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WELL DONE EVERYONE

Read more inside

Once again so many achievements and so much to celebrate!

It is quite staggering. As I write this This could well be the biggest I can't quite believe how busy your children have been!

newsletter ever and even then I have saved some bits for September!

RESULTS - HOT OFF THE PRESS!

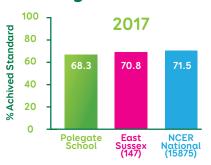
The results are hot off the press as we only received them back in last week. Please take a moment to have a look at the amazing achievements of children across the school.

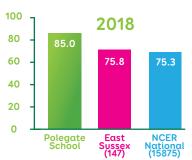
Just take a look at the number of pupils reaching the highest levels of greater depth! This really does show that our mixed ability approach to teaching pupils meets the needs of our most able! We are achieving well above national and East Sussex results.

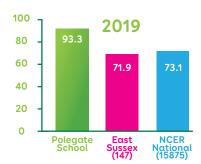
I could not be prouder of our Year 6 pupils and when you look at the graphs below you will see why!

These results are exceptional! In all subjects we exceed national and East Sussex.

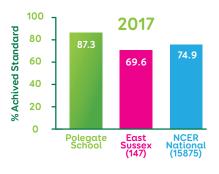
Reading - Achieved Standard

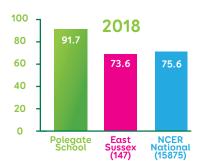


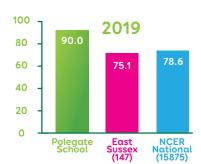




Maths - Achieved Standard

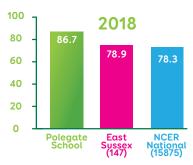


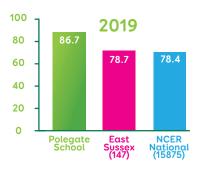




Writing - Achieved Standard







2019		
77.8%	Above county and national	
79%	77.1%	75.1%
49.5%	26.9%	25.1%
71.4%	72.1%	69.3%
30.8%	15.5%	14.8%
79.1%	77.6%	75.7%
33%	22.1%	21.8%
65.9%	67.5%	65%
	77.8% 79% 49.5% 71.4% 30.8% 79.1% 33%	77.8% Above county and 77.1% 49.5% 26.9% 71.4% 72.1% 30.8% 15.5% 79.1% 77.6% 33% 22.1%

WICKED YOUNG WRITERS

The "prestigious Wicked Young Writer Awards" (The Times) was established by the long-running musical WICKED to link the important messages of the production with a competition that would inspire young people to use creative writing to look at life a little differently. Since its launch in 2010, we have received over 20,000 entries to the award.

The Award recognises excellence in writing, encourages creativity, and helps develop writing talent in young people between 5-25 years old from all backgrounds and areas of the UK. Each year, we hold a very special prize giving event at the Apollo

Victoria Theatre for all 120 of our finalists. The event is attended by our judges, including head judge Cressida Cowell, the WICKED cast and a range of special guests and includes special performances, Q&As and rehearsed readings of the winning entries, performed by WICKED's principals. All finalists also receive a printed copy of their entry as part of the annual Wicked Young Writer Awards Anthology.

The Award is proud to partner with National Literacy Trust.

One of very own young authors was selected as a finalist and attended the awards in London this term-Zak
Boniface in year 2 enjoyed an amazing time at the prize giving evening.



GOOD BYES

This time of year always brings optimism and excitement for what lies ahead in September but it is always tinged with a little sadness.

Not only do we say a fond farewell to our marvellous Year 6 pupils but also a number of staff.

This term we wished Mrs Lord a very happy retirement. Mrs Lord has retired after many, many years of working at Polegate School. From the early days as a classroom TA supporting me in my NQT year to her role as parent support advisor and inclusion assistant. She has worked tirelessly to support our pupils and families. Always full of compassion and understanding we are really going to miss her warm smile and occasional hug!



