



NEWS

November 2022



A proud moment for Will and Alaya representing Polegate School at the Polegate Memorial remembrance service.

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WHAT A START TO TERM 2!

There is so much to share after only a few short weeks back at school. As always the children have taken new learning and experiences in their stride. Marvellous middles, trips, detectives... I could go on.

As always we have had the opportunity to host many visitors here at school. The children share their school with pride always demonstrating the school 3Rs Ready, Responsible and Respectful. I have the pleasure of hearing

the amazing feedback from visitors, here are just a few of the kind messages that we receive – “Thank you so much for the day, the children are just amazing!” “We have been amazed with the level of commitment and belonging that the children demonstrated today” “Every child I came across opened doors for me, smiled and spoke confidently.”

I am sure as we move towards Christmas this term will bring more special moments to share and celebrate.

COMPETITION TIME

We love a little competition here at Polegate! Can we win the TT Rock Stars competition?



ENGLAND ROCKS

Start Date: Monday 14th November
End Date: Wednesday 16th November
Daily open times: 7.30am - 7pm

Your school is now enrolled in this competition, good luck!

YEAR 5 & 6 DE LA WARR VISIT

A group of year 5 and 6 children visited the De La Warr Pavilion recently viewing exhibitions and meeting local artists. Next term the children will continue this work with artist Christina Peake developing their own art. We look forward to sharing the outcomes with you.



YEAR 5 MARVELLOUS MIDDLE!

Year 5 travelled back in time and became Sherlock and Watson for the day!

We uncovered clues and studied finger prints which we've then used for our literacy unit of work to solve the mystery of the speckled band! Crime scenes have been studied and final reports written!

"My name is Sherlock Holmes. It is my business to know what other people don't know".



WONDERFUL EXPERIENCES IN NURSERY

Our youngest children would like to share some their rich learning experiences. The children have settled incredibly well into term 2 and are engrossed new learning.

Investigative Play - Potions Predicting, comparing, explaining, collaborating



OUR HEAD BOY & GIRL

The Head boy and girl recently had to share their time at Polegate School with an audience of prospective parents. They did so with confidence and pride.

My name's Will and this is Polegate School.

In all honesty, being here has been an entertaining experience for me since I've enjoyed every lesson for the 7 years of being a student here! By being in this school, I've grown in confidence in so many ways. For example, when I first had a class assembly my body was filled to the brim with nervousness however, now, in year 6, I have grown in confidence to the point where I can speak aloud and remember every line without pausing or stuttering mid-sentence. Also, in the interview for becoming Head Boy I spoke confidently and thought on the spot. Whilst, if I did that when I was younger, I would lose my process of thought and I would stutter helplessly and lose my confidence. Over the years though, this has obviously completely changed, especially as in our school we are encouraged to share our ideas, respect each other's views and find value in talking and learning together.

Not to alarm you, but my first day at school I was crying with devastation because I missed my parents and I didn't want to stay alone, by myself in a place I didn't even know so I was sitting on the floor alone and my teacher (who is now the acting head teacher, Mrs Jones) had to comfort me in the classroom. I finally managed to calm down and it turned out to be an amazing day. That's what our teachers and teaching assistants are like here, they always try to help and they really understand us. In the present, I always feel

enthusiastic and ready (even though that's generally just me as a person) but also because I just love learning here.

In the school years of me being here, I have enjoyed the learning that we do, the duties I have to do, the school trips we do - not just in class but extra opportunities too. For example, recently I was selected to attend an exhibition at the De La Warr Pavillion and will be part of a group working with the actual artist. The clubs that I've experienced have been fantastic from a scholarship club that let me experience working with a university tutor, to Breakfast Club and After School Club which let me continue to thrive.

The academic targets that I have set myself over the years have been: to write faster, get a pen licence at least once, become Head Boy, become a School Counsellor and get better at art. Out of those academic targets, I have achieved every single one. Something that makes Polegate School special is that it has it's own way of helping others with their needs and helps them achieve their absolute best. We are our best selves here. "Learning Without Limits," is not just a motto of the school, it isn't just there to say they are actually doing it, it's what everyone in the school believes, it's something that's a true fact about this school. Even the children of Polegate School believe this because it's not a motto that's lying to them, it's something inspires us, that's true about this amazing school and everything that we experience.

