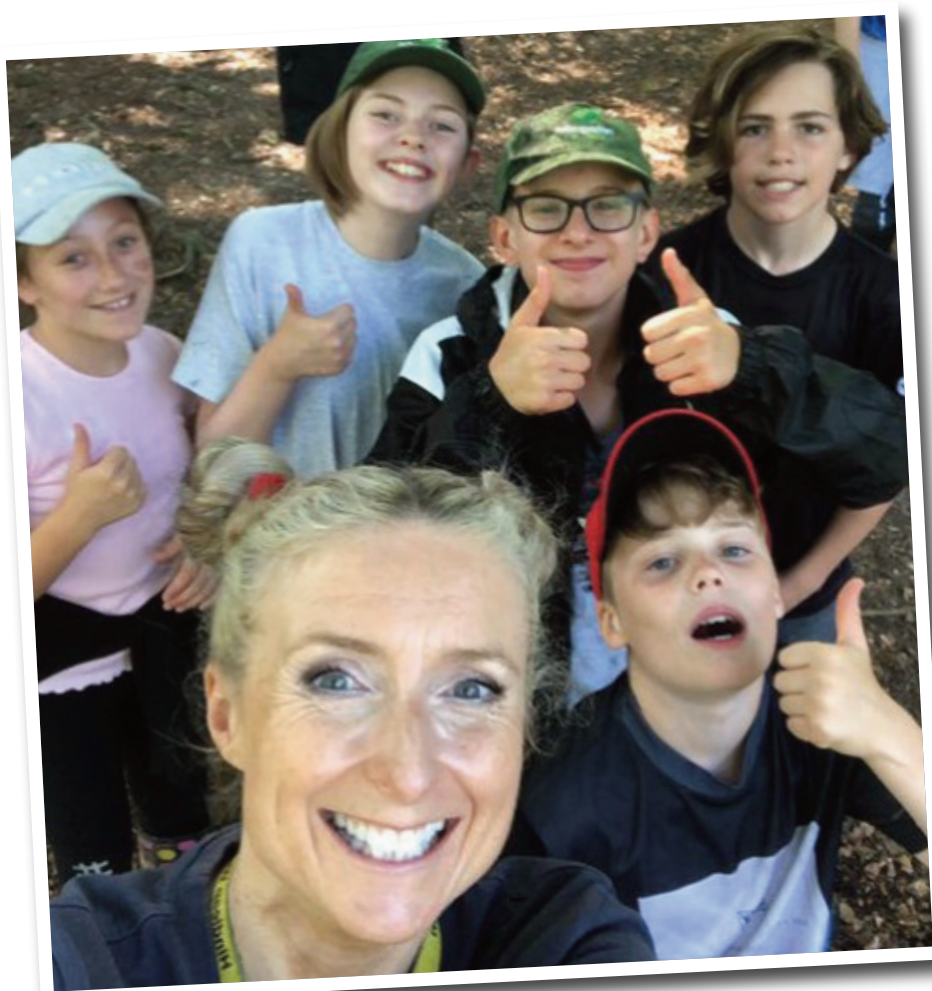


news

September 2021



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A VERY WARM WELCOME BACK!

I cannot tell you just how happy we are to have all the children back!

I would like to especially welcome our new reception families to the Polegate family.

Your children have been exceptional - they have amazed us with how confidently they have left you at the gate and come in to school.

You will see from the photos how easily they have settled in. This is quite a long newsletter so make yourself comfortable with a cup of tea before you make a start on reading it.

TEACHER TRAINING

We had two full days of training for staff before the children returned and as part of it we asked staff what made Polegate special - I thought you would like to see the responses-



I hope you can recognise our school in these words and agree it has really captured our school. You also got a mention - staff named parents. I'm not sure this would be the case in all schools but we do recognise just how special you are. We have a wonderful school community and that is

reflected strongly in how we feel about relationships and part of what makes the school such a special place to work!
Thank you.

I hope this newsletter reflects the dedication, creativity and passion we have started the year with.

HOME SCHOOL JOURNALS

Please remind your child to look after these as we can only fund one per child as they cost £5 each.

