

news

July 2024



In This Issue

Time To Reflect	2
Pen License Debate	2
A Roar-Some Time	3
Sad Goodbyes	3
Year 2 Trip To Hastings	4
School Games Success!	5
Yr 1 & 2 Handball Festival	5
Talk For Writing Showcase	6
Junior Engineers Challenge	6
Ph Puzzle Willingdon	7
Attendance	8
Yr 3 & 4 Handball Festival	8
Ancient Greece	9
Diary Dates	9
General Election	10
Football Awards	10
Year 6 Fabulous Art	11
Street Dance Classes	12
Summer Challenge	14
Speed Bounce Challenge	15

A HUGE THANK YOU

As this is the final newsletter of this academic year I would like to start by thanking everyone: staff, pupils, parents, volunteers, our committed PFA and governors for the ongoing support and hard work.

The success of our school is a real team effort and the school is surrounded by a fabulous community and I certainly feel very lucky to be part of it!

TIME TO REFLECT



This is a really good time to reflect on the year and celebrate many of the achievements and there have been many (we really don't stop!):

- Attendance improving for all groups across the school at different rates but it is an improving picture.
- Gaining Sportsmark Platinum for the incredible sporting opportunities we provide the children.
- Achieved Talk for Writing Showcase status- children's story telling and writing is going from strength to strength!
- Another successful Inclusion Quality Mark inspection which sees us maintain Flagship School Status.
- Ongoing visitors to school observing and practicing Polegate practice. The children are always mentioned during these visits - **"what amazing, confident children,"**

These are each big achievements in their own right but of course what is even more important is what happens on a daily basis across the whole school and the progress that children make in all aspects of their learning.

It is your childrens enjoyment and engagement each and every day; the smiles on their faces that have made the year for me, it's what makes my job so special.

Deborah Jones
Headteacher



PEN LICENSE DEBATE

It almost caused a riot this week during a whole school assembly! The new debate was shared - Should we stop issuing a pen license?

The children were very animated! After fierce classroom debates they have come forward with some amazing suggestions.

Ideas presented -

I think we should not be given a pen license because it is unfair for the people who don't get one.

Oliver

I think yes and no because some children work very hard for one. You should probably get your pen license in year 5

Ben

I have an idea that people might agree with! I thought that year 1-5 you could use pencil but when you are in year 5 you have a pen NO matter what your handwriting is like!

Children will then have an opportunity to practice in pen for 2 years so they are ready for secondary school.

Ellie

Using their suggestions

Allowing the children to have ownership of the curriculum can be very powerful. As of next academic year -

- children below year 5 can still earn a pen license.
- All children in year 5 and year 6 will automatically use a school pen



A ROAR-SOME TIME

Year 4 had a ROAR-some time on our trip to Port Lympne!

We went on a spectacular safari and spotted so many different African animals that we have been learning about. Unfortunately, no one saw a white giraffe! The children were fantastic representatives and showed the 3 R's all day long!



SAD GOODBYES

Miss Grace & Miss Timms

Miss Grace and Miss Timms will both be leaving us at the end of this academic year.

Both teachers have been on an incredible Polegate School journey starting here as support staff, completing a teaching degree and then 2 years as Early Career Teachers. We wish them both the best as they move on in their teaching journey



Miss French

Miss French will also be leaving us at the end of this term. Miss French has worked at Polegate School for 2 years as a member of support staff and a year 1 teacher. Good luck Miss French you will be amazing!



Mrs Kavanagh

Mrs Kavanagh will be starting maternity leave at the beginning of term 1, so we will see her in September. I hope to be able to share baby news with you all in term 2!



Miss Swift

Miss Swift will return in September as Mrs Taylor! We wish her a very happy wedding day.

YEAR 2 TRIP TO HASTINGS

As part of our topic 'Under the Sea', Year 2 spent a fun filled day at the seaside at the start of Term 6.

