

news

April 2025 Issue 2



In This Issue

Reading Challenge	2
The Perfect Reading Spot	2
Gardening Club	3
Reception Ducklings	3
Let's Dance	3
Uniform	4
Well Done Oliver	5
Fabulous Finish	5
Swimming At Polegate	6
Pen Licenses	6
Slow Worms	7
PFA News	7
Attendance	8
Big Wheel & Walk	8
Punctuality	9
Diary Dates	9
Attendance Figures	9
Get Active	10
Author Visits	11
Book Recommendation	11
Active Sports Morning	12
Amex Visit	13
Parking Notice	13
Online Safety	16
Flaming Fun Day	17

WELCOME TO TERM 5!

I hope you all had a wonderful, restful holiday. Welcoming the children back last week was, as always, a pleasure, they ran through the gates looking refreshed and ready for new challenges.

Term 5 will be as busy as all terms at Polegate School- swimming, SATs, sports week- are just a few of the exciting events happening this term. It might be a short term, but I am sure we will pack in plenty!

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



The Summer Reading challenge is nearly upon us. Do not forget to sign up!

The Reading Agency and libraries are excited to introduce Story Garden Summer Reading Challenge 2025.

About the Challenge

The Reading Agency, along with the UK public library network, delivers the Summer Reading Challenge across the country every year. It is the UK's

biggest annual reading promotion for children aged four to eleven.

Throughout the Summer Reading Challenge, library staff, along with teenage and adult volunteers, help children to discover new authors and explore a wide range of different types of books, giving them a positive experience of reading for pleasure.

You can make a huge difference by encouraging your pupils to take part.

The Summer Reading Challenge:

- Significantly improves reading confidence and independence
- Ensures pupils are ready for their return to school, preventing the summer reading 'dip'

- Aids the successful transition between year groups and key stages
- Contributes to all pupils' achievement
- Encourages extra-curricular activity – encouraging family engagement with reading
- Develops links between your school, the library and the wider community

You can find additional information and free resources to support children's reading for pleasure in the Summer Reading Challenge School Zone:

www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/school-zone-src

The Challenge will begin in libraries on Saturday 5th July and end on Saturday 6th September.

THE PERFECT READING SPOT

The children at Polegate School love to pick up a book or 2. Jordan created a perfect reading spot at Forest School. If you cannot find me, I will be reading at Forest School- move over Jordan!



GARDENING CLUB

This will be a busy term for the gardening club. Their hard work is paying off with beautiful blooms appearing around the school. We just need to remember to water them now!



RECEPTION DUCKLINGS

Reception thoroughly enjoyed caring for the ducklings last term. The children learnt about the life cycle of a duck and how to care and nurture such beautiful animals.



LET'S DANCE



Polegate School dance group performed spectacularly at the Congress Theatre recently. They danced with confidence and skill - true performers!

UNIFORM

A reminder that all school uniform must be inline with school policy. PE uniform days have the same expectation as all other days and PE kit must also be inline with policy. No logos or printed sweatshirts or T-shirts.



WINTER UNIFORM

Grey or Black trousers, skirt, pinafore dress or culottes

.....
Polegate School Jumper or Cardigan

(Purchased Price & Buckland)

or

Plain dark green jumper or cardigan

.....
Polegate School Logo Polo Shirt

(Purchased Price & Buckland)

or

Plain White Polo shirt or White Shirt/Blouse

.....
Grey or White Socks
Grey Tights

.....
Black School Shoes
(No Trainers)

SUMMER UNIFORM

Green Gingham Checked Dress (Optional)

or

Grey or black Trousers, skirt or shorts

.....
Polegate School Logo Jumper or Cardigan

(Purchased Price & Buckland)

or

Plain dark green jumper or cardigan

.....
Polegate School Logo Polo Shirt

(Purchased Price & Buckland)

or

White Polo shirt or White Shirt/Blouse

.....
Grey or White Socks

.....
Black School Shoes
(No Trainers)

