

SPOTLIGHT



Issue 5

Parents' Information Newsletter

Autumn Term 2011

Dear Parent/Carer

The final published report from OFSTED following Poltair School's recent inspection was posted to parents on Tuesday 4 October. If for any reason you have not received a copy please contact the school and we will be happy to send one to you.

We are pleased with the report because it validates the schools own self-evaluation, identifying key positive features of the school and more importantly, areas where we have made a marked improvement. In addition, the inspection team effectively echoed the details of our own school improvement planning. The report identifies that Poltair School is a happy and safe environment where pupils enjoy their learning. The inspection team acknowledge that pupil outcomes in terms of standards and achievements have improved in each of the last three years, setting new school records on each occasion. The school's major improvement focus has been, and will continue to be, on securing the best progress for all learners through consistently good teaching.

Key features of the school's provision which were identified as 'Good' include care, guidance and support, curriculum, safeguarding, community cohesion, behaviour, attendance and spiritual, moral and cultural development. The leadership of the school is reported to be "open, thoughtful and with a clear vision".

During the inspection, pupils were particularly clear in articulating improvements in the school. That is so important; it is for their benefit that we are here. With an encouraging report behind us, we can look forward to even more rapid improvements in the months that follow. Key to this will be maintaining an ever closer and sensitive relationship with our parents and carers so that we are "joined up" in our approach to doing the very best for the young people of the Poltair learning community.

That relationship started for our next cohort on Wednesday when we were delighted to welcome almost 400 Year 6 pupils from our local primary schools to experience a Poltair day. Their excitement and enjoyment was tangible. This was closely followed by our annual Open Evening on Thursday when staff and pupils once again demonstrated that we are what OFSTED inspectors called "a very inclusive and welcoming community".

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher



UPDATE

When pupils take their Accelerated Reader quizzes they can rate their book. This week's top book was '32c that's me' by Chris Higgins, a level 4.2 book, followed by 'Boffin Boy and the Temples of Mars' by David Orme which is a level 2.3.

Taylor Chapman has almost reached his million words target, having now read 929,882 words and taken 12 quizzes.

The Home Connect information letter will be posted this week to all Year 8 students, and the Year 7 letters will be available at the parents evening later in the term. This will enable you to view all the books your child has read, as well as monitor their progress towards reading targets.

Please remember that the Accelerated Reader programme is part of your child's homework to read and do a quiz on a book per week.

'The Next Chapter Literacy Club' will be starting after half term week, watch this space for more details.

Mrs Hancock Librarian

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

Due to unforeseen circumstances the patrol site outside the school will be vacant from **Thursday 6 October** until further notice. You may wish to make alternative arrangements for your children's journeys to and from school during this time. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Please note that even when a School Crossing Patrol is provided it still remains the responsibility of parents to ensure their child's safety when travelling to and from school.

Jane Lewis, SCP Co-ordinator, Cornwall Council on 01872 327895 or jlewis@cornwall.gov.uk

Dates for diary

Monday 10 October

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir – tickets on sale from Poltair Reception

*Wednesday 19 October

Year 7 Parents' Evening 3.30 to 6.30 pm (pupils should have received an appointment sheet in assembly today)

Friday 21 October to Saturday 22 October (Tewington House Charity Event)

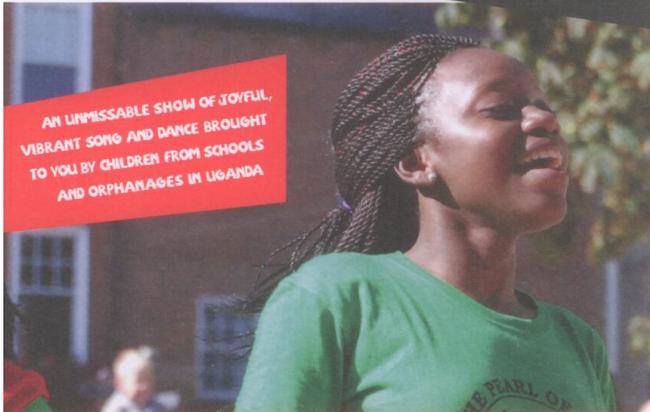
Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October (Half Term)

Monday 31 October

On-site training – NO PUPILS IN SCHOOL



THE PEARL OF AFRICA CHILDREN'S CHOIR 2011 TOUR



AN UNMISSABLE SHOW OF JOYFUL, VIBRANT SONG AND DANCE BROUGHT TO YOU BY CHILDREN FROM SCHOOLS AND ORPHANAGES IN UGANDA

Your local concert details:

St Johns Methodist Church
St Austell
Monday October 10th 7.00-9.00pm
Songs and dance with African instruments, Craft Stall
Tickets £4.00 from Penrice and Poltair schools or on the door

Find us on:  

WWW.PEARLOFAFRICA.ORG.UK
Tel: 01444 226 355 Email: enquiries@pearlofafrica.org.uk

'The St Austell Foodbank are holding an auction to support the work of the charity on **Friday 7 October** at the White Hart Hotel in St Austell. The doors will open at 7:00 pm with the auction starting at 7:30pm. There are 75 lots in total ranging from a bottle of wine to a holiday in Croatia! Please go along to support such a worthwhile cause which has been a lifeline to many local people.'

