

news

June 2018

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OUR WALKING BUS

**There is too much to fit into this newsletter!
 Grab a cup of coffee, make yourself
 comfortable - this is a long one!**

I can't quite believe that the Ofsted was in this term, it seems such a distant memory now and since then there have been lots of exciting announcements for Polegate School. I will share the detail of these later in this newsletter.



PFA NEWS

PFA Meetings

You are all invited to attend meetings. They are very informal and friendly – there are even cakes and coffee! They are held in the staffroom. The next meeting is on Tuesday 22nd May at 7.00pm.

Do you fancy becoming the next lottery winner?

The Polegate school lottery is now up and running with prize winners already! All the funds raised go to the school and the more parents that take part the larger the prizes. Friends and family are also welcome to join.

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play>

The Smarties Challenge was a huge success! Thank you so much for supporting this new fund raising event. The PFA are currently arranging a time for the winning class to get their prize and will announce this as soon as it is booked!

Year 2 have received brand new lockers all funded by our wonderful PFA. They will be installed during the holiday and we now know the mobiles are staying so it is worth installing them now!

We thought it would be lovely to provide our spectators with refreshments during the sports day. Any cake donations for sports days would be hugely appreciated!

Summer Fair 7th July 11am-2pm

Do you know anyone that can lend a hand no matter how big or small. We really need lots of help.

Quiz Night 13th July Challenge the teachers!

Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Bring your own food and drink.

Firework Night Friday 13th October

More details will follow.

What have the PFA paid for?

You may not be aware of how important the PFA are to the school.

It is likely that in the years to come the funds they raise will become even more crucial. Over the last few years the PFA have raised funds for items such as: the MUGA; our reward system; sticker and certificates, Craze of the Week and equipment for playtime and lunchtimes; our African drummer, recently board games for wet play; a full set of ukuleles for Year 4 to enhance our music tuition; contributions towards our outdoor gym and lockers across the whole school now!

An incredible range of things both on a large scale and small that benefit all the children.

STAFF NEWS

Around this time of year we are busy planning ahead for next year and there are always some changes to staffing around May time. Sadly Miss Nicholls, Miss Blackwell and Mrs McGovern are leaving at the end of this academic year.

Lucky Miss Nicholls is off travelling the world before heading home to Norfolk.

Mrs McGovern wants evenings free of marking and the workload that comes with a full time teaching commitment

in order to spend more time with her family however since this announcement she has agreed to delay this a little and cover Mrs Burke's maternity until Christmas. This is brilliant news as she is an incredible teacher and we get to keep her just that little bit longer! (you know I never make it easy for people to leave!)

Miss Blackwell has secured a permanent position at another school and we wish her continued success in her teaching career.

We have appointed a total of 2 new

teachers and we are delighted to welcome them to Polegate School. I will introduce them in the next newsletter.

SCHOOL HATS

Please remember that all children must wear a hat at breaktimes.

YEAR 6 SATS TESTS

Firstly I want to start with talking about the very special people in school that matter the most! Your children!

This term our terrific year 6 experienced the dreaded SATs tests!

Yes they were challenging, yes expectations are incredibly high as you can see some of the questions below; I think you will agree that there are many adults that would struggle with these!

I am so proud of our Year 6 who arrived at school to enjoy a breakfast with their friends each day before the SATs with a smile on their face (I think the bacon baps helped!).

They really appreciated this relaxing, social time with their friends. They have reassured me that they didn't feel anxious and we gave them plenty of encouragement. I am sure they have done brilliantly! At the end of the day we all know that SATs do not test the things that matter most: Kindness, honesty, teamwork, creativity..... or even the

skills a child might excel at such as art, music, P.E, speaking, drama.....

We want to create confident well rounded children who are well prepared for the next stage of their education and beyond and yes, SATs are part of it but they are not everything! A big well done year 6.

We are so so proud of you!