I am Alaya and welcome to Polegate School. I am currently head girl at this amazing school.

I love Polegate as I find it a fun and interesting place to learn, and lessons are exciting with so much to explore. Through the years I have become more confident in myself and developed more friends, not just in my class and year group, but becoming familiar with children across the school from the clubs I attend and my role as Head Girl.

I feel like Polegate has become a true part of me - it's almost like a second home! It is not only an educational place to go and learn from, but a fun one that makes our learning really special. We have so many extra activities that take us out of the classroom experience, such as

clubs, forest school, PE and my favourite, swimming! Having our own swimming pool is definitely a highlight!

I have participated in several school events over the years like performing in class assemblies, joining the choir so that I could get the opportunity to sing at the O2, and even performing at the Congress Theatre as part of our whole school shows!

At our school, we always have lots of support but we are also challenged to have our own goals and targets that we set ourselves. One of my goals was to try my best to get a pen license and with the help of the teachers I achieved my goal.

BEDTIME READS

There is nothing better than snuggling up with a book at bedtime. I can remember clearly how comforting this experience was as a child. Reading lies at the heart of the curriculum at Polegate and we whole heartedly believe that all children should develop a 'love' of reading. Research (Reading Education) identifies 11 reasons to read a bedtime story with your child.

#1 It's The Perfect Time To Bond

Research has shown that over 60% of parents feel that reading a bedtime story to or with their child brings them closer together. Tucking your child into bed, snuggling them up under the duvet with their favourite teddies, and reading to them a story of their choice is the perfect way to bond and make memories.

#2 It Boosts Your Child's Reading Ability

It's easy to assume that just because you're doing the reading means that your child isn't learning; however, this isn't actually the case. You'd be surprised how much children absorb when you're reading to them – even at bedtime when they're tired.

#3 It Helps Your Child To Use Their Imagination

Monsters, fairies, unicorns, mythical creatures, wizards, witches... children's books open up exciting new worlds to children, and reading a bedtime story will give your child the opportunity to visit places they'd have never even dreamt of. Books really do help to teach your children about the world while simultaneously opening their mind and imagination.

#4 It Instigates Conversation and Discussion

Reading a bedtime story to your child doesn't just involve the words of the page. No matter what you read, your little one will be sure to ask questions and to explain things they don't understand. Given the naturally inquisitive and curious of children, it's inevitable that they'll want to know everything, so reading bedtimes stories will no doubt turn into a discussion on what you're reading!

#5 It Broadens Your Child's Vocabulary

Here's a little fun fact for you: Children need to hear a word as

many as 12 times before they begin to use it themselves. This is why it is so crucial to read to your child on a regular basis. Reading a bedtime story each and every night is a perfect way to do this.

#6 It Develops Their Emotional Intelligence

Books are a great tool to teach little people how to deal with big feelings and emotions, and a bedtime story can help to broach difficult situations and topics. Reading helps children to understand that they're not alone and that lots of other people have come up against the same problems and felt similar feelings.

#7 It Promotes Independent Reading

Contrary to popular belief, regularly reading to your child will not make them 'lazy' and decrease their desire to read. Research has shown that children are far more likely to pick up a book and read independently if their reading experience is enjoyable; therefore, making bedtime storytime as enjoyable as possible is a fantastic way to promote indecent reading.

#8 It Positively Impacts Mental Wellbeing

As we make our way into 2021, it's evident that the mental health crisis amongst children is greater than it has ever been; something that has been well documented in the press and across all forms of media. Even children in primary school are suffering from exam-induced stress and anxiety. According to research, there is a correlation between reading and mental wellbeing.

#9 It Helps Parent and Child To Relax

At the end of a hectic day, storytime before bed is a perfect way to leave a busy, stressful day behind, and help you and your child unwind and relax.

#10 It's Beneficial for Children Who Can Already Read By Themselves

Sure, it's tempting to drop bedtimes stories once your child is able to read by themselves, but did you know there are a myriad of benefits by carrying it on? Once a child is able to read, it is critical that they stay engaged with reading material that interests them, which can often be books that are slightly above their reading level. Therefore, to give them access to such books, it might be necessary for you to read more advanced books to them.

