

news

September 2026



WELCOME BACK

Welcome to the new academic year. I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and found plenty of time to relax, recharge and enjoy time together.

The weather was incredible, giving us lots of opportunities to enjoy the sun, although there were times when the extreme heat certainly tested us!

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WELCOME BACK TO TERM 1

The new term has started incredibly well. It was lovely to see the children return with such enthusiasm and excitement. Their smiles, laughter and eagerness to get started created a stunning start to the year.

Exciting opportunities ensured that fun was had all day, while also giving everyone the chance to settle back into routines, reconnect with friends and begin exploring their new learning.

It has been a pleasure to see the children getting involved and embracing the opportunities around them.

We now look ahead to another busy term full of learning, discovery and shared experiences. There will be plenty to look forward to as we continue working together to support the children's progress and enjoyment of school.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW STARTERS

Our new Reception children started at Polegate School wide-eyed and eager to meet their new friends and teachers

It has been a joy to see them arrive each morning, ready to explore, learn and begin this exciting new chapter together.

All the children have settled so well, and we could not be prouder of each and every one of them. They have been taking new daily challenges in their stride, from learning classroom routines and making new friends to discovering

the many exciting opportunities that school offers. Some of our children are only four years old, yet they have already shown great confidence as they begin their school journey.

Although these children are not the youngest members of our school community, a new group of two-year-olds has also started at our wonderful nursery. They are beginning to explore the new and exciting wonders of Polegate School, supported by our caring staff as they play, learn and grow together.

We wish all our new starters a wonderful year in school. We know that they will thrive as they become familiar with their new surroundings, build strong relationships and enjoy all that Polegate School has to offer.



SEESAW: SHARING CHILDREN'S LEARNING

Seesaw is our children's online learning journal, where pupils enjoy publishing their work and sharing their successes at home. The children thoroughly enjoy using Seesaw to celebrate their learning with their families, and we appreciate your support for this valuable learning platform.

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In line with new school regulations around photographing children, you will only receive photographs of your child on Seesaw. This may limit the number of images that teachers are able to send. We understand that families enjoy seeing photographs of children taking part in their learning, and we will continue to share appropriate images through Seesaw whenever possible.

Thank you for supporting Seesaw and for taking the time to look at, discuss and celebrate your child's learning at home. Your encouragement helps children to feel proud of their work and keen to share their achievements.

SAFE PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL

We would like to remind all our families about the importance of parking safely outside school. Keeping the road clear helps to protect our children, families, staff and crossing patrol attendant, Chris.

Please do not park on the double yellow lines opposite the school. This applies to everyone, including Blue Badge holders. Parking in this area is incredibly dangerous because it can block the road and make it difficult for Chris to see children and approaching traffic. The road needs to be clear, with a clear sightline, so that our crossing patrol can carry out this important role safely.

Please leave plenty of time to drop off and collect your children. Rushing can make busy periods more stressful and may lead to unsafe parking. School staff may ask you to move on if your vehicle is causing an obstruction or creating a risk. We ask that you respond kindly and help us to keep the area safe.

A PLEA FROM LOCAL RESIDENT-

"Both Old School Close and Charles Moore Court are private residential developments, and parking within these areas is intended solely for residents and their authorised visitors. Unfortunately, a significant number of parents are regularly parking within these private areas when collecting or dropping off children at the school.

This has caused considerable inconvenience to residents, including restricted access to homes, limited availability of parking spaces, and concerns regarding safety within the residential areas. One instance whereby parent's had parked on both sides of Old School Close and an ambulance was not able to get through."



Thank you for modelling the expectations that we have for our children. By parking responsibly, being patient and following the instructions of school staff, we can work together to make arrival and collection safer for all our families and children.

I think we would all agree that a safe environment for our families, children and staff are imperative.

WALK, SCOOT, JOG OR SKATE TO SCHOOL!

