

# news

March 2015



## YEAR 2 TRIP TO HEVER CASTLE



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It is hard to believe it is already Term 4! There is so much going on this term; lots of events, trips and initiatives.

Plans for the Congress show are well underway and I'm quite sure classes would appreciate any help from creative parents with props etc. just pop in and speak to teacher if you would like to get involved.





# Nursery

**The nursery is now up and running. We have all popped over to play.**

The children have been so calm, settled and willing to engage with us that it has been difficult to leave! We knew it was going to be tricky to operate the extended school clubs and a nursery from the same building especially with transition periods but all the teams using the building have worked together incredibly well to plan ahead for any difficulties or solve them as they arise and I would like to thank them for this.

I have been popping in both before and after school and the children have been really excited about the new equipment they have had to use which has only enhanced all the regular activities the clubs provide.

It is lovely to see our older pupils playing alongside and supporting our younger pupils. Both sessions have a real family feel (minus the sibling arguments!).



## Amazing work



**Simply amazing homework Luke. You were busy in the holiday!**



**Shekira filled up her writing journal so continued on paper. Fantastic commitment to writing in her own time.**

**Ofsted**

raising standards  
improving lives

## Ofsted Parentview

**Please can we encourage you to log onto the Ofsted Parentview website and complete the questionnaire.**

We very much value your thoughts and opinions and this is one way of collecting them. **You can find the link on our home page.**



**These smiles are all about achieving level 6. Keep it up team!**



**Oliver has used his observational skills to draw a Tudor house.**

# GET PEDALLING!

**Bike It is run by Sustrans, the country's leading sustainable transport charity, helping more pupils to be able to cycle, scoot and walk to school.**

We had lots of brilliant events last year, including breakfasts, learn to ride and skills sessions. Thank you to all those who came along and helped to make it a success. We have lots of fun activities planned for this term...

We are starting this year in style with a Bike it event on Tuesday 10th March. Pupils will have a chance to make their own free-fruity-smoothies by pedal power alone on our special bike! Jessie will bring the smoothie maker in during breaktimes.

At Sustrans, we think cycling especially is an excellent way for children to travel to school, as it is good for their health, good for the environment, and it helps to develop independence and road safety skills.

We focus on making cycling as safe as possible, and by reducing the number of cars around the school, we can help to make the neighbourhood a quieter, safer and less congested place.



## BIKE IT BREAKFAST

**Bike It breakfast Thursday 19th March. Cycle to school and be rewarded with a fantastic free breakfast!**



## THE BIG PEDAL

**This is a competition between all the schools to compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils cycling or scooting to school.**

It is the largest inter-school cycling and scooting challenge.

Winning schools will receive prizes, including bike and scooter stunt shows and equipment. It would be fabulous if we could win!

To find out more visit:  
<http://bigpedal.org.uk/>

**You can track the leader board on this website!**

# Maths Challenge - Staircases

**Only 4 entries last term!**

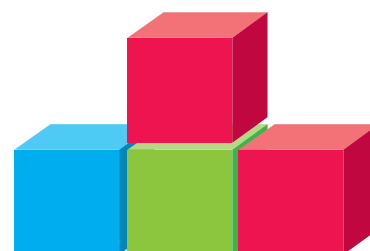
**I know we can do better than that. Hand your entry in to Mrs Jones for a chance to win a maths prize!**

**Well done Mason Partridge in 1J who won last term's challenge!**

1. One block is needed to make an up-and-down staircase, with 1 step up and 1 step down.



2. 4 blocks make an up-and-down staircase with 2 steps up and 2 steps down.



3. How many blocks would be needed to build an up-and-down staircase with 5 steps up and 5 steps down?  
Explain how you would work out the number of blocks needed to build a staircase with any number of steps.



# NEWS

We have just held our round of 'Pupil Progress Meetings' with teachers where we discuss the progress each class is making in detail.

What is really evident is that pupils are reaching higher levels than ever before and as each year group moves through their attainment is looking better than ever.

We have also carried out 'Book Scrutiny' in which we look to see the range and quality of work in books and some of the work in books is quite phenomenal!

We have examples of year 2 work which nationally would reflect year 4 expectations! This has also been noted by County who are advising other schools to visit and look at the quality of marking and work in books. Needless to say I am so proud of our pupils and staff. They all work so hard.

We have also been asked to support an Infant School in Eastbourne. We have committed two days each week of deputy support which was required so if you notice Miss Garland's absence that is where she is.

# READING UPDATE

We are passionate about reading as a school and as you all know we have an expectation that all our pupils have the opportunity to enjoy a book every evening at home.