Comments from a parent

'I am so proud of my daughter and her friends this week and am blown away by all the staff and how committed they have been to getting the best out of the kids. The SATS breakfast was amazing

according to my daughter (she had 5 rashers of bacon one day!) and it was great that they had so much chill-out time during each day after the SATs.'

BADMINTON STARS

The Polegate Badminton team are ready for the tournament!



YEAR 5 TRIP TO HINDLEAP



The children's account of the 3 days

'We went on the opportunity of a lifetime to Hindleap Warren where we experienced a selection of activities. The activities pushed us to our limits! We had to face our fears on the zip wire, leap of faith and the climbing wall. We had to work as a team when we went canoeing, took part in the obstacle course and negotiated as part of team building. We took aim in archery. All in all this trip hit its target!

The wonderful staff at the centre encouraged us every step of the way. We have come back changed 'we are braver, stronger, more independent and more confident. We were also a lot muddier'.

Yet another successful residential for our Year 5 children. I would like to thank the staff at Polegate who joined in, spent time away from their own families and also got muddy! As you see, the children gain so much from these experiences.

You know I always like to share wonderful feedback with you and this one is really special! I am so proud of our year 5 children who went on a residential to Hindleap Warren- they were a credit to the school.

Hello, Please could this be forwarded to the relevant member of staff!

Just wanted to pass on what credit your children are, at Hindleap they played football, made drinks and were very kind to our children especially our young lady in a wheelchair - always making sure there was space for her to move around the dining hall! Thank you so much, hope you also enjoyed Hindleap as much as we did!

Kind regards, Cheryl (Manor Green special primary school)

OUTDOOR GYM

This is proving so popular and really enhances the delivery of PE lessons in school as well as keeping pupils really active during breaktimes and lunch.



TENNIS IN THE PARK

Eastbourne Schools PE Association • Gildredge Park 14th May

On a perfect day for a game of tennis, 8 players from Polegate took part in the annual Eastbourne Schools Tennis tournament in Gildredge Park.

After some warm-up activities run by Sports Leaders from Ratton School, the group split into two to play a mix of competitive games and racket skills.

We played against students from Ocklynge, Heron Park, Stone Cross, Bourne and the Haven amongst others. Everyone really enjoyed the experience, representing their school brilliantly and at the end of the afternoon we were very pleased to be placed joint 3rd overall with Heron Park.

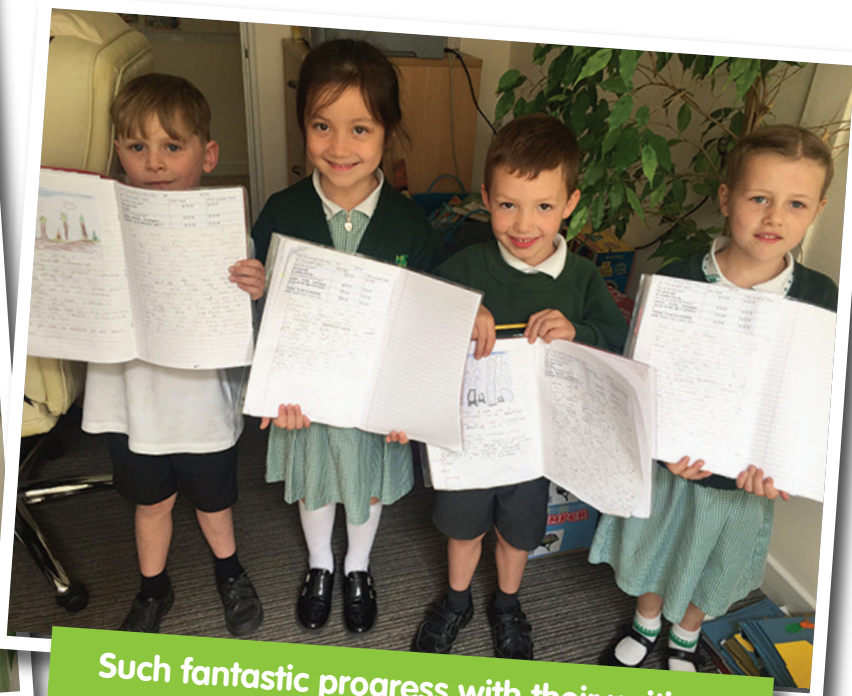
Team Polegate; Bethany, Auron, Matthew, Ruby, Maddie, Emma, Ezra and Riley.



