



# Polegate SCHOOL

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## SWIMMING THE ONLY SPORT THAT SAVES LIVES

Extract from a BBC report:

**More children may drown without better school swimming provision**, the Amateur

Swimming Association (ASA) has warned.

Half of seven- to 11-year-olds in England, some 1.1 million children, cannot swim the length of a standard pool, research suggests. Only 2% of schools surveyed delivered the government's recommended 22 hours a year of swimming lessons. The report says Ofsted should focus PE inspections on swimming as "it is the only sport that can save lives".

Some 407 people died from drowning in 2011, according to the most recent figures from the National Water Safety Forum. Of these, 47 were aged under 19.

"These numbers could increase in future if the current issues with school swimming programmes are not addressed," warns the report.

### Swimming to safety

A survey of 3,501 schools, for the ASA and its sponsors Kellogg's, found that 51% of seven- to 11-year-olds could not swim 25m (82ft), the length of a standard pool. 39% said their children were not having swimming lessons and one in 10 said their child only swam on holiday.

The report suggests state school pupils spend an average of just eight-and-a-quarter hours a year in school swimming lessons - well under the 22 hours required by the national curriculum.

The high cost of swimming lessons, the price of transport and lack of time in school day all impacted negatively on school swimming provision, says the report.

David Sparkes, of the ASA, said: "Swimming is one of the easiest, safest forms of exercise for children of all abilities, and school swimming is the single most effective way of teaching children how to be safe in and around water.

"Yet swimming is one of the few areas of a child's statutory education that is all too often left unmeasured, unchecked or, for 1.1 million children, unfulfilled.

**We exceed these recommendations because we have our own pool. This report highlights how disadvantaged pupils in most schools are. We are lucky to have the facility we have thank you to every family that has contributed. The 'Think Tank' will be sending out a letter thanking by name all those families that have contributed in a few weeks.**



## PARENT PAY FOR SCHOOL TRIPS

This is a subject we continue to visit in our 'Think Tank' meetings. Your parent representatives are keen to pay for trips online. It is possible to set this up through Parent-pay however it would cost the school. We would need a large number of parents to express an interest to pursue this further. We currently only have about 20 parents paying for school meals so on this basis it is not worthwhile and creates additional administrative tasks for the office.

I do not want to rule it out without consultation so if you would definitely sign up to pay for trips online please return the form attached.

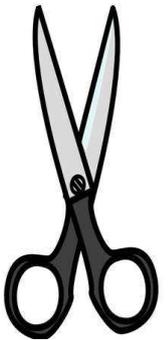
### Would you like to make online payments for trips?

Name:.....

Child.....

**Yes I would make payments online if that was available.**

*Please return to the school office*



## Opticians

We do not endorse any particular chain of opticians. The parent mail relating to a specific company was sent in error.

All children from the age of 6 months are entitled to an eye examination free of charge. This is provided free through the NHS along with the glasses, if required, at any optometric practice.

We would encourage you to get your child screened for sight problems and eye disease but would never endorse a particular chain.



## Meet for the Move

Last year we trialled an additional opportunity for parents to meet their child's next teacher.

This does not replace a parent consultation. If you would like to discuss your child's end of year report with their current class teacher then please make an appointment with them directly. We would encourage you to do this.

In previous years there have never been any requests to meet the existing teacher as most parents find the reports cover everything. The feedback we had was that it is far more beneficial to meet the next teacher.

The teachers found it incredibly valuable to meet you all and find out more about your child from you directly.

Please book these slots on the website.

**Thursday 18th July**

## Provisional staffing structure for next year

Year	Class progression	teacher	TA	TA
R		Debbie Jones	Sally Jenkins	
RP		Rachel Perkins	Courtney Cassell	
1R	RJ	Amy Regan	Sue Barber	Lorraine
1	RW	Maternity cover for Mrs Hadley. Teacher to be appointed beginning of July	Sue Heather	
2	1P	Sarah Bartholomew	Maxine Granger	
2	1H	Sally Barnard	Heidi Ireland	Marion Toni
3G	2S	Anna Geal	Nicky Shoesmith	
3K	2B	Verity Keet	Claire Kulsdom	
		Pam Stevens		
4EM	3GW	Emma Murphy	Joe Furlong	Melanie Geer
4M	3G	Ruby Murphy	Gill Richardson	
5T	4EM	Rebecca Taylor	Julie McFarlane	
5F	4M	Kerry Franks	Monika Bailey	Julie Jackson
6C	5T	Mike Clayton	Sue Belk	Andrea Holland
6T	5F	Mat Trent	Maxine Weyland	

