



Polegate SCHOOL

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WELCOME BACK

Firstly, welcome back everyone. I would like to extend a warm welcome to any families that have just joined us. I have already met many of you but feel free to chat to me on the playground before school if you have any questions.

I hope you all had a fabulous holiday which now seems like a distant memory to us in school! It has been an incredibly busy first week back with so much going on. Even during the holidays work continued in school.

Thanks to our PFA we now have lockers in Year 2 which both the teachers and children are thrilled about. The infant playground has been re-tarmaced which means we will be able to involve the children in selecting new markings.

You may have noticed the building work on the site of the old 'Oil Tank'. This will become an invaluable space for groups to work in or for meetings to take place and should be ready for use in a couple of weeks.



Pupils

I read EVERY day during the summer holidays!

Well done Gethin. Come and collect a book from the office.



Amy won a trophy for her brilliant garden design.



results

We are delighted with the results that we achieved last year in both Year 2 and Year 6 across all subjects. I am very proud of how hard everyone worked– across the school progress has also increased significantly.

I think we should celebrate these achievements so I have included the headlines results for you to have a look at.

Year 6	Polegate school	East Sussex average
Level 4 + n reading writing and maths	77%	71%
Level 4 + in reading	94%	84%
Level 4+ Maths	88%	81%
Level 4+ in grammar, punctuation and spelling	87%	69%

In writing our results matched the East Sussex average but, as you know we will not be happy with that, we want to do even better, so our focus on writing continues this year.

Whilst results are important the progress our pupils make is even more important to us.

The progress pupils make from year 2 to year 6 is outstanding and exceeds the National average. The table below shows the number of pupils that made 2 levels of progress between year 2 and year 6 compared to the national level. Nationally these results place us in the top 25% of schools.

	Polegate 2013	National 2012
Reading	96%	89%
writing	90%	89%
maths	94%	87%

74% of pupils in Year 1 passed the phonics test compared to 62% across the county.

PFA Meeting

Tuesday 17th
September at the
Treacle Mine.

It would be great
to see some new
faces. It is very
relaxed and
informal so
please come
along. The staff
will direct you to
our table if you
can't see us!

Diary Dates

Thursday 19th September

Year 2 and 3 Tips and Tricks
evening

Wednesday 25th September

Year 1 Tips and Tricks
evening

Wednesday 2nd October

Year 4, 5 and 6 Standards
Evening

Monday 14th October

Inset Day

Scholastic Book Fayre

W/C Monday 30th October

Firework Evening

Date to be confirmed

**Monday 11th November &
Wednesday 13th November**

Parent Consultation Evening

**Tuesday 19th November &
Wednesday 20th November**

Individual & family photographs

Monday 24th February

Inset Day

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Mr Murrell our caretaker who, at the start of the holiday, gained a promotion at Gildredge House as a Site Manager. This means that we currently have no caretaker. We are advertising the post and the deadline is 27th September. Please do tell anyone you know who may be interested.

Well, I wasn't quite expecting to have to share yet more baby news with you but another member of staff must have sat in that chair!

Mrs Barnard has announced that she is expecting her first child.

We are thrilled for Mrs Barnard who will be with us until March but a little message to other staff currently off

on maternity—only bring your babies in when they are crying or have dirty nappies! PLEASE! I don't want anyone else getting any ideas.

We welcome Miss Ashdown who has had a very successful start to the year with her new class.

We have several new members of support staff : Jonathon Barcock a new TA who is covering while Mrs Granger is recovering from her back surgery. Mr Barcock is working in 2B. We also have Anna Chaplin, another TA, working in 4EM.

Mrs Wallis wanted to thank everyone for the cards and gifts she received.

Be the first to
hear the news.

Please follow us
on twitter we now

230 have
followers!

WEBSITE AND TWITTER



Please have a look at our school website. You can follow links to My-maths, 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.

I know many of you completed it last year but could I ask that you go back and add your views again as they have a new survey for 2013.

Thank you

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

It is important children establish good habits early. Regular attendance including punctuality helps your child become reliable and organised. If your child is absent you should contact us in the morning with the reason for the absence.

We do monitor the attendance of all children in the school closely and will inform you as soon as we feel your child's absence or lateness is causing concern.

Parents that do not send their child to school are preventing their child making progress and putting their whole future at risk.

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

MATHS ADVANTAGE FOR PUPILS WHO READ FOR PLEASURE BBC NEWS

An interesting article we thought would be good to share with you as this is something we really promote.

Children who read for pleasure are likely to do better in maths and English than those who rarely read in their free time, research suggests.

The study, by the Institute of Education, London University, examined the reading habits of 6,000 children. It indicated reading for pleasure was more important to a child's development than how educated their parents were.

The researchers concluded a wide vocabulary helped children absorb information across the curriculum. They analysed the results of tests taken at the age of 16 by 6,000 children, all born in one week, from the 1970 British Cohort Study.