GREAT WORK



From our own school sports to a report on the Hogwarts Olympics! Brilliant Amy



Such fantastic progress with their writing!



So Tia is not just a talented badminton player but also a grade 1 ballet dancer!



2B having great fun making pizzas because they had the best attendance last term!

ATTENDANCE

I am really concerned by the number of holiday forms that are beginning to arrive on my desk. Any absence from school has an impact.

There are 38 weeks in the year when schools are open, and 14 weeks (175 days) when families can visit family overseas; go on holiday; travel; pupils can work, take educational trips, attend non urgent medical appointments.

School holiday dates are published well in advance on the county website and all of our INSET days have been agreed for next year. As such, all parents/carers are expected wherever possible to plan and take their family holidays at this time so as not to disrupt their children's education. Education law states that parents do not have a right to take their child out of school for a holiday during term time. Only in exceptional circumstances may a headteacher grant permission for leave; and there is very strict guidance about what may or may not be approved.

Parents/carers who take their child out of school without the absence being agreed and authorised by written permission from the school can be issued with a penalty fine.

Did you know that:

- a child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life
- 90% of young people with absence rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all
- poor examination results limit young people's options and poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable
- poor school attendance is also closely associated with crime a quarter of school age offenders have truanted repeatedly

- at least 1 million children take at least one half day off a year without permission
- 7.5 million school days are missed each year through unauthorised absence.

GCSEs may seem a long way off for you and your child but all absence at any stage leads to gaps in your child's learning. This in turn can:

- mean that they fall behind in work
- affect their motivation
- affect their enjoyment of learning
- lead to poor behaviour
- affect their desire to attend school regularly
- affect their confidence in school
- mean they miss out on the social life of school and extra curricular opportunities and experiences
- affect their ability to have or keep friendships.

There are 365 days on the year and 190 days in the School Year.

If we take the days in school away from the days in the year we see that for 175 days children are home with their parents. If a child takes leave of absence during term time, 10 school days, attendance starts to fall to only 180 days on school. If the child is then ill for 5 more days in a year they start to be at home more than they are in school.

$$365 - 190 = 175$$

IMPORTANT DATES

Please avoid booking any time off school at all but especially during these dates.

Sadly for the last few years we have had some children missing for these key weeks and it has a real impact on the school and child. Secondary schools do use this information to inform groups and set targets. It does disadvantage children if they miss them and also stops them having a chance to show what they know!

There is no flexibility at all in the dates or days we can administer tests. They are set for us nationally and all schools complete them at the same time. Please, please do not book holidays during SATs.

**Week commencing Monday 10 June 2019
Phonics screening check week YEAR 1**

The key stage 2 tests for Year 6 are timetabled from Monday 13 May to Thursday 16 May 2019.

School Attendance

Whole school is now: **96.3%**. A little way off our target of **97%**.

RH = 95%	3M = 97%
RV = 95%	3Mc = 97%
RHI = 96 %	4M = 96%
1N = 97%	4D = 96%
1B = 96%	5W = 96%
1Y = 96%	5GK = 97%
2B = 97%	6M = 97%
2A = 97%	6R = 96%

Diary Dates

INSET days for next year

Monday 3rd September 2018

Friday 9th November 2018

Thursday 3rd January 2019

Friday 4th January 2019

Friday 5th April 2019

I have added these deliberately onto the holidays in the hope you can benefit from cheaper prices and plan your holidays out of term time. I am staggered and disappointed by the very large number of holiday requests this term!