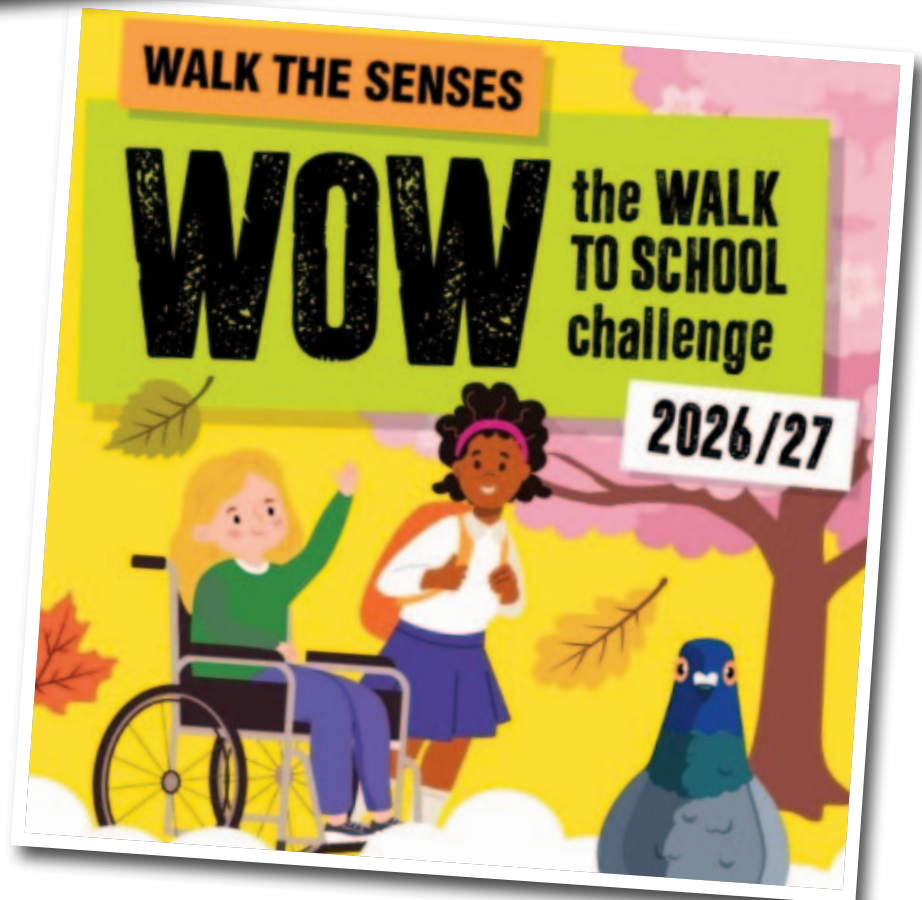
Walking to school is a simple way to ease traffic and help with the ongoing parking issues around school. It also gives children a chance to start the day feeling active, refreshed and ready to learn.

We are inviting families again this year to walk, scoot, jog or skate to school once a week. Whatever the weather, every journey counts, and small changes can make a real difference. Living by the Cuckoo Trail offers the perfect opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors on the way to school.

Why not choose one day each week to leave the car at home and travel actively together? Children can enjoy time outdoors, families can spend time together, and our school community can work towards reducing congestion near the school gates.

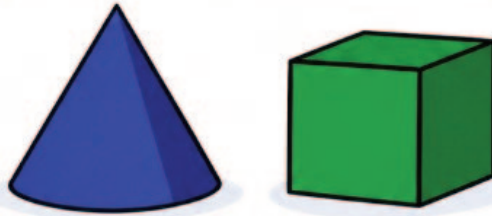
There are 11 badges to collect across the 2026/27 academic year, each one thoughtfully designed by a primary school-aged winning entrant to the annual WOW badge design competition.

WOW 2026/27 challenges children to WALK THE SENSES, encouraging pupils to think about what they can see, hear, smell, taste or feel on the way to school. There are a selection of badges ranging from **SCOOTERS** to **SUNFLOWERS** up for grabs.



MATHS CHALLENGE

Maths Challenge



- The mass of the shapes in the first image is 56 g.
- The mass of the shapes in the second image is 72 g.
- The cones have the same mass.

What is the mass of the cube?

JUNIOR 1 MILE RACE

Families may be interested in the Junior 1 Mile Race, organised by Eastbourne Runs, taking place on **Sunday 27 September.**

The event is open to **children aged 4 to 14 years**, and there is also a **5K** race available for parents and older siblings on the same day.

This year's event will support the **STXBPI community**, with proceeds contributing towards future research and support initiatives.

