

# news

July 2025



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## A HUGE THANK YOU

As we come to the end of another academic year, I'd like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone - our dedicated staff, wonderful pupils, supportive parents, generous volunteers, our committed PFA,

and hardworking governors. The strength and success of our school truly comes from the collective effort of this incredible community, I feel very fortunate to be a part of it.

# TIME TO REFLECT



The end of the year is the perfect time to pause, reflect, and celebrate everything we've achieved together - and there's certainly been no shortage of accomplishments (we really have kept busy!).

- Ofsted- maintaining outstanding
- Gaining Sportsmark Platinum for the second year! The report highlighted the wide sporting opportunities we provide the children.
- Healthy Schools Excellence Award
- Another successful Inclusion Quality Mark inspection which sees us maintain Flagship School Status.
- Ongoing visitors to school observing best Polegate practice. The children are always mentioned during these visits- Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. The deeply ingrained

culture of mutual respect and understanding is seen through all areas of the school. Pupils and adults alike are cheerful, polite and friendly Ofsted 2025

Each of these achievements is significant in its own right, but what truly matters most is the day-to-day life of the school - the consistent progress our children make in every aspect of their learning. What stands out most for me is the enthusiasm, curiosity, and joy your children bring to school each day.

Their smiles, their engagement, and their love of learning are what have made this year so special, and make my job so special.

**Deborah Jones**  
Headteacher

## STAR OF THE WEEK

**As part of Polegate School's ongoing commitment to inclusion and creating a positive, supportive environment for every child, we have recently adapted our school behaviour policy.**

These changes are designed to ensure that all children feel equally recognised, valued, and included in every aspect of school life.

One key change has been the removal of the Star of the Week award. While this tradition has celebrated many successes over the years, we recognise that individual awards can sometimes unintentionally leave others feeling overlooked. Instead, we are shifting our focus to celebrating the

achievements and efforts of all children, every day, in more inclusive and meaningful ways through our Spotlight moments. I am sure we will be celebrating an abundance of spotlight moments during our Monday celebration assemblies.

Our aim is to build a culture where every child feels seen, supported, and celebrated - not just for standout moments, but for the daily progress, kindness, effort, and growth they show across the school.

**The new behaviour policy can be accessed through the school website from September.**

## STAFF NEWS

### Miss Saunders

Miss Saunders will be leaving us at the end of this term as she prepares for the arrival of her baby. While we will miss her dearly next year, we are all looking forward to hearing her wonderful news and wish her all the very best for this exciting new chapter.

We also have two summer weddings to celebrate! Both Miss Allen and Miss Dicerbo will be getting married during the holidays. When we return in September, Miss Allen will be known as Mrs Jones and Miss Dicerbo as Mrs Hibberd. We're thrilled for them both and send our warmest congratulations for their special days.