BEAT THE STREET

We are once again taking part in this brilliant initiative.

The 'Beat the Street' will be returning to East Sussex once again this summer from 6 June to 25 July 2018. This is a fun, free walking and cycling challenge.

Last summer East Sussex was transformed into a giant walking, running and cycling game – with over 42,000 residents (including teams from over 140 schools) tapping 'Beat Boxes', collecting points for their team, and clocking up an impressive 230,927 miles – close to the distance between the Earth and the Moon!

Following the success of the game in 2017, we would like to ask for your support again this year in getting the whole school moving!

What is Beat the Street?

Beat the Street is a free, fun initiative that will see thousands of residents across East Sussex - from the major towns to rural villages and communities - take part in the county-wide challenge. Close to 500 special sensors, known as Beat Boxes, will appear on lampposts across East Sussex, which people can tap with Beat the Street fobs or cards to track their journey, earning points for the distance they walk, cycle or scoot, and the chance to win prizes for themselves and their team. Players can view their progress online at beatthestreet.me/eastsussex. Find out more about how the competition works by watching this short video.

Your child will come home with a fob. These will be delivered between the 23 and 25 May, just before half term, and prior to the game starting on the 6 June 2018.

Beat the Street fobs for children will be pre-registered to your school; however you will need to encourage your child to register their fob online, should you want to be in with a chance of winning lucky taps prizes!

Don't forget to send us your photos for Twitter when we all start.

SUSTRANS BIG PEDAL

We did brilliantly! We came second place and have a BMX stunt star visiting Matti Hammings to show off his skills to the school! We also won lots of prizes, helmets, bicycle pumps etc.

LANGUAGE IN THE PLAYGROUND

Just a reminder to parents about the school's expectations.

We do have high standards of pupils' behaviour and we do expect parents to model this on the playground.

Please be mindful of the language you are using. The children may not have come out of school while you are waiting but there are younger siblings on the playground who can overhear. There should be no need to swear on school grounds at all.

Section 547 of the Education Act 1996, Persons Causing Nuisance / Disturbance on School Premises gives clear guidance:

'School premises are private property and parents have been granted permission from the school to be on school premises. However, in case of abuse or threats to staff, pupils or other parents, school may ban parents from entering school.

It is also an offence under section 547 of the Education Act 1996 for any person (including a parent) to cause a nuisance or disturbance on school premises. The police may be called to assist in removing the person concerned.

School is not then responsible for organising arrangements for children in the above circumstances. Parents will need to provide alternative arrangements for bringing children into school.'

Our expectation is that:

Adults set a good example to children at all times, showing them how to get along with all members of the school and the wider community.

Clearly choosing to use swear words is not setting a good example.

SWIMMING

If you would like your child to benefit from lessons in term 6 please ensure that if you haven't already paid that you do so before the start of Term 6.

The swimming payment has been open on ParentMail since October last year to give you the opportunity to pay over a period of time.

If you have not yet paid then your child will not have the opportunity to swim in term 6.

Thank you to all 355 parents that have contributed towards the cost of swimming.

I think it might come as a surprise to see what other schools charge.

Stone Cross who use the Lagoon in Hailsham charge £27.50 for 10 weeks of swimming

Willingdon charge £30 for 10 weeks, once a week at Ocklynge School.

All we ask for is £10 for 12 weeks and in one term children swim twice a week. Compared to other schools this is less than half! Amazing value.

We also don't have to waste valuable learning time by travelling to a pool.

Last year the Think Tank as you know felt so upset and disappointed that parents don't pay they suggested that lessons in Term 6 be focused on those parents who are really committed to their child swimming and value this experience. All children have benefitted from swimming across the school – no one has been excluded. So in term 6 those children whose parents have indicated they want them to swim and have paid will have lessons so that other children can continue with their learning in class.

This is in line with music tuition such as piano and guitar which is offered to children at a cost.

It is compulsory for one year group to swim and so we have made the decision to offer this to year 6 and so every child will continue to swim throughout term 6 in year 6.

