



SPOTLIGHT Poltair

Issue 15—Autumn Term
Thursday 19 December 2013

Parents' Information Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we near the end of the Autumn Term and Christmas draws closer, it is inevitable that our minds start, albeit briefly, to drift away from the hard work of our day-to-day school business, to the festive period itself. Let us remind ourselves, whatever our beliefs, that this is the one time of year when it is commonplace to find the spirit of human kindness alive and well. Let us embrace this by ensuring that we enjoy ourselves safely but also take time to look out for those nearest and dearest to us and those less fortunate than ourselves.

Being prepared to think of others, of course, is a particular strength of Poltair School. Raising money for charity is something that our children and staff do readily and willingly. This sense of community is something very special about our school; the inspectors who visited our school recently were very struck by it. On Friday, shortly before we move towards the Sports Hall, for the traditional end of term assembly, we will once again, hold a Santa Run through the school grounds in support of Cornwall Hospice. Amazingly, we are, in just two years, closing in on a £20,000 target of funds raised by Poltair pupils for worthy and charitable causes. This is a fantastic effort.

Largely our staffing will stay the same in the new year. However, Mrs Hulbert will be returning to her full timetable. This means that Ms Andrews will be leaving us, having worked exceptionally hard for us and the pupils in Mrs Hulbert's absence. We would like to thank her very much for all her efforts.

I would like to say 'thank you' to the staff and the pupils for their hard work throughout the term, and indeed the support we receive from parents and carers in making a difference to so many young lives. Finally, I would like to wish all pupils and parents, from all the staff and governors of the school, a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Our new term begins on Monday 6 January and we look forward to seeing our pupils return refreshed and eager to learn in the new calendar year.

Stephen Tong

Stephen Tong
Headteacher

DATES FOR DIARY

Friday 20 December

The Santa Fun Run – Cornwall Hospice Care
Celebration Assembly
(School closes 1.00 pm buses depart 1.15 pm)

Monday 6 January 2014

All pupils return

Friday 24 January 2014

Training Day—no pupils in school

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

Poppy Appeal

Poltair School are the 2013 winners of the local Royal British Legion's secondary school trophy for the most money collected for this year's Poppy Appeal **£122.96**. The school has won this award seven times in ten years! Thanks to all pupils, parents/carers and other members of the community that have contributed to raising these funds.



The significance of the Poppy Appeal was also brought home to pupils on Remembrance Day, when Retired Commander Ian Inskip of the Royal Navy gave a talk in our special assemblies. Ian fought during the Falklands War 1982 and talked about his experiences.

TEWINGTON

Brandon Morcom

7RT

For a huge improvement in his behaviour.

David Woodhouse

9LW

For excellent work in English and having the confidence to read a report in front of others.

TREVERBYN

Paige Castle

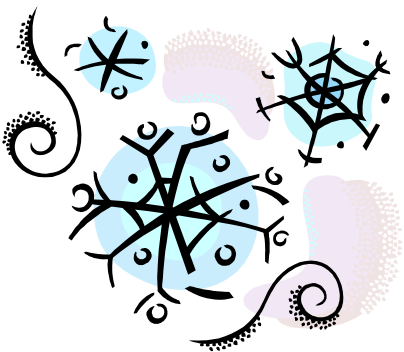
7HV

For her consistent positive attitude and 100% attendance

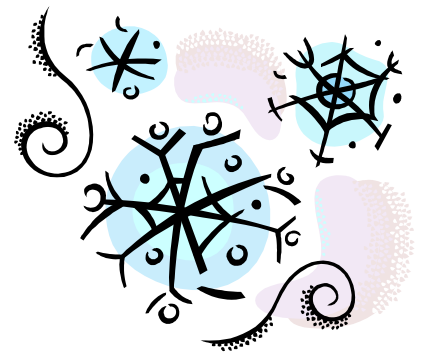
Bradley Hughes

11JD

For his consistent positive attitude.



**HOUSE
STARS**



TRENANCE

Liam Dale

8GO

For always being prepared for school and gets on without a fuss!

Kieran Powell &

Emily Ralph

11LM

For progress and dedication to their controlled assessments.

TREGREHAN

Joey Orchard

8DT

For hard work and achievement in English.

Joshua Couch

10EP

For commitment to the Santa Run.

Maths Suggestion box

Pupils have been given the opportunity to provide feedback to the Maths team regarding teaching and learning. Lucie said "I like it that the teachers are listening to what we say about how we like to learn".



Year 5 Using Mathematics Project

St Austell Mathematics Trail



Talented Year 5 Mathematicians from Pondhu, Carclaze, St Mewan, Mount Charles, Bishop Bronescombe and Sandy Hill primary schools have been working with Poltair School on using Mathematics in everyday life. They have collaborated with local businesses to raise the awareness of mathematical skills needed and have produced a trail around the St Austell area that links Mathematics to a variety of careers.

To be involved you need to find the poster on display in each business. The poster will have a question that is based on the mathematical skills needed every day for that business. Once you answer the question you can scan the QR code with your mobile to link to the website which has the solutions and the names of the other businesses on the trail.

Support our local schools and businesses this Christmas and follow the Mathematics Trail.

Prize to be won!

Email a photo of you participating in the trail to win a digital camera.



Deadline:
Friday 17 January 2014
at 6pm



Scan QR code for link to website

For further information on Mathematics at Poltair contact

enquiries@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk



TOP TEN



Mrs Brain
Assistant Headteacher

1) What exactly do you do at Poltair?

My focus is Student Voice and Experience. Making sure that students have a variety of experiences at Poltair School. I am also looking to support students taking on leadership roles and supporting them to become independent, resilient young adults.

I also teach English. It is a subject that I am still absolutely passionate about and I really enjoy sharing this with students and seeing them achieving in my lessons.

2) What is your favourite meal?

Anything that has a pudding at the end of it! (Preferably chocolate, or with really thick, stand your spoon up in it, custard.)

3) If you were not a teacher what would you be?

Sad!

4) Who are your heroes?

Interesting question. There are lots of female writers (especially from the past) that have inspired me when you see how they really pushed for women's rights and that women's ideas should be valued. My absolute hero though (sorry for the cringe factor here) is my husband. He's an absolute star.

5) Who is your favourite singer/band?

I have a rather strange and varied taste in music. I quite like independent musicians, so a range of bands really... but who can resist singing along to ABBA?

6) What is your favourite book?

'Jane Eyre'. I read it when I was at school for my GCSE coursework and absolutely loved it. Really looked at how women should be independent. I have recently read the most random book called: 'The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared' by Jonas Jonasson which was entirely weird and interesting, which is now in my top five books.

7) Name one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?

I love theme parks. My favourite ride at Alton Towers is 'Rita Queen of Speed' as it is just so fast!

8) What do you enjoy most about Poltair?

The people, both staff and students, that I work with. A really lovely, warm and welcoming school. I really like the fact that students that I teach (and a lot that I don't teach) say 'Hi' every day!

9) What do you treasure most?

My family. They are very important to me and make me smile.

10) What one thing would you change in the world today?

Animal cruelty. I am a vegetarian as I absolutely love animals. I would love to see all animals being given the respect that I feel they deserve.

INFORMATION EVENT

At Duchy College

STOKE CLIMSLAND AND ROSEWARNE

Saturday 25th January, 10am - 12pm

Drop in to find out more about
our range of courses.



THERE'S MORE TO
DUCHY COLLEGE