We are also very sad but also excited for Mrs Wilkinson who will be embarking on a new challenge at the end of the academic year. She was successful in securing a job against 60 other applicants and two days' worth of interviews. They were searching for three Community Family Workers and only appointed Mrs Wilkinson which doesn't surprise me at all and says a lot about the staff we are fortunate to train and develop at Polegate School.

I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Wilkinson every success in her new role. She has established an incredibly popular Breakfast Club which gives the children the best possible start to their day in line with our vision; it is family orientated, fun, relaxing and varied for the children. They love their time in the mornings and I know you will also join me in thanking Mrs Wilkinson for her efforts.

We also say farewell to Mrs Scales who has taught alongside Mrs Barnard this year.

POLEGATE SCHOOL RECEIVES COVETED PLATINUM SPORTS AWARD!

The high level of sport delivered by Polegate School has been nationally recognised with a top award.

This has only been achieved by less than one per cent of schools in the UK.

This is a fabulous achievement and it underlines our consistent commitment and enthusiasm to deliver a sports programme of the highest standard for all of our pupils. The award is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication by a number of different staff who have been involved in sports at Polegate.

It is a top award from the national School Games team and the Youth Sport Trust and it places real value with what we offer our pupils.

Here is the email I received todayDear Mrs O'Donoghue,

As you are aware your school has applied for the KS1 Quality Start Award this year

First impressions are usually correct - and having looked at your website first thing this morning I was looking forward to visiting the school. I continued to be impressed with the professionalism of your reception staff and the welcome received by Tracy and

What fantastic facilities the children have for PE & School Sport.... and quite clearly staff to match ... without whom of course these facilities would not be used to their fullest potential!

It was so lovely to hear about all of the super work in PE &School Sport that is going on ... the children are very lucky and for PE & SS get a very good deal. Tracy was conservative with her assessment and the school has been upgraded from a Gold to a Platinum - which is impressive for a first time applicant.

Your school will receive a Glass Engraved Trophy with the QS logo on together with a certificate in due course. [Hopefully by the end of term and if not in the first couple of weeks back

Many congratulations

Kind regards

Sandy Fell

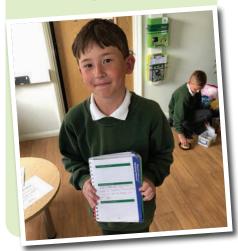
BIG PEDAL PRIZE

As a result of all your efforts cycling and walking to school the children enjoyed a tremendous drumming workshop!



MILLIONAIRE READER

Alex has become a millionaire!reader that is! Congratulations!



LUNCHTIMES

We have trialled different times for lunch this term and the children have loved the new arrangements.

It gives them a much better experience with more space to play. It does mean some classes are eating a little later so may need a more substantial healthy snack at break to keep them going!

BREAKTIMES		
10.15-10.30	Year 1	
10.35-10.50	Year 2	
10.30-10.45	Year 3/4	
10.50-11.05	Year 5/6	
Session 2		
LUNCHTIMES		
11.45-12.45	Reception	
12.15-1.15	Year 1	
12.30-1.30	Year 2	
12-1pm	Year 3/4	
1-2pm	Year 5/6	

DEBATE RESULTS

We have just had our debate results confirmed and these were excellent! The best yet.

5 merits and 3 distinctions - all met the highest two grades possible, those who earned merits were only a few marks off distinctions. Our examiner was really impressed and took their speeches so she could use them to show KS4! She enjoyed her visit so much that she has asked to come back again.

We are so proud of you. These pupils took part in a debate in front of an external examiner from the English Speaking board so this is a tremendous achievement for them all! Well done to you all - every child achieved a Merit or a Distinction which is incredible!

Kate Aamer

Dylan Nye

Layla Cutting

Leah Barber

Jake Tritton

Alex Gunter

Alyssa Hatch

Michael Barkley

Scores available were fail, pass, merit, distinction

HOME LEARNING

Our focus for Home Learning is changing for next year.