That can be the child either reading themselves or being read to. This does not need to be an onerous task – even 5 minutes is fine and makes a big difference. It was really obvious in our 'Pupil Progress' meetings that the children that are really exceeding expectations are those that get support at home.

It was disappointing to hear teachers say 'they are not reading at home'. Whilst I can certainly sympathise with this it also upsets me to hear that a small minority of parents cannot find 5 minutes before bedtime to share a book with their child.

## 'House Point' challenge

This term we are running a 'House Point' challenge to support reading. The children love our house system so we think this will give them a bit of added motivation! In addition to the raffle ticket they earn for reading 7 days in a row they will also earn a house point and another for every quiz they complete on AR. I look forward to sharing the winning house in my next newsletter. **Good luck everyone, now get reading!**

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS LIST

As our pupils become increasingly proficient readers we are finding a need to challenge them with more advanced books.

Every year group will be sending home a list of recommended books which will also meet the requirements of the new curriculum.

## WRITING JOURNALS

**'My sister threw it out of the window.'**  
**'Mine was covered in milk.'**  
**'My little brother ripped it up'.**

These are just some of the reasons we have heard for why the children don't have their writing journals! If your child has lost theirs we can replace them at a cost of £1 so please just speak to Kerry in the office.

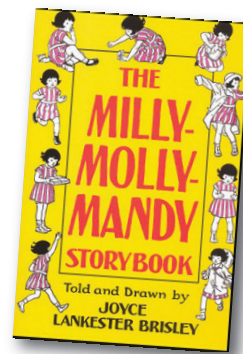
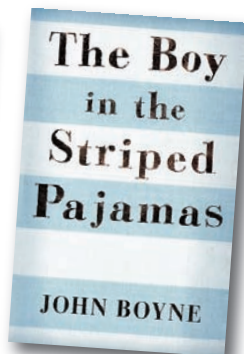
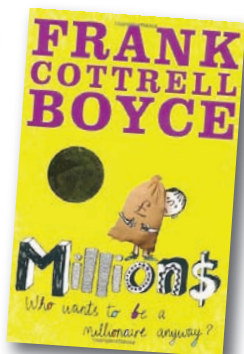
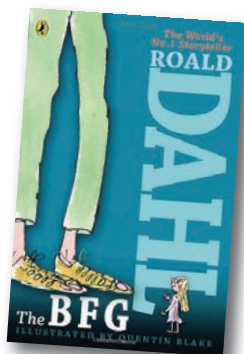
These books provide an opportunity for your child to write during the holidays about whatever they would like and we have some really imaginative entries to share with you. Their work is shared in class and whilst the teachers do not mark their work they love reading them all.

**Well done to all the writers that have been selected to be published in this newsletter.**

## THE BOOK TRUST TOP 100

The book Trust have published a list of the 100 best books for children to celebrate children's book week. How many of these books has your child read? [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk) is an excellent site with recommended books

for a range of different ages that will encourage children to read a range of genres: historical fiction, mystery and horror, humour, adventure etc. If you struggle to get your child to read a wide variety of texts it is worth a look.





# YEAR 4 ART EXHIBITION

Pop along to this. Year 4 are displaying their wonderful artwork alongside other schools in East Sussex. It is well worth a look.



## Our Place: Annual Schools Exhibition 2015

You are invited to the private view on  
Thursday 26 March 3.30-6.30pm

Official opening by the Worshipful  
the Mayor, Councillor Janet Coles

Speeches 4.30pm

[townereastbourne.org.uk](http://townereastbourne.org.uk)



Worthing  
Museum and Art Gallery

Image: Eric Ravilious, Interior at Furlongs, 1939

Supported by:



In association with:  
Worthing Museum and Art Gallery  
& Flora Twort Gallery

Towner  
Devonshire Park  
College Road  
Eastbourne BN21 4JJ  
01323 434670

Exhibition continues  
Towner: Fri 27 March - Sun 31 May  
Worthing Museum and Art Gallery: Sat 23 May - Sat 19 Sept

