



SPOTLIGHT



Issue 10
Summer Term 2011

Parents' Information Newsletter

NEWS FLASH

NEW UNIFORM AND NEW TIMINGS OF THE DAY INSIDE

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of a very busy school year it is time for us to recognise the efforts of those staff to whom we will be saying goodbye at the end of term.

Sarah Smith will be leaving us after a very successful first year as a Teacher of Geography. Typically Sarah is assiduous and caring in all that she does. With these attributes we forecast a very successful career ahead of her. Sarah moves on from Poltair, having decided to return to the North East of England. We wish her every success in this endeavour.

We will also be saying 'au revoir' and 'bonne chance' to another of our colleagues Martine Grau who will be returning to France this summer, having served the Poltair Community loyally and flexibly, both as one of our cleaning team and as one of our Teaching Assistants.

We have a number of staff leaving us who have been a part of the highly successful Poltair School Sports Partnership. As you will know from earlier communications, funding for the partnership ceases from this August and as a result a number of hard working colleagues will be moving on to pastures new. Andy Nions joined Poltair School in September 2002 as a Teacher of Physical Education before quickly becoming a School Sports Co-ordinator with the partnership. During this time his energies have focused on the family of schools in Fowey. We wish him every success in his role at Treviglas School teaching Public Services. Emma Wells was also part of the team that developed Poltair as the hub for our successful community-driven sports partnership. Working most recently in the St Austell area, Emma has been one of our SSCo team for the last eight years. Her calm, organised, assured manner will be much missed in all of our closest partner schools. As Clerical Support Assistant to the partnership, Julie Shand has been essential to the smooth organisation and administration of a partnership that included over sixty schools and covered St Austell, Newquay, Bodmin, Roseland, Isles of Scilly and Fowey. The school would like to wish all these colleagues the very best for the future, following what has been a difficult time as the partnership has been drawn to a close.

Vince Clooney will be leaving us following four years as Head of Mathematics. Mathematics is now enjoying a renaissance at Poltair School having ridden the upheaval of relocation and the right but never-ending drive towards higher standards. Vince will be much missed by the Poltair community; pupils enjoy his lessons and his calm, unflustered nature has characterised his approach to getting young people to 'Believe and Achieve.' We thank him also for all his contributions to the extra-curricular life of the school, particularly in Drama. Vince will be taking up a new role as Lead Teacher of Mathematics at Dartmouth Academy in September.

Ann McPherson, the school's Office Manager and Headteacher's PA will be retiring after nine years hard work at Poltair School. Not everyone in our school community will have met Ann but I can assure you that no-one makes a greater contribution to the smooth-running of our organisation. Ann has been responsible for all the administration of personnel matters in the school and has done so with great tact, diplomacy and enormous levels of integrity. She has also organised, supervised, encouraged, propped up and looked after three very different headteachers; probably the ultimate test of flexibility, adaptability, good humour and making the impossible happen and on time!

Helen Blackburn is also leaving us this August after eleven years association with Poltair School, joining the community as a Teacher of PE. As countless pupils, ex-pupils and families are well aware, Helen's real passion is for Outdoor Education and it is in this area that she undoubtedly leaves a hugely positive legacy for Poltair pupils. Her stewardship of the school's Duke of Edinburgh programme and the Ten Tors challenge has been remarkable. For many pupils these have been the defining and memorable

experiences of being a Poltair pupil. In latter years, Helen has worked for the Poltair School Sports Partnership as a School Sports Co-ordinator but has never wavered in her personal commitment to Outdoor Education.

Richard Binstead will be retiring after nearly eleven years loyal service at Poltair School. Richard joined the school initially as a temporary teacher of Modern Languages, but has since made himself almost indispensable with an impressive array of timetabled subjects including English, Mathematics, History, Geography, RE and Citizenship. He has been a gentlemanly colleague who has never shirked a new challenge or new direction.

