

NEWS

May 2019



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ENVIRONMENT WEEK

What a wonderful end to term 4

Following hot on the heels of our Science week came a focus on our environment and the part we can play in protecting the world for future generations.

As part of this week, we looked at the impact of plastics and rubbish on our environment, with a particular focus on the amount of plastic in the environment.

Read
more
inside

WELCOME

The building is nearly finished- although that is not the end of the whole project... the building work continues!

This Friday the new building is formally handed over to the school! This is very exciting and then we can begin to move in.

Thank you all so much for your support, patience and understanding whilst this work has been completed.

It seems to have become increasingly disruptive in the last few weeks as the compound has been extended out even further into the carpark!

I am very much looking forward to holding an open event for the whole community to view the new building

later this term. I hear it has gained the nickname of 'Polegate Penitentiary'! I hope that once the landscaping is complete and the building is finished it looks a little more welcoming than that!



DISPLAYS

Once again the team have exceeded expectations with the incredible displays around the school to inspire learning. Please do take the opportunity to have a look.

STUNNING STARTS

Stunning starts launched the new topics and we have already had a number of visits already.

YEAR 5 TRIP

Year 5 are hoping for good weather as they leave on Wednesday for their residential to Hindleap Warren, an adventure centre near Ashdown Forest.

SPORTS UPDATE

UNIHOOC COMPETITION

Players from Year 3 & 4 took part in the annual Unihoc Competition at Heron park School.

In the group stages, we won two games, drew one and then lost 1-0 to the eventual winners Stone Cross. There was lots of skilful play from the Polegate team but a bit of bad luck (and goal difference) kept us from reaching the finals.

Well done to all involved and thanks to Mr Moore for giving up his time to come along and help.



GYMNASTICS

I would like to congratulate our gymnastic squad on their performance at a recent competition.

Mrs Wallis said, 'Our girls were marvellous and if it were not for problems on the vault, would have been right up there with the winners!'

Daisy , Kate and Bella all received a score for one of their disciplines over 9.0 which is amazing.'



OOH LA LA ALL THINGS FRENCH

We held a family challenge after school last term. Thank you to everyone that supported this event.

Our Year 5 pupils were invited to experience a French market. Roedean Moira House hosted a French Market Town. They transformed their hall into

a French Market. Our children had a fully interactive experience being able to sample French culture in a variety of market town scenarios.

They were given authentic style Euros to enable them to purchase items to eat and drink from a boulangerie and a café, as well as participating in a

variety of transactional activities including a Doctor's surgery and a Post Office to name but a few.

Our pupils had the opportunity to practise their French speaking skills with great success!



ATTENDANCE

The whole school attendance is 97.13%. This is amazing and possibly the closest we have been to achieving our target!

I am also delighted that our SEN pupils and those pupils entitled to free school meals are catching up with all other children.

Thank you for your support with this school priority.

The whole school is currently at: 97.13%

RH = 95%	2A = 97%	4D = 97%
RHi = 97%	2H = 97%	5M = 97%
RV = 96%	2M = 97%	5G = 97%
1Y = 97%	3B = 97%	6M = 97%
1Mc = 95%	3M = 97%	6R = 98%
1C = 95%	4B = 97%	

Sadly the holiday forms are flooding in.

These last two terms really are crucial to your child's learning and withdrawing a child at the end of the year will have an impact on their progress and attainment. Some children simply do not manage to catch up on units they have missed. I do want to make families aware that we will be prioritising those children that have not been withdrawn from learning when we consider who to select for extra

tuition as part of our early morning intervention. This is a huge investment above and beyond what we are obliged to offer as a school and so we have a duty to ensure we select children carefully. It is not a good use of spending to compensate for lost learning due to family holidays. There are many implications when holidays are taken in term time and I want to make sure families considering this are fully informed.

STAFF NEWS

New Arrival

Lilly Dedman arrived on 12/04 weighing 9.9lbs. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Dedman. We are really looking forward to a visit and cuddles soon!



LILLY DEDMAN

New Staff

Our team continues to grow and we welcome two new teachers in September.



HEIDI JABBARİ

Hello! My name is Heidi Jabbari.

I'm really excited to be starting my NQT year as a part of the Polegate team. Currently I am still on my training year, finishing with my final placement in Year 3. I love the vibrancy of school and honestly can't wait to meet my class in September.