Explaining the Value of Reading Stories at Bedtime: A Summary

Bedtime stories are one of those parenting traditions that have endured through generation after generation, and will no doubt continue for many generations to come. Many of us, myself included, have so many fond memories of our parents reading to us before and now we do the same for our little ones. But they are far more than just tradition. Bedtimes stories can play a hugely significant role in the development of your child, helping them to improve their grasp of the English language – something that is absolutely vital for development across all aspects of learning. In short, bedtime stories are special...but for more than one reason.



YEAR 3 MARVELLOUS MIDDLE

Year 3 stepped back in time for their Marvellous Middle last week.

Our Nomads went off to create shelters and start fires using flints, they worked on team building to create their shelters and resilience whilst trying to create a fire of their own. They independently went off foraging in search of natural objects associated with the time of year and locating items they could use to create spears and axes. Our Nomads spent some time creating fossil biscuits, imprinting them with animal skeletons. They made clay bead necklaces creating Saber-Tooth Tiger fangs, knuckle bones and animal bones. They worked independently creating cave paintings, using water colours to create their cave markings.



READING HEROES

We are very lucky to have a number of volunteers that support 1:1 reading.

This offers another avenue for quality reading time and supports individual children develop an understanding and love of reading.

If you have a spare hour or two and would like to join our dedicated team of 'Reading Heroes', please contact Mrs Barnard.
s.barnard@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

Shout out to RB

All children reading daily!

Miss Budd is very impressed. Please keep this up. The children are developing a real love of reading.

SUMMER LIBRARY CHALLENGE

The much anticipated certificates arrived and were awarded in assembly.

It is wonderful to see how excited the children were to finally receive these. We feel so proud of the children, who are such avid readers!

Alana was the lucky winner of the Gadgeteens Summer Reading Challenge. We hope that you thoroughly enjoy all your new gadgets Alana!



ATTENDANCE

We strongly believe in tackling attendance early before it causes longer term problems for your child and there are many reasons why we address this from the very start of the year.

Pupils who missed 2 to 4 days in September were 5 times more likely than those who missed fewer than 2 days to be chronically absent for the year. Half the pupils who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.

This is a significant amount of time. We firstly aim to support. Please share with us any difficulties you face as a family- we want to help!

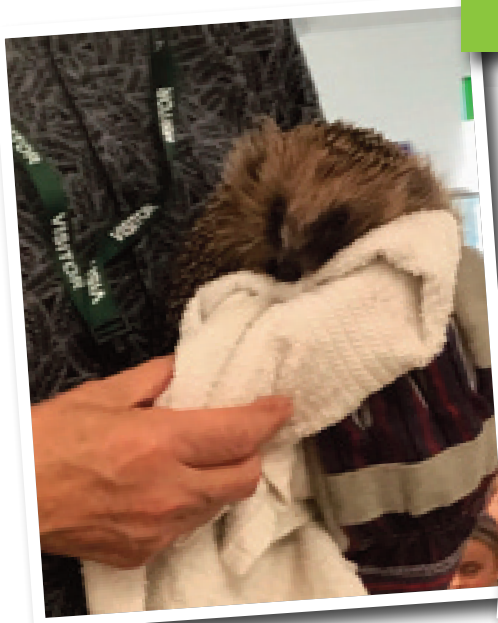
If attendance is causing a concern you will be invited in for a meeting to discuss the reasons behind it and offer support.

Higher attendance clearly equates with success and higher earnings later in life. This may seem obvious but if you were in any doubt attendance is the building block of pupil achievement. The bottom line is that if they are not in school then they are not learning.

RH	96.2 %	2S	96.9%	4H	97.2%
RG	93.8%	2C	97.5%	5M	96.9%
RB	97.1%	3L	94.3%	5K	95%
1B	94.6%	3T	97.8%	5T	97.5%
1S	97%	3GJ	95.2%	6M	97 %
1G	97.7%	4JD	93.1%	6MU	97%
2R	97.8%	4AD	96.9%	6W	96%

YEAR 1 & 2 HEDGEHOGS

Two hedgehogs named Henry and Harry (and a keeper named Graham!) visited Year 1 and 2 on Wednesday 9th November.