Following our survey we have decided to really focus on the essentials- everything that research proves makes a difference to your child's progress. We know time is precious as families are so busy and children are engaged in lots of clubs outside school. Next year home learning that we expect completed will continue to be reading every night and regular times table practice. The rest we will do in school but there

may be occasions where we notice your child requires something extra individually and then the class teacher will liaise with you. This will be personal to your child and might be spellings or phonics.

The more creative tasks will become optional as not only do we love seeing them but some families really enjoy completing these together so we will continue to suggest a range of optional activities each term.

FLAGSHIP STATUS AGAIN!

Look out for this article in the press!

This 'innovative' school has been given a flagship inclusion award

The report states, 'All this work has been based on the school's motto, 'Learning Without Limits,' which underpins everything in this inspirational school, which places the children at the heart of everything it does.'

Only around 100 UK schools have achieved IQM Flagship School status. Polegate is the only school in East Sussex to have achieved the prestigious status of a flagship school. This award recognises those unique schools who have held IQM Centre of Excellence status for at least 3 years; and played a strong leadership role in developing inclusion best practice across a network of schools. These schools are committed to extending their networks further and publishing classroom-based research on an annual basis.

Polegate School was assessed in July this year by the Inclusion Quality Mark to achieve Flagship status.

Inspector Pauline Roberts is said to have been 'extremely complimentary' about provision at the school. During her visit she noted, 'Pupils were happy, friendly, self-confident and positive and their respect for the staff was evident. Pupils have clearly enjoyed their time at the school and have developed a love of learning while here. They explained how the teachers encourage them and make learning exciting.'

Following her visit she reported that, 'Teaching and support staff are valued for their skills: quality first teaching demonstrates excellent practice and teachers are continually reviewing and further developing their skills to meet the diverse needs of all children. Support staff play a crucial role in the school, supporting in class, leading interventions and clubs and working closely with parents.'

I am so incredibly proud of this achievement and would like to thank everyone involved in the life of our school for all their hard work- this extends to pupils, staff, parents, governors.

Thank you

If you would like to read the report in full it will be published soon on the website.



Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



ARE YOU CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE?

We live in a world now where the internet is part of our daily lives. Depending on the age of your child they are either at the button pressing stage or considered veterans in the use of the internet.

At any age it is important to be sure you are protecting your children.

There are some easy top tips to follow – SMART rules

SAFE: Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

MEET: Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

ACCEPTING: Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

RELIABLE: You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

TELL: Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk

BE SMART WITH A HEART:

Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

Resource tools

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk https://www.childnet.com

HAILSHAM TENNIS CLUB

Hailsham Tennis club are running a holiday club - It's called Tennis for Kids and is a great intro to tennis for 5-8year olds.

It starts on 5th August at Hailsham Tennis Club, on Mondays and Thursdays 4-5pm until 23rd August. It's only £29.99 and includes a FREE racket, a personalised tee shirt and a pack of ball delivered straight to your door!

https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TennisForKids/ Course/700deeb2-8101-4d2d-a0ab-5e08bd1150dd

A LOVELY EMAIL FROM A PARENT

I received a lovely email from a parent praising the efforts of her children at home and thought it was well worth sharing in a newsletter!

Since Chinedu and Tochi's dad broke his foot around May and had a metal plate put into the foot last Wednesday, they have gone above and beyond what would be expected of 5 & 7 year old children.

They've independently offered to wash the dishes at dinner time, help take food and drinks to their dad, help get the laundry indoors as well as helping to cook meals.

I was wondering if there's any award the school gives for outstanding behaviour and care? They have both been such a great help to me and I would never have asked any of this of them. To have it offered was such a joy and I'm so proud of both children.

Best wishes Kirsty Ololo

Kirsty I think we would all love some parenting tips from you!

PFA NEWS

I want to take this opportunity at the end of the year to thank our incredible PFA.

They have worked tirelessly supporting the school this year in so many ways!