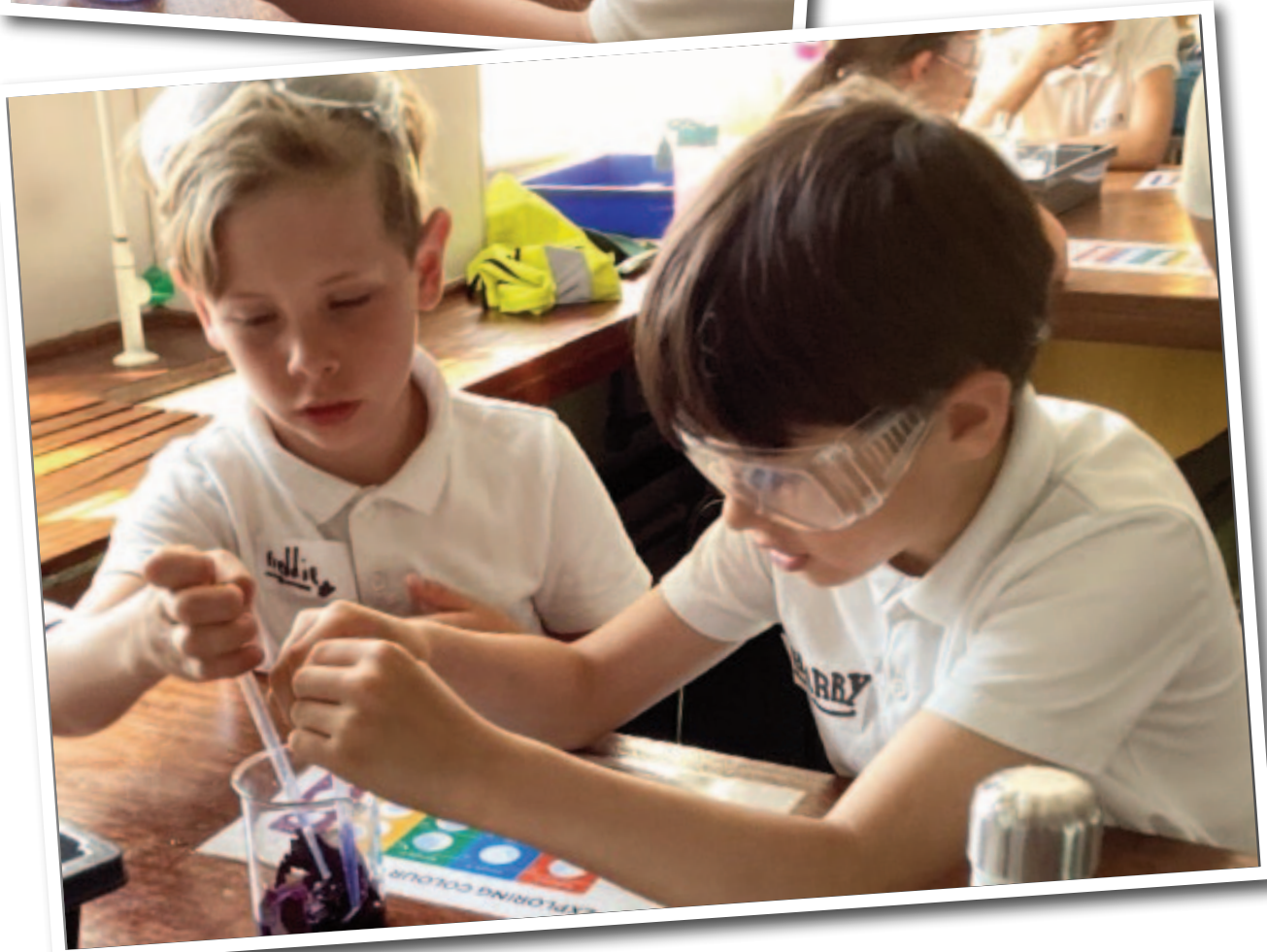
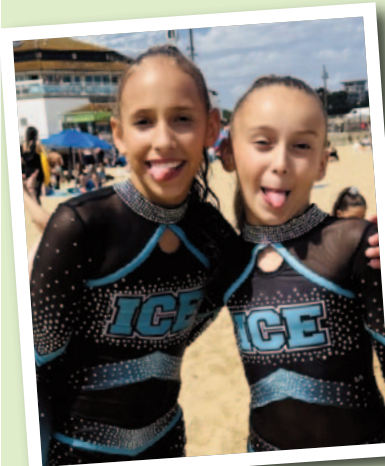
# A DAY OF SCIENCE

Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed a day of science at Willingdon Community School.



## STUNNING CHEERLEADERS

Isabelle and Keira recently came 1st & 13th in an international cheer competition! Congratulations girls-keep cheering!





# YEAR 3 TRIP TO LONDON

Year 3 had an amazing time in our capital city, seeing the sights, riding the London Eye and even cooling down with the sprinklers!





