Doodling!



## MATHS PROBLEM

Ron has these digit cards



He uses two of the cards to make a two-digit number.

How many even two-digit numbers can he make?

## DIARY DATES

14th December  
Year 4 Viking Day

16th December  
Staff Panto

16th December  
Christmas Dinner

3rd January  
First Day Back to school

13th January  
6MU Class Assembly

20th January  
1S Class Assembly

26th January  
Reception - Heights,  
Weights and Vision  
Screening

27th January  
Reception - Heights,  
Weights and Vision  
Screening

27th January  
5K Class Assembly

3rd February  
2S Class Assembly

6th February  
Choir attending Young  
Voices 2023 at  
Wembley Arena

6th February  
Parent Consultations

8th February  
Parent Consultations

10th February  
2C Class Assembly

10th February  
Last Day of Term

13-17th February  
Half Term

20th February  
INSET Day

21st February  
Start of Term 4

## FOOTBALL NEWS

### No not the world cup- much more important - The Polegate girls football team!

In the final afternoon of league matches, during which Polegate girls played a couple of friendly games, we lost 3-0 to a very strong Heron Park team. Heron Park have recently represented East Sussex in the Albion Cup regional competition, so we did very well to have some good chances against them.



Our girls have been improving every week and it has been wonderful to see them gel together as a team.  
Well done everyone!

# PARKING PATROL

The children have been out on parking patrol this week sharing a very important message.

I am glad to say that they have reported much improved parking.

Please continue this to ensure the safety of all of our children.

Please turn off your engines while waiting for the children. We have had a number of emails from local residents sharing their concerns with reference to engines left running for long periods of time which is obviously not good for the environment.

We have new Eco friendly club starting soon. I am sure they would also like to share this message.



# REACH OUT

We participated in Anti-bullying week 2022 with the theme of 'Reach Out'

The children thought about people that they could reach out to if worried. It was lovely to hear their responses with all bale to talk about friends or staff in school that could help.

Last year's anti bullying week theme 'One Kind Word' reminded of the importance of kindness to others. Can I ask us all to respect this and remember when talking to school staff and each other that a kind word goes a long way.





## FOREST SCHOOL

Forest school has been incredible again this term.

Come rain or shine the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the Wildlife Garden. Thank you for providing them with forest school wear.



We hope to be able to provide forest school wet weather gear soon. I am sure this will help with your washing! The children will just need to remember their wellington boots.

More information on the wet weather gear will be provided as soon as we can.



## PFA NEWS

### Christmas Extravaganza

As always the Christmas Extravaganza was incredibly successful. Thank you to our PFA for delivering a 'Without Limits' event! There was so much to see and do - I thoroughly enjoyed it.



### Mini First Aid

All children across the school participated in mini first aid training. There were bandages everywhere! I would like to personally thank the PFA for providing this invaluable life lesson.



### Hot off the press

Winter Extravaganza figures are in... an incredible profit of **£5738.40!** We are also lucky enough to be receiving **£2000** in match funding from Barclays! **Meaning for this event our profit will be £7738.40!**

Even reception joined in - I can assure you all that the children saved the bear using their new skills! PHEW

### Wreath Making

Some beautiful wreaths were created during the wreath making evening. This wreath looks stunning! A great evening was had by one and all.



# SPORTS UPDATE TERM 2

After several years without a competitive football league for Eastbourne primary school children, the Eastbourne Schools PE Association has recently re-established an U11 league for both boys and girls.

Thanks to a lot of hard work by Chloe Taylor and her team at Gildredge House School, we have been treated to some fantastic football this term with participating teams from Polegate, The Haven, Langney, Heron Park, Pevensey & Westham, Stone Cross, Tollgate, Willingdon, Bourne, Ocklynge, Gildredge House, Cavendish and St Thomas a Becket.

With all the games being played down at the Saffrons under floodlight, this week has seen the culmination of the Girls U11 league where Polegate has been growing as a team since the beginning of the fixtures.