The children had the opportunity to visit the Bluereef Aquarium and see lots of wonderful sea life up close. They also had a guided tour of the RNLI centre, complete with an opportunity to dress up in the

uniform worn by RNLI volunteers too! Lunch was enjoyed on the beach and fortunately, the seagulls didn't pinch any sandwiches (although we can assure you they tried their best!)



The children and adults all had a wonderfully sunny day exploring!



SCHOOL GAMES SUCCESS!

POLEGATE TAKES PLATINUM

We are delighted to announce that we, Polegate School, have achieved the prestigious Platinum School Games Mark Award for the 2023/24 academic year.

Polegate are the first school in the South Downs Area to receive this level of award, having maintained the gold standard since 2016. To qualify for PLATINUM we had to conduct a detailed case study demonstrating how we have undertaken a review of the PE curriculum and how student voice has shaped our offer resulting in equal opportunities to access sports across the different key stages.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development

of opportunity and competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Our sporting achievements this year include: First in the local area Quickstix Hockey Tournament First in both categories of the KS1 Handball Competition Runners up in KS2 handball & KS1 football U9 Girls football squad qualified for the regional round of the BHA Albion Cup.

We enjoyed some whole-school inspirational events like our visit from heptathlete Holly Mills, World Women's football day, Sussex County cricket day and our very active sports week.

We danced at the Congress. We hosted the inaugural Year 2/ 3 gymnastics competition and we host the annual EYFS festival for local schools at the end of this term With

more students than ever taking part in events, festivals and clubs this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport. This includes the work of our brilliant Sports Leaders - many of whom will be leaving Polegate for secondary school soon.

We hope that all our pupils will continue to participate in sporting activities there and build on the success they have achieved so far.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

Thank you to all those who have helped to make it happen!



YEAR 1 & 2 HANDBALL FESTIVAL

Our mixed team of year 1 and 2 pupils had an amazing trip out to Cavendish School to participate in the annual handball festival. Both teams played incredibly well, winning all of their games and finishing at the top of the two leagues!

Such a fantastic result and well deserved!



TALK FOR WRITING SHOWCASE

After a rigorous writing audit are proud to announce that we have become a Talk for Writing Showcase school.

What is Talk for Writing?

Talk for Writing is an engaging teaching framework developed by Pie Corbett, supported by Julia Strong. It is powerful because it is based on the principles of how children learn. It enables children to imitate the language they need for a particular topic orally, before reading and analysing it, and then writing their

own version.

What is a Showcase School?

Talk for Writing (TfW) Showcase Schools offer open mornings where teachers from other schools can see TfW in action in the classroom.

On the open mornings, visitors will be able to see teaching and learning in the classroom using TfW and look at books and outcomes. Visitors will also have the opportunity to speak with leadership about the implementation of TfW and look at the school's overview.

We cannot wait to welcome lots of visitors to share our children's



TalkforWriting™



JUNIOR ENGINEERS CHALLENGE

This year we entered the Junior Engineers Challenge, which was held at the Town Hall in Eastbourne.

Four children from Year 2 were selected to take part and represent the school.

Their task was to design and make a catapult, that would fire a ping pong ball, and then to create something that would catch it.

The team were given particular resources with which they could use, and then basically they were left to their own devices. The children worked incredibly hard and worked so well together as a team, making and evaluating along the way constantly.

The models were then judged alongside the other 5 schools, based on how far the balls were able to be fired, and the accuracy with which it



worked, alongside the model designed to catch the ball.

I am pleased to say that Polegate School came second, and all children should feel tremendously proud of their achievements on the day.

Each of them received a certificate and voucher to spend and this was awarded to them by the Mayor!

Well done Roman, Arla, Phoebe and Dylan!!

PH PUZZLE WILLINGDON

Year 5 recently visited Willingdon secondary for a fun science morning!
We got to create our own indicators to test the different PH levels of different
mystery substances in one of their science labs!