.....
Polegate logo Sunhat

(Purchased Price & Buckland)

or

Plain Green Sunhat

PE KIT

White Polegate Logo T-Shirt
(Purchased Price & Buckland)

or

Plain White Polo shirt

.....
Black Polegate School Logo PE Hoodie or PE Zipped Hoodie or PE Sweatshirt
(Purchased Price & Buckland)

.....
Black Polegate School Logo shorts or jogging bottoms
(Purchased Price & Buckland)

or

Plain black shorts, joggers or leggings (No Logos)

.....
Black Trainers

WELL DONE OLIVER



Oliver from year 5 performed brilliantly at the recent County School Games cross country event. Oliver successfully made the final through a number of heats and performed with strength, courage and determination in the final. Congratulations Oliver, we are all incredibly proud of you!

FABULOUS FINISH

Year 2 created Tudor-style houses as part of our fabulous finish. We 'built' them close together as they would have been in the times of the Great Fire of London. A fire was started at one end, and we saw how quickly the fire would have spread because of the way the houses were built. A fabulous finish to a fabulous term of learning!



SWIMMING AT POLEGATE

Swimming has started again this term

The pool is looking very inviting. Reception classes have had their first swimming lesson and thoroughly enjoyed it!

We value our swimming pool greatly, and include swimming for all children within our curriculum. Swimming is a life skill, and living by the seaside is one that I believe our children greatly need.

All children are expected to participate in swimming lessons. If your child cannot swim, a letter is required explaining why.

Reminders

- Do not have children's ears pierced during the summer term.
- Earrings cannot be worn in the pool.
- Earrings must be removed at home.
- Long hair beyond the chin must be tied up, and a swimming hat worn.

To ease any difficulty when changing for swimming (you would be amazed how tricky changing can be!), children are to wear their PE kit on swimming days.



PEN LICENSES

Mollie and Joshua in 2B received their pen license. Mrs. Giggs was very proud to give these out, she said they are the first Year 2 children to earn them!



FOREST SCHOOL SLOW WORMS

We appear to have a family of slow worms residing at Forest School. The children handled the slow worms with care and respect. I believe they are named - we currently have Harry Potter and Voldemort.



PFA NEWS

Our amazing PFA are funding an exciting new playground sensory project.

We are hopeful that the new area will be open in September 2025. We want to say a very big thank you to the PFA for providing such amazing resources and opportunities for all our children.

If you would like to offer support or join this amazing group of parents please contact pfa@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk



PFA EVENT DATES

9th May	Krispy Kreme Donuts
16th May	SCHOOL DISCO Infants 3-4pm, Juniors 4:30-5:30
3rd June 2025	PFA Meeting
6th June 2025	Freeze Pop Fridays start (Weather permitting)
11-12th June 2025	Gifts for Loved Ones
19th July 2025	Summer Fair 11am-2pm.

ATTENDANCE

As part of our commitment to providing children with the best possible education, experiences, and outcomes, we regularly monitor children's attendance.

Excellent attendance is essential for children to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment and well-being and sets a good example for future life.

We monitor children whose attendance is below the government recommended 96% (equivalent to 8 missed school days over an academic year). National Average primary school attendance for 2023-24 was 94.3%. Last year our attendance was 95.3%, which was 1% down on 2022-23 but still above National, which is excellent! Our current attendance is 95%. We are here to support you and

your child in achieving the best attendance possible. We will contact you if we have concerns about your child's attendance but please do contact **Natalie Dicker**, our school attendance officer, n.dicker@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk if you have concerns or would like to discuss any worries.

BIG WALK & WHEEL

Following our 2 weeks promoting active travel to school, we managed to achieve well over half of all journeys without using a car.

The 3 classes with the most amount of journeys by foot, bike or scooter were;

- 3rd 3D with 215 journeys
- 2nd 6MU with 225 journeys
- But 1st with just 2 more journeys over the 2 weeks (227) - 6M!
- Congratulations 6M who each received a Blueberry Bounce Ball as a reward!



3,349	Total journeys The total number of journeys recorded in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2025.
55.84%	Daily average score This is your current average daily score based on a percentage of your school roll. If you take part in more than five days, this will be based on your best five days.
490 / 1299 Large primary schools	Overall position in challenge Based on your daily average score. View overall positions
3337	Total journeys in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2024 See if you can beat the number of journeys logged in last years challenge.



