

news

September 2025



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WELCOME TO TERM 1!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and managed to enjoy some of the beautiful sunshine.

It was so lovely welcoming all the children back to school on the first day. The morning gate, as always, was full of children eager to start school. September is a time for fresh starts and I often find myself welcoming people with a 'Happy to New Year'

comment! Here's to a fantastic school year full of fun and excitement.

The year has started with gusto-stunning starts, new play areas, reception starters, nursery starters, football matches... and it is only week 3!

AN INCREDIBLE START

What an incredible start to Polegate school! The Reception children have settled beautifully.

The children have been learning our Polegate rules and routines as well as building lovely new relationships with staff and peers. The children have loved exploring our Early Years environment and participating in lots of fun transition activities from circle time speaking and listening to using a range of media to create fabulous self-portraits for our 'Incredible Me' display. We couldn't be prouder. **Well done, Reception!**



YEAR 3 TEA PARTY

The children have been busy prepping, advertising and organising their afternoon tea events for friends and family before the summer holidays.

They all had so much fun making sandwiches, cakes and scones and running the event. The children are excited to spend their well-deserved earnings on a treat!



EMAIL COMMUNICATION

As we delve into another busy year of teaching and learning, we'd like to remind everyone of our email communication policy.

Teachers have 24 hours to respond to emails, allowing for adequate time to focus on their essential duties - yes, that includes teaching, assessing, marking, and occasionally enjoying a well-deserved bite to eat!

In an effort to streamline our communication, we kindly ask that all messages be sent via email rather than Seesaw. We believe it's best to have one central source for communication, ensuring that nothing falls through the cracks in our bustling school environment.

Your understanding and cooperation in this matter are greatly appreciated as we continue to foster a supportive and effective educational atmosphere.

Teacher emails can be found inside your child's home school journal.

PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO PARENTS ON BEST START IN LIFE

On the 4 September to mark the childcare expansion milestone, Prime Minister Keir Starmer wrote to parents reaffirming his Plan for Change promise to give children the best possible start with 75% of five-year-olds reaching a good level of development by 2028.

[Click here](#) to read the Prime Minister's letter to parents on the DfE's Education Hub.

On 1 September 2025 the government launched the Best Start in Life website, as part of our [Plan for Change](#) and giving every child the Best Start in Life. This improved support for families builds on the proud legacy of Sure Start and will help more children be ready to start school.

[The Best Start in Life website](#) will officially replace the Childcare Choices website as the main source of information for early education and childcare support - offering a broader range of resources for families, including eligibility for childcare offers, information about free breakfast clubs and Best Start Family Hubs in their

area, and support on pregnancy through to starting school and beyond.

Although the website has changed, the offers for parents - such as support for working parents and the 2-year-old childcare offer - are not affected. Visitors to the current Childcare Choices website will be automatically redirected.

Please follow this link to [The Best Start in Life website](#).

This plan sets out the ambitious - but achievable - milestones we aim to reach by the end of this Parliament.

BRILLIANT CLUB

Some pupils in Year 5 and 6 attended a Graduation ceremony at Sussex University in term 6 to celebrate their achievements.

The pupils had participated in a programme of study called the Brilliant Club to introduce them to the world of further education and give them an insight into university life. Many of the group graduated with a 1st class degree! The pupils loved the visit to a real campus and were amazed at how big it was; one commented how it felt bigger than Polegate Town!



EXCITING BABY NEWS

We have some wonderful news to share!

Our very own Miss Saunders has welcomed a beautiful new addition to her family.

Baby George made his grand entrance on 2nd September 2025, weighing a delightful 8lb 8oz!

Both mum and baby are doing splendidly, and Miss Saunders is absolutely over the moon. We can't wait for her to introduce him to all of us at school.

Let's send her lots of love and congratulations as she embarks on this exciting new chapter in her life.



PARKING

Parking seems to be a permanent article in my newsletter, so again, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of parking safely outside the school premises to ensure the safety of all our children and families.