They have really embraced the vision of 'No Limits' there seems to be no limit to the lengths they will go to in order to support the children and staff at Polegate.

Thanks to your PFA we will now have a shiny new kitchen for the children to use! Funds to support the development of the wildlife garden and they have supported our library development... WOW! These are not small projects and each and every one will impact positively on your child.

Summer fayre

Although I was subjected to a gunging it was a wonderful event that raised £2500 - thank you for supporting this and raising more money than ever before.





ENGLAND'S TOP GOAL SCORER VISITED POLEGATE

We had the pleasure of a visit from James Norwood.

He spoke in an assembly to the whole school and then each class was lucky enough to have a visit. We discovered lots of fascinating facts about his journey to becoming a professional footballer and the setbacks he faced along the way.

Despite being the top goal scorer for Crystal Palace they let him go because he was not tall enough!

He didn't give up and that determination has paid off!



LETTERS & EMAILS

These letters and emails have put a BIG smile on all our faces!

'I would like this opportunity (whilst I sit with pen in hand) to thank you and your staff for everything that you do...
.... Their efforts meant my son sat his SAT tests stress free and full of confidence and that he is ready to tackle his next step at Willingdon in September.

The PFA also shared some lovely feedback following an incident that happened after their screening of Toy Story:

After seeing Toy story we came out and an old lady fell off the pavement opposite the cinema and badly cut her head open(paramedics confirmed it was her skull that we could see!!) and cut her hand open. Several parents went to her aid and waited for the ambulance (arrived over an hour and a half later) and the kids that waited were well behaved, patient and made all of us parents proud as we were then able to make sure this lady was ok and not worry about the children. They also asked us informative questions about what was going on but without any fuss or nonsense.

Willow, Oscar (reception) Izzy and Mason (1Mc) and their younger siblings were wonderful children and you can be really proud of them as they conducted themselves brilliantly and were a great credit to the school.

The wonderful emails have been flooding in this term and another one to reach us related to our reputation in the wider community.

Just wanted to drop you a quick email about the Schools reputation in the wider community.

We were at the 999 weekend and the kids were talking to a fireman. He was asking the usual questions and asked my daughter about her school. It turns out he is an ex-parent (kids now in year 10 and 7) and wouldn't stop singing your praises. He commented on how hard you work to make the school such a brilliant place for all the children and how lovely all the teachers are and how he really appreciated all the work you put in when his kids were there as its clear how much you care about the school and the pupils.

We also went to the Bikeability stand as the kids wanted a go. They asked Izzy her school and the organisers also said how much they love working with Polegate as you are all so enthusiastic and helpful and understand the benefits of the scheme, she only wished that most other schools had your attitude as her job would be a lot easier!

Lovely to hear such nice things about the school when out and about and clearly the effort you and all the staff put in really does make an impact. This email really touched us all and we are so grateful to get feedback like this:

Dear Claire,

Unfortunately tonight we have had an incident along our road with one of our neighbours. She has extensive mental health history and domestic problem, quite often resulting in the police being called frequently.

Tonight this lady was clearly having a psychotic break, she was screaming up and down the road banging on cars and all our doors shouting at all of us

Scary for even myself!

My daughter was absolutely terrified as you can imagine at lam! And scared to be at home as she was banging on our door.

What she said made my heart swell!

'Take me to school mummy, I want to go to school'

Yourself and your staff have made her feel so completely loved, looked after, cared for and safe that her instinct was to go to school! (Family are on holiday)

I am so thankful that my daughter views school as a safe haven and trusts that she will be looked after there! How reassuring for any parent or teacher to hear this!

Thank you to everyone who has looked after and cared for my daughter

THE NEW BUILDING

The developments to the school have continued keeping us all very busy.

A new kitchen fully funded by our wonderful PFA is being installed as I type. Our library is being fully refurbished in the summer holidays and work has already begun- as if we didn't have enough building work taking place!

All phases of the building work are due to be completed at the end of October and I can't wait! Finally the end is in sight!