We will only have a limited number of spare copies as well and will need to charge for replacements. The children did brilliantly last year, hardly any were lost which is quite miraculous!

We continue with the reading raffle and have stocked up on exciting books for the children to choose if they win! We do expect all children to read every day and if they do and you have signed each day they are awarded with a raffle ticket from their class teacher. We draw the raffle each Friday in assembly.



These shiny new books will have already made their way home to you and are a great resource. Don't forget it includes term dates, useful information on home learning as well as all staff emails should you need them.

WHY CAN'T I SKIP MY READING AT HOME TONIGHT?

Pupil A

Reads 20 minutes each day
3600 minutes in a school year
1,800,000 words

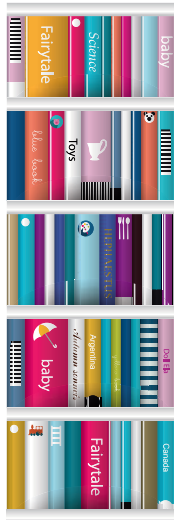
90th Percentile



Pupil B

Reads 5 minutes each day
900 minutes in a school year
282,000 words

50th Percentile



Pupil C

Reads 1 minute each day
180 minutes in a school year

10th Percentile



By the end of Year **Pupil A** will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. **Pupil B** will have read only 12 school days.
 Which pupil would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
 Which pupil would you expect to be more successful in school?
 ...and in life?

What about a pupil that doesn't read regularly at home or perhaps not at all?

What are their chances of success? This is why, at Polegate, we place so much importance on reading at home. All research and studies show that children who read every day do better at every stage of their education. We see it in school; the pupils that read at home are making better progress. We are very fortunate at Polegate school to have so many supportive families that promote regular reading and learning at home and this reflects in the results our pupils achieve. The majority of our parents do find time to enjoy books at home with their children and do record this in the home school books.

Thank you for supporting your children and the school's vision and aims!

Remember that when we talk about reading every evening this can include you reading the story to your child. They need to hear vocabulary above their own reading age and sometimes just enjoy listening to a story being read to them.

You can record any type of reading- it does not always need to be their own school book. Any book, magazine, newspaper counts!

Reading to child in an interactive style raises his or her IQ by over **6 Points**

Daily reading to children puts them almost **1 YEAR** ahead of those who are not being read to

"For the majority of young people, enthusiastic and habitual **reading is the single most predictive personal habit** for the ability to achieve desirable life outcomes."

After School Literacy Brief

"Children who read **3,000 words** per day will be in the **top 2%** of standardised tests."

"Children who read **20 words** per day will be in the **bottom 2%** of standardised tests."

IT ADDS UP!

If you read just **15 minutes a day**, in one year you will have read over **1,000,000 words!**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Never has this been more true!

You all know attendance is important to us and will continue to be so. Not because of any targets we or others set for us but because when your child is not in they are missing their education.

Children have missed so much time in school over recent years.

We are looking forward to a year where we can be aspirational for your children and expect the best.

Attendance and punctuality are an important part of good behaviour and such an important life skill. It is an essential requirement in any job and habits formed early become embedded.

Pupils who miss valuable time in classrooms fall further behind and become more disengaged from the work of the class, it is hard to regain this ground and hard to motivate pupils when attendance drops.

Our expectation is 100% which pre Covid was normal for children at Polegate. We are optimistic we will return to this in term 6. Please do contact us if you are having any difficulties or face challenges we may not be aware of before it becomes a problem that we need to raise with you.

I am sure you are looking forward to travel and holidays abroad again but I do want to set expectations now. As a school we will not be authorising holidays this year. Every day in school counts.

We will be monitoring attendance and lates on a daily basis from now. I am sure there will be a lot to celebrate.

Expectations

- Call before 9am explaining absence each day your child is off school - this is for safeguarding reasons.
- Ensure you provide a written letter of explanation when your child returns in addition to the call so we can maintain accurate records.
- If your child's absence is longer than three days we would expect medical advice to be sought.