As you are aware, the safety of our students is our utmost priority. We kindly ask that you refrain from parking on double yellow lines opposite the school, by road junctions, drop down curbs and driveways. Parking in these areas creates dangerous congestion and significantly hinders visibility for both pedestrians and drivers, potentially putting our children at risk.

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will be monitoring the situation closely

and, while they would much prefer to welcome pupils and families to school, they may need to ask individuals parking inappropriately to move on. We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to parking regulations, which are designed to foster a safe environment for our school community.

Additionally, we respectfully request that Blue Badge holders avoid parking directly opposite the school or near junctions and bends. This will help to facilitate safer access for all and minimise congestion around our entrances.

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining a secure and welcoming environment for our children. Together, we can ensure that drop-off and pick-up times remain safe for everyone involved.



MAKE & TAKE CLUB

Make and Take Club is buzzing with creativity!

Children are thoroughly enjoying crafting amazing DT art projects, from funky designs to practical creations. It's wonderful to see their enthusiasm and talent shine through.

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 8:15am, while those for Key Stage 1 open at 8:25am.

Registers are taken promptly at 8:30am for Key Stage 2 and at 8:40am 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 = 96.7%	2B = 97.4%	4D = 97.1%	6M = 96.6%
RKH = 96.4%	2D = 95.4%	4H = 93.5%	6L = 95%
RS = 98.6%	2H = 99.6%	4T = 97.8%	6W = 94.9%
1RH = 93.5%	3B = 96.9%	5D = 97.5%	
1L = 94.7%	3C = 98%	5EK = 95.4%	
1M = 94.7%	3H = 93.6%	5K = 98.5%	

Y6 WOEFUL WARS TOPIC

Year 6 has kicked off their new topic, 'Woeful Wars' with an exciting escape room challenge!

Students donned their thinking caps and worked in teams to solve puzzles related to historical conflicts, all while racing against the clock.

It was fantastic to see everyone collaborating and using their problem-solving skills to escape the room.

The immersive experience has sparked a real interest in history and has set the stage for a brilliant term ahead.

We can't wait to see where their curiosity takes them next in exploring the tales of our past!



Diary Date

**Wednesday
1st October
PFA Meeting
@7pm**

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Mrs Jones is excited to announce an exciting Design and Technology competition!

Get your creative juices flowing and design a spooky, eco-friendly costume using recycled materials. Whether it's a ghoulish ghost or a wicked witch, we want to see your brilliant ideas come to life! Prizes await the most innovative and sustainable creations. Don't forget to send in your entries by the 24th October. Let's make the season kind to our planet! Can't wait to see what you come up with! Happy crafting!

POLEGATE SCHOOL

DT COMPETITION

design

a spooky eco-friendly halloween costume

winners announced 24th October

PRIZES

- 1st PLACE Certificate & Craft Hamper
- 2nd PLACE Book & Certificate
- 3rd PLACE Certificate

DID YOU KNOW?

An estimated 7 million Halloween costumes are thrown away in the UK each year, contributing to around 2,000 tonnes of plastic waste. These costumes are often made from oil-based, non-recyclable plastics, with many being worn only once before ending up in landfills.

How to register?

collect a design sheet from the office

Competition closes on the 20th October

Once finished please hand your design sheet back to the office

Good Luck!

DIARY DATES

26th September
2D Class Assembly
1st October
Individual School Photos
1st October
PFA Meeting @7pm
3rd October
5K Class Assembly
9th October
Year 6 NHS NCMP
10th October
3B Class Assembly
16th October
PFA 2nd Hand Uniform Sale
17th October
6M Class Assembly
21st October
Parents Consultations
22nd October
Reading Tea Party
23rd October – PFA Disco
24th October
Last Day of term 1
27th – 31st October
Half-term Holiday
3rd November
Term 2 starts
6th November
New to Reception Parents Meeting @9am
6th November
Parents Consultations
7th November
4H Class Assembly
10th November
Flu Vaccinations
12th November
New to Reception Parents Meeting @2pm
13th November
New to Reception Parents Meeting @5pm
14th November
2B Assembly

RAIDERS & TRADERS

Year 4 has embarked on an exciting journey exploring the topic of 'Raiders and Traders'.