The overall leading class badge is held by...
6M with 227 journeys

PUNCTUALITY

DIARY DATES

Punctuality Important Key to Your Child's Success

Research shows that children with consistent school attendance learn more. If children are to fully benefit from the many learning opportunities, regular school attendance is vital.

A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of teaching time during the year, definitely, a significant loss in the teachable moments that you can't get back.

Children who are late or absent can never recover what is most important: the discussion, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes learning come alive.

While punctuality will promote learning, arriving late to school can also be very disruptive for the child, the teacher, and the other students in the class.

A child's success in school and ultimately in life depends on having a solid educational background, one that can only be gained through punctuality and regular school attendance.

Regular attendance at school is important in promoting social development. Developing positive attendance and timekeeping habits at a young age will serve the child well throughout their life.

What does your child miss when they arrive late?

- The opportunity to participate in early morning work, share experiences and conversations with their friends
- The opportunity to get settled in and be ready for the day with their friends
- The opportunity to participate in all the fun activities that start right at the beginning of each school day

Research shows that attendance is the single most important factor in school success.

2nd May
1C Class Assembly
5th May – Bank Holiday
9th May
3D Class Assembly
12-16th May – Year 6 SATs
13th May @2.30pm
Think Tank Meeting
15th May – Reading Tea Party
19th May – INSET Day
20th – 23rd May
Sports Week
20th May 1.30-3pm
EYFS Sports Day
21st May @3.15pm
Family Math Challenge
22nd May 9.30 – 11.00am
Years 3&4 Sports Day
22nd May 1.30 – 3pm
Years 5&6 Sports Day
23rd May End of Term 5
26-30th May Half-term
2nd June Start of Term 6
13th June
RA Class Assembly
16th June
Year 6 Enrichment Week, Hailsham Cinema & Bowling
17th June
Year 6 Enrichment Week, Buzz Active @Cuckmere River
18th June
Year 6 Enrichment Week, Branching Out @Bentley Farm
19th June
Year 3 London Trip
20th June
RS Class Assembly
20th June
Year 2 Hastings Trip
27th June
RHR Class Assembly
27th June
Year 4 Port Lympne Trip

ATTENDANCE

RA =	94.7%	2D =	95.6%	4S =	96.6%
RHR =	94.8%	2H =	96.7%	5D =	94.8%
RS =	93.4%	3B =	96.5%	5EK =	95.4%
1C =	96.5%	3D =	96.4%	5K =	94.4%
1L =	95.2%	3T =	97%	6M =	96.3%
1M =	96.2%	4D =	97.1%	6MU =	96.6%
2B =	96.5%	4H =	97%	6W =	93.5%

GET ACTIVE

Get active with some hand/eye and throwing practice games in preparation for sports week

Fast Feet

Can you keep going even if you lose control of the ball?

How many times can you dribble a ball around a marker and back in 60 seconds?

- Each time you dribble the ball around the marker and back you score a point.



S Place down two cones five steps apart

T Dribble using only your weaker foot

E A football.

P Play with a partner and compete against another pair.

Achieve Gold 24 dribbles around the cone and back

Achieve Silver 18 dribbles around the cone and back

Achieve Bronze 12 dribbles around the cone and back

Complete P.E.

Wall Ball

Which skills do you think will be the most important to help you succeed?

How many times can you throw a ball against a wall and catch it in 60 seconds?

- You must stand at least two steps away from the wall when throwing the ball.
- If you drop the ball, carry on counting your score from where you left off when you dropped the ball.



S Makes sure you use a wall without any windows.

T Increase or reduce the size of the ball.

E A (tennis) ball and a wall.

P How many throw and catches can you do with a partner?

Achieve Gold 35 throw and catches

Achieve Silver 25 throw and catches

Achieve Bronze 15 throw and catches.


Complete P.E.

Speed Bounce

Are you honest and only count the jumps that are completed properly?

How many times can you bounce over a cone in 60 seconds?

- Both feet must land over the cone for the jump to count.



S Make sure you are in a clear space with no one near you.

T Hop using one leg.