TERM DATES 2021-22

Start of Term 1 - 2021-22

Friday 3rd September 2021

INSET Day

Monday 27th September 2021

End of Term 1 - 2021-22

Friday 22nd October 2021

Start of Term 2 - 2021-22

Monday 1st November 2021

INSET Day

Monday 8th November 2021

End of Term 2 - 2021-22

Thursday 16th December 2021

INSET Day

Friday 17th December 2021

Start of Term 3 - 2021-22

Tuesday 4th January 2022

End of Term 3 - 2021-22

Friday 11th February 2022

Start of Term 4 - 2021-22

Monday 21st February 2022

End of Term 4 - 2021-22

Friday 1st April 2022

Start of Term 5 - 2021-22

Tuesday 19th April 2022

End of Term 5 - 2021-22

Friday 27th May 2022

Start of Term 6 - 2021-22

Monday 6th June 2022

End of Term 6 - 2021-22

Thursday 21st July 2022

A welcome from our head boy and our head girl



Reggie Stewart - Head Boy

My name is Reggie Stewart, I am Polegate School's Head Boy.

Here are a few things about me, I have a cat called Kipper and a Guinea Pig called Cream, I love sport, but my favourite sport is Football and I support Chelsea, I play for AS Eastbourne.

Since being at Polegate my reading has improved a lot, this is because I make sure that I read a little bit every day, my favourite book is, Frankie's Magic Football.

The teachers are nice and easy to talk too. If you are feeling worried or scared then you must talk to somebody, this could be your teacher or Lunchtime Supervisor, or even a Prefect or Myself or Lucy (head girl). I hope that I see you all around School, having lots of fun like me.



Lucy Wietecha - Head Girl

Hello, my name is Lucy Wietecha, I am Polegate School's Head Girl

Another year of Polegate is here and with that comes the new Reception!

Welcome to Polegate Primary School to all our wonderful new reception! I can ensure you that you will feel very happy here. Each staff member and pupil are incredibly kind, supportive and helpful. They will assist your needs and make you smile.

You will learn new fun things every day and understand there are NO limits. We can't wait to have you!

OUR TEAM OF PREFECTS



Congratulations to our 2021-2022 team of prefects

How lovely to have our infant 'school family' back in assembly to celebrate our new prefects!

3, 2, 1...TAKE OFF!

A STUNNING START FOR YEAR 1

Year 1 began the year with astronaut training. Applying lots of areas of the curriculum to create a stunning start to year 1!

By all accounts it was a blast!



BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK

Join me on my 'get fit' mission. I have been cycling in from Herstmonceux to school as often as I can and have only driven twice this year.

I am even going a slightly different route and adding two miles on my journey. So feeling smug at the moment but we will see what happens in the rain!

Bike to School Week is a great opportunity to promote the positive impact that an active lifestyle can have on pupils' wellbeing and health.

It's free, there's no need to register, and it's a fantastic way to get warmed up ready for Sustrans

Big Pedal in the spring. Organised and supported by the Bikeability Trust, Bike to School Week celebrates cycling to school and the benefits of travelling actively for children.



Bike to School Week 2021

27 September – 1 October

- ✓ **Be active** and feel more energised
- ✓ **Help the environment** by replacing a car journey
- ✓ **Improve local air quality** and reduce congestion



Let Sustrans know your family is **cycling or scooting to school** to be in with the chance of **winning a Frog bike**.

Visit www.sustrans.org.uk/biketoschoolweek/pledge

SCIENTISTS IN ACTION!

Very messy but lots of fun was had by all, exploring how to separate an 'Alien Soup' mixture!

ALIEN SOUP!



HINDLEAP WARREN

It was a little touch and go at the end of the last academic year!

Our nerves were all a little frayed but we managed to hold on with no bubbles closing at all across the whole school and we managed to get Year 6 off on their residential in the last 3 days of the year!

We were determined to give them this opportunity as they have missed so much.

If the staff didn't need a holiday before this trip, they certainly did at the end!

It was totally worth it though to see the children embrace mud, water and adventure overcoming challenges they never thought they would face (including making their own beds!)

I would like to thank the staff that gave their time so freely and left their own families behind in order to plan and join the children on this trip- Miss Jabbari, Mrs Grace, Mrs Giggs, Mrs Phillips, Mr Keely.



No children were harmed and we returned them all safely home!



The trip got a massive thumbs up!



Yes, that is muddy water!