They kicked off their learning with a fabulous dress-up day, where the children transformed into characters from the Viking and Anglo-Saxon eras. The enthusiasm was contagious as their creativity brought the history to life!

To deepen their understanding, year 4 welcomed a historian who shared fascinating stories and engaging artefacts from the period. The interactive session sparked curiosity and lots of questions from the children, who were eager to learn more about the impact of raiding and trading during those times.

To conclude the busy day, the students took to the playing field for a series of battles, re-enacting the conflicts they had studied. Laughter and camaraderie filled the air as they put their new knowledge into action. It was an unforgettable way to start learning about our past!



SPORTS FOR CHAMPIONS

Sports for Champions Sponsored Athletes Visit 22 October 2025



Yes, it's that time of year again when we look forward to a special visit from a sporting champion to inspire and motivate our children.

In the next couple of days your child will be bringing home a sponsorship form and information sheet about a whole school event led by a very special Olympic hopeful, backed by the charity 'Sports for Champions'

On Wednesday 22 October, every class will have the opportunity to meet our sporting champion and take part in a sponsored series of challenges with them. We start the day with a motivational assembly where we learn about the athlete's career, aspirations and daily routines in terms of health and fitness. Depending on the amount of sponsorship money raised, some children will also have the opportunity to have their photograph taken with

our visitor or receive signed posters.

We will be revealing the name of our visitor soon - but in the meantime, we have included a fitness challenge to complete with your family in readiness for the event!

Sports For Champions
Let's Get Active

Visit www.sportsforchampions.com

BEDE'S FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS

Our year 5 and 6 boys and girls have both attended Bede's school in the past few weeks and played some excellent football.

Both teams are fairly new in the making and pulled together incredibly well showcasing some amazing skills and wonderful teamwork.

The girls managed to secure second place winning themselves a medal. The boys had a tough morning, but despite decisions and results not going their way, the boys kept their heads up and dug deep to come back to school with a third place medal!

Mr Keeley and Miss Coleman are so proud and I can't wait to see what else we can achieve this year.



OUR HEAD BOY & GIRL



Issac & Maya

We're thrilled to share some fantastic news with you all. After a gruelling interview process led by last year's incredible Head Boy and Head Girl, we are proud to announce the new Head Boy and Head Girl of Polegate School!

Isaac and Maya, will be leading a brilliant team of prefects who are not only dedicated but also passionate ambassadors of our wonderful school.

This year, the new leadership team is already buzzing with ideas to enhance our school community and support our fellow students. They are eager to get involved and make a positive impact.

Congratulations to our new Head Boy and Head Girl and perfect team, and a massive thank you to everyone who applied! We're looking forward to an exciting year ahead, filled with enthusiasm and teamwork.

Let's make it one to remember!

EASTBOURNE JUNIOR PARKRUN

What is Eastbourne junior parkrun? A free, fun, and friendly weekly 2k event for juniors (4 to 14 year olds).

When is it? It is held every Sunday at 9am.

Where is it? The event takes place at King Edwards Parade, Eastbourne, BN21 4BY.

What does it cost to join in? Nothing - it's free! but please register before you first come along.

How fast do I have to be? The aim is to have fun. Please come along and join in whatever your pace!

Eastbourne junior parkrun needs you!