LATEST ATTENDANCE FIGURES

RA = 96.1%

RB = 93%

RS = 94.5%

1F = 95.7%

1G = 96.4%

1S = 96.2%

2C = 96.2%

2D = 97.1%

2K = 96.2%

3D = 97.5%

3L = 95.8%

3T = 95.8%

4H = 94.9%

4EH = 95.1%

4S = 96%

5D = 95.6%

5M = 95.2%

5K = 92%

6M = 95.5%

6MU = 94.8%

6W = 96.2%

YEAR 3 & 4 HANDBALL FESTIVAL

On the first sunny day for a while, two mixed teams from Year 3 & 4 took part in the annual Handball Festival at Ratton School.

We were in the competitive section of the event, so our opponents were all quite experienced at handball and gave us quite a challenge! During Sports Week last term, all year groups took part in a handball festival run by Sportitude, so we were eager to see how we fared against local schools like Cavendish and Ocklynge.

The picture below is from our final match of the day – our two teams pitched against each other - that ended with a win for the blues.

Overall, the blues came a very close second to Cavendish and the greens came third. Both teams played brilliantly and improved through the afternoon.

The teamwork, fair play and determination shown by all was a credit to the school.

Well done everyone!

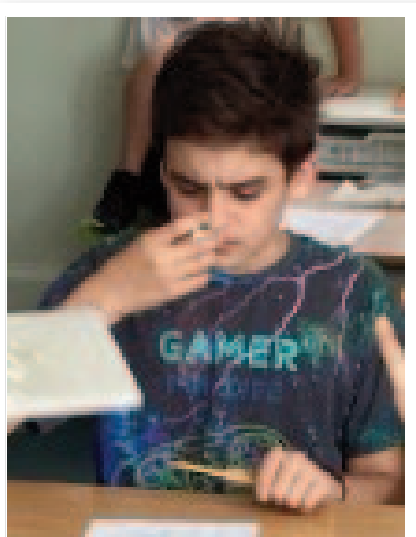


ANCIENT GREECE

Year 5 have fully immersed themselves into their Ancient Greece topic by taking part in their very own Olympics where the children competed in a range of events which originated from the first games!

We hailed our heroes who were crowned with a wreath of leaves and named legends of Ancient Greece.

We have also explored, tasted and evaluated a range of Greek foods ready for our fabulous finish Greek feast! There were definitely some great reactions to the different ingredients and some of the children even found something new that they enjoyed trying!



DIARY DATES

18th July
Mufti Day

19th July
Transition Day

19th July
Meet the new teacher
3.15 – 4.00pm

20th July
Summer Fayre

23rd July
Last day of Term 6

2nd September
INSET Day

3rd September
INSET Day

4th September
Start of Term 1
All Children back

4th November
INSET Day

14th March 2025
INSET Day

19th May 2025
INSET Day

GENERAL ELECTION AT POLEGATE SCHOOL

Here at Polegate School all children had an opportunity to participate in the National Election on the 4th July. The children listened to our year 6 political team share their party manifesto and then visited the Polling Station (also known as the school hall).



The children took their vote very seriously.



FOOTBALL AWARDS

Ellen Heward received 2 football awards - 'Players player' award a participation award as well. Congratulations Ellen!



YEAR 6 FABULOUS ART

The year 6 children are very proud of this terms artwork focusing on migration and borders.



Physical Activity **4**
Connect

Connecting families
through physical activity

Complete P.E.
INSPIRE. LEARN. ENJOY.