E A speed bounce mat or cones.

P Challenge yourself or encourage a partner.

Achieve Gold 75 bounces

Achieve Silver 60 bounces

Achieve Bronze 45 bounces

Complete P.E.

S Make sure you are in a clear space with no one near you.

T Hop using one leg.

E A speed bounce mat or cones.

P Challenge yourself or encourage a partner.

Achieve Gold 75 bounces

Achieve Silver 60 bounces

Achieve Bronze 45 bounces

Complete P.E.

AUTHOR VISITS

A Message from Miss Howland Regarding Author Visits to Our School

Hello Everyone,

I am thrilled to announce that we have arranged two exciting author visits for the summer term! Each author will lead an assembly and a Q&A session, followed by an opportunity for book purchasing and signing after the event.

Please mark these dates in your calendars. As we get closer to the events, I will provide additional information on how children can pre-order or pay for books if they wish to purchase one. We are collaborating with Bag of Books, an independent bookshop in Lewes, to facilitate this, and both authors have graciously offered their time free of charge with the hope that we can support them through healthy book sales. Bag of Books will handle all book sales.

Tom Mitchell

**KS2 Assembly
Thursday 19th June**

Tom Mitchell, author of *The First Kid in Space*, will engage our KS2 students. Tom is currently an English teacher in London, and his school has generously granted him a sabbatical for the summer term, allowing him to visit schools. His books are filled with humor, ensuring an entertaining and engaging experience for all the children.

You can learn more about his book at the following link:

<https://bags-of-books.co.uk/product/the-first-kid-in-space/>

Jim Beckett

**KS1 Assembly
Thursday 26th June**

Jim Beckett will present *Buzz Sausage Wolf*, a delightful story about a charmingly silly sausage dog on a quest to become the perfect pet. Accompanied by vibrant illustrations by Aurélie Lise-Anne, this series is perfect for newly independent readers transitioning from picture books. This assembly promises to be lively and interactive for our Years 1-3 students.

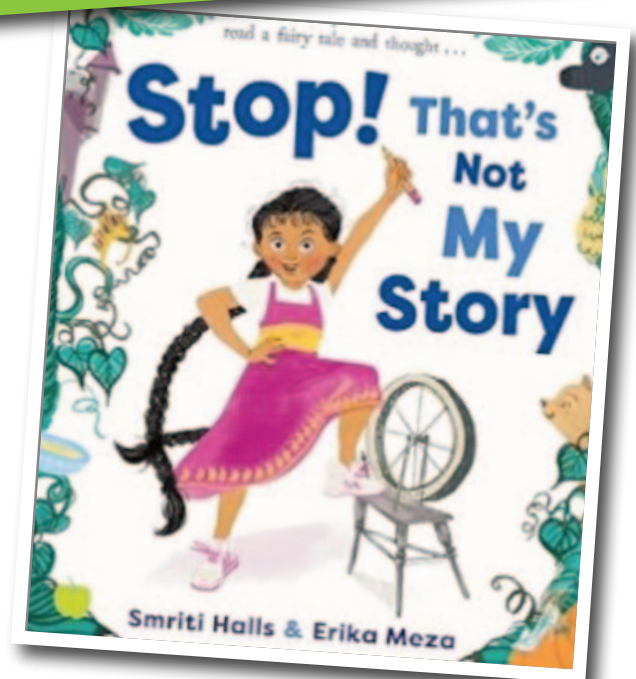
For more details, please visit:

<https://bags-of-books.co.uk/product/buzz-sausage-wolf/>

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

This happens to be one of the year 2 recommended reads and we can see why!

A rhyming story that manages to squeeze in so many familiar fairy tales - think Rapunzel and Jack and the Beanstalk. But this book is so much more than that, it gets us thinking about how we can rewrite stories if they don't end how we think they should and how we can become the heroes in the stories that we write. Happy Reading!



ACTIVE SPORTS MORNING

Year 3 recently had a fun and active sports morning led by BTEC Sports Leader students from Bedes Senior School.

The Year 11 group of young leaders coached small groups in different balls skills and the morning culminated in an exciting tournament for all teams.