It is entirely organised by volunteers - to help email: eastbournejuniors@parkrun.com



PHYSICAL CHALLENGE



Sports For
Champions UK
Community Interest Company

CHAMPIONS ACADEMY PE SESSION

PLANK CHALLENGE

How to Play:

- 🐼 Find an open and flat space without many obstacles.
- 🐼 It's best to use some sort of mat to ensure you are comfortable while you plank.
- 🐼 Lay down and clasp your fists together under your chest.
- 🐼 Point your toes towards the ground, and lift yourself up off the ground into the position shown below, making sure you keep your back straight and hips up!
- 🐼 Set a stopwatch, and for every ten seconds you plank up to the 30 second mark you earn one point, after 30 seconds every ten seconds is worth 2 points. Following the one minute mark, you will earn three points for every ten seconds you continue to plank!

Make it Easier:

- Lift your legs onto a yoga ball, or sofa and extend your arms.
- Breathe steadily to engage your abdominal muscles.

Make it Harder:

- Extend your arms into a push up position and hold the plank like that.



ENJOY THIS EXERCISE?

To find more just head over to
www.sportsforchampions.com

RARING2GO! MAGAZINE



FAMILY WALKS
PG 19



HALLOWEEN RECIPES
PG 26



HALLOWEEN FILMS
PG 28-29



EASTBOURNE

To read our
Raring2go!
Autumn
Magazine

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MAGAZINE & WEBSITE

THE GO-TO GUIDE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

raring2go.co.uk

AUTUMN 2025

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www.polegateschool.co.uk

PLAY. CREATE. BELONG.

PLAY. CREATE. BELONG.

Girls Activity Day

EASTBOURNE RFC 14/09 FREE!

Rugby 2.30-4pm for girls aged 6-14 (no experience needed!)

Rugby crafts, activities + World Cup watch party from 4pm (everyone welcome)

IMPACT 25

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ROCK STEADY

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STEADY**

ROCK AND POP BAND LESSONS!



IGNITE THEIR SELF-BELIEF

-  Children learn to play an instrument in their very own band.
-  Fun and inclusive in-school band lessons. No music theory involved.
-  Follow their musical journey in your Backstage account.
-  Exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification.
-  Instruments provided and no experience necessary.

**BOOK YOUR CHILD'S
PLACE ONLINE**



0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)

rocksteadymusicschool.com

ROCK STEADY

ROCK
STEADY

LEARN TO PLAY MUSIC IN A BAND THAT'S FOR EVERYONE.

Choose from: Keyboard, guitar, bass, drums or vocals.

Inclusive and hassle-free!

Takes place in school,
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experience necessary!

Taught by professional musicians

Rocksteady band leaders are
highly trained musicians who
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Progress at their own pace

Your child can achieve an
exam-free, Ofqual-regulated
Trinity music qualification!

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Children work their way
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Much more than music

Improves wellbeing,
confidence, social skills and
academic achievement.

End every term on a high note

Watch your child shine as
they perform in their end of
term concerts.

*"Her confidence has
grown so much. It has
helped her in all
aspects of her life."*

Louise

*"My son actually
wants to go to school
on his Rocksteady
days. It has given him
an alternative to
academic learning."*

Michaela

*"I've seen him
flourish socially and
have friends across
the year group."*

Bekki

£44.68 per month (no payment in August).
Money back guarantee for the first month. Cancel at any time.

START THEIR
MUSICAL JOURNEY



0330 113 0330

(Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)
info@rocksteadymusicschool.com

TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON
Not just a name and
a sound. It's a way of life.



Rocksteady Music School Ltd. Registered in England No. 4818028

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR

To enhance communication and provide clarity, we have gathered all key academic dates and events on the Polegate School Website.

This centralised resource is designed to help parents and guardians plan ahead effectively, ensuring that you are well-informed about important dates throughout the academic year.

We understand that staying updated is crucial, which is why this information will be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect any changes that may occur. We encourage you to make it a habit to check the website frequently, as this will help you stay informed about any adjustments or new events that may arise.

To access dates and events, please follow the link provided below:

[School Calendar – Polegate School](#)

Please note that all dates and events are subject to change, so we appreciate your understanding and flexibility as we navigate the school year together.

Diary Date

24th October
Last Day
of term 1

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
1,356 followers!



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Polegate
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