

news

June 2026



WELCOME TO TERM 6

Welcome to Term 6, an exciting term ahead! We have already started with a spectacular Art exhibition, celebrating the creativity, imagination and hard work of our children. It was wonderful to see so many fantastic pieces on display, we were incredibly proud of the effort shown across the school.

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This term also brings an important transition event for all children. They will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher and visit their new classroom, helping them to feel confident, settled and ready for the next step in their learning.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to sharing a term full of learning, celebration and memorable experiences together.

STAFFING STRUCTURE FOR 2026-2027

And so the moment you all eagerly await! I can now announce the teachers for next year.

You will notice a few new names on my team sheet, alongside some familiar faces who will be continuing in their roles. I am delighted to share this new staffing structure for academic year 2026–2027, and I know you will join me in giving a very warm welcome to those who are new to the team.

A staffing update like this always brings a mix of excitement and preparation. While change can take a little getting used

to, it also brings fresh energy, new ideas, and opportunities for our pupils to benefit from a wide range of experience and expertise. We are confident that this team will continue to support our children brilliantly in the year ahead.

Miss Tennant and Miss Davies are sadly moving on to further their teaching experience. We wish them all the luck and know that they will continue their journey successfully. Miss Saunders is returning after maternity we cannot wait to welcome her back. Also joining the team- Mr Wood, Miss Rolfe and Mr Spencer.

NEW	CURRENT TEACHER	EMAIL
Nursery	Sharon Trent	E: s.trent@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
RS	Mrs Stracey	E: s.stracey@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
RJ	Mrs Jones	E: t.jones@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
RKH	Mrs Kavanagh (Monday to Wednesday) Miss Hopkinson (Thursday Friday)	E: g.kavanagh@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk m.hopkinson@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
1M	RS Miss Marsh Mrs Chadwick (Friday)	E: c.marsh@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
1RS	RJ Miss Rawlinson Miss Saunders	E: j.rawlinson@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk E: l.saunders@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
1C	RKH Miss Craig	E: m.craig@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
2D	1M Miss Durbidge - Leader of Learning Y1&2	E: a.durbidge@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
2H	1L Miss Howland	E: g.howland@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
2S	1RH Mr Spencer	E: c.spencer@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
3L	2H Miss Liddell	E: a.liddell@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
3M	2D Mrs Middleton	E: p.middleton@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
3B	2B Mrs Barden Leader of Learning Y3&4 Miss Saunders (Wednesday)	E: s.barden@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk E: l.saunders@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
4K	3C Miss Kenny	E: p.kenny@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
4R	3B Miss Rolfe	E: s.rolfe@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
4H	3H Miss Hackett	E: e.hackett@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
5W	4D Mr Woods	E: j.wood@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
5M	4H Mrs Murphy	E: e.murphy@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
5K	4T Miss Keith	E: e.keith@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
6L	5D Mrs Logan	E: r.logan@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
6W	5K Mrs Weyland	E: m.veyland@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
6D	5EK Ms Davies	E: n.davies@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

Mrs Barnard will be Leader of learning for Y5 and 6

MEET OUR NEW TEACHERS



Miss Serena Rolfe

Hello everyone! I am Miss Rolfe and I am so excited to be joining the Polegate team this year! I have been teaching for 3 years now and it truly is my favourite thing to do.

My classroom is a place where we love to have fun and laugh while we learn! When I am not at school, you will usually find me zooming around on my rollerskates, catching a movie at the cinema, cooking something delicious or reading a book with a cup of tea. I'm really looking forward to a fantastic year ahead at Polegate School!



Mr Charlie Spencer

Hi everyone! I am Mr Spencer, and I cannot wait to start teaching here in September! I have just finished my third and final year at the University of Chichester, and this will be my first teaching position, in which I am very excited for!

A few things that you might want to know about me is that I love playing sports, being with my friends and family and being happy and helpful. I look forward to meeting all of you soon :)



Mr Jack Wood

Hi everyone! My name is Mr Wood and I am incredibly excited to be joining the Polegate School community in September.

I started my teaching career in 2024 and come from a Secondary Phase PE and Maths background.