Poltair students and parents are welcome to attend the Careers Fair

at Fowey Community College (see poster)

For further information phone 01726 833484



CAREERS FAIR

FOWEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MONDAY 17TH

OCTOBER

4.30—7.00 PM

Law Careers South West Apprentices Journalism Architecture Eden SCITT
Duchy College Falmouth Marine College Peninsula Medical School Exeter University RAF
Happy Days Child Care Civil Engineering Care National Trust CITB
Navy Army Veterinary University College Falmouth Hall for Cornwall Cornwall Marine Network Emergency Services
Public Services Leisure and Tourism Police Truro College
Sports and Adventure



WINDMILL FOWEY CORNWALL PL23 1HE
01726 833484

School Showjumping Team

The School Showjumping Team had their first outing of this Academic Year on Saturday 1 October. We went to The Grange Equestrian Centre at Okehampton to compete against other schools from Cornwall and Devon.

We came a very respectable 11th out of 31 teams. However, the placing doesn't really reflect the effort the girls put in with fantastic times but 8 faults put us down the rankings.

Many congratulations to Brooke and Amber Whetter for marvellous riding and presentation and thanks to Kate Walker as Chief Groom.

Our next outing is on 28 October at Grampound Road where we will enter teams in both Novice and Open competitions.



Brooke Whetter



Amber Whetter

Tallan Annear chosen for National Event in Sheffield

On Saturday 1 October Tallan took part in a swimming gala in Penzance and had success in several events: 1st in 100m front crawl, 2nd in 50m front crawl, 3rd in 200m backstroke and 4th in 200m front crawl.

Tallan swims for St Austell Sharks and has been selected for the Cornwall Team to go to a national event in Sheffield where he will be competing against other counties in the 50m front crawl. Congratulations and good luck.



Congratulations to the following pupils:-

Dan Peters & Dan Marks
Selected to play for the
U15 County Football Squad

Alex Boothby
Selected to play for the
U16 County Football Squad.



GIRLS NETBALL ON THE RISE!

This term has seen Netball Club well attended from the very first session. The club runs for all year groups on Tuesdays after school from 3.15 - 4.05pm. The Year 10 and Year 9 teams are looking particularly strong this year. The Year 7s and 8s need more players to attend practice to continue to improve.

We do a real mixture of skills, drills and game play – it is good fun and we're playing some good looking netball!

Fixtures start on Wednesday 12 October... so get to practice before then to be considered for the team!

See you there!

Miss Owens



TOP TEN



LEE ADAMS

- 1) What exactly do you do at Poltair? I am a Teacher of PE (Sport and Active Diploma).
- 2) What is your favourite meal? Fajitas.
- 3) If you didn't work in a school what would you be? I would be a beach lifeguard in Australia.
- 4) Who is your hero? My school PE teacher, Roger Vavricka.
- 5) Who is your favourite singer/band? I'll say Kings of Leon to be cool, but really it's Robbie Williams!
- 6) What is your favourite book? Lance Armstrong's Autobiography, a great read!
- 7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you? When I was younger I raced go-karts.
- 8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair? The community feel through-out the school.
- 9) What do you treasure most? My phone and being up-to-date with sporting news.
- 10) What one thing would you change in the world today? To cure cancer.

PE Kit:

Black and green games top
Black shorts
Trainers
Shin pads for football and hockey

White and green Poltair t-shirt
Green football socks (with white turnover top)
Football Boots

Advisable optional extras:

KS4 Blue PE BTEC kit
Black tracksuit bottoms
Gum shield for rugby and hockey

Waterproof jacket with embroidered school logo
Navy fleece with embroidered school logo

Health & Safety in PE

Pupils with long hair must have a hair band to tie their hair back when participating in their PE lesson.

If you are excused from PE by your parent/carer you are still expected to bring your kit and participate as an umpire/coach.

If you arrive without your PE kit you will have to borrow one from school.

POLTAIR BOYS & GIRLS FIXTURES AUTUMN 2011

DAY	SPORT	VENUE
Tues 11 Oct	Rugby (boys) Y8	Penrice
Wed 12 Oct	Rugby (boys) Y9	Nqy Treviglas
Wed 12 Oct	Netball Y7 Y9	Brannel Poltair
Fri 14 Oct	Rugby (boys) Y7	Penrice
Tues 18 Oct	Rugby (boys) Y9	Poltair
Wed 19 Oct	Netball Y10	Penrice
Thurs 20 Oct	Rugby (boys) Y7	Penrice
Wed 2 Nov	Rugby (boys) Y9	Fowey
Wed 2 Nov	Netball Y7 Y8	Roseland Brannel
Wed 9 Nov	Netball Area Finals Y9 Y10	Bodmin Penrice
Wed 16 Nov	Netball Area Finals Y9 Y11	Penrice Brannel
Wed 23 Nov	Football (5-a-side) Y11 Basketball Y9	Roseland Poltair
Wed 30 Nov	Football Y9 Basketball Y8	Brannel Fowey
Wed 7 Dec	Football (5-a-side) Y8 Basketball Y11	Bodmin Poltair