**Click here
for further
information and
entry details**

AUTHOR VISIT



Author Event

Event: Lindsay Galvin, Cleopatra's Amulet
Date Monday 5th October
Time 9.30am



We are really excited to be welcoming author Lindsay Galvin who will be inspiring us with a fantastic assembly-style event to celebrate her fantastic new book, Cleopatra's Amulet.

We will learn fascinating details about being a young person in Ancient Egypt, Lindsay's writing process and tips, all interspersed with quick fire quiz questions. The event includes some very cool props, including cat mummies, the Egyptian game of Senet, and the opportunity to dress up as the God of Death and participate in a burial ritual.

Make sure you have your questions at the ready as there will be a Q&A at the end followed by a signing.

Bags of Books will be there on the day selling all Lindsay's books at discounted prices

cash and card accepted on the day or pre-pay by
4pm Saturday 3rd October via the QR code



Name Class.....

Cleopatra's Amulet - £7

☐

My Friend the Octopus - £7

☐

Call of the Titanic - £7

☐

The Great Phoenix of London - £7

☐

Darwin's Dragons -£7.50

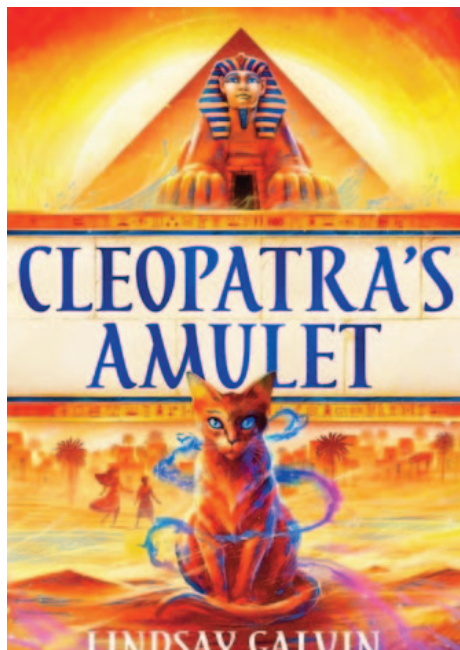
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AUTHOR VISIT

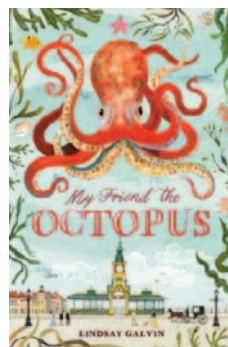
Lindsay Galvin Author Event Monday 5th October

Cleopatra's Amulet

Join Lindsay (and her mummified cats) with the exiled young Cleopatra — Princess of Cats — on her thrilling journey along the crocodile infested Nile and both up and underneath the Pyramids



Bags of Books will be selling books on the day or you can purchase in advance via their website



bags-of-books.co.uk/lindsaygalvin-author-event/

A DELICIOUS START WITH ACCENT

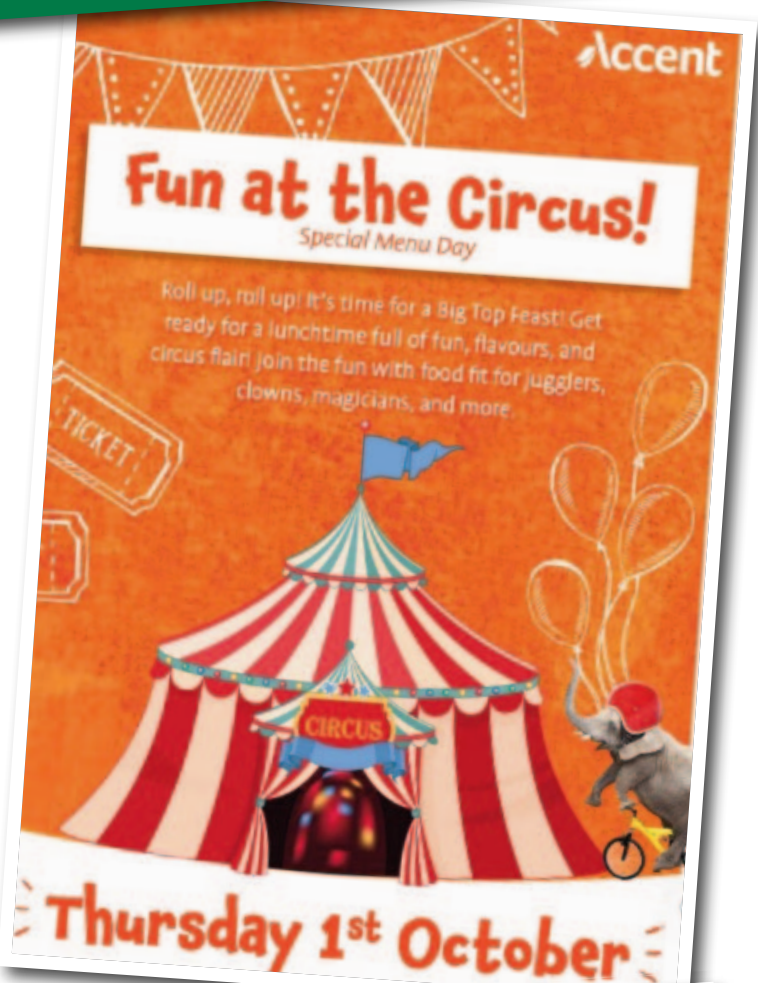
Our new catering team, Accent, have started with us, and feedback from the children has been very positive. The new lunch menu has already created plenty of excitement, with children enjoying a range of fresh and healthy choices.