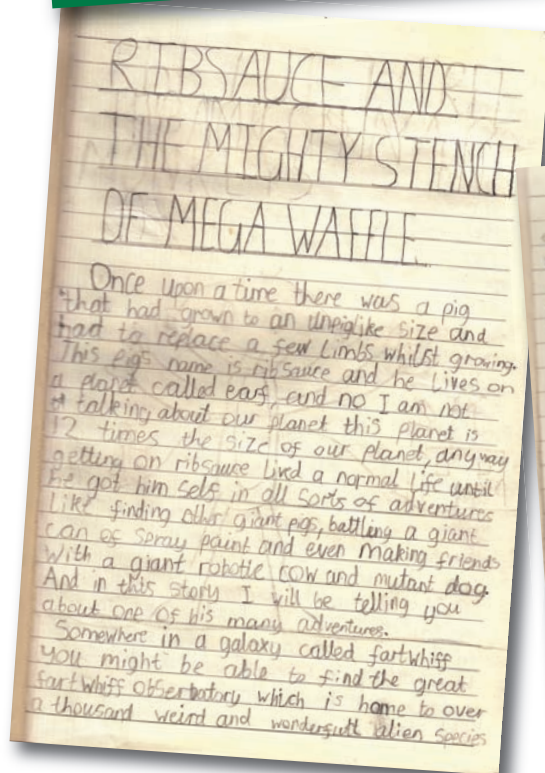
Opening Hours  
Tuesday to Sunday  
Bank Holiday Mondays  
10am - 5pm



Supported by public funding  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