IQM REPORT



We push ourselves right up to the end of the year! AT the end of June we had an annual evaluation for the IQM award. I am delighted to say we were yet again awarded Flagship status. One of the only schools in Sussex to hold this award.

The full report is available to read on the school website but here are some extracts from it. It is quite a long report but I thought you would like to see some of the highlights. It is a very rigorous process as you will see!

.....

'The DfE team were struck by the consistency of core values, teaching and behavioural approaches in the school, all of which mirrored the principles required for inclusion in the National Behaviour Hub.'

.....

'I was very impressed with the children's performances in reciting their stories, fluently using words and actions with great confidence'

.....

'Children show great enthusiasm when approaching their writing, are faster to produce it and are keen to share and read it aloud. The language of storytelling is now embedded, and 'Talk for Writing' has added to the creativity of children's writing across the school. There has been a lot of CPD opportunities undertaken to support this development and this will continue in the coming year.'

'During the second lockdown and

beyond the school has continued to manage the many challenges it has faced with its positive 'can do' approach, focused on the needs of the whole school community, including children, families, and staff'

.....

'Throughout COVID, the school has been determined that children would not miss out on normality, in terms of lessons or on the fun and friendliness of school life and they should be congratulated for the thought and the work put in by all staff to ensure that this was the case.'

.....

'This continues to be an exceptionally forward thinking, positive school with very high expectations of all alongside very high levels of support. It continues to be a reflective community where very interesting work takes place to meet the needs of all its pupils and the community it serves. On a wider level, it is also a leading school in the local area and beyond and with the new 'Behaviour Hub' status the school's expertise will continue to be disseminated on a national level. Any challenge, such as those faced over the past year through COVID 19, is met in an imaginative, caring, positive and supportive way. The school never stands still and is always striving to do better. Its motto, "Learning without limits" is a genuine description of the ethos of this school, which has

inclusion at the heart of all its work. When listening to everything that has been achieved this year, as in previous years, it is very hard to imagine how the staff of this school can achieve so much not only for their own community but also for schools and other setting in the local area and beyond. This is clearly a result of inspirational leadership of the Headteacher along with her Senior Team and SLEs who ensure that the school moves from strength to strength, with the needs of its children and the community it serves always to the fore.'

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Almost 5000 children signed up with East Sussex Libraries to take part in this year's Wild World Heroes, Summer Reading Challenge 2021 produced by The Reading Agency and delivered by libraries across the country.

To date we have had almost 3000 children complete the Challenge, although this may increase with late finishers.

We will hopefully receive the certificates in the week beginning 11th October. WE will then do our school draw for tickets to the zoo!

BEHAVIOUR

September is a great time to revisit some of our school policies and remind everyone of these: children, staff and parents. Behaviour is not something that is taught once, it is revisited constantly.

Our overarching ambition is to create an inclusive school where children's behaviour is not only managed but is changed so that they become citizens that contribute positively to the communities they live in.

We adopt a therapeutic approach to understand barriers children may have and empower them to take responsibility and find solutions with everyone's support.

Every day, in lots of different ways, our pupils ask:
do I matter to you,
do you notice me,
do I belong here?

Yes, they do matter.
Yes, we do notice them
each and Yes, they do
belong and we aim to
show it every day.



Spotlight Moment

We have introduced a new reward this year which we hope will compliment Star of the Week, it is called a **Spotlight Moment!**

This is an award which recognises a 'WOW' moment for an individual child!

There is no expectation that there is one each week for a child from each class. When selected it will only be one child in a class for that week. It is different to Star of the Week. This recognises huge success for an individual.

Unlike Star of the Week it does not require the consistency and may not be linked to behaviour, in this way we ensure that each and every child at Polegate is recognised for their own unique strengths and talents.

There is no reason for a child to go unnoticed with these two rewards in place. In addition, there are a multitude of other rewards to celebrate all the positives we see each and every day!

The entire policy is available to view on the school's website.

Twitter

Be the first to
hear the news.
Follow us on Twitter.
We now have
1,189 followers!

STAFF NEWS

More baby news!

Congratulations to the Dedman family. They welcome Edward Simon John Dedman who was born on the 2nd September 2021 at 11.07 in the evening, weighing... wait for it... an impressive 10.6lbs!