Yvonne Moore, our current Deputy Head of English, is another retiring member of staff. Yvonne joined Poltair School in September 1988 and so has completed 23 years service in the English department. During that time Yvonne has been an important 'constant.' During times of great change, when often the team has been below full strength, Yvonne has stepped into the role of steward and guiding hand. Throughout her long teaching career at Poltair, her passion for her subject has remained undiminished. She retires with the English team very much in the ascendancy.

Val Pascoe joined Poltair School in September 1990 as a Teacher of RE. Of course as she nears a well-deserved and well-earned retirement, she does still teach RE, but so much more as well. Val has worked as a Head of Year for many years and epitomises what we understand by good pastoral care; a belief that there is good in everyone, that life is for learning and that as teachers we play the role of guiding hand, even if that means on occasions giving out some 'tough love.' Val has also been the face of the school's transition and induction arrangements and as such has been for generations of Poltair pupils the first welcoming, warm and happy face that the youngsters recognise and feel comfortable with.

On behalf of the whole school community I would like to express our gratitude to every one of our staff leavers for their effort, commitment and enthusiasm. We wish them the very best for the next stage in their professional and/or personal lives. To the rest of the staff I would like to say a very large thank you for their unswerving hard work during the course of this last year. Their belief in Poltair School and its pupils is crucial to our growing reputation and continuing improvement. They deserve a well-earned holiday.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our pupils (and their families) a restful, enjoyable and exciting summer holiday break. Let us hope that the summer weather decides to return and that all of our young people can pursue hobbies and interests indoors and out. I would also like to remind them to keep themselves safe and free from harm and look forward to seeing them again refreshed for the start of the new school year.

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

Timings of the school day

As highlighted in Issue 6 here is a reminder of the school day which will be in place when pupils return in September:-

0835 - 0900	Tutor time / Assembly
0900 - 1040	Lesson 1
1040 - 1105	Break 1
1105 - 1245	Lesson 2
1245 - 1320	Break 2
1320 - 1500	Lesson 3
1505 - 1630	Poltair+ (after school study support and extra-curricular activities)

An extra 'Enhancement' school bus (departing the school at 1630) is provided on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

UNIFORM

We believe that coming to school properly dressed in school uniform is important. We therefore expect all pupils to follow the uniform requirements as a way of demonstrating their pride for the school they attend.

The vast majority of our pupils do comply with the school uniform and look smart, but in the current financial climate, it is especially important that parents' money is not being wasted on items which are not regulation uniform and which will not be acceptable. We understand that children will often try to persuade adults that 'all their friends wear these' or that something 'is allowed' when in fact this is not the case.

Included below is a clear list of what is and also, what is not acceptable school uniform at Poltair. If you are not sure whether a specific item will be allowed, then please do not hesitate to contact the school and check with your child's tutor or Head of House before making a purchase. This may prevent issues arising later.

A navy sweatshirt with an embroidered school logo.

- This is not optional. All pupils are expected to have a sweatshirt.
- No hoodies or alternative sweatshirts are allowed. If worn, they will be confiscated.

A plain white shirt

- White slips, t-shirts or vests can be worn under the shirt. They should not be visible below the hem of the shirt, at the neck or at the sleeve.
- No coloured or patterned undergarments can be worn under the shirt.

School tie

- House ties will be presented in September to pupils.
- The ties are clip-on and therefore school shirts need to have a top button for the tie to be worn properly.

Black trousers

- These should be of a standard material and pattern.
- Jeans or tracksuit style trousers are not allowed.
- Trousers should not contain any designer buttons or studs.
- Trousers should sit smartly at the waist and on the ankle / shoe line.

Black footwear with black laces

- Black plain shoes which should be made of leather; or look as if made of leather. All the following are unacceptable; coloured laces, high heels, logos, coloured trim, trainers, boots.

Black pleated skirt

- The skirt should be of a length appropriate for school. A guideline would be for the hem to be no more than one credit card length from the top of the knee.
- With skirts, black opaque or natural tights or white socks can be worn.

