



SPOTLIGHT



Issue 4
Spring Term 2011

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

OPEN MORNINGS

During the Autumn Term we held a couple of very successful open mornings, whereby I was able to show parents around the school, whilst in session. During the tour we looked at the whole site 'warts and all', visited a number of lessons and spoke to both pupils and staff. Following the tour we had a discussion over coffee and talked about Poltair School, its strengths and its plans for future improvements. Therefore, I have decided to make myself and my senior team available for another round of visits. These will take place on Wednesday 30th March and Thursday 31st March both starting at 9.00 am. This opportunity is available to current as well as prospective parents. If you would like to see the school working 'live' please contact my PA, Mrs McPherson on 01726 874523 or head@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk and she will book you a place. I look forward to meeting you.

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

Dates for diary

Thursday 10th February
Year 11 Fashion Show (see poster)

Tuesday 15th February
Year 10 & Year 11 GCSE Information Evening
6.00 to 8.00 pm in the Main Hall

Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February
Half Term

Year 7 – Sex and Relationships Education

We have been teaching a successful and carefully structured Sex and Relationships Education programme as part of our normal school curriculum for many years. This has the full approval of our Governors.

You, as a parent, are entitled to withdraw your child from such lessons if you feel this to be in their best interest.

If you wish to exercise your right to withdraw your child from Sex and Relationships Education or you wish to discuss it further please contact Mrs Golding.

In the absence of a School Crossing Patrol person can we please ask parents to remind their children to cross opposite the main school entrance. They **MUST NOT** cross by the roundabout adjacent to the Football Club.

School Website

Please note that the weekly Spotlight and any archived Spotlights, together with news items, are available to view or download from the school website.

www.poltairschool.co.uk

'Flights of Fantasy'

21 Year 10 and 11 GCSE Dance pupils from Poltair performed in 'Flights of Fantasy' at the Hall for Cornwall on Sunday 23rd January 2011.

The show was a collaboration of dance groups in Cornwall put together by The Works (Dance and Theatre Cornwall) which presented the annual Youth Dance Platform, 'Flights of Fantasy' - an exploration of myths and legends, fairytales and folklore. Cornwall's young dancers ventured into the world of giants and monsters, witches and fairies, secrets and wishes, good and evil, big and small, from tales of the Greek Gods to the inside of Aladdin's lamp.



'WORD OF THE WEEK'

Chosen by Mrs Pascoe
As part of our focus on Literacy in the
MFL Department



une tasse de thé

TOP TEN



Jess

- 1) What option subjects do you do and what is your role in the Senior Prefect team?** I have chosen Geography, Dance and Electronics and my role in the senior prefect team is Head Girl.
- 2) What is your favourite meal?** My Mum's home-made roast.
- 3) What job would you like to do in the future?** I would like to be a Paramedic.
- 4) Who is your hero?** My leader at St John's Ambulance, Dave Christophers.
- 5) Who is your favourite singer/band?** I have too many to name.
- 6) What is your favourite book?** The Twilight Series by Stephenie Meyer.
- 7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?** I have passed Grade 3 in piano.
- 8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair?** Being with my friends and doing new things.
- 9) What do you treasure most?** My friends and family.
- 10) What one thing would you change in the world?** The ability to cure illnesses.

Fashion Show Thursday 10 February

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO:-

- DESIGN TICKETS AND POSTERS
- PRODUCE MUSIC
- HELP AS A STAGEHAND OR BACKSTAGE
- HELP AT FRONT OF HOUSE
- SELL REFRESHMENTS

If you are interested in helping please see:-

JESS BIRCH (HEAD GIRL)
or MRS PEARSON (Art Dept.)

POLTAIR GIRLS BASKETBALL

There was a double win for the Poltair Girls U14 and U16 Basketball teams against Fowey on Wednesday 19th January. We travelled to Fowey after little training and preparation but feeling confident in our own ability. Playing 5 minutes on alternately (to give the teams a rest!) the U14s began the fixture well, attacking the Fowey basket with regularity and marking their players very effectively. The U16 Girls followed their scoring example and showed the younger girls some good skills in offence, creating space and driving towards the hoop. With a number of substitutions (except for Abi Caple who had the tough job of marking Fowey's best player) all of the girls played really well, contributing to the game either through baskets, steals, rebounds or close marking. The final scores were 22-2 win for the U14s and 18-4 for the U16s. Well done girls!

Squads:

U14 - Ellie Hughes, Sam Ager, Kadie Daniels, Emma Bishop, Tori Marks, Emily White

U16 - Abi Caple, Jade Martin, Mel Pollard, Azara Tebbenham, Chantelle Richards, Erin Jenkins, Summer McGill-Lomond

WELL DONE AND CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils

Andrew Inch, George Richards, Myles Coakes and Mark Wherry (all Y10) who participated in the final County Trials at Newquay Tretherras School and have all been selected for the County U15 Rugby Team.