As well as teaching in schools, I have been teaching windsurfing for 6 years to adult and children groups around the world. It's hard to believe but the children were always much better behaved.

In my spare time, you'll find me in the sea. I might be pretending I can surf, windsurfing or just going for a dunk.

HOME LEARNING SURVEY

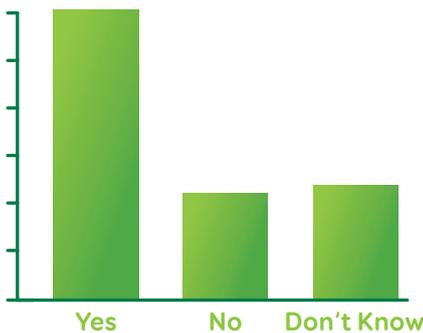
Thank you to all those families that completed our home learning survey. It made very interesting reading and as expected widely different views were shared!

On the whole it appears that the majority of you were happy with the way home learning is set and the type of home learning you receive.

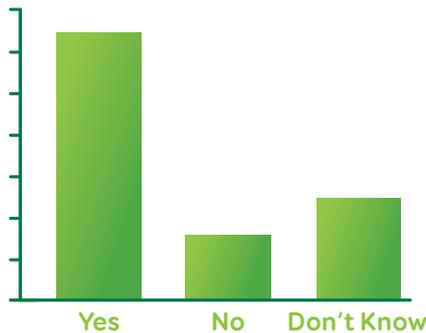
I was very sad to read that some parents do not feel their child's home learning was valued and so will be acting on this. Often amazing home learning is shared on Twitter so please make sure you are signed up and receiving Tweets.

The other worrying fact was that many of you are unaware of Timestable Rockstar. We subscribe to this site so would hope that lots of families are accessing it at home. Not only do the children LOVE it but it supports them brilliantly in learning their times tables.

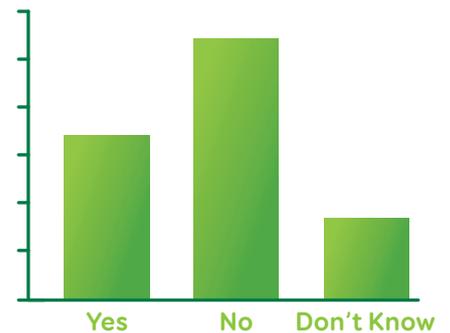
Are you happy with the way home learning is set now?



Is Mymaths helpful?



Does Home Learning impact negatively on family life?



	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Focus on basics rather than creative tasks?	52%	36%	13%
Do you feel home learning gets valued?	29%	39%	31%
Do you feel confident supporting your child?	60%	8%	Sometimes 31%
Would you like further information or workshops to support you as parents?	28%	71%	
Would you prefer creative tasks to be optional?	76%	14%	Not sure 9%
Would you like to keep creative tasks?	45%	31%	23%
Do you like Timestable Rockstars?	24%	7%	Don't use it 68%
Do you do home learning for your child?	14%	49%	Sometimes 37%
Do you spend money on resources?	33%	20%	Sometimes 46%
Do you get home learning sheets in the first week of term?	54%	45%	

SOME RESPONSES

'I fully support homework, always have done with both children. I have noticed over recent years it has become more creative neither of which my children are, therefore dread it. Perhaps there could be an option A & B. One that can be creative and one for a fact based option.'

'Home learning should be about the children doing it themselves. Nine times out of ten I always have to do it for them as it's either too tricky or they loose interest'

'We do find it hard to help with homework because by the time I get home it's dinner, bath and bed for the kids. Can't help feel bad because it's the worst time to be trying to do homework with them just before bedtime.'

'I think homework is pointless at a young age especially if it is the parents completing for them. Home life is busy for some people and I feel the children have had enough after a school day.'

'I really find current home learning pointless. I would say 85% of parents I speak to do a large part of their children's home tasks for them or 'guide' them with it including answering Mymaths questions as well.'

We are in the process of reviewing home learning as a school to see if we can improve anything and researching the type of learning that will best support your child this term so that any changes we implement will be ready for September.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK

What a wonderful end to term 4

Following hot on the heels of our Science week came a focus on our environment and the part we can play in protecting the world for future generations.

As part of this week, we looked at the impact of plastics and rubbish on our environment, with a particular focus on the amount of plastic in the environment.