AMEX VISIT

Visit to The Amex Stadium For Careers Related Learning

On Thursday April 3rd a group of Year 5 girls had the exciting opportunity to visit the Amex.

The theme of the day was to learn about the many different careers that the stadium could provide; obviously football being just one of many!

The girls took part in fun activities which involved many of the skills required in the work place and which we all could see how these are also entwined with what we learn and do at Polegate.

However, the highlight of the day had to be the guided tour of the stadium, walking through the tunnel onto the pitch and being able to visit the Home and Away changing rooms! Due to there being a match the night before, the Brighton's team names were still above the seats, which meant that the girls got to sit in the very chairs that the

players had sat in only a few hours earlier! What an amazing experience!!

It was a fantastic day for the children (and staff that accompanied them!) and we were incredibly proud of how well the girls represented Polegate throughout the day!



PARKING NOTICE

This is a friendly reminder that stopping or parking on the yellow Zig Zags located at the front of the school is prohibited when dropping off or collecting children.

We have observed that some vehicles are parked inconsiderately during school hours, which poses a risk to the safety of children and others navigating to and from school. The way certain vehicles are parked is causing obstructions on pavements and roads, putting pedestrians at risk from moving

traffic and causing inconvenience to local residents.

We kindly ask that you park with consideration for the safety of all our children and fellow community members.

Please ensure that junctions remain clear, footpaths are wide enough to accommodate prams or wheelchairs without forcing pedestrians into the road, and that cars parked on opposite sides of the street leave sufficient space for larger vehicles, such as emergency services, to pass through. Thank you for your cooperation.

Diary Date

**Monday
19th May
INSET Day**

It all starts with...



All Stars Cricket is the best cricket experience for **5-8 year-olds**

All kids are guaranteed to develop **new skills** while **having fun** and **making friends**

Participants receive a **personalised backpack of goodies** including a bat, ball and t-shirt!



Sign up today at allstarscricket.co.uk



CYBER PROTECT WEBINARS



The Digital Dilemma: Keeping Children Safe Online

Sessions in April, May and June
available to book NOW!

 **TICKETS ONLINE:** 

Eventbrite: Police - South East Cyber

FREE WEBINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS

run by Police Cyber Protect teams

Hints and tips to secure your family
online, covering cyber risks and scams in:

Gaming



Social Media



Email

TO BOOK YOUR SPACE:

Click [here](#), scan the QR code

or search online for "eventbrite police southeast cyber"



DON'T LET IT BE **GAME OVER**
LEVEL UP YOUR ONLINE SECURITY

ONLINE SAFETY



Conversation starters for parents and carers: ONLINE CONTENT



Trying to start a conversation about online safety with children can be a daunting task. There are many reasons why children may not want to talk to adults about it. One might be that they don't think you'll understand or that you won't know how to help if they came to you with an online problem. It can also be hard to start a conversation about something that you might have limited knowledge about. However, with screen time increasing during the lockdown, it's important now more than ever, to be talking to children about what they are accessing online.

1 ASK THEIR MOTIVATION

Sometimes it's easy to assume we know why children choose certain games or apps. Like the child interested in football will be enthusiastic about the new FIFA game. But sometimes it can be more subtle than that. It could be that it's an outlet for their creativity or it might be that they like the look of the main character. Learning their motivation and knowing why they like it can help advising them on how to use it safely and help you discuss the pros and cons.



6 MAKE TIME TO LISTEN

When your child can't wait to tell you about their new game, always try and listen to what they say. We always have a lot on our minds, so it's easy for us to drift off onto other things which may be more important. However try to stay involved and ask them more details about aspects of the game/app. Children will appreciate your interest and the more questions you ask, the more you can find out. If you act uninterested, then they are less likely to tell you about it again in the future.



2 CULTIVATE A BLAME FREE CULTURE

Children can often blame themselves if they come across something that scares them or makes them feel uncomfortable. There will be times when your child has gone against something that you have forbidden, however, most children do not intend to put themselves at risk. Therefore, it's important that your child is able to come to you with a problem and won't be blamed for it. Try to understand what happened and why and warn them of the dangers once more. Engaging in a 'told you so' dialogue or suggesting they are in trouble for not listening may deter them from reporting any future concerns.