Daniel Marks (Y8), Daniel Peters (Y9) and Keegan Lloyd (Y9) have been selected to represent East Cornwall at football.

Jose Gilbert (Y11) finished 7th in the Intermediate Girls Race at the Cornwall Schools Cross-Country Championships. Jose has been selected to represent Cornwall Schools at the South-West Counties Championships at Taunton on Saturday 12th February.

Poltair DofE Leaders excel at Eden Outdoor Day

On Wednesday 19th January, DofE leaders led over 250 primary school children from the Roseland Peninsula around the Eden Project for a host of exciting outdoor adventures!

Orienteering Young Leaders, Kyle Rickard, Jack Barnell & Robbie Copping ran the orienteering sessions for the children. Kyle said; 'It was really good as I was able to experience different responsibilities.' The Kernow Orienteering Club supported the sessions throughout the day.

By observing nature's calendar, the sessions nurture and develop children's knowledge and understanding of the living environment. Outdoor School at Eden gave the children a variety of challenges to fulfil in the enclosed spiral garden led by Outdoor School Leaders, Georgina Hide, David Winter, Ruby Waterfield and Abby Crane. Georgina reflected; 'It was a challenge and helps to build our confidence.'

In the afternoon children 'got their skates on' and were twisting and turning on the ice while others explored the beauty in the Biomes. As Theresa Towe (Gorran Primary Link Teacher) pointed out; 'Learning new skills through orienteering and creative skills with Young Leaders from Poltair is an idyllic way to learn.'

Learning outdoors in an inspirational environment such as Eden is a gift we have on our doorstep. We could not help but notice the happy smiling faces of children experiencing the great outdoors in a variety of settings including orienteering, outdoor learning activities and ice skating. A day to remember!

Ten Tors Perranporth sand dune training

During the winter months, the Ten Tors 35 mile team hit the sand dunes running! Following the scrutineering of expedition clothing and equipment, the team endured the sand dunes with full kit learning the value of keeping time, knowing your route, team work, leadership and pacing Ben Caney said "We had great fun finding chocolate éclairs in the sand using a compass followed by a well-earned meal cooked on the beach". David Winter added "It was a great day and I would definitely do it all again!"

Helen Blackburn (Poltair Outdoor Education Co-ordinator)



Robbie & Kyle



Primary School pupils orienteering



Lauren & Kia-Mai



L - R: Conor, Jack, David, Abby, Ruby and Georgina

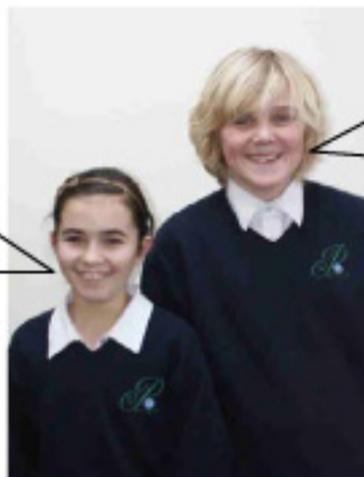
SPOTLIGHT ON LITERACY

The next stage of Accelerated Reader has now been launched. The programme which enables pupils to develop their reading skills to higher levels has been developed through the introduction of the Reading Champions log book.

The log book is the tool which engages parents in their child's development in the joy of reading. Parents will be able to use the log book to signal to school the books that have been read at home. These can then be used in the Accelerated Reader scheme in addition to the reading material used within school. When you sign to acknowledge the reading that takes place at home, your child will be rewarded at school. The Reading Champions log book will help the pupils achieve higher skill levels in reading by encouraging them to read other material thus broadening their perspective of the English language. Hopefully this will lead to a source of shared pleasure and enjoyment.



Michaela
"Lots of reading helps me get rewards".



Jack
"I didn't realise that reading helps you so much in life".

Reading is not only a life enhancing skill but it will also improve your child's achievement in all areas of the curriculum. **Join us in making your child a Reading Champion.**

Here is the next reading strategy in our cross curricular development of literacy skills.

Reading Strategy

Key Idea

Summarising: presenting only the main idea and most important points

Read the text carefully and make sure you understand the question

Underline key words in the question

Leave out any unnecessary words or information



Summarising

Locate information in the text

Decide what information is important and how it is connected to the question

Consider all possible answers and make your own decisions

 Accelerated Reader
ENTERPRISE

Congratulations to our 2 new word millionaires; Celeste Barbery has read 1,111,721 words and Rowan Routledge has achieved 1,024,490 so far this term. They both now join Harriet and William on the millionaires' chart, receive 50 Vivos and will also be presented with an award. There are also a couple of students not far behind, it could be you! Keep reading!

Mrs Hancock, Librarian