Pupils' learning about this important topic was supported by a wide range of visitors and experts. Pupils across the school debated environmental topics and found out about some really inspirational people helping to change the world.

During the week they also learnt about becoming environmentally conscious as a consumer, from what you purchase to who you purchase from.

We also led by example and many families and children joined our walking 'litter picking' bus every morning. Not only did this reduce traffic outside our school but it also got everyone physically active whilst doing some good for our community. I received lovely emails from parents saying how inspired their children were by the week including photos of their children picking up litter in their free time at the weekend!



WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES

We have small recycling battery boxes in the office.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK

A not so 'Rubbish' Recycled Fashion Show 2019

Ultrachic, ultracool, ultrahip, ultrasophisticated.. are just some of the words that could describe this season's recycled fashion!

We welcomed designers of the future to the stage with their creations. Children were invited to design and make an item of clothing or an accessory using recycled materials. The entries were simply stunning and all I can say is that I was just so relieved I did not have to judge it!

I would like to thank Mrs Hadley for organising this week and all the children for embracing their learning and extending it beyond school- A huge success!

Each generation needs to be better than the last. Children need to learn how to protect their environment and make decisions that benefit the world as a whole. During the week they realised that each small sustainable change makes an impact. It's one less plastic bottle on the landfill and they really did embrace this.



A 'WHALE' OF A TIME

Year 2 had a 'whale' of a time looking under the sea!

A huge thank you to Leo the fisherman in Sovereign Harbour who brought us a live lobster and fish to look at. We also want to thank the wonderful donation from Mark at Angry Welk fishmongers in Bexhill. We were able to touch, smell and taste a range of different under sea creatures. We are really enjoying our new topic!



An example of the stunning work already being produced. I thought this was definitely worthy of being published. The author is Maya Bruce in Year 4.



Fiery colours melt across the sky,
dripping down onto the sun. Spindly
trees rip the scarlet veil above the
ground, clawing at it, powerfully.
The sun, as bright as a factory
furnace swims swims in the orangy
place above ground. Clouds dance across
the glowing sky, sluggy, like candy-
gloss.

Edited

WRITING JOURNALS

Writing Journals at Polegate School are used as an important tool to instil an enjoyment for writing and author ownership for all of our pupils.

All Writing Journals are viewed as a personal collection of writing for every individual child – a means for them to express themselves and explore a variety of creative writing opportunities.

We encourage the children to fill their pages up with exciting and interesting pieces of writing. We tell them that these special pages are their chance to be creative and share something that they enjoy writing about. We set an expectation that all Writing Journals should be full of things that is fun, interesting or thoughtful to read.

Writing Journals are available for all children from Year 1 to Year 6. Pupils receive their Writing Journal in Year 1 and it travels with them through every year and every key stage whilst they are with us.

Many past pupils have told us that they are still writing in their journals today, which demonstrates how much the opportunity has been valued by our pupils! They do become something to treasure.

The purpose of the Writing Journal is to create a personal space and creative outlet for all children – they take ownership of the pieces of writing they create; they are the author who decides what they will write and how to present it. By doing this, we believe that children develop a greater appreciation for writing.

When are the Writing Journals expected to be used?

Journals are expected to be used termly across the whole school to promote writing regularly:

- Class teachers will sometimes provide prompts to inspire their pupils to complete.
- At the end of every term, children take home their Writing Journal with the expectation that they complete at least one piece of writing during the holidays, ready to share when they return.

As well as this, all teachers encourage their pupils to write as much as they want in their Writing Journal. Any pieces created are expected to be things that the children feel inspired to write about and that they want to share. At times this may be pages of a detailed narrative story; a fact file; a biography; other times it may be a post-card from a place they have visited or a menu. The choice is entirely up to the children as the Writing Journal ultimately belongs to them! They can write whatever they like and the options are endless.

What happens to Writing Journals when they are in school?

These are not marked, we feel strongly this would spoil the child's books and motivation to write but this does not mean they are not valued!

All classes have a special Writing Journal display where the children's pieces are featured. These are easily accessible so that they can be enjoyed and shared by their peers. It also means that visitors to the school

and other staff members also have the opportunity to read the children's work. By displaying the Writing Journals we are demonstrating to the children that we value their writing and that the things they choose to create are important.

How does my child benefit from having a Writing Journal?