BOOK FAIR



Dear parents, carers and grandparents, Celebrate reading at our Book Fair!

The Scholastic Book Fair has arrived in school, with hundreds of new children's books to browse and buy... perhaps an opportunity for some Christmas shopping too!

Come and join us!

WHEN: Tuesday 15th November – Thursday 17th November 2022

WHERE: Polegate School - Small Hall

TIMINGS: 8:00 – 8:15am and 3:05 – 3:25pm

There are over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from only £2.99, there's sure to be a book for everyone.

Remember – you can pay by cash or card!

Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get FREE BOOKS for our school!

Miss Howland and the Year 5/6 Team Book Fair Organisers



DIARY DATES

15-17th November
Scholastic Book Fair

15th – 21st November Mini
First Aid

17th November
Second Hand
Uniform Sale, PFA

18th November
Year 6 Poetry & Poppies
Drama Workshop

18th November
2C Assembly

25th November
5T Assembly

25th November
Influenza Nasal Spray

25th November
Winter Extravaganza,
Fireworks

29th November
Year 5 The Hobgoblin
Theatre – Victorian
Workshop

1st December
Wreath Making, PFA

6th December
Reception Nativity 10am,
performance for parents

7th December
Reception Nativity 10am,
performance for parents

14th December
Year 4 Viking Day

16th December
Staff Panto

16th December
Christmas Dinner

BOOK FAIR

 SCHOLASTIC

ONLINE PAYMENT AT YOUR BOOK FAIR

WHETHER YOU'RE ATTENDING THE BOOK FAIR IN PERSON OR ORDERING FROM HOME, YOU CAN NOW PAY FOR YOUR BOOKS SECURELY ONLINE



Once you've selected your books, simply scan the QR code on the right or visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay and enter your school's name or postcode. Then, follow the instructions below based on where you're making your payment.

OPTION 1

I AM ATTENDING THE BOOK FAIR IN PERSON AND WOULD LIKE TO PAY AT THE FAIR

On the Scholastic website, select 'I am paying at the Book Fair'. Enter your details, along with the total amount you are paying for your books. Once payment is complete, show your payment reference and the books you are purchasing to your Book Fair Organiser. Then, take your brand new books home!



OPTION 2

MY CHILD HAS ATTENDED THE BOOK FAIR AND ADDED BOOKS TO THEIR WISH LIST. I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE SOME/ALL OF THESE BOOKS

On the Scholastic website, select 'I am paying for books from a Wish List'. Enter your details, along with the total amount you are paying for your books. Once payment is complete, forward your payment reference and details of the books you have purchased to your Book Fair Organiser at school. They will arrange getting your brand new books to you!

NAME:	CLASS:

Information for Parents and Guardians

Pay Method:
This bookfair is available on all days

OPTION 3

I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND THE BOOK FAIR, BUT WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE BOOKS FROM THE BOOK FAIR INVITATION

On the Scholastic website, select 'I am unable to attend the Book Fair'. Type in the title of each book you'd like to purchase from the Book Fair Invitation and click 'Add'. Once you have finished adding your chosen books, click 'Confirm & pay' and enter your details. Once payment is received your books will be sent to the school for you to collect.*

*only titles listed on the Invitation can be purchased using this option.



To find the payment page on the Book Fair website, simply scan the QR code or visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay
If you're unsure of which payment method to use, please speak to your Book Fair Organiser or visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents

YEAR 1 SCIENCE CENTRE TRIP

Year 1 had a fantastic time at Herstmonceux Science Centre!

We explored the hands-on science, enjoyed looking at the huge telescope, exploring the discovery park and watching an amazing Science show at the end of the day. The children represented Polegate fantastically!