Miss Marsh, class teacher to 2M is expecting her first child and will be starting her maternity in the New Year. We are currently shortlisting for a maternity cover teacher and will appoint as soon as we can to enable a really strong handover and transition. We will of course keep you updated.

LATEST PFA NEWS

Welcome back everyone!



Rachel Keen

For those of you that don't know I'm Rachel Keen, the Chair of the Polegate School PFA.

PFA stands for Parents and Friends Association. We organise events to provide vital funds for school projects that wouldn't otherwise go ahead. All those extras that benefit the whole school.

We have created the Hub kitchen which children across the school use, the wildlife Garden was transformed thanks to the fundraising efforts of the PFA and this year we are refurbishing the swimming pool which is in need of some repair!

So what can you do to help?

Well, why not join up to our **school lottery** and be in with a chance to win some money for yourself, whilst supporting us at the same time.



Amazon Smile

You can also link your amazon account to support us through **amazon smile**, this will cost you nothing but generate amazing funds for us. Both links for these are attached in the pictures.

Or what about seeing if your child wanted to do a sponsored walk or similar to raise funds for the PFA.

You receive a quarterly update from Amazon that tells you how much has been donated to Polegate School. To date Polegate School has received £105.97 from Amazon.

Another thing we need your help with is if you have any other amazing fund raising ideas, Covid friendly or otherwise (for future), please contact us on pfa@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk with any of your suggestions.

We are also looking to hold a PFA meeting in the near future via zoom or teams, we'd love to have you join us. If you'd be interested in this please also email on the address above.

If you'd be interested in any way in getting involved with the PFA we'd love to hear from you. Please remember that being involved doesn't mean you need to give up all your time. Just 15 minutes a year from each family would mean we'd never struggle for helpers again.

We really look forward to hearing from you and hope that all the children are settling in well.

Rachel Keen and The PFA Team

Turn on AmazonSmile in the Amazon app to generate donations.
smile.amazon.co.uk



SPORTING SUCCESS

Here is someone that has been very busy throughout the summer, training 6 days a week in both tennis and football!

Mason competed in 9 tournaments across football and tennis. He won all 9 including the 8 and under national football tournament in Nottingham with his team All Stars.

He has also managed to retain the 8 and under tennis county championship as well as winning the 9 and under title too.

It's wonderful to be able to celebrate this success and be able to share it with the whole school community.

On behalf of everyone Mason, I would like to say how proud we are of your hard work and effort. Remember me when you play centre court at Wimbledon!



LETTERS FROM OUR LOCAL RESIDENTS

I am writing to make you aware of my concerns regarding the use of private land at Bexley Court.

The front lawns are now being used frequently for parents and children meeting before and after school. It's now becoming the normal place to meet, sit and play and is having a serious affect on the quality of life for residents.

My new neighbours who live on the ground floor are elderly and one is disabled. Children are congregating on the private property directly outside their windows, which impacts enormously on their privacy. Bikes and scooters have also caused some minor damage to the lawns, which is unfortunate.

We understand this isn't the responsibility of the school and are currently looking at ways to prevent people cutting across or congregating on the private land. This might be the planting of a border, fencing or a low level hedge, although these are expensive options and risk being damaged. It is also likely to take quite some time for any of these options to come to fruition.

Kind regards

I also had a report from a local business that has one of the garages behind the hairdressers.

They reported parents parking there which restricts access and makes it challenging for them to access their garage. They also reported damage to the garage door which appears to have been reversed into.

Please can we be mindful and considerate of our local community. They have been so supportive and understanding in recent years and have experienced huge disruption due to school expansion and building work. I would hate to lose their goodwill.

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT WELL BEING

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/your-mind-plan-quiz/>

<https://woebot.io/>

The mindshift app

<https://www.headspace.com/>

Royal Academy

Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES

We have small recycling battery boxes in the office.



Diary Date

INSET Day
Monday 27th
September 2021

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
1,189 followers!



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East Sussex BN26 6PT
Tel: 01323 482404
Email: info@polegateschool.co.uk



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

Designed by Prowork :: www.prowork.co.uk