The Journals give our pupils an outlet for creativity: they have the chance to explore a range of writing and choose topics/interests that they feel inspired by. This allows them to practice their general writing skills and develop their own confidence. We have found that the Writing Journals, when regularly used, are invaluable in supporting children with their progress in writing within lessons and school.

All children have the opportunity for their work to be displayed which helps them value their own writing and feel inspired by the pieces of writing created by others.

At the end of every term, each class teacher nominates one child from their class to be their Writing Journalist of the Term. Nominees are rewarded with a special certificate that is then displayed in their class for the duration of the next term.

What type of writing can my child complete in their Writing Journal?

It is entirely up to your child! We encourage our pupils to explore a range of writing styles and different text types in their Writing Journals. The Writing Journals are an excellent way for children to be imaginative and experiment with their writing.

WRITING JOURNALS

They may choose to write...

FICTION:

- Descriptive narratives
- Short stories
- Scripts
- Myths
- Fables/moral stories
- Poetry
- Songs
- Personal letters
- Invitations
- Journal/diary entries
- Retellings
- Character profiles
- Character postcards

NON FICTION

- Biographies
- Interviews
- Newspaper articles
- Reviews
- Reports
- Persuasive arguments
- Advertisements
- Instructions
- Sports commentaries
- Travel guides
- Informative leaflets
- Explanations
- Coding
- Formal letters

There are so many different possibilities!

PRESENTATION EXPECTATIONS

We have high expectations for all work across our school and this also applies to Writing Journals:

- **We expect that pupils try their hardest with every piece of writing that they do.**
- **We encourage children to consider their reader and the idea that they want them to enjoy their work so their writing must be presented neatly and of the highest quality.**

POLEGATE'S PASSION FOR READING

Did you know?

Good reading at the age of 10 is a predictor of the number of GCSEs children will achieve and beyond that it can even predict future earnings at 42! Needless to say this is a positive correlation!

Did you know?

At age 7 the best readers, those in the top 25% of the country have on average a knowledge of 7100 words. Children that are in the bottom 25% have only 3000 words. This difference is huge and the impact is far reaching.

Research tells us the main influence on this is parents. At the age of 7, your influence is 6 times greater than school!

Did you know?

You can read to your child and you can still sign the log in their journal. This is just as important as your child reading to you and it should continue even into and beyond year 6 when they can read fluently!

Every single child at Polegate should be either listening to stories and/ or reading every evening. We are all busy I completely understand that however even 5 minutes of reading just before bedtime will make a difference and is really special!

Did you know?

Your child does not always need to read an AR book? AR is only a tiny part of what we do to support and promote reading at Polegate. The most important thing is that your child enjoys reading and becomes a

confident skilled reader. Sometimes having a break from AR can be helpful for many reasons. Alternating AR and other books, magazines, newspapers, non fiction can maintain an excitement about reading. As long as they are enjoying books we are happy! If you are experiencing any difficulties or you think your child is lacking motivation to read then please do speak to your child's class teacher. We are very happy to help.

Stuck for ideas?

On our website in the class pages and in your child's home/school journal we have a list of recommended books for each year group. I would encourage you to expose your child to classic stories as well as the most popular authors because it means they become familiar with a wider range of more challenging vocabulary.

TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS



What is Times Tables Rockstars?

In either paper form or online, Times Tables Rock Stars is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times tables practice.

Each week concentrates on a different times table, with a recommended consolidation week for rehearsing the tables that have recently been practised every third week or so.

This format has very successfully boosted times tables recall speed for hundreds of thousands of pupils over the last 8 years in over 14,000 schools - both primary and secondary - worldwide.

You can access this free at home as the school has invested in membership. Your child has their password in their Home School Journal.

<https://trockstars.com/login>

How often should my child practise their Times Tables?

Ideally your child should be practising their Times Tables 3-4 times a week for around 10-20 minutes.

Why are Times Tables so important?

For depth of learning, it is important that children are given the opportunity to see, explore, and understand the mathematical structures and patterns that lie beneath. Really knowing and being able to apply these facts (and their inverse - up to 12x12) means that working memory is freed up, leaving space to process and think more about new mathematical ideas.

You may also be interested to know that the government is introducing another test, this time for Year 4!

From the 2019/20 academic year onwards, all state-funded maintained schools in England will be required to administer an online multiplication tables check (MTC) to year 4 pupils.

The national curriculum specifies that pupils should be taught to recall the multiplication tables up to and including 12×12 by the end of year 4.