I fell in love with having a positive impact on the academic and character growth of young people during my role managing Year 6 to

Year 7 transition and have spent lots of time in Primary Schools!

I do not keep it hidden that I am a massive fan of Brighton and Hove Albion, following the club at the Amex every week! As well the Albion Seagulls, I enjoy watching our local wildlife- my favourite bird is a Puffin! I can't wait to inspire a future generation of polite, motivated, resilient learners and be a role model to all of you.

MOVING ON

Transition day this year will be held on Friday 16th July.

All children from year reception to year 5 will visit their new classroom and meet their new teacher. Drop off and collection points for this day will remain the same.

Drop in and say hello!

On Thursday 16th July between 3.15-4.00 families along with their children will have an opportunity to visit their child's new classroom and teacher.

TOGETHER WE SHINE: ART GALLERY SUCCESS

Our school was filled with colour and creativity for our wonderful Art Gallery afternoon.

Incredible artwork was displayed across the school, showcasing the talents of children from Nursery to Year 6. Parents and families enjoyed exploring the gallery and celebrating the amazing efforts of our young artists. The theme, Together We Shine, was wonderfully reflected in every piece. Inspired by Marilyn Monroe's quote, "We are all of us stars, and we deserve to twinkle," the event reminded us that every child has unique brilliance to share.



HI EVERYONE! IT'S ME BRUNO!



I'm pleased to say that I have settled into life at Polegate wonderfully well. From the moment I first padded through the doors, I've felt so welcome, and now it truly feels like my second home.

I come into school most mornings, and I'm completely used to seeing all of the pupils and staff - it's one of the best parts of my day! In fact, I have a little secret... I get quite bored at the weekends when the school is quiet. I miss all the hustle, bustle, and friendly faces!

Every time there's a knock at the office door, I leap up straight away, tail wagging, just in case it's someone coming to see me. I always hope it

might be one of you!

My absolute favourite things to do are visiting the sensory garden and the MUGA with pupils. I love those moments—getting outside, having a little wander and spending time together is just the best.

I've also been working very hard at my puppy obedience classes. I'm learning lots (even if I don't always get everything right straight away!). I have to admit, I'm not the biggest fan of the other dogs there - I much prefer spending my time with humans like you!

I want to say a big thank you to everyone for being so kind and welcoming to me. I've especially noticed how hard you all work to keep the school clean and litter-free.

That really helps me, because I do find things like stray Lego or other "tasty" bits on the floor very tempting... and I'm still learning what I'm allowed to eat!

I'm already looking forward to seeing you all again in Term 1 next year. I'm especially excited because I'll hopefully begin meeting small groups of children from each class, which I can't wait for.

Until then, keep being brilliant - and don't forget to say hello when you see me!

With lots of wagging tails and happy woofs,

Bruno 🐾

THE SANCTUARY

What is the Sanctuary?

The Sanctuary, is a calm and safe space within the school, that offers children a welcoming and nurturing environment, when they need support.

Whether it's a softer start/finish to the day, or to help regulate big feelings. We offering emotional support, helping the children to feel ready for class, settled, and ready to learn.

Children are supported using key skills on how to help manage difficult emotions, building trust, safety and resilience.

What do you do in the Sanctuary?

The children can come and talk to trained staff members, about their worries and struggles.

We offer a choice of calming activities, sensory play, card games, puzzles, and coloring, or just a moment to sit quietly, and reflect in our calm area.

Who can visit the Sanctuary?

The Sanctuary is open to all.

Your child's class teacher may suggest or direct them to the Sanctuary during the day, if they feel a child's feelings are too big to manage in the class calm corners. We are here to listen and support on those days when it all feels a bit too much.



MEET THE TEACHER



Miss Howland

YEAR 2 CLASS TEACHER

JOB HISTORY

- Youth worker
- Pre school Manager
- Youth activities Co-ordinator
- 1:1 case worker

WHAT WAS YOUR CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB?

I didn't really know what I wanted to do but I knew I wanted to work with young people and children. Just look at the jobs I did before becoming a teacher!