I am not wishing the year away but above is the staffing structure for the next academic year. I like to share this with you as early as possible as it helps with transition arrangements especially for some children that find this a more challenging time of year. Please understand that it is provisional and things may still need to change, many schools do not disclose this until the final week of the academic year! The TA allocation could change dependent on classes individual needs.

**You do get the opportunity to meet your child's next teacher on the 18th July.**

## Year 5 experience France in anticipation of next year

We were once again invited to Moira House to experience a French morning. Year 5 entered the spirit by dressing for the occasion.

They had a great morning. I was just disappointed I could not join them this year but I am looking forward to our French trip next year!



I think the smell of garlic has got to Charlie!

## New area in Key Stage 2

We struggle to find space in the school for groups to work in and so are constantly looking for ways to be creative in using the space we have to ensure we make the best use of it.

We also felt the pupils in key stage 2 would benefit from a special area to sit and read in. The children across the school do read for pleasure and at times the library is very busy.

We have been creative with the entrance to the juniors. It was wonderful to see pupils arrive on the first day back. They were thrilled and we heard many, 'Oh wow!' and, 'awesome!'

We also plan to use the area for filming using the ipads.

We would like to thank the PFA for funding this area.



I have already seen many groups working in this new area.

## Buggies in school

Along with most schools we do not allow buggies to be brought into school. This is for health and safety reasons and not because we are being difficult.

Poor Mrs Gillbanks was confronted with some angry parents before a Friday morning assembly when she asked them very politely to leave the buggies outside. This has been brought to my attention by another parent who commented on how professional Mrs Gillbanks was.

The hall is simply too small and we are squeezed in like sardines on a Friday so there simply is not enough room to safely allow prams and pushchairs in as well.

POLEGATE SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENT

# Strictly Polegate

THE 4th TIME

OF OUR LIVES

**THURSDAY 27th JUNE 2013**  
**CONGRESS THEATRE • EASTBOURNE**

**Oh no! Not another school concert!**  
**You're right- it's not! Far from it.**

*We guarantee that you will have a memorable evening and appreciate why school days are among the best of our lives.*

*Sashay along to the Congress and let the children (and staff) of Polegate School dazzle you, bringing you an eclectic mix of songs, music, comedy, drama, dance and jazz hands. We will have your feet tapping, your face smiling and your heart singing... remember keep dancing.*



**Polegate**  
SCHOOL

**EEEEK 957 TICKETS SOLD!**

## THE TWINS HAVE ARRIVED!

An extra special delivery for the Gigg's family. These two gorgeous babies were born on the 5th June at 10.45.

Ollie who weighed 5lb 9 and Daisy who weighed 4lb 14 Despite arriving early they are all doing well. Big congratulations from us all, we are looking forward to cuddles!



## RADIO STATION

Please tune in every Friday. There will a variety of children taking this on this term. Broadcasting on a Friday between 12 and 1pm



## DIARY DATES

### Scholastic Book Fayre

29th April - 3rd May

### Test Dates

**Year 1 Phonic Tests** take place during the week beginning the 17th June.

It is vital children are in school during these weeks.

### Mufti Day

Friday 14th June - items for the t ombola stall

### Summer fete

Saturday 15th June 12.— -3.00pm

### Parent Evening (for new classes)

Thursday 18th July

### Leavers Service

Tuesday 23rd July  
2.00pm at school

Sports day information to follow but dates are:

11th July Key Stage 1

12th July Key Stage 2

## STAFF

You may have noticed that Mr Whittaker's name has not appeared on our staffing structure for next year. Mr Whittaker is hoping to move to London and so is currently looking for vacancies in the city. Mr Whittaker has been brilliant and will be hugely missed by staff and pupils. Mr Whittaker originally joined us at very late notice to cover staff sickness last year in year 6 then moving down to year 3 to cover Mrs Murphy's maternity and then down to reception to cover Mrs Keet's maternity!