The Girl's squad is captained by Eloise Lavender and our other footballing stars of the future are; Isla Wietcha, Aeryn Noakes, Gracie McHale-Vinall, Amy Burgoyne, Isabella Brignull, Lilly Thomas, Jessica Cheshire, Alaya Johnson, Jade Keen and Lilia Owen.



The finals for the Boy's league will be played out at the start of next term. So far the results have not been a reflection of our potential, with 4 losses and a draw. Despite that there has been some outstanding individual play - particularly in defence - and some impressive, acrobatic saves from our very brave Goalie. We still have a couple of rounds of games left and we are hoping for a bit more luck in the remaining fixtures. Our squad of talented boys is; Edward Donald (GK), Finley Pain, Jayden Pont, Tyler Pont, Olly Tee, Rufus Verth, Aidan Leatham, Mason Wimalasena, Ralph Austin and Charlie Connell.

**In other news, many classes this term have been led in curricular lessons by our expert PE specialists 'Sportitude' and 'Defiant Sports'.**

Next term we will be running Sports Leader Training for Year 5 & 6 pupils in readiness for leading Box Fit Club in Term 4 and also supporting the many sporting activities that take place in Spring & Summer. Class Teachers will be collecting names of those interested and Mrs Wallis & Mrs Chadwick will confirm dates soon.

**Alfie Fuller of class 1B achieved 50 rounds of sparring one after the other, at MSK school of martial arts in Eastbourne.**

He was the only 5 year old that attended, so he gave his all to those black belts. Alfie and his friends at MSK have raised £500 (so far) for St Wilfred's

in honour of a member of MSK, and the donations are still rolling in. Well done Alfie we are all very proud of you!



# ATTENDANCE

We strongly believe in tackling attendance early before it causes longer term problems for your child and there are many reasons why we address this from the very start of the year.

Pupils who missed 2 to 4 days in September were 5 times more likely than those who missed fewer than 2 days to be chronically absent for the year. Half the pupils who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.

This is a significant amount of time. We firstly aim to support. Please share with us any difficulties you face as a family- we want to help!

If attendance is causing a concern you will be invited in for a meeting to discuss the reasons behind it and offer support.

Higher attendance clearly equates with success and higher earnings later in life. This may seem obvious but if you were in any doubt attendance is the building block of pupil achievement. The bottom line is that if they are not in school then they are not learning.

<b>RH</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>2S</b>	<b>96.3%</b>	<b>4H</b>	<b>96.7%</b>
<b>RG</b>	<b>93.7%</b>	<b>2C</b>	<b>97.2%</b>	<b>5M</b>	<b>95.4%</b>
<b>RB</b>	<b>96.8%</b>	<b>3L</b>	<b>94.5%</b>	<b>5K</b>	<b>94.3%</b>
<b>1B</b>	<b>94.7%</b>	<b>3T</b>	<b>94.8%</b>	<b>5T</b>	<b>95.1%</b>
<b>1S</b>	<b>95.4%</b>	<b>3GJ</b>	<b>94.9%</b>	<b>6M</b>	<b>95.5%</b>
<b>1G</b>	<b>96.6%</b>	<b>4JD</b>	<b>92.4%</b>	<b>6MU</b>	<b>95.7%</b>
<b>2R</b>	<b>96.8%</b>	<b>4AD</b>	<b>96.9%</b>	<b>6W</b>	<b>95.9%</b>

Please remember that it is your responsibility to call or report your child's absence to the school on the day of your child's absence by 8.30am at the latest. It is very important for safeguarding reasons that we know a child is safe at home with parents if they are not in school.

**It is taking a considerable amount of time for the office team to call and check on absences at the moment.**

## Diary Dates

**Start of Term 3  
Tuesday 3rd  
January  
2023**

## 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  
1,336 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](http://www.polegateschool.co.uk)

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