One Reception child told his mummy, "We had to go to a restaurant. It was delicious!"

A Year 3 child tucked into the healthy salad bar, he asked me, "Is it going to be like this every day?" "Yes," I said, as he raced off cheering to share with his friends.

It has been lovely to see the children exploring the new menu and talking so enthusiastically about their lunchtime meals. We are pleased that the healthy salad bar has been such a popular choice and look forward to seeing even more children enjoying it.

If your child has not tried the new lunch menu, then look out for the census day, Thursday 1st October when all children can eat for free.



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Polegate School recognises that positive behaviour and good attendance are essential in order for pupils to get the most from their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing and wider life chances.

Punctuality Matters!

As we continue to support our children's education, it is crucial to highlight the importance of punctuality

Frequent lateness can significantly impact your child's mental health, learning ability, concentration, and social interactions. Children who arrive late are at a considerable disadvantage when compared to their peers who consistently arrive on time. By arriving punctually, children are able to settle into their classes efficiently and engage more fully with the day's activities.

Punctuality is not merely a matter of routine; it fosters a positive learning environment. Late arrivals can disrupt the class and may cause embarrassment for the child who is late. Additionally, children miss essential information during the registration period, including any updates or the plan for the day. We must work together to ensure that our children recognise the value of arriving on time.

To assist you in ensuring punctuality, please be aware of the following timings:

Gates for Key Stage 2 open at 8:15 AM, while those for Key Stage 1 open at 8:25 AM. Registers are taken promptly at 8:30 AM for Key Stage 2 and at 8:40 AM for Key Stage 1.

We understand that school mornings can be hectic; however, it is imperative to note that being just 15 minutes late each day equates to missing two weeks of school over the academic year. Let us work collaboratively to instil the value of punctuality in our children's lives.

Term Time Holiday Absence

Regular school attendance is imperative to ensure that all students receive the full benefits of their education. The Department for Education (DfE) emphasises that every child should attend school for at least 95% of the time, as consistent attendance is crucial for academic success and personal development. When students miss

school, even for a short period, it can significantly disrupt their learning experience and hinder their progress.

It is essential to note that taking holidays during term time can have serious repercussions. Parents should be aware that any absence not deemed exceptional will result in a fine, imposed by the local authority. Such measures are in place to underscore the importance of regular attendance and to support a culture of learning within our schools.

We understand that family commitments and holiday plans can affect attendance, but we urge parents to consider the long-term educational impacts of term-time absences. By prioritising attendance, we can collectively ensure that every child is given the opportunity to succeed, thereby enhancing their future prospects. We thank parents for their continued support in upholding these standards, and we look forward to working together to foster an environment where every child can thrive.

LATEST ATTENDANCE FIGURES

RJ =	2D = 96%	4H = 95.7%	6D = 95.8%
RKH =	2H = 94.3%	4K = 95.1%	6L = 92.1%
RS =	2S = 94%	4R = 95.8%	6W = 94.8%
1C = 96.6%	3B = 98.4%	5K = 94.3%	
1M = 96.6%	3L = 98.2%	5M = 97.5%	
1RS = 95.8%	3M = 97.8%	5W = 95.7%	

MARIO & LUIGI MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!