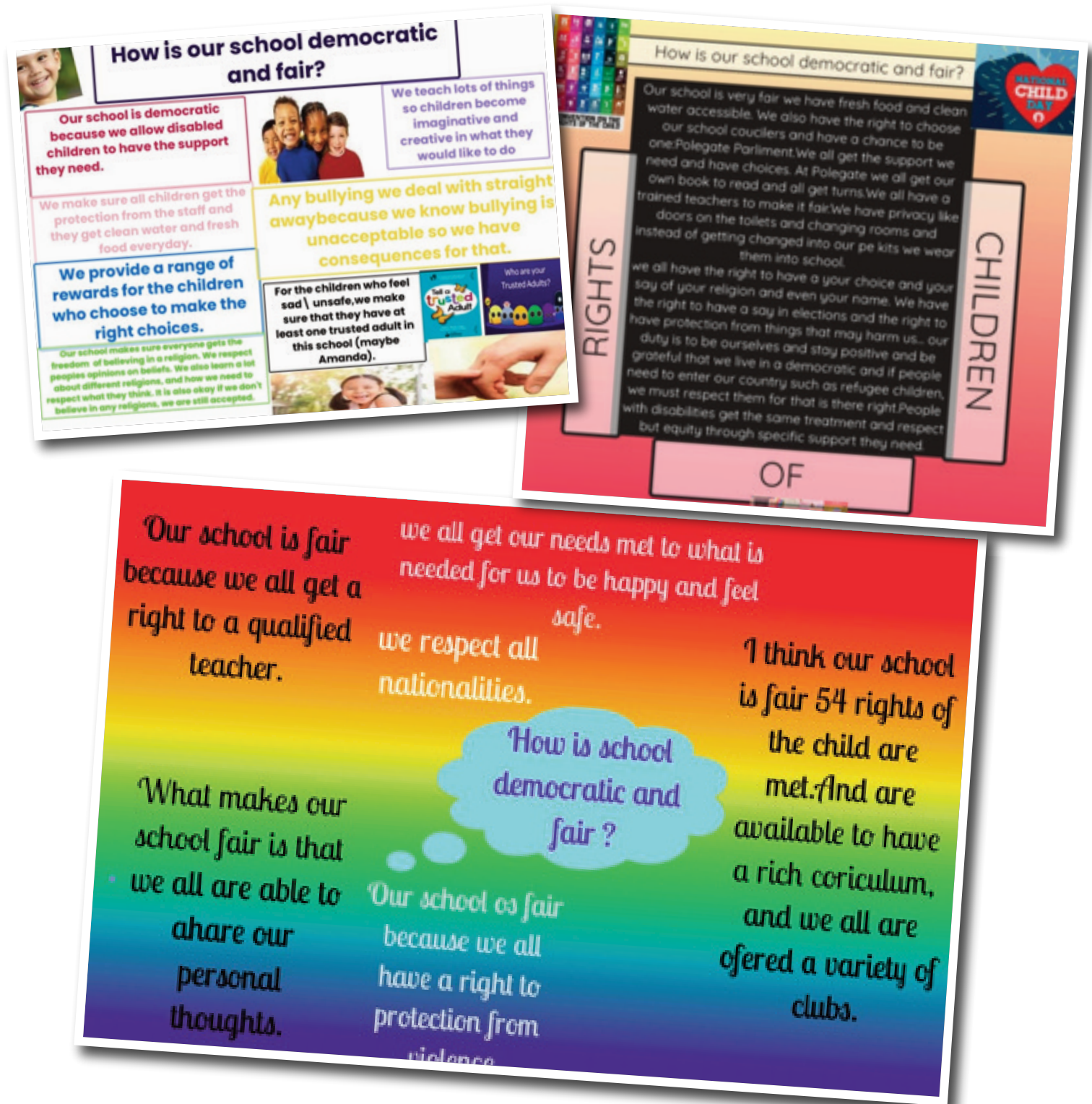
TO INFINITY AND BEYOND!

YEAR 6 UNDERSTANDING DEMOCRACY

Children in year 6 demonstrated their understanding of democracy.

"How is our school democratic and fair?"

It was really encouraging to see such a range of responses, including links to a range of different subjects.