Towner is registered charity no. 1156762

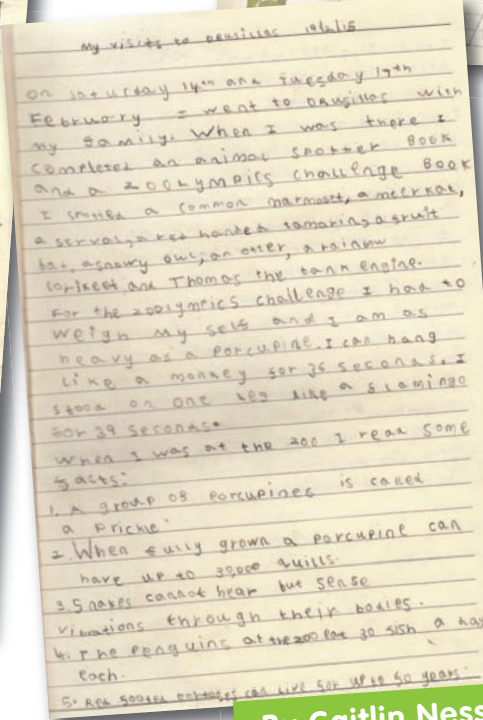
## WRITING JOURNALS



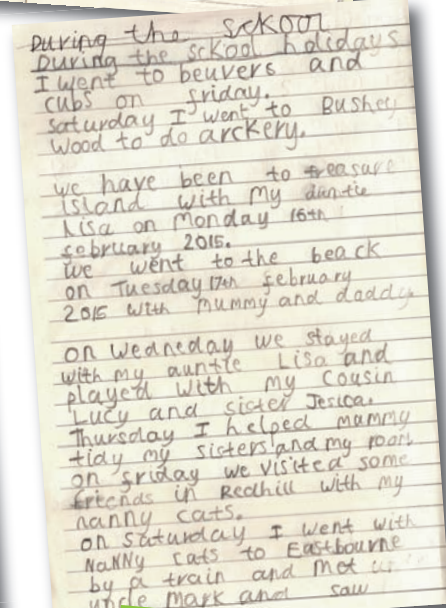
By Charlie Baldwin



By Neave Martin-O'Donoghue



By Caitlin Ness



By Samuel Stephens



# CONGRESS SHOW

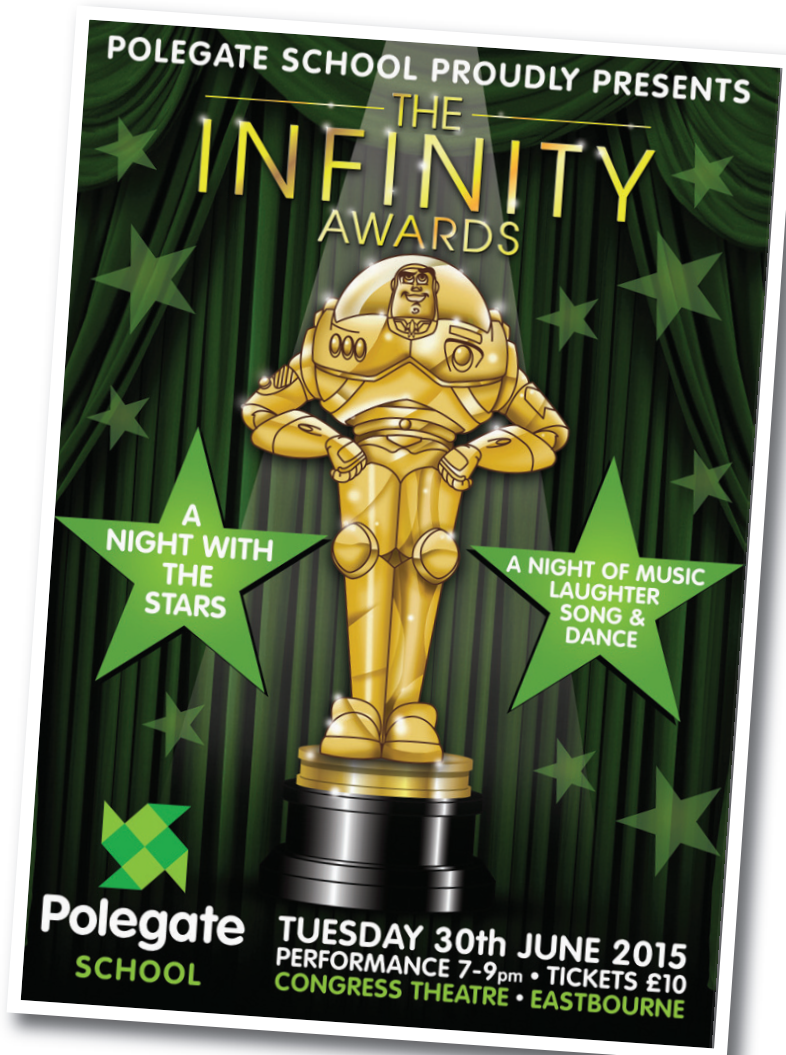
**Way back in the summer of 2007 Polegate School took its first tentative steps onto the huge stage at the Congress Theatre in Eastbourne.**

Since then we have continued to develop creativity and the arts and have gone from strength to strength. We don't do this every year because it is such a massive undertaking and we all work so hard to make sure the evening is a memorable one!

Every year group in the school takes to the stage performing their own distinctive creation as well as coming together as Key stages and whole school! They bring the audience songs, dance, drama and music and each year we try to make this unique and different to previous so don't assume because something has been done in the past it will happen again- we like to surprise!

We have now been given a new date for the Congress Show. It is booked for Tuesday 30th June 2015 at 7pm. The following day is an INSET day. I believe tickets will be on sale from the 2nd March 2015. Unfortunately the date had to change because the Congress had taken two bookings for the same evening.

**Tickets on sale now!**



## THINK TANK

**We held our meeting last term and discussed the contentious issue of homework!**

We were aware that different year groups set homework in a variety of ways and we discussed the best, most helpful way for you as parents. All year groups are now following the same template. We hope this helps.

## LIFEGUARD

**We are planning ahead so that we can get up and running with the swimming lessons immediately after Easter.**

We are looking for lifeguards. If you or anyone else you know has availability during the day and would be interested in earning a little then please ask them to contact the school.



## Origami Club

**Origami Club is up and running and children had great fun making animals out of paper.**





# SPORTS UPDATE

## Swimming

We joined other Eastbourne schools and took part in the local swimming gala last week. Every swimmer made it through to the final and overall we came third! Only missing second place by 4 points.



Don't forget to look at the sports board for regular updates of competitive sports events

## Netball

Congratulations to our Netball team who won first place in the Eastbourne Schools' tournament.



## Sports Star of the Term

We are delighted to announce the second winner of our 'Sports Star of the Term' award.

The winner is Jamie Hamilton from Year 6. The award is made every term to acknowledge the individual efforts and achievements of Polegate students who enjoy taking part in any sport both in and out of school.



## My Report

**My name is Jamie and I am 11 years old.**

I love all sports especially Cricket and Football. In cricket, I play for Eastbourne Cricket Club and last season we won our league and I recently won the Best Bowler of the Season Award.

In Football, I play for Eastbourne Borough and although we may not win all of our matches, it is a fun way to spend a Sunday Morning. For the last 2 years running I have been awarded the Supporters Player of the Season.

Recently, I have begun to learn how to play Golf and I am looking forward to challenging my Dad and Grandad to a Round! I also play Tennis and Swimming and I have always enjoyed competing in the Swimming Galas, as it is a fabulous atmosphere and evening for everyone taking part.

At school, I take part in the Running, Football and Netball clubs. I have enjoyed taking part in the Cross Country runs

and although I am not Usain Bolt I have improved my position each year! As well, for the last 2 years, I have taken part in the 5km Santa Fun Run and raised over £100 for charity. You have to run 5km along the Seafront with everyone dressed up in Santa Suits!