Coats and jackets

- We advise all pupils to have an appropriate outdoor coat to bring to school during cold and/or wet weather.
- A hoodie does not count as an outdoor coat.
- Coats should not be worn inside classrooms.
- Pupils can obtain a waterproof jacket with the embroidered school logo. Many choose to do so.

PE and Games Kit:

Black and green games top
White and green Poltair t-shirt
Black shorts
Green football socks (with white turnovers)
Football boots
Trainers

PE Optional extras:

Black tracksuit bottoms
Navy fleece with embroidered school logo
Gum shield for rugby and hockey

Equipment:

A school bag large enough to hold an A4 folder plus a pencil case of suitable writing equipment. A 'fashion style' handbag is not appropriate as a school bag.

JEWELLERY

Piercings - Pupils may wear ONE metal stud or sleeper in each ear.

- No form of other facial piercing (eye brows, noses, lips, tongues) are allowed.
- It is not acceptable for pupils to conceal piercings with plasters. The wearing of retainer in a piercing is also not acceptable.
- Necklaces, bracelets and rings are not permitted

- Flesh-holes – Ear-rings which stretch holes in the ear beyond the normal range of traditional earrings are not allowed.

MAKE UP AND NAILS

We do not encourage pupils to wear make-up and nail varnish to school

- If make-up and nail varnish is worn, it should be subtle and discreet
- Nail extensions are not allowed

HAIR

Hair should look natural with natural colours. Hairstyles which attract undue attention are not allowed.

- Long hair should be clean, tidy and tied back when appropriate (eg. in PE, Science, Technology)
- No stripes or shaven styles involving tramlines or patterns will be allowed
- Highlights should be inconspicuous, blended and not designed to draw undue attention
- Non natural hair colours (eg. purple, blue, green, pink) are unacceptable
- Hair ties, bands, ribbons, braiding, slides should be subtle, smart and not draw excessive attention
- It is important to contact the tutor or Head of House before having any hairstyle which may be considered inappropriate.

BELTS

Belts should be worn for a purpose; to help a skirt or trousers fit better. Fashion belts (decorated, coloured or very large) are not allowed

- Belts should be black.
- Belts should be no more than 6cm wide with a silver, gold or black buckle
- Any belt should be linked through belt hoops rather than worn over the top of trousers or skirts as a fashion accessory.

MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND MOBILE MUSICAL PLAYERS

Mobile phones and music players must be kept switched off and out of sight at all times on the school premises.

- Any use of phones, without the permission and supervision of a member of staff is prohibited. This includes making or receiving calls/ text messages / photographs / videos.
(Pupils who break this rule can expect their phones to be confiscated for the remainder of the day. A second transgression will result in the phone only being returned to the pupil's parent or carer).
- In case of urgency or emergency, pupils should ask a member of staff for permission to use a phone.
- Phones may be used in the learning environment (MP3 player, camera, calculator) only at the discretion and direction of a classroom teacher for that particular lesson.
- Any telephone / mobile device remains the responsibility of the pupils and the school cannot be held liable for any loss, breakage or theft.

SCHOOL UNIFORM SUPPLIERS

CORNWALL SCREENPRINT & EMBROIDERY

TEL/FAX: ST.AUSTELL 01726 68689

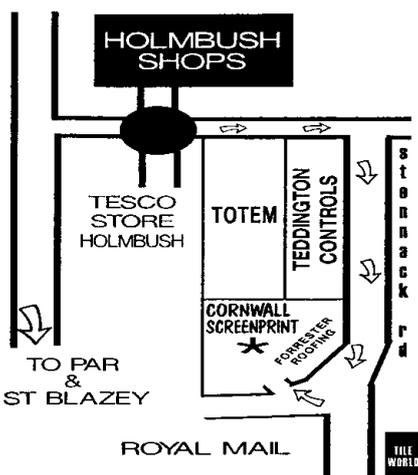
72 Stennack Rd, Holmbush Ind. Est.

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 8.30am - 6pm

(Most) Saturdays: 8.45am - 11.30am

FREE PARKING RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR

You can find us on the Ind. Est. near Forrester Roofing



Ambassadors Reward Trip – Stithians Show

We had a really fantastic day on Monday 11 July when 37 pupils from Year 8 who have been excellent School Ambassadors and Year 10 School Stationery Shop Prefects visited the Stithians Show.