IMPORTANT SKILLS FOR WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

- Patience is key!
- I have needed excellent listening skills in all jobs that I have done.
- You need to be resilient when things are tough
- Empathy and kindness
- A great sense of humour - I think I'm funny!



IF YOU COULD SWAP CAREERS IN THE FUTURE, WHAT ADVENTURE WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

I dream of owning my own bookshop! I love books! I love reading and I want to inspire everyone else to read too!

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS



- Becoming a teacher whilst having a young family.
- Learning to scuba dive in Vietnam.
- Having a 1413 day streak on Duolingo attempting to learn French!

THERE ARE NO LIMITS!

RECEPTION WISH LIST

Are you having a clear out?
Please can you help us?

Reception Wish List

Animals

Wooden People / Figures

Transport - Cars, Trains etc

Construction - Lego/Duplo


Musical Instruments

Big Outdoor Games

Bath/Water Toys

Playdough Tools

Craft Resource - Ribbons/Buttons

Thank you 

KEEPING POLEGATE TIDY

A huge congratulations to Colette in 2H who was the overall winner of our 'Keeping Polegate Tidy' competition! Her beautiful poster about 'Saving the World' will be displayed in Polegate High Street!



Diary Date

9th July
Reading tea
party

LATEST ATTENDANCE FIGURES

RJ =	93.3%	2D =	95.4%	4T =	94.2%
RKH =	96%	2H =	96.8%	5D =	96.7%
RS =	93.5%	3B =	95.1%	5EK =	94.3%
1RH =	96%	3C =	93.8%	5K =	94.6%
1L =	95.5%	3H =	96.2%	6M =	95.4%
1M =	95.2%	4D =	95.1%	6L =	95%
2B =	96.7%	4H =	95.7%	6W =	92.1%

RACE FOR LIFE

Marlie and Molly participated in the recent Race for Life held at Polegate School. They raised an incredible amount of money for a cause close to our hearts.

We also received a wonderful email from the organisers of Run to Run:

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for allowing us to use your field for our Run To Run event on Saturday May 30th. All of us at Children with Cancer Fund really appreciate everything you do for our charity – we are so grateful for all your ongoing support.

We had a total of 229 runners sign up for this year's Run To Run, smashing last year's total of 158. After adding up entry fees, sponsorship and donations on the day, the event raised an amazing £4,794.10 to help our charity grant wishes, arrange events and short breaks for families, as well as providing other invaluable support and assistance during this most difficult of times.

We are so grateful to everyone who helped to make the day such a success.



SKILLS BUILDER FOCUS: LEADERSHIP

Skills Builder Focus This Term: Leadership

This term, we are excited to introduce our new Skills Builder focus: Leadership. Throughout the weeks ahead, children will be developing their understanding of what it means to be a good leader—someone who can guide others, listen carefully, make thoughtful decisions, and take responsibility.

In school, pupils will explore leadership through group activities, problem-solving tasks, and opportunities to take initiative. They will learn that leadership is not just about being “in charge”, but about working well with others, showing empathy, and building confidence in themselves and their peers.



How you can support at home

You can help your child build their leadership skills in simple, everyday ways:

- Encourage decision-making: Let your child make small choices (e.g., choosing a family activity or planning a meal).
- Promote teamwork: Involve them in group tasks like tidying up, cooking, or organising games.
- Model good leadership: Talk about how you solve problems, listen to others, and take responsibility.
- Build confidence: Praise effort, ideas, and resilience when things don't go to plan.
- Give responsibility: Assign small leadership roles at home, such as being in charge of a task or helping younger siblings.

By working together, we can help children develop this important life skill that will support them both now and in the future.

CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

The government has announced that the eligibility criteria for free school meals will change from 1 September 2026.

From that date children will be entitled to free school meals if their parents or carers receive any form of universal credit. However not all children who qualify will be entitled to other associated school-related benefits. Information relating to this will be shared when it is available.

Please apply now if you believe you qualify.



OUR NURSERY

We are delighted to share that nursery spaces at Polegate are now very rare, and interest remains exceptionally high

It is easy to see why our teacher-led nursery is so well regarded. Children thrive in a wonderful environment where curiosity is encouraged, confidence grows, and learning feels exciting from the very start.