YOUTH
SPORT
TRUST

Throw/Roll an object into a target 15 times in a row	Complete 25 shuttle runs	Perform 50 sit ups	Balance in a plank position as long as possible	Perform 50 mountain climbers	Pass a ball around your waist 50 times	Move up and down 200 steps
Play a game of Boccia	Create a short gymnastics sequence	Learn a karate sequence	Play a game of throw tennis	Write and perform a sports anthem	Plan and make a healthy meal	Design a new sports kit
Play a game of charades	Squat the 3, 5 or 9 times table	Find 5 verbs in a book and perform the actions	Research the rules of a new sport	Jump and call out prime numbers	Hop / Lift Knee and complete 5 subtractions	Watch a sports event and write a review
Tap a ball on a racket 50 times	Balance on both legs for 60 seconds	Jump over a pillow 60 times	Dribble a ball through 3 objects, 10 times	Throw and catch a ball 25 times	Perform an online fitness exercise	Play 10 pin bowling
Paint or draw a sports picture	Play active noughts & crosses	Research and perform the Haka	Create a tower with Lego or blocks	Play musical statues or musical chairs	Have a running race	Build a den
Run/Move on the spot for 60 seconds	Jump on the spot 25 times	Perform 25 squats	Skip for 60 seconds	Perform 25 star jumps	Speed bounce for 60 seconds	Hop / Lift Knee for 60 seconds

How to play:

- Each player chooses a colour, red or yellow.
- Players take turns to choose an activity starting from the bottom row. Once they have completed the activity they mark it off with their colour.
- Players can not choose an activity from the row above until the one beneath has been completed.
- Can you be **honest** and complete each activity correctly?
- The first player to get 4 in a row; horizontal, vertical or diagonal is the winner.



STREET DANCE CLASSES


MASON
ACADEMY OF DANCE


STREET DANCE CLASSES

TUESDAYS - POLEGATE COMMUNITY CENTRE

START 10 SEPTEMBER 2024

Principal - Tina Mason LIDTA

 Mason Academy of Dance

 masonacademyofdance@gmail.com



STREET 1 (6-8 YEARS)

4.10 - 4.50PM

STREET 2 (9-11 YEARS)

4.50 - 5.30PM

STREET 3 (12+ YEARS)

5.30 - 6.10PM

IDTA

INSET DAY

Monday
2nd
September

INSET DAY

Tuesday
3rd
September

FIRST DAY

4th September
Start of Term 1
All Children
back

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

on the App Store
"WAPP" on Google Play

LIBRARY

Developed in Germany, this social networking app is called 'W App' in the Apple Store and Google Play but is also branded as 'Slay' in some territories. Aimed primarily at teens and marketed as a 'zero-negativity' zone, it asks users to connect with others from their school. They are then asked a positive question (such as "Who is the nicest person?") and shown four people from their school to choose from. All users from a school can appear in the poll; not just those a child is friends with. The app is mainly anonymous - but does offer clues to reveal who selected you for each question.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FAKE ACCOUNTS

There is no verification when signing up to W App. Once someone joins, they can see all users at their school and add them if they wish. Users provide their name, gender, school and grade - but are also able to change these (aside from their name) as often as they like. This concerned our expert: predators could potentially keep attempting to build connections with children at different schools.

PROFILE OVERSHARING

Young people tend to have multiple social media accounts, so it's vital their identity is protected online. By default, W App shares someone's school and grade, while users choose whether to share their full name, photo and other social accounts. Most people appear to select this - making it easier for someone to build up a picture of who they are, what they enjoy and where they go to school.

SPAMMING CONTACTS

The app's activity feed notifies a user when they have been put forward for a poll. They're then given the option to reveal the initials of the person who nominated them, by inviting a friend to join the app. The friend doesn't have to sign up, but they will receive a 'get the app now' text, followed by a link. This process could result in texts being continually sent to a child's contacts.

CATFISHING RISKS

As well as invented fake accounts, users could also sign up and pretend to be someone else from their school. By joining under another person's name (possibly with their photo), they can take part in polls while masquerading as that other person. Some polls hint at an attraction or crush, which - if deliberately misused by imposters - could result in misunderstandings and embarrassment for teens.