I do want to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for your continued support during the many building projects. I know it has impacted on you all and you have been kind and patient throughout! We have appreciated this when it has proved challenging for us! We have been inundated with parents' kind words of encouragement and concern about it. As always it is a lovely reminder about what a wonderful community we work in and great to know that we will have your support every step of the way! Thank you.





BEACH TRIP

Dear Reception Staff,

I would just like to say a massive thank you for organising the fun beach trip. I imagine you must all be exhausted tonight!

Sonny had a fantastic time as I'm sure they all did. It's so refreshing that as a school you still do fun activities like this. Paddling in the sea and building sand castles, lots of schools wouldn't want the worry of it all but then the children miss out.

Hope you all have a lovely relaxing evening.

Thank you again.





THOMAS THE BUG BUSTER!

Thomas was awarded with his prize for winning the NHS Sussex Community competition this term. His germs are on everything- mugs, hand gels, T-Shirts, posters and being used in hospitals to promote flu jabs.



PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION VOTE

Notification of results of the Parent governor election vote

I am delighted to announce the outcome of the count of votes that took place in the presence of myself and Clerk to the governors. The highest number of votes was received by **Neil Martin**. As our newly elected parent governor, Mr Martin has already attended his first meeting only last night.

I would like to thank all the nominees for their interest in the role and the parents and carers who took the time to vote.

We welcome Mr Martin to our Governing Board. He joins us just at the point of another Ofsted! Lucky thing.

READING CHAMPION

2 million words!

Incredible Natalia - that makes you our reading champion!



RACE FOR LIFE!

Our own school heroes

For the third year in a row, Sofia has taken part in the Race for Life event. This year she has helped raise an amazing £470 for Cancer Research. In total over the three years she has been part of this event, Sofia has helped raise an incredible £1,250!



WIMBLEDON FINALS

It was game, set and match for year 3 when they hosted their own Wimbledon event as part of their enterprise project!





THE BRILLIANT CLUB

Twelve of our pupils in year 5 have recently worked on a project with a PHD tutor designed to inspire them to consider progressing to university when they leave school.

This is very challenging and demanding and we are so proud of them all for taking part and pushing themselves out of their comfort zone working within university expectations. Their final assignment was a 1,000 word dissertation.

This is what their tutor said to us:

The final assignment is supposed to be challenging, being pitched a level above where the pupils are currently working at school. I hope that, reading through this, you feel proud of what they have achieved, and look forward to celebrating with all of you at their Graduation Trip.'

Every single child passed and no one achieved less than a 2:1 which is amazing. Two of these very talented scholars even achieved a 1st!

Tianna Marie Higgs

Santino Russo

Ruby Sheridan

Oscara Noakes

Natalia Benarz

Matthew Redstone

Jessie Sheridan

Jesssica Rooney

Caitlin Ness

Bethany Sharma

Alfie Adamson

The Head Teachers Polegate School Oakleaf Drive Polegate BN26 6PT

PARKING LETTER

On behalf of a number of local residents close to your school, could we ask you please to remind parents in your next newsletter, particularly new parents, that there are people living close to your school and who resent having cars parked with wheels on grass verges and indeed, increasingly on pavements outside their properties. Recently on the corner outside your school a car was parked with all four wheels on the grass verge which is not only an offence but is also dangerous for children crossing the road. And those verges were only recently reseeded.

We were also pleased to see and strongly supported, your banner requesting people not to park where there are yellow lines. It is dangerous to have cars parked there when children are arriving or leaving school. However there were five cars parked there the other afternoon which really does make it difficult for traffic passing through and for parents and children crossing the road. We notice that a number of cars display blue disabled notices. Strange because on a number of occasions the only occupant has hopped out, walked around the car to let children in. It may raise issues but a rule is a rule. NO PARKING ON THE YELLOW LINES. Anywhere. By anyone.