Our nursery is often described as a happy place to visit, and we are proud of the warm, caring atmosphere that greets every child and family. The children are incredible and already well settled, showing kindness, independence and enthusiasm in all they do.

Staff work closely with each child to ensure they feel secure, valued and ready to explore.

A wealth of high-quality resources supports every aspect of learning, from imaginative play to early language and number skills.

These carefully chosen materials help children make progress while enjoying purposeful, engaging activities each day.

If you would like more information or wish to enquire about availability, please contact nursery@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk.

BABY NEWS

Mrs Taylor shared some exciting news- Baby Taylor made her arrival 22/05/26 at 19:16 weighing 6lb 13oz. Mother and baby are doing incredibly well. Congratulations to the Taylor family - we cannot wait to meet her!



Diary Date

**20th July
Year 6 Leavers
Party**

DIARY DATES

**26th June
Year 4 Trip to Port
Lympne**

**1st July
Rock Steady Concert at
9.30am**

**3rd July
Year 2 Trip to Hastings**

**3rd July
3H Class Assembly**

**6th July
Year 1 Battle Abbey Trip**

**9th July
Reading tea party**

**7th – 9th July
Year 6 Enrichment Days**

**13th July
Rock Steady Concert
at 2.15pm**

**13th July
Year 6 Leavers Show
6pm**

**15th July
Year 6 Leavers Show
6pm**

**16th July
Whole school transition
day**

**17th July
Reception Beach Day**

**20th July
Year 6 Leavers Party**

**16th July
Meet the teacher**

ST WILFRID'S HOSPICE




St Wilfrid's Hospice


Dear School Colleague,


If a child could send a postcard from one special day, what memory would they choose?

We would like to invite children and young people to take part in the Seahorse Project's, "**Wish You Were Here...**", summer event a gentle and creative event focused on remembering happy moments and special times spent with someone important who has died.

 **Wish You Were Here... – Seahorse Project Summer Event**

 **Thursday 30th July 2026**

 **3:00 – 4:30 pm**

 **St Wilfrid's Hospice (The Street or Wellbeing Garden)**

This relaxed, drop-in session offers children a safe and welcoming space to:

- Create a postcard or decorate a photo frame inspired by a happy memory or special day
- Reflect on and remember someone important to them
- Meet other children and young people with similar experiences

No prior connection to the hospice is needed — all are welcome.

Families can bring their own snacks and drinks or use the on-site café. All creative materials will be provided.

We know that supporting bereaved children can feel important but sometimes challenging. This event offers a simple, creative way to help children express memories and feelings in a safe and supportive environment.

If you know a child or family who might benefit, we would be very grateful if you could share this invitation.

With warm regards,

The Seahorse Team

St Wilfrid's Hospice



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President Her Majesty The Queen

Registered Office St Wilfrid's Hospice, 1 Broadwater Way, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN22 9PZ

Registered Company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No: 1594410 VAT number: GB 322 9910 05

Reg Charity No: 283686

01323 434200 | hospice@stwhospice.org | www.stwhospice.org



YOUR SCHOOL PTA

ROLL UP! ROLL UP!

JOIN US FOR A

SPECTACULAR CIRCUS

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER!

FRIDAY 3RD JULY

GATES OPEN AT 4:30PM

SHOW STARTS 5.30PM!

PRESENTED BY:

HAPPY'S CIRCUS

Polegate Charity No. 1177773 | Friends of Willingdon Charity No. 1154283

TICKETS ON SALE HERE!

Willingdon School,
Broad Road,
Willingdon,
BN20 9QX

Polegate School PFA Charity No. 1177773

OR BUY ONLINE AT:

**WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/
POLEGATESCHOOLPFA**

OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

We are thrilled to launch our new Facebook page, where we will share the wonderful activities that take place within our school day.

Facebook will replace 'X'. Follow the link below to join this is exciting platform: <https://www.facebook.com/share/17Lz9SGmXJ/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

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.



Diary Dates
16th July
Meet the teacher

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 433 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 Provox : www.provox.co.uk