

# SPOTLIGHT



Parents' Information Newsletter

Issue 6  
Spring Term 2012

Dear Parent/Carer

## A WEEK NO LESS ORDINARY THAN ANY OTHER

Sometimes, looking back at the school diary over a week or so, we are reminded about how very busy a school is and how much activity there is. With the euphoria of the Dance Festival at the Key Theatre barely dissipated, the annual ski trip departed to Valloire, France. With perfect powder snow conditions and a record-breaking freeze, the challenge was high. I am pleased to report, however, that all pupils and staff returned in good fettle and good voice, having had a first class time. The pupils throughout both activities were an absolute credit to the school.

At the end of Half Term, the school's newly formed Show Jumping Team competed against other schools in a county-wide competition at both senior and junior level. The pupils competed at a very high standard, were immaculately presented and did themselves very proud. Moreover, Brooke Whetter won the individual award in the open competition.

And then this week we have had pupils from the Teaching and Learning Group leading a key element of staff training on how we can further improve one hundred minute lessons. Their observations were illuminating and highly constructive. Finally we had a packed school hall for the Year 8 Options Evening; pupils and their parents were busily interacting with the staff in trying to make the all-important and personalised decisions about which combinations of courses are appropriate for their sons and daughters.

So - a couple of weeks offering a range of activities and opportunities for pupils at different stages, but all intended to help Poltair pupils to "believe and achieve".

*Stephen Tong*

**Stephen Tong**  
Headteacher

## DATE FOR DIARY

Wednesday 29 February  
Year 8 Options forms to be handed in to  
your Tutor

## 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](http://www.poltairschool.co.uk)

## G & T Enrichment Session - open to all G & T Music

- Thursday 1 March with Miss Johnston.
- Different musical activities in the Music Block.
- To confirm attendance please see Miss Venn.



### Show Jumping Competition

The Show Jumping Team had another outing on Sunday 19 February competing against Cornish Schools. Our Open Team came 5<sup>th</sup> with an individual 1<sup>st</sup> placing for Brooke Whetter, earning her a shield for our trophy cabinet.

The Novice Team did not fare so well, time and jumping faults for all four members. However, all the girls were resplendent in new jackets sponsored by K and D Gilbert – what they lost in placings they made up for in style!

Many thanks for all the support from parents, friends and families.

Mrs Barker, Nurse



Haidee Bark

Chloe Adrien

### World Book Day Thursday 1 March 2012



World Book Day is the biggest annual celebration of books and reading in the UK and Ireland. It is a registered charity whose financing of World Book Day comes mainly from contributing publishers, the generous sponsorship of National Book Tokens Ltd, some literacy partnerships and other supporters, as well as the participating booksellers who fund the entire cost of Book Token redemption. WH Smith and Waterstone's, as well as many independent booksellers are participating, as are a number of school book clubs. Tesco's and Sainsbury's supermarkets are also participating in some of their larger stores. Have a look at the website [www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com) for competitions and articles.

If you would like a quiz sheet, come and collect it from the library. There will be prizes! Also there is a "design a bookmark" competition, see me for more details.

All pupils will receive their voucher in their tutor group on Thursday 1 March. Enjoy spending it!

Mrs Hancock, Librarian

W/C 20 February to Friday 9 March



# Reading Strategy

## Key Idea

**Close reading: the detailed reading of a text for specific information**

It means paying especially close attention to what is printed on the page.

You will make yourself sensitive to all the nuances and connotations of language. In other words you become aware of the subtle implications of word choices.



You might be looking for:  
particular vocabulary,  
sentence construction,  
imagery, themes, how  
the story is being told  
or the views it offers.

Observing details and  
making interpretations  
based on your  
observations.

## Close Reading