# SWIMMING SUCCESS

**Swimming in Terms 5 and 6 has been a huge success! We're so pleased that the pool remained open every day, allowing children to enjoy regular sessions.**

The opportunity to stay active, develop a vital life skill, and have fun has been invaluable - and it's no surprise that swimming has been mentioned as a highlight in so many end-of-year pupil reports.

We're incredibly lucky to have a school pool, and we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the families who made a voluntary contribution to

swimming this academic year. These contributions are essential — without them, we simply wouldn't be able to maintain and run the pool. As many of you will have seen in the news, school budgets are under increasing pressure, so your support truly makes a difference.

A huge thank you also goes to our wonderful volunteers. Supporting swimming lessons, especially on the hotter days, has been no easy task - and your help has been absolutely vital. Quite simply, swimming sessions (especially changing 90 Reception children!) wouldn't be possible without your support.

**Thank you once again for helping us keep swimming such a successful and joyful part of our school year.**



# POETRY COMPETITION

**2B entered the Young Writer's poetry competition this year by writing about a chosen topic using their senses. The children have received exciting news that all of their poems will be published in the book! Such a fantastic and exciting achievement!**



# YR4 TRIP TO PORT LYMPNE

Year 4 had a fantastic day at Port Lympne as part of our African topic. We went on an incredible safari and saw lots of amazing animals such as rhinos, giraffes and gorillas.

The weather was glorious and we loved walking around and exploring. We even saw a brown bear cooling down in a watering hole!





# WRITING JOURNALS

## Stunning examples of Year 6 Writing Journals

Innovation at its best! The children used the theme 'The Lighthouse' to create some stunning independent writing.

## DIARY DATES

14th July 2.15 pm  
Rock Steady Summer  
Concert

15th and 16th July  
Year 6 Leavers Show

19th July  
Summer Fair

21st July  
Year 6 Leavers Party

22nd July  
Last day of term 6

23rd July – 2nd Sept  
Summer Holiday

3rd September  
INSET Day

4th September  
INSET Day

5th September  
Start of Term 1

16th September  
Prefect Assembly

19th September  
4D Class Assembly

26th September  
2D Class Assembly

1st October  
Individual School Photos

3rd October  
5K Class Assembly

9th October  
Year 6 NCMP

10th October  
3B Class Assembly

21st October  
Parent Consultations

24th October  
End of Term 1



## LATEST ATTENDANCE FIGURES

RA = 94.5%

RHR = 94.6%

RS = 94%

1C = 96.2%

1L = 94.8%

1M = 95.6%

2B = 96.6%

2D = 95.2%

2H = 96.3%

3B = 95.7%

3D = 96.2%

3T = 96.4%

4D = 96.7%

4H = 96.7%

4S = 96.4%

5D = 94.9%

5EK = 95.3%

5K = 94.4%

6M = 96.5%

6MU = 96.3%

6W = 93.4%

## INCLUSION QUALITY MARK



Another wonderful report to share with you! We are absolutely delighted to announce that our recent IQM (Inclusion Quality Mark) report has been received and is overwhelmingly positive. This achievement is a true testament to the incredible efforts of our whole school community.

As the Headteacher, I am incredibly proud of our wonderful children, who continue to impress us every day with their enthusiasm, kindness, and determination. Their spirit is the heart of our school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our staff. Their passion and commitment to providing the very best education and support are what make this success possible.

### A few highlights from the report-

- Polegate is a thriving, extremely inclusive and successful school, built on strong values which underpin all they do.

- The pupils exuded pride and love for the school. They were polite, articulate, and appreciative of how lucky they were to be part of such a wonderful school community.

The nurturing ethos of the school has an excellent effect on relationships between pupils. I observed so much care and respect. Children are accepting and respectful of each other. They also overwhelmingly exhibit a confidence and self-assuredness that often belies their age.

The report is well worth a thorough read and can be found here on our school website.