SUBSCRIPTION COSTS

W App is free to download and use, but there is also a 'gold membership' package (costing £4.99 per week), available. Subscribing allows users to reveal the names of people who selected them in polls (slightly defeating the point of it being an anonymous app), gives unlimited hints and offers exclusive play modes - all of which may tempt a curious young user into spending their money.

REPEATED USE

Like most other social media platforms, W App wants users to log in regularly. Every time someone completes a set of 12 polls, they earn virtual coins. These can be cashed in for perks such as being included in random polls (so that more users will see them) or adding their name to their crush's poll. This may not seem much of an incentive currently, but that may alter as the app evolves.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS FRIEND REQUESTS

Talk to your child about the risk of sharing their other social accounts, especially on anonymous platforms where there is no verification - so a user could be anyone. If someone they don't normally talk to at school approaches your child via W App and suggests connecting on TikTok, Snapchat or Instagram, emphasise that it's safest to confirm it with that person face to face before accepting or replying.

BE MINDFUL OF REJECTION

The polls in W App are designed to be complimentary rather than negative. However, never being nominated or picked by their peers could leave a child - especially a status-conscious teen - feeling ignored and isolated. If you think that W App is having this effect on your child, it might be time for a supportive reminder that social media doesn't reflect someone's true worth or popularity.

PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

It's crucial that trusted adults regularly remind children about the importance of not sharing too much of their personal information online (and demonstrate it on their own social accounts, where possible). W App automatically displays the user's school on their profile - but if your child does want to use the app, you can advise them to only enter their first name and not to upload an image of their face.

DO SOME 'APP ADMIN'

Before letting your child download W App, you may want to (via their device's settings) disable the option to make in-app purchases (£4.99 per week for the subscription can soon mount up). Likewise, if a friend's use of W App is causing your child to be inundated with texts inviting them to sign up too, you could suggest asking that friend to stop selecting your child's name from their contacts list.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and wellbeing behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/w-app-anonymous-polls/id194385884>; <https://www.slayapp.com/>; <https://techorouch.com/2022/01/18/german-teens-went-obey-for-the-compliments-app-and-how-was-one-bullying-it-into-phase/>

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 16.07.2023

JOIN THE SUMMER CHALLENGE



Diary Date
20th July
Summer Fayre

1.

Visit parents.doodlelearning.com and press Register for the Challenge next to your child's name

The last day to register for and begin the Challenge is the 18th of August

2.

Encourage your child to earn 750 stars (or 600 if they were born on or after 01/09/16) and use Doodle for 14 days before the 31st of August

These 14 days don't need to be in a row. A day of use is defined as completing at least one exercise a day.

3.

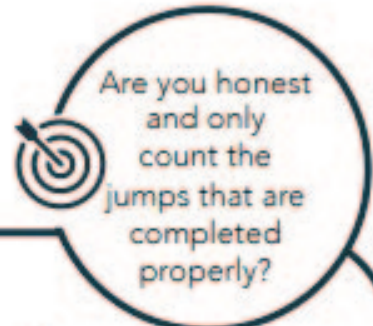
Claim their pin badge + certificate by visiting parents.doodlelearning.com!

The last day to claim their rewards is midnight on the 31st of August.

SPEED BOUNCE CHALLENGE



Speed Bounce 60 Second Challenge



Are you honest and only count the jumps that are completed properly?

How many times can you bounce over a pillow in 60 seconds?

! Both feet must land over the pillow for the jump to count.



Jump over a pillow!
If you do not have a pillow, jump over a safe object!

Set a Record!
The most bounces in lockdown was 99. Can you set a new speed bounce record?

Compete against a family member!
If you touch the pillow you must stop bouncing.

Achieve Gold

70 bounces



Achieve Silver

50 bounces



Achieve Bronze

30 bounces



YOUTH
SPORT
TRUST

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 at:

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

WE WISH YOU ALL A FABULOUS SUMMER HOLIDAY

See you in September

Diary Date

Tuesday
23rd July
Last day of
term 6

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
1,416 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

Designed by Powork: www.powork.co.uk