As you can see, I really love playing all sports but if I can't be a sportsman, I would love to be a Sky Sports Commentator!



# Amazing Achievements

**Well done to Celine Kumaradas who has been offered an academic scholarship to not just one but two schools!**

St. Helen's School in Middlesex and City of London. This award was made on the basis of Celine's academic ability and she had to sit several examination papers in English and mathematics. Following this she was invited in for interviews.

**Congratulations Celine, all your hard work has paid off!**



**Gethin Budden is doing remarkably well with his piano studies.**



## DIARY DATES

**Thursday 19th March**  
Bike it Breakfast

**29th April – 1st May**  
Hindleap Warren  
residential visit - Yr 5

**Friday 27th March**  
Polegate School exhibits at  
the Towner Art Gallery -  
Year 4

**Monday 30th March**  
Easter Holiday

**Monday 13th April**  
Start of term 5

**Tuesday 14th April**  
Class photographs

**Monday 11th April**  
SATs week - year 6

**Friday 22nd May**  
last day of term

**Tues 2nd – Fri 5th June**  
Year 6 French trip

**Tuesday 30th June**  
Congress show

**Wednesday 1st July**  
Inset Day

**Thursday 2nd July**  
Infant sports day (pm)

**Tuesday 7th July**  
Transition day - Year 6 visit  
secondary schools

**Friday 10th July**  
Junior sports day

## DISCO

**The valentine disco was a huge success raising £565 for the school.**

## MOTHERS DAY

**The PFA will be selling Mothers Day gifts on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th March. Gifts will cost £2.00 or £2.50 for a present and card**

## WORLD BOOK DAY

**Thurs 5th March**  
**The children will have a fun day moving between teachers who are all planning a range of exciting activities.**



# Attendance

Attendance continues to remain a focus.  
Why good school attendance is important?

Attendance at school is vital not only for a child's ability to learn and achieve, but also for the social skills they learn interacting with their peers and adults; for learning habits that will last into later life; and for equipping them to compete in employment and the working world.

Research also shows the positive impact that good school attendance has on the academic achievement of pupils:

- 94% = Very good chance of 5A\* - C Grades.
- 93% = Good chance of 5A\* - Grades.
- 92% = Fair chance of 5A\* - Grades.
- 90% = Less than 50% chance of 5A\* - Grades.
- 88% = Less than 35% chance of 5A\* - Grades.
- < 88% Less than 30% chance of 5A\* - Grades

# Class figures

Overall school attendance is currently at 95%. This is so close to our school target this year of 97%. Keep it up!

RP	= 95%	2R	= 96%	5B	= 97%
RH	= 94%	3B	= 96%	5C	= 97%
1A	= 91%	3P	= 95%	6T	= 95%
1J	= 95%	4M	= 96%	6M	= 94%
2M	= 96%	4B	= 95%		

## 97% is our target

## Win a book token with 100%

As an added incentive and for a bit of change we are offering all children that achieve 100% until the end of the year a £5 book token.

## Win a family day out with 100%

In addition all pupils with 100% will be eligible to win a voucher entitling 5 family members to bowling and a swim at Freedom Leisure. The winners will be randomly selected and we have 15 vouchers on offer.

## Diary Date

**CONGRESS  
SHOW  
TUESDAY  
30th JUNE**  
Tickets on  
sale now!

## 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  
410 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)

Designed by Prowork: [www.prowork.co.uk](http://www.prowork.co.uk)

# KEEP IT *in the* FAMILY

**'KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY' STARRING  
BRADLEY WALSH IS BACK!**



**WE'RE LOOKING FOR CONFIDENT, CHATTY, FUN &  
OUTGOING FAMILIES TO TAKE PART IN THE NEXT  
SERIES!**

***FANCY WINNING A CAR? A HOLIDAY? OR A YEAR'S  
SUPPLY OF SAUSAGES?***


***Your teams must feature 4 family members consisting of 3 or  
more generations - this could include mum, dad, grandparent,  
great grandparent, uncle, aunt & 1 child aged between 9 – 11***

***If you are 18+ & would like to apply then please get in touch!***

***Closing date for applications is 27<sup>TH</sup> April 2015***

***For more information email:***

***tvfamily@itv.com***

 ***Follow us: @KIITFOfficial***

***For Terms & conditions go to [www.itv.com/terms/competitions/competitions-vote-and-applications-terms-conditions](http://www.itv.com/terms/competitions/competitions-vote-and-applications-terms-conditions)***