7 ASK THEM TO BE THE TEACHER

Showing an interest in what children are accessing online is a great opportunity for you to learn something new as well. Children on the whole love sharing their experiences so by asking them to teach you how to use an app or play a game is not only a great way to bond, but you will also feel more empowered to talk about it. It is easy to shy away from conversations when the child perhaps knows more about the subject content than you do. This can help to turn this around.



3 SHARE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Starting a conversation by sharing something that you've seen or that has made you feel uncomfortable can be a great opener. Talking about your own feelings can help children realise that it isn't just them – adults can be affected too. You can then go into how you coped with it therefore indirectly giving children advice on how they can also cope in uncomfortable situations. You can also explain that the reason that you've chosen to talk to them about it is because talking helps. Children will hopefully be able to see the parallels in the experiences and mimic your behaviour in future.



8 USE SCHOOL MESSAGING

It might be that your child's school has sent out a message about the Childline number or to remind children to use the CEOP helpline to report concerns. Ask the children what they learned about these at school. When would they use the Childline number? When would they need to use the CEOP helpline? What does it look like? Asking the children why the school thought that the information was so important that they sent out a message about it reinforces what they learnt whilst at school.



4 TALK ABOUT THE NEWS

Asking children what their response is to news stories around online safety can be revealing. For example, there has been a recent survey conducted by the BBFC, who are currently campaigning for the application of age ratings and content warnings on video sharing platforms. What do they think about this? Can they think of a time when this would have helped themselves or someone they know? Are they against the idea? If so, why? Could they be accessing something they shouldn't be?



9 ASK ABOUT THE RISKS

Many children may know what online risks are and will happily explain the potential dangers. Listen and try not to be overly shocked if they tell you something that disturbs you. This can then lead nicely into you asking the question about what steps they are taking to look after themselves or what help they could seek if something goes wrong. Sometimes it's just nice to know that your children know the dangers and have taken steps to help reduce the risk for themselves – this is the ultimate goal.



5 ASK FOR ADVICE

It could be that you really do have a friend at work who is debating whether or not to let their child do something online, or it could be that you're bending the truth slightly, but hopefully the outcome would be the same. Don't be afraid to ask others for advice. Not only why they should let the child use it, but also what would they tell the child to be aware of. What are the risks? This will help you understand the risks yourself and what to look out for in future.



10 ASK ABOUT RESPONSIBILITIES

Try asking open ended questions about roles and responsibilities online. Who is in control of the internet? Who is looking after you whilst you are online? Who decides what is appropriate for children to see? They can reveal a lot about a child's perceptions about who is responsible for their online safety. If they believe that it is up to everyone else to keep them safe, then you know you need to have a conversation about how they can reduce their own risk.



11 ASK ABOUT SCHOOL ADVICE

Sometimes it's hard to know what to warn children about. If there is a new app or game that your child has come across recently, ask them what they think their teacher would say about it. What advice would school give them? What have they been told about trusting people online or about fake news? Finding this out would be a good way to hear what advice they were given at school and help you reiterate the same message. Quick reminders about what to do if something makes them feel uncomfortable or who their trusted adults are can make all the difference.



Meet our expert

Heather Cardwell is a practising Online Safety Lead and senior school leader who is passionate about safeguarding children online and educating them around online risks. She has over 10+ years as a Computing Lead and has successfully developed and implemented a whole school approach to online safety in schools, delivering online safety training to both school staff and parents and helping to roll-out a bespoke online safety policy across her local network of education settings.



www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 24.06.2020

FLAMING FUN DAY

Hailsham
Bonfire
Society

FLAMING FUN DAY

LIVE

MUSIC

FAMILY

ENTERTAINMENT

FOOD

STALLS

SUNDAY 29TH JUNE


11-4pm

STALLS
AND GAMES

LICENSED
BAR

WESTERN ROAD REC

ARENA
SHOWS


EAST SUSSEX
SCHOOL OF CIRCUS ARTS

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.uk

Diary Dates

20-23rd May
Sports Week

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
1366 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