The trip was a reward for all their hard work whilst undertaking their ambassador and stationery shop duties. The pupils were delightful, well-behaved and a real credit to themselves and the school and the weather was very kind to us!!

Ms Lobb

SPOTLIGHT ON CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Fairytale Exhibition at Tremough

The six Year 10 pupils that attended the private view were very well-behaved and a credit to the school. They were very



excited and proud to see their work on exhibition at Tremough Campus Falmouth. There were schools from all over Cornwall taking part and it was a real celebration of artistic endeavour. There was a good selection of 2D and 3D pieces although we did have the most ceramic ware by far!

Aim Higher Creative Partnerships



On Friday 24th June I took twenty-three Year 10 pupils to Woodlane Campus Falmouth College of Art, to see the degree shows. The pupils were inspired and excited by the diverse work on display. We saw the Fashion, Fine Art, Graphic and Illustration degree shows.

Mrs E Pearson

Drama and Dance – Activities Week

18 pupils from Years 7,8 and 9 worked with two ex-pupils Chris Lee and Viviana Rocha for the week. The pupils were working with the instructors, who have been studying Dance at Cornwall College St Austell, to choreograph a piece of Dance. They used contemporary, lyrical jazz and pop dance styles to a range of music. The pupils were then able to perform at Carclaze Junior School on Thursday 7th July and in school on Friday 8th July.

All pupils worked extremely hard and once again took a performance into the community. They can be extremely proud of their achievements.

Pupils from Poltair represent Funky Feet Dance School at the O2 Arena, London.

Wedfye are a team from Funky Feet Dance School who practise together weekly in St Austell. They are a dedicated and committed team of dancers who have a passion for performing and competing locally, nationally and internationally. On Sunday 19th June the team performed in a 'Street Dance International Show' at the prestigious O2 Arena, alongside guest appearances from World Champions, 'Britain's Got Talent' and 'Got To Dance' finalists and semi-finalists, Nemesis, Omega, Soul Sisters and Turbo. It was an amazing opportunity and achievement for these dancers who produced an exceptional and enjoyable performance, with the support and choreography from their dance principal, Fiona Barclay.

Congratulations to the following pupils:

Sophie Grubb, Eleanor Grubb, Kallie Jarvis, Sophie Allen, Holly Pike and Jordan Niles

Wedfye hope to bring another world title back to Cornwall next year when they once again will compete nationally.

For information contact:

Funky Feet Dance School - Fiona Barclay
Tel: 01872 573682 or 07967 129 369

London Theatre Trip

43 pupils and 5 members of staff visited London last week to see the West End performance of Mamma Mia and to do some sightseeing and shopping!

Details of next year's visit to London are already being planned - please see Mrs Bond if you are interested.



On Thursday 14th July The Poltair Centenary Brass Band performed publicly for the first time at the St Austell Learning Community Celebration held at the Holy Trinity Church.

In addition Andrew Hammett (accompanied by Miss Oram on piano) gave a strong solo performance of 'Summertime' on trombone. The band made a beautiful sound and many of the audience complimented them after the proceedings had concluded.

The band, led by Mr Pope, comprises both pupils and staff of Poltair, they are:

Mrs Hancock, Mrs Northcott, Miss Johnston, Will Lucas, Dan Hall, Sarah Cridge, Andrew Hammett, Gavin Rowe and Adam Northcott.

Special thanks go to Mike Bunt and Jackie Smith (parents of pupils/former pupils of Poltair) who performed with the band at this event. Their support is greatly appreciated.

Music during Activities Week

Poltair Music department was alive with the sound of music during activities week. Pupils worked extremely hard all week to prepare individual and group performances ready for a showcase at the end of the week.

We heard everything from Adele to Guns & Roses! There was even a very original, rocky rendition of Lady Gaga's "Paparazzi" featuring a brass section (and some rather unusual dancing!)