SCHOOL MEALS

If your child is absent from school and you have booked a meal via ParentPay please make sure you cancel the meal before 8.30am.

SPORTS UPDATE

Inter-Schools Gymnastics Competition April 2018

At the beginning of this term a very talented group of gymnasts from Polegate took part in the annual Key Steps Gymnastics Competition at Hailsham Community College.

Hopes were high after last year's results – we missed out on top spot because we couldn't gain the highest marks on the vault as we hadn't been trained on a springboard.

With a new springboard purchased this year for the gym club, and with expert coaching from Zara Breeze, we were keeping everything crossed for our 2018 team that included previous members Sam, Daisy and Annabel and newcomers Hattie and Daisy.

Although we were not able to win the team event due to low numbers, we were over the moon to hear that our

vault training had paid off. Annabel gained the highest mark of the whole competition – 9.8 – for her perfectly-executed first vault!

In addition, Sam scored a very high 8.0 for his body management routine (the highest overall was 8.6) with

Daisy and Sasha both scoring a very high 8.2 in the floor routine.

Everybody represented the school brilliantly and I (Mrs Wallis) was extremely proud of every one of them and all the hard work they have put in this year.



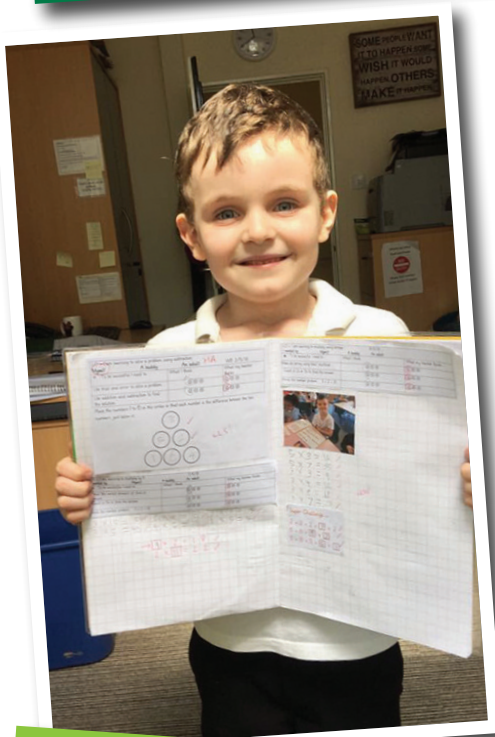
Handball Festivals for Year 1 & Year 4 • Ratton School April 2018

Two groups of children from Year 1 and Year 4 recently attended Handball Festivals alongside teams from other local schools including Ocklynge, Langney, Willingdon & Pevensey and Westham.

It was a fantastic opportunity to meet players from other schools, develop important ball skills and most importantly to learn a new game that they will be able to share with the rest of our school! At the end of each afternoon there was a competitive round of games and even though our players were new to the sport, one of the Year 1 teams came second in their group. Well done Polegate!



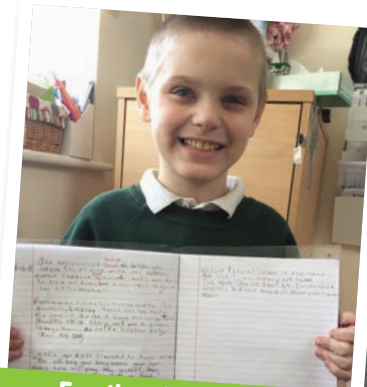
MORE GREAT WORK



Amazing multiplication from Xander in Year 1!



We are all really proud of Alfie's incredible progress and hard work!



For the third time this year! Jack with his incredible writing!



We love seeing these very special visitors at the office with their amazing work!

Diary Date

Friday
25th May
Last day
of term

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 879 followers!



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Feedback

We'd love to hear your feedback and any new ideas you have. Please send us your thoughts via the contact us page on the school website:

www.polegateschool.co.uk