**Thank you for your ongoing support; together, we continue to build a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child can thrive.**

## PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL

### Please Help Keep Everyone Safe

We kindly ask all families to park responsibly and safely when dropping off or collecting children from school. Unfortunately, we continue to see some cars parked on double yellow lines, on bends, and in areas that are considered blind spots - all of which pose a serious risk to the safety of our children and families.

These areas are clearly marked for a reason, and parking in these spots is not only dangerous but also illegal. The safety of our children is our top

priority, and we all have a part to play in ensuring that the area around our school is as safe as possible.

We would like to sincerely thank the many families who consistently park with care and consideration. Your support helps us set the right example and keep our school community safe.

Let's continue working together to protect our children by making safe, legal parking choices every day.



# PFA NEWS

**We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible PFA (Parents and Friends Association) for their continued hard work and dedication in raising vital funds for our school.**

This summer, thanks to their efforts, we are excited to be developing a beautiful new sensory garden, which will be ready in September. This calming and engaging space will provide a wonderful outdoor area for all children to enjoy, supporting both their wellbeing and sensory development.

You can show your support by attending our Summer Fair on Friday 19th July - a fantastic community event

and a great way to help raise even more funds for projects like this one.

If you're interested in joining this supportive and enthusiastic group of parents and carers, we'd love to hear from you!



**Please contact the PFA for further information:**

**Email:** [pfa@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:pfa@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk)

**Website:** [pta-events.co.uk/polegateschoolpfa](http://pta-events.co.uk/polegateschoolpfa)

**Facebook:** [pfapolegateschool](https://www.facebook.com/pfapolegateschool)

**Together, we can continue to make a real difference for our children.**

## PFA DATES

### 2025-2026

**1st October 2025**  
**PFA meeting 7pm**

**16th October 2025**  
**Second Hand**  
**Uniform Sale**

**23rd October 2025 Disco**

**21st November 2025**  
**Winter Extravaganza**  
**(Fireworks)**

**4th February 2026**  
**Second Hand**  
**Uniform Sale**

**25th February 2026 PFA**  
**AGM meeting 7pm**

**10-11th March 2026**  
**Mothers Day/Gifts for**  
**loved ones Gifts**

**6th May 2026**  
**Second Hand**  
**Uniform Sale**

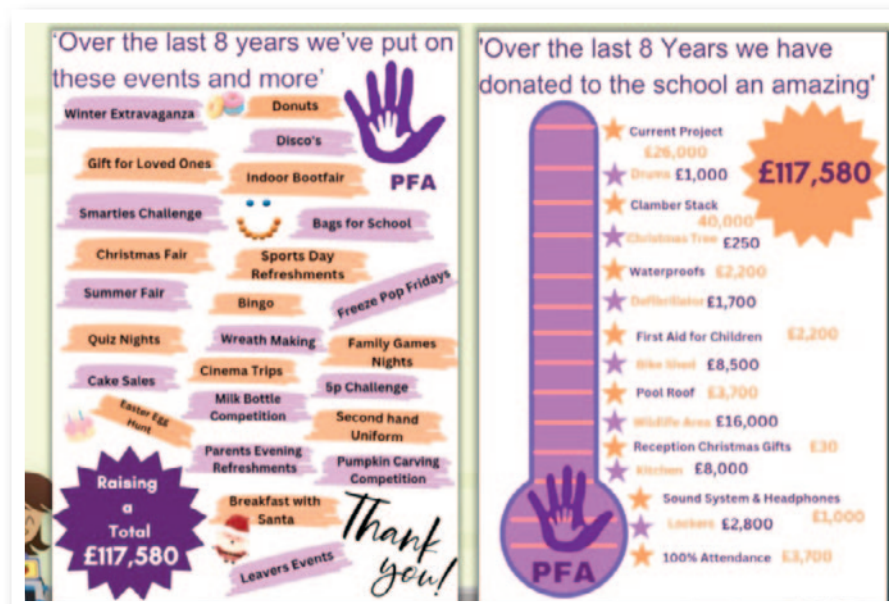
**21st May 2026**  
**Disco**

**3rd June 2026**  
**PFA meeting 7pm**

**5th June 2026**  
**Freeze Pop Fridays start**  
**(Weather permitting)**

**16-17th June 2026**  
**Fathers Day/Gifts for**  
**loved ones Gifts**

**18th July 2026**  
**Summer Fair**





# HANDBALL FESTIVAL

**Two teams from Polegate recently took part in the annual Eastbourne Schools PE Association's Handball Festival at Cavendish School.**

It was a great afternoon of sport, during which our players gained in confidence and improved both their individual and teamwork skills.