On a personal level I once lived in an area where the local newspaper took photos of cars so parked at a number of local schools and published them. Never saw cars parked there again.

To all your wonderful staff, have a great break away from school for a few weeks.



OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Summer library challenge- Oh yes it is that time again!

The challenge begins and with the closure of our library in Polegate we noticed a real drop in the number of children that participated. Let's see if we can get it up to over 200 again!

We hosted our own special assembly in school to promote this and generate a little excitement. Some Star Wars characters even visited us! Every child that completes this is eligible for our prize draw to win a space themed hamper of goodies!

SPACE CHASE

What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge takes place every year during the summer holidays. You can sign up at your local library, then read six library books of your choice to complete the Challenge. There are exclusive rewards to collect along the way, and it's FREE to take part!

The Summer Reading Challenge website helps you keep track of your reading all year round: find new books to read, take part in competitions and mini challenges, and play games.

Bedtime stories

And if hearing your very own teachers wasn't enough you can listen to 20 of your favourite celebrities read extracts from their favourite books on the website!

One of my very favourite books as I was growing up is read on there-I wonder if you can guess what one it is!



Isn't just talking to my child enough? Rich Vocabulary Equals Advantage

YES it is absolutely brilliant is you sit around a table and have conversations at dinner time and YES it is wonderful if you have conversations as you walk to school without a phone or ipad in sight but research has shown that speech is not the same as language used in even the simplest picture books.

It is far more sophisticated and complex.

Educator Jim Trelease notes that there is a clear difference between conversing with a child and reading to him or her. As he points out in his book "Read-Aloud Handbook," speech is full of jargon, colloquialisms and truncated sentences. Literature, on the other hand, is much more intricate and therefore vastly more educational. "The language in books is very rich, and in books there are complete sentences. In books,

newspapers, and magazines, the language is more complicated, more sophisticated. A child who hears more sophisticated words has a giant advantage over a child who hasn't heard those words," Trelease says.

FOOTBALL WINNERS

The year 3 4 Football Team who won the local Albion in the Community Cup and then did not lose a game in the Regional competition.









SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Whole school is now: 96.5%. Not far off our target of 97%.

RH = 95%	2M = 97%	5G = 96%
RHi = 95%	2H = 97%	5M = 97%
1Mc = 96%	3M = 96%	6M = 97%
1C = 97%	3B = 97%	6R = 98%
1Y = 95%	4B = 97%	
2A = 97%	4D = 97%	

PRIZE DRAW

If your child has 97% or more then they will be entered in our draw on the final day of term at 9am! Look out on Twitter for the winner!

A brand new bike could be on its way to you.

MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENT

Gethin has asked me to pass on to you news of his musical achievements this year...

In October last year he had an audition on trumpet for the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain (it's a re-audition process every year) and in December we heard the news he had been offered a place in the under 11's orchestra. He has been attending monthly rehearsals since February and has already performed in one concert with the regional

orchestra in June, but during the summer holidays he will be attending a week's course in Dorset ending with another concert. He hopes to reaudition again in the autumn to achieve a place in the under 12's orchestra.

Gethin has also passed three musical exams with distinction this year; grade 5 music theory last autumn (93/100), grade 6 piano this spring (138/150), and just last week grade 6 trumpet (134/150). *Grade 5 is GCSE standard

performance, and grade 6 is A-Level standard performance which he also gains 12 UCAS points for.*

We and Gethin are very proud of his musical achievements and how hard he works. Playing piano and trumpet (especially in an ensemble) is something Gethin loves to do, something he hopes to continue into the future, it brings all our family and friends a lot of joy to see and hear him play.

POLEGATE RADIO

Our dedicated team of DJs took part in a very special workshop with Neil from Hailsham radio. He gave them lots of tips and they are super excited about visiting the studio in September!

Thank you Neil!



WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES



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 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





You can read all the previous newsletters on our website.

Be the first to hear the news. Follow us on Twitter. We now have 995 followers!



Polegate School Oakleaf Drive 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