The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will help schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided.

Times Tables Rockstars provides a brilliant way of practising these essential skills.

YEAR 3 ARTISTS

I am so proud of our Year 3 pupils who created a fabulous work of art currently on display at the Towner art gallery. If you haven't popped in to have a look please do! It is there until the 2nd June 2019



E-SAFETY

Tik Tok

Tik Tok is a music video and social networking platform that allows users to create 15 second videos with a choice of background music. Users can watch the musical clips on the app or shoot short clips of themselves and edit with special effects.

The age recommendation is 13 and above. However, you don't have to prove your age when creating an account, so younger children can still use it easily. It's most popular with under-16s.

Children's charity Barnados have warned how children as young as eight are at risk of exploitation on Tik Tok.

What are the concerns?

- On the surface, nothing. TikTok has a reputation for being unusually free of trolling and danger.
- But you may have seen news reports or heard concerns about some users harassing children for nude images and videos.

What safety options are available to parents?

- Control who can view your child's videos
- Set your child's account to 'private' so that your child can control who sees their videos or keep them completely private. Your child will be able to approve or deny people as 'fans', and will only be able to accept messages from followers.
- Setting up a private account, TikTok – <http://support.tiktok.com/knowledge-base/setting-up-a-private-account>

Remember:

- Accounts are set to 'public' by default. Public profiles can be viewed by anyone
- Even with a private account, your child's profile information can be seen by all users. Make sure your child doesn't reveal personal information on their public profile

Restrict how your child uses the app

Use TikTok's digital wellbeing feature to control the time your child spends on the app and limit the appearance of content that may not be appropriate:

Digital wellbeing, TikTok – <http://support.tiktok.com/knowledge-base/digital-wellbeing>

Most devices also allow you to set time limits on game play, set age limits for content, and restrict in-app purchases. Check the user instructions for your child's device.

Make sure your child knows how to report inappropriate behaviour

Your child can use the app to report content that makes them feel uncomfortable, including accounts, videos, comments and chats. You can too.

Report inappropriate content, TikTok – <http://support.tiktok.com/knowledge-base/report-inappropriate-content>

You or your child can also block 'fans' at any time

DIARY DATES

Friday 4th May
Wonderful work
8am and 3.30pm

Wednesday 15th May
PFA meeting – evening

Tuesday 21st May
Sports Day
Morning Nursery (Rising
5's) & Reception

Wednesday 22nd May
Sports Day
Morning Year 1 & 2

Thursday 23rd May
Sports Day
Morning only KS2

Wednesday 12th &
Thursday 13th June
Father's day gifts

Saturday 15th June
Summer Fair

Friday 5th July
PFA Quiz night

Tuesday 2nd July
Class change over day?

Tuesday 2nd July
Meet the new teacher
after school – 3.30pm

Thursday 11th July
Wonderful work
8.00am and 3.30pm

Tuesday 23rd July
Last day

THE BIG PEDAL

Thank you to all families that took part in this event. I have just received an email that tells us we are winners!

Dear Big Pedalers

I am pleased to announce that you are a Big Pedal winner and will receive a fantastic prize from the East Sussex team.

First prize: Annecy Catholic Primary

Second prize: Seaford Head School

Third prize: Polegate Primary School

This year's top prize is a performance and music workshop for 20 pupils by PunctureKit, the bicycle drummer. Seaford Head School and Polegate Primary School, who topped the leaderboard in their adjacent 5 day category will receive a one off 15 minute performance.

Something else for us to look forward to.

CHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO YOUR CHILD

We just wanted to let you know that due to the new GDPR regulations we will not be sending out data collection sheets any more. We do still need to know if there are any changes to information relating to your child.

Changes we need to know about are:

Medical details
(any new allergies, asthma etc)
Change of address, telephone numbers or email address

Keep us informed

It will be up to you to keep us informed and you can do this by emailing the school office office@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk with any changes or by completing the form which you can find on the download section on our website www.polegateschool.uk

Diary Date

Friday 5th July
PFA QUIZ NIGHT

Archive



You can read all the previous newsletters on our website.

Twitter

Be the first to hear the news.
Follow us on Twitter.
We now have **954** followers!



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Feedback

We'd love to hear your feedback and any new ideas you have. Please send us your thoughts via the contact us page on the school website:

www.polegateschool.co.uk