Our school 'Therapigs', Mario and Luigi, have already been making a wonderful positive impact on our school community this term.

The friendly pair have become much-loved members of Mrs Hibberd's nurture groups, where pupils have enjoyed helping to feed, clean and care for them. Spending time with Mario and Luigi has encouraged children to develop important skills such as responsibility, kindness and teamwork.

The guinea pigs have also provided plenty of opportunities for cuddles and quiet moments, helping pupils to feel calm, happy and confident. Many children look forward to spending time with Mario and Luigi and take great pride in looking after them.

We are very proud of the care and commitment shown by our pupils, and we know that Mario and Luigi will continue to bring smiles to faces across our school community.



DIARY DATES

25th September 9am
6D Class Assembly

2nd October 9am
5M Class Assembly

5th October
Year 6 NHS NCMP Screening

5th October KS2
Lindsay Galvin Author Visit

6th October
PFA Second Hand Uniform Sale

6th October
Individual School Photos

9th October
4H Class Assembly

9th October
Flu Vaccinations

15th October
Reading Tea Party

20th October
Parents Consultations

22nd October
PFA Disco

23rd October
Last Day of Term 1

26th – 30th October
Half-term Holiday

2nd November
Term 2 starts

5th November
Parents Consultations

11th November
New to Reception Parents Meeting @9am

12th November
New to Reception Parents Meeting @2pm

12th November
New to Reception Parents Meeting @5:30pm

13th November
3L Class Assembly

20th November
2H Class Assembly

20th November
Winter Extravaganza/
Fireworks

27th November
1M Class Assembly

EASTBOURNE LITFEST



Eastbourne LitFest



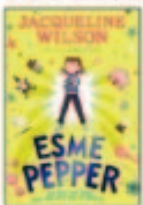
Children's & Young People's Events

Friday 25 September



A.F. Harrold – A wildly entertaining live performance, with at least one beard guaranteed.

Saturday 26 September



Dame Jacqueline Wilson – An incredibly special interview as a true national treasure brings us her new book, *Esme Pepper*



Jenny McLachlan – An inspiring journey to *The Land of Roar* filled with magic and dragons



YA Panel – Dean Atta, Sarah Crosson, Tia Fisher and Louisa Reid on why verse novels tell such powerful stories

Sunday 27 September



Lucy Ann Unwin and Professor Caswell Barry – An interactive adventure *Inside Your Brain*



Lucy Strange – Get your detective notebooks ready, because it's time for *Murder on a Midsummer Night!*



Visit eastbournelitfest.org for the full line-up, including creative workshops for all ages and dozens of events for grown-ups!



EAST
SUSSEX
COLLEGE

OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

We are delighted to share the latest news from Polegate School. To keep up to date with events, celebrations and important reminders, please join Polegate School Facebook page.

It is a wonderful way to stay connected, see what our pupils are enjoying, and share in our school community.

This platform is designed to keep you informed and engaged with all the exciting events, achievements, and learning experiences our students encounter.

At Polegate School, we believe in celebrating success, and our Facebook page is a fantastic way to highlight the incredible accomplishments of our students and staff.

Whether it's showcasing a school project, sharing photos from a recent trip, or announcing awards and recognitions, we want to ensure that our community feels proud of the achievements that reflect our school ethos of learning without limits.

Follow the link below to join this is exciting platform:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/17Lz9SGmXJ/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



PFA DATES

29th September
PFA EGM meeting 7pm

6th October 2026
Second hand uniform sale

20th November
Winter Extravaganza
(Fireworks)

23rd February 2027
PFA meeting (time tbc)

2-3rd March 2027
Mothers Day/Gifts for
loved ones Gifts

1st June 2027
PFA meeting (Time tbc)

4th June 2027
Freeze Pop Fridays start
(Weather permitting)

15th and 16th June 2027
Fathers Day/Gifts for loved
ones Gifts

17th July 2027
Summer Fair

Diary Dates

6th October
Individual
School Photos

Archive



You can read all the previous newsletters on our website.

Facebook

Be the first to
hear the latest
news. Follow us on
Facebook. We have
479 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