Activities week has always unearthed some great talent in the music department, but the standard this year was quite possibly the highest yet.

School Sports Partnership – end of an era

Due to the cuts in government funding we have been forced to change our strategy as a specialist sports college. This has led to the closure of the School Sports Partnership. We are pleased however to be able to continue some of this work under the newly-launched Schools Sports Network which has been warmly welcomed by our community partners including primary school colleagues. As a consequence of this restructuring Helen Blackburn will be leaving her post and here looks back on her time at Poltair.

Being **Outdoor Education Co-ordinator** has been awesome and as I write the last few words from our final expedition this year, it is with a heavy heart I will be leaving at the end of this term. I know that everyone who is currently active in Outdoor Ed will continue their pursuits in the future. What is so great about the young people I have taught at Poltair is their continuous ability to go beyond where they think is possible and strive for goals unlike no other.

DofE Leadership for Around the World Games

This half term a last successful 'Around the World Games' was held on Caerhays beach. It was heightened with a unique opening ceremony led by Probus children under the guidance of Angie Smith. The afternoon was a medley of exciting games from different countries led by Poltair DofE Leadership team and supported by Young Leaders in training ranging from Years 4 to 6.

Bronze Practice Expedition around the Fowey area and Qualifying Venture on Bodmin Moor

As the year draws to a close the Bronze DofE teams have been working flat out to complete their Bronze Award. With a successful practice expedition taking in the coastal footpaths of our local area along with a beach clean as part of the John Muir Award, the teams undertook their Qualifying Venture on Bodmin Moor with gorse bashing for conservation work.

Helen Blackburn (Outdoor Education Co-ordinator)



Emma Hide & pupil



Beach Clean team



D of E Leadership Team

DATES FOR THE DIARY	
Monday 25 July	Year 6 Intake Parents' Evening 6.00 to 8.00 pm in the Main Hall
Tuesday 26 July	End of Term Assembly School closes at 1.00 pm buses leave at 1.15 pm
Thursday 25 August Reception/Cyber Café 10 to 12 noon (Year 11) 11 to 12 noon (Years 9 & 10)	SUMMER 2011 GCSE RESULTS Years 9, 10 & 11 to collect in person Year 11 results not collected will be sent home by 1st class post. Years 9 and 10 results not collected will be put into registers for distribution in September.
Monday 5 September Tuesday 6 September	Staff Training Days No pupils in school
Wednesday 7 September	Year 7 start at Poltair (Team Building Day) and Year 11 return to school
Thursday 8 September	Years 8, 9 and 10 return to school. Year 10 College Course start today, remember boots and overalls.
Monday 12 September	Individual School Photos

CORNWALL COUNCIL
SCHOOL TERM DATES
2011-2012 ACADEMIC YEAR

September 2011					October 2011					November 2011								
Sun		4	11	18	25	Sun		2	9	16	23	30	Sun		6	13	20	27
Mon		5	12	19	26	Mon		3	10	17	24	31	Mon		7	14	21	28
Tue		6	13	20	27	Tue		4	11	18	25	Tue	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed		7	14	21	28	Wed		5	12	19	26	Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29	Thu		6	13	20	27	Thu	3	10	17	24		
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri		7	14	21	28	Fri	4	11	18	25		
Sat	3	10	17	24	Sat	1	8	15	22	29	Sat	5	12	19	26			
December 2011					January 2012					February 2012								
Sun		4	11	18	25	Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun		5	12	19	26	
Mon		5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		6	13	20	27	Tue	3	10	17	24	31	Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed		7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	1	8	15	22	29		
Thu	1	8	15	22	29	Thu	5	12	19	26	Thu	2	9	16	23			
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	3	10	17	24			
Sat	3	10	17	24	31	Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	4	11	18	25			
March 2012					April 2012					May 2012								
Sun		4	11	18	25	Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun		6	13	20	27	
Mon		5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tue		6	13	20	27	Tue	3	10	17	24	Tue	1	8	15	22	29		
Wed		7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	2	9	16	23	30		
Thu	1	8	15	22	29	Thu	5	12	19	26	Thu	3	10	17	24	31		
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	4	11	18	25			
Sat	3	10	17	24	31	Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	5	12	19	26			
June 2012					July 2012					August 2012								
Sun		3	10	17	24	Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun		5	12	19	26	
Mon		4	11	18	25	Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		5	12	19	26	Tue	3	10	17	24	31	Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed		6	13	20	27	Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	1	8	15	22	29		
Thu		7	14	21	28	Thu	5	12	19	26	Thu	2	9	16	23	30		
Fri	1	8	15	22	29	Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	3	10	17	24	31		
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	4	11	18	25			