The findings showed those who had read often at the age of 10 and had been reading books and newspapers more than once a week aged 16 had performed better than those who had read less.

[Continue reading the main story](#)

“START QUOTE

A child who has a narrow vocabulary may constantly be coming across things they don't understand”
End Quote Dr Alice Sullivan Institute of Education

There was a 14.4% advantage in vocabulary, a 9.9% advantage in maths and an 8.6% advantage in spelling, the research found, once parents' background and reading habits were taken into account.

The study said: "The influence of reading for pleasure was greater than that for having a parent with a degree." The total effect on children's progress of reading often - reading newspapers at age 16 and being a regular library user - was four times greater than the advantage of having a university-educated parent, the study suggested. The Institute of Education also looked at the impact on test scores of having brothers and sisters and found that those youngsters with older siblings were less likely to do well, particularly in vocabulary. It suggests this could be because children in larger families spend less time talking one-to-one with their parents and have less chance to develop their vocabulary skills.

Absorbing information

Study author Dr Alice Sullivan said: "It may seem surprising that reading for pleasure would help to improve children's maths scores.

"But it is likely that strong reading ability will enable children to absorb and understand new information and affect their attainment in all subjects."

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, she said: "It absolutely makes sense that you would expect reading for pleasure to improve children's vocabularies.

"But I think that that also does improve children's ability to take on new information and new concepts across the curriculum.

Around school



We have new carpets in both Year 1 classes.

We have new lockers in Year 2 which means we have a much larger space for working in.



bike it

We want to encourage as many children as possible to ride into school and so we continue to work with Sustrans this year and Phil our Bike it officer to raise the profile of cycling. Here are the list of exciting events we have already got planned, why not join us for some or all?

More details will follow about all of these events.

Learn to ride your bike-Friday 18th October

3.30-4.30pm for the whole school.

'Bling your Bike'-Monday 7th October

a parade of all the wonderful bikes at lunchtime!

Bike it Breakfast- 21st October

8.15-8.45am Join us for a free breakfast if you cycle in!

Bike it smoothie making- 30th September

On the KS2 playground

Be Bright assembly- whole school

5th November about road safety



An intensive intervention for children who find maths really difficult

Numbers Count™ is a highly effective intervention. It is delivered by a specially trained teacher to children who find mathematics extremely difficult and may not reach Level 3 at the end of Key Stage 2. It helps them to get back on track and catch up with their peers. Over 35,000 children have taken part in Numbers Count since 2008, making average Number Age gains of 15 months in one term.

I am really pleased that we are now able to offer this intervention at Polegate. Mrs Chadwick will be working for a day and a half each week delivering this to pupils in Year 1 and 2. It complements our Reading Recovery really well.



Lessons take place in a dedicated teaching area where children can use a wide variety of resources. The teacher begins by making a detailed diagnostic assessment of what each child knows and then plans an individualised programme to help each one to move forward. Lessons focus on number and calculation, follow a set routine and are rigorous and active. The teacher aims to help each child to become numerate and confident, to enjoy actively learning mathematics and to develop the skills and positive attitudes needed to continue to

make good progress in normal class mathematics lessons after completing Numbers Count.



Rebecca Chadwick and her new Maths room.

You will now find Rebecca next to our Reading Recovery room outside year 1.

Coats

Now the weather seems to be changing please make sure your child comes to school with a coat.



Free School Meals- Don't miss out!

Free school meals are not provided automatically. Free school meals can be given if you fall into one of the following categories:

- ✦ you receive Income Support
- ✦ you receive Job Seeker's Allowance (income-based)
- ✦ you receive Employment and Support Allowance (income-related)
- ✦ you get support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ✦ you receive the guarantee credit element of Pension Credit

you are entitled to Child Tax Credit, **you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit** and your family's annual income (as assessed by the Inland Revenue) is not more than £16,190. Anyone entitled to Working Tax Credit is not entitled to free school meals regardless of their income unless you have become unemployed in which case free meals can be granted for a four week period only.

Why apply

Families who are currently paying for school meals will save around £400 a year for each primary school child if they are entitled to free school meals

We will receive £900 in additional funding each year for every pupil who is registered for free school meals, to support them to achieve

We have systems which mean it is impossible for other pupils to know who is receiving free school meals

Primary school children who are eligible for free school meals are entitled to a two course meal worth £2.00 each day.

School dinners provide a healthy, nutritious and tasty meal

Research shows that a school dinner can help concentration levels

Menus are changed often and can be viewed online.

You can apply online:

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/meals/free/default.htm>

Before School Handwriting

Thank you for supporting our drive to raise standards of presentation across the school. The children are getting a great start to the day with ten minutes focused handwriting before school. Teachers have also reported that children are more ready to start learning promptly at 9.00am. We look forward to awarding many more pen licenses. We are encouraging all pupils from year 1 to year 6 to arrive for 8.50 so they can be taught handwriting for this term.