PFA EVENTS

REMEMBER TO PURCHASE TICKETS FOR THIS VERY POPULAR EVENT



WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA

Friday 25 November 2022

5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

TICKETS ONLY AVAILABLE ONLINE

WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/POLEGATESCHOOLPFA

Adults: £6 | Children (4-16 years): £4

Family Ticket (2 Adults & 2 Children): £18

Under 4's FREE

Including:

Fireworks Display
by Frontier Fireworks at 6.30 pm

Stix, games, crafts

Shopping village

Food & Drink Stalls

Fairground Rides

+ Much More...

Charity No: 117773

NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY

This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 Top Tips for Respect Online: A DIGITAL WORLD FOR EVERYONE

Even before lockdowns inflamed the situation, one in every five 10- to 15-year-olds was experiencing bullying online: abusive messages, having rumours spread about them or being excluded from group chats, for example. Through smartphones and tablets, we're used to being able to communicate from anywhere, at any time – but digital devices became commonplace so quickly that it caused a problem: as a society, we haven't properly adjusted to how different they've made life. Our tips can help you to build positive relationships online and avoid some of the potential issues.

WHAT IS NETIQUETTE?

Etiquette is a set of rules to help us interact with others: like a code of respect. People follow this code every day (mostly without even thinking about it) and it can help us decide how to act in certain situations. 'Netiquette' (etiquette on the net – we see what they did there!) is the same, except it's designed to help us interact with others online, which is sometimes a whole different ball game.

1 SEE THE OTHER SIDE

Usually when we're online, we can't use the other person's body language or tone of voice to give us clues about what we can say to them, or how to say it. Try to think what the situation might be like for them, how they're feeling and whether we'd say the same thing if they were actually there with us.

2 HIT THE PAUSE BUTTON

Without a person physically there in front of us, it's easy to send something quickly – before we've really thought about whether it's helpful or kind. Just because we can do things quickly doesn't mean we should; it's better to pause for a second and think it through, instead of simply reacting.

3 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

People have invented loads of different ways to communicate online (emojis, abbreviations like LOL, TBH and so on). Some of these can be triggering to other people (such as USING CAPS SO IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE SHOUTING!), so it's important to stay aware of the style of language you're using.

4 BE SURE BEFORE YOU POST

On social networks like Instagram or Facebook, vast numbers of people might see what you've posted. So if that's something negative about a person, it can feel hugely painful for them. If you're ever tempted to post something like that, ask yourself "do I really need to go public with this?"

5 PROTECT YOURSELF

Always think very carefully before sharing any personal information with someone else or in a group. Once something's been put online, the sender loses any control over where it goes and who might see it. If you've got any uncertainty at all, it's a good idea to talk to a trusted adult about this first.

6 KINDNESS IS CATCHING

Negative communication can spread rapidly online, but so can being kind and helpful (this happened quite a lot during lockdowns, for instance). A friendly, positive message can make a big difference to someone as well as helping us feel good about ourselves – so share the love!

7 WAITING CAN BE HARD

When we've sent a message or posted something online, waiting for a reply or for someone to respond can make us anxious. It could be helpful to think whether you really have to message or post right now – or if you could wait until a better time when it will cause you less anxiety.

8 THE NET LOVES ATTENTION

Most apps, games and sites use sophisticated technology that's designed to keep us coming back for more. It's important to keep this in mind when you feel the need to reach for your phone, tablet or console – once we understand this fact, it becomes easier to control how we use our digital devices.

9 REPLY WISELY

Sometimes it's tempting to fire back an instant response to a post or message we don't like. How we respond is important, however – whether we reply privately to the person or on a platform where lots of people will see it, for example, makes a big difference to how whoever is receiving the message will deal with it.

10 FORGIVE AND FORGET

Even though we try to avoid them, mistakes can – and do – happen online. They can sometimes feel like a bigger deal than they actually are. It's important to remember that we're all only human, and sometimes we mess up. Learn to forgive others and – just as importantly – to forgive yourself.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who, through her research, specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with businesses and organisations to support positive and effective communication online, often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the mediums.



Sources: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/young-people-are-being-bullied-online> | https://www.researchgate.net/publication/3463443_The_Online_Deindividuation_Effect



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.02.2022



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.co.uk

The year 6 children represented Polegate with pride at the Remembrance Service meeting Maria Caulfield.



Diary Date

Friday 25th Nov
Winter
Extravaganza
& Fireworks

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
1,333 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