AUTUMN TERM 2011 (69 days)

5 September – 15 December
(Half term 24 – 28 October)

SPRING TERM 2012 (59 days)

3 January – 30 March
(Half term 13 – 17 February)

SUMMER TERM 2012 (66 days)

16 April – 24 July
(Half term 4 – 8 June)

No pupils in school

STAFF TRAINING DAYS

Monday – 5 September
Tuesday – 6 September
Monday – 31 October
Tuesday – 3 January
Friday – 6 July

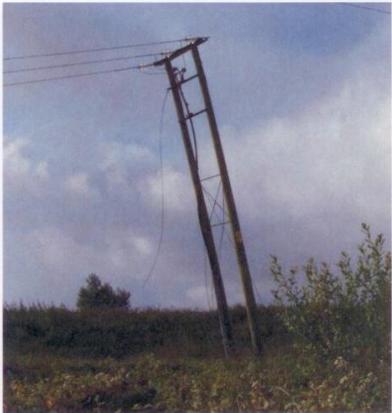
YEAR 6 Open Day (school closed to Poltair pupils)
Wednesday - 5 October

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Boxing Day	26 December 2011
Day in lieu of Christmas Day	27 December 2011
New Year's Day	2 January 2012
Good Friday	6 April 2012
Easter Monday	9 April 2012
Early May Holiday	7 May 2012
Spring Bank Holiday	4 June 2012
Extra Holiday – Queen's Jubilee	5 June 2012
Summer Bank Holiday	27 August 2012

UK SAFETY MATTERS

HV Electrical Cable Thefts



Details of Accident / Incident

Recently, Imerys has become the target of planned thefts of cables from its live 11,000 volts power distribution network. With blatant disregard for their own safety and that of others affected by their actions, thieves have been removing earthing cable from overhead lines. A variety of techniques have been used, all of which have left live cables in a dangerous condition close to ground level and in reach (with potential for contact) of employees and members of the public.

Learning Points

This Briefing is issued as a precaution and to raise awareness. If power lines which are suspected to have been tampered with are found, you must do the following:

- **Assume they are live.**
- Keep away from them by at least 15 metres. Cables may be loose and able to swing in the wind. Remember that electricity especially that at a high voltage, can arc or cross air gaps.
- Make sure that the use of any roadways, haulroads, footpaths etc affected is prevented.
- Contact Engineering Services Group at Drinnick via Clay Control (01726 828999 / 01726 828800).
- Contact Imerys Security via Clay Control so that if necessary the site can be secured and the Police advised. Imerys Security will liaise with Engineering Services as necessary.
- Immediately act upon any advice you receive from the Engineering Services Group.
- At no time must you endanger yourself.

For further information, please contact the Engineering Services Group or Imerys Security



ZIP IT!

FOR DISABLED CHILDREN
(2011: A Cornwall SPACE Odyssey)

Saturday 20th August, Liskeard

Raise funds for disabled children
at the UK's longest zip slide!

NO MINIMUM SPONSORSHIP!

All proceeds to be raised in aid of Cornwall S.P.A.C.E.
supporting disabled children across Cornwall

For more information, please contact
JAMIE LEE on 07812 205 395, email:
jamie.lee@actionforchildren.org.uk
or visit:
www.actionforchildren.org.uk

Registered charity nos. 1097940/SC038092 Company no. 4764232