In the competitive side of the tournament, the Red Team played particularly well to qualify for a very evenly matched final against Langney Primary. That game went into extra time following a 0-0 result after normal time. The next goal would be a golden goal! We went so close many times but ultimately it was Langney who scored that elusive goal and relegated Polegate to 2nd place overall. Hard to take when we had played so well all day but after the disappointment, we were still proud of the quality of our play and the team spirit on show. Well done to everyone who represented Polegate and thank you to the adults who made the trip possible.





# GARDENING CLUB

Gardening club are caring for their amazing crop of beautiful flowers! They have also grown, harvested and made potato salad - apparently it was delicious



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# Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

## PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

## ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

## AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

## DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

**18**  
CENSORED

## FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

## ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together, if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

## TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

## BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

## Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



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# JOIN THE SUMMER CHALLENGE

The Doodle Summer Challenges are now live  
Doodling little and often will help to keep your Maths and English  
skills up over the summer holidays.

We look forward to giving out lots of badges in September.

**Join the Summer Challenge**  
Earn a pin badge and certificate!  
Swipe to find out how to join ➔

**1.**  
Visit [parents.doodlelearning.com](https://parents.doodlelearning.com)  
and press Register next to your  
child's name  
The last day to register for and begin the  
Challenge is the 18th of August

**2.**  
Encourage your child to earn  
750 stars (or 600 if they were born  
after August 2017) and use Doodle  
or 14 days before the 31st of August  
These 14 days don't need to be in a row.  
A day of use is defined as completing at  
least one exercise a day.

**3.**  
Once they reach their target, we'll  
send them a pin badge in the post!  
You can also claim a personalised certificate  
by visiting [parents.doodlelearning.com](https://parents.doodlelearning.com).

**PIC•COLLAGE**



## CONGRATULATIONS ISABELLA

Congratulations Isabella for winning a medal at "Boys Brigade and Girls Association" for being the kindest member of the group.



# WE WISH YOU ALL A FABULOUS SUMMER HOLIDAY

See you in September

### Diary Date

**Tuesday  
22nd July**  
**Last day of  
term 6**

### Archive



You can read all the previous newsletters on our website.

### Twitter

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hear the news.**  
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**We now have  
1,363 followers!**



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Email: [info@polegateschool.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.polegateschool.co.uk)

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# FREE ONLINE TALK



## FREE online talk



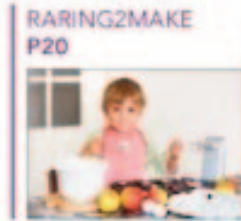
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[raring2go.co.uk](http://raring2go.co.uk)

SUMMER 2025





# waveactive

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INFORMATION

## Family Fun Day

WHERE HAPPINESS BEGINS

Join us for a fantastic day of games, laughter, and  
unforgettable family moments!



Saturday 5th July 2025  
13:00 – 16:00PM



Hampden Park Sports Centre  
Brodrick Road  
Eastbourne, BN22 9RQ



Sports and Games



Arts and Crafts



Bouncy Castle

Free Family Friendly activities including; Bouncy Castle, Arts and Crafts,  
Table Tennis, Badminton, Outdoor Tennis, 3G Football, Martial Arts  
Taster session, Gym Tasters and Inductions

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[www.waveactive.org](http://www.waveactive.org)

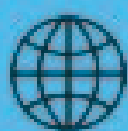


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