We are very grateful to Mr Whittaker for being so versatile. He leaves with a wealth of experience and any school in London will be lucky to have him. I am sure you will join me in thanking Mr Whittaker for all he has contributed to Polegate School and wish him every success.

Welcome back Mrs Keet, bet it feels as if you have never been away!

## WEBSITE AND TWITTER



Please have a look at our school website. You can follow links to Mymaths, The VLE, Accelerated Reader,

and parent Pay. You can check term dates and view the school calendar.

We also have a Twitter feed which is updated most days with lots of school news.



Please could you take a moment to complete the Ofsted questionnaire. There is a link from our website. Whilst we are not expecting Ofsted anytime soon it is a good way for us to collect your views.

Be the first to hear the news.

Please follow us on twitter we now have 210 followers!

# BIKE IT

## AFTER SKOOL SCOOTER SKILLZ SESSION at Polegate Primary School!

*Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 3:30- 4:30 p.m.*

After a very successful last half term full of exciting cycling events, we now look forward to the good weather (!) and lots more great events planned for this term... including a re-arranged Bike Picnic... We hope to see the number of bikes and scooters brought to school continue to rise.

Our next event in school is an **After Skool Scooter Skillz Session** on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June**, from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m. This event is open to all pupils, **Years 1 – 6**, and aims to give pupils the skills and confidence needed to scoot to school. The session will include scooter maintenance checks, scooter skills and road awareness activities. Pupils will need to bring their own scooters to school. Parents are welcome to attend and join in! There will also be a **Stabilisers off** session for reception pupils on *Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June*, letters to follow in the next week.

**Bike to School Week (10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June)** is also beginning on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Bike to School Week is a national initiative that aims to get school pupils cycling & scooting to school as many times as possible during the week and beyond. We will have a special assembly in school on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June to launch Bike to School Week, also launching a Superheroes incentive scheme to promote active travel. If pupils participate, they earn points for cycle/scooting journeys to school with bonus points for other activities completed. Prizes will be awarded!

To celebrate Bike to School Week, and coincide with the After Skool Scooter Skillz Session, we are having a **Leave Your Car at Home Day** on the **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June**. All families in school are encouraged to travel to school using sustainable transport methods: cycling, walking, scooting, public transport etc, with the aim of reducing the number of cars used for the school journey. Why not choose a novelty way to travel to school!

More information about active travel to school is available at: <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/change-your-travel/children-and-families>

Sustrans Bike It will also have a presence at the Polegate School Summer Fayre on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June... a qualified bike mechanic will be running a **free DR BIKE** session to repair/ service children's bikes, and there will be bike activities with prizes to be won! So bring along your bikes!!

Please see more details in other letters.



# Attendance

Days off school add up to lost learning

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR

175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments

Our average last year was around  
**96%**



190 <b>SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR</b>  190 days for your child's education	10 days absence  180 <b>DAYS OF EDUCATION</b>	19 days absence  171 <b>DAYS OF EDUCATION</b>	29 days absence A term missed  161 <b>DAYS OF EDUCATION</b>	38 days absence  152 <b>DAYS OF EDUCATION</b>	47 days absence  143 <b>DAYS OF EDUCATION</b>
<b>100%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Good</b> Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start		<b>Worrying</b> Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress		<b>Serious Concern</b> Not fair on your child. Court action!	

## Class figures

RJ - 91.4%	3G - 94.8%	6T - 95.7%
RW - 93.8%	3GW - 94.5%	6C - 94.7%
1P - 93%	4M - 94.8%	
1H - 93.5%	4EM - 93.9%	
2S - 92.6%	5T - 95.1%	
2B - 94.2%	5F - 93.5%	

If your child's attendance drops below 85%. You should expect a visit from a member of the school's leadership team with work for your child to complete. We have unfortunately needed to do this quite recently. We have to refer any child with attendance below 85% to the Education Welfare Officer who will then provide support to improve attendance. Please contact the school for support before it gets to this stage.

Please compare your child's attendance to the average and look at the table above.