

WHAT A YEAR!



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**More Year 6 Leavers
Photos inside**

**I really don't know quite where to even begin... what a year!
Never-ending building work, Ofsted and the corona virus... what next?**

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU

Throughout this time I have never been anything less than proud of the children, staff and whole community.

We are proud of the fact we were open throughout this time and staff at Polegate get a great deal of satisfaction from knowing we are doing the right thing for the children and in the process supporting families.

We still managed a 'virtual sports week', virtual school trips, celebrated VE day, entered amazing artwork in the Royal Academy's art exhibition and continued learning throughout.

I realised I had a lucky escape when I was reminded on Twitter that this time last year I was covered in slimy stuff - I never did find out what it was! I am sure something far more evil is being planned as we speak!

I gained around 360 teachers this year. Now I wasn't expecting that and I am sure you weren't either!

I want to say a huge thank you for taking on this role. I know you embraced the home learning set and so much more!

Twitter reflected the amazing experiences you gave your children. I am hoping the life skills book provided a welcome relief when school work became too much and that their new found skills have made your lives easier! I hope you were also kind to yourselves. It is not easy to teach your own children.

I stumbled across this and I thought it would make you smile:

'It takes a village to raise a child but a vineyard to homeschool one!'

Congratulations for getting through this and embracing it as you have. I am pleased to say we can't wait to have your children back in September.



YOUR KIND WORDS

You also found the time to send us kind emails, thank you. I like to look on the positive side of things and I can honestly say that the whole school team have come through this stronger than ever!

Dear Mrs O'Donoghue

I would like to take this opportunity to say a HUGE THANK YOU to you and your amazing staff for keeping our children safe at school in such a fun environment.

Our son had bad anxiety over the Covid situation but since coming back into school he has become a different child again- happy and confident. This has been noticed by many people (at a distance!).

Kind regards

Also the fantastic videos you have all created and the assembly make me so proud to have my daughter at your school. The video you all made was very emotional, we loved it.

I know some of my friends children at other schools don't have any contact so it just shows how amazing Polegate is!

It must be very hard and challenging for you all still working at the school. So again, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! Hopefully see you when it is safe for everyone to all be together again.

Stay safe everyone and take care.

Can I just say how invaluable these transition days are, even more so with COVID-19. I didn't realise a lot of other primary schools don't offer this AT ALL, so I'm really proud that Polegate does this!

Thank you for taking the opportunity and sending your children in for the transition days. It has made us very happy to see them again. A super end of the year for us all and the best gift you could have given us- time with your children!

FLAGSHIP STATUS AGAIN!

Polegate School was assessed in July this year by the Inclusion Quality Mark to achieve Flagship status. This will be the third year we have maintained this award.

We have not yet received the report but will share this with you as soon as we receive it.

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.

RECEPTION WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new reception children. Our year 5 children were very busy in lockdown writing letters to their new reception buddies.

They take this very seriously and we have been really impressed with the effort they have put into this. Our new reception will feel very welcome.

It has been fabulous to see our new reception coming in very bravely for their induction sessions.



TO INFINITY AND BEYOND!

We said our goodbye's to the incredible year 6s on Friday. It is always emotional but the theme of our last assembly was around this quote:

When one door closes another one opens: but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us"

Alexander Graham Bell.

The end of year assembly is available to watch online. We thought it would be nice for all the children to join us, even virtually.

We are very excited to see what doors open for your children next year!

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful, restful, stress free holiday. Hoping you all manage to have lots of fun!



Our Year 6 Leavers Assembly

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

We subscribe to Speechlink as a school and they have just introduced their new parent support site for children with speech and language difficulties.

About Speechlink

We are a team of speech and language therapists and software engineers who develop packages of assessments and interventions for schools, called Speech Link and Language Link. We have put together some of our activities and games from our award-winning packages for you to use freely at home. Use our developmental charts to help you decide which activities are for your child. Our information section explains the difference between speech and language and why they are so important and don't forget to watch our new top tip video series where our speech and language therapists will show you how to support your child at home.

SPEECHLINK
ParentPortal

Top tips for talking with your child

SpeechLink
MULTIMEDIA LIMITED

Take it easy!

Slow down



Give your child time to think and respond.

Keep it simple



Use easy words and short sentences.

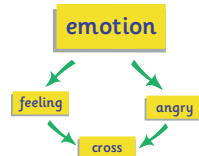
Be positive



Say what you want, not what you don't want.

What's it all about?

Make links



Make links between words and ideas clear.

Give details



Talk about what new words mean and sound like.

Explain yourself



Say how you have worked things out.

Look, listen & learn

Show as you tell



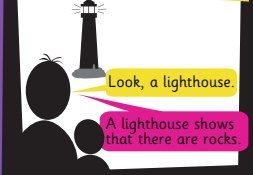
Use pictures, photos and demonstration.

Develop listening



Play with sounds and rhymes.

Repeat



Use new words in lots of different sentences to help learning.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your support this year has been truly incredible and has kept us all going. Thank you for the emails with kind words- they honestly mean so much.

We have navigated really tricky situations with your support. I totally appreciate September arrangements are far from ideal. Plans have become a logistical nightmare for us and also

impact on our own family arrangements. We would like nothing more to revert to our normal plans. It would be easier but it would not necessarily be safer for your children and this is not right.

Every school has to manage their arrangements differently according to their own circumstances and setting, comparisons are not helpful or useful.

We will keep our measures under constant review and ongoing consultation with different groups: staff, governors, parents and the local authority. We will keep you updated and I am ever hopeful we will reach a point when we can go back to our normal arrangements. We are very keen to do this at the earliest possible stage!

Thank you for your understanding at this challenging time.

Morning,

We would just like to say a BIG thank you for all you have done this year for the students. This year has been difficult for everyone.

Each one of you have been amazing with everything you have had to do from providing lessons via the email to the government saying certain year groups to come back and the measures you have all had to put into place.

Our daughter loves school (she is currently year 1) and with all this going on with the changes etc, she has understood and still enjoys school. That is testament to all you do.

Thank you to all of you. Hope you can all have a nice summer.

Many thanks

Dear Polegate School,

Just before my daughter, leaves Polegate School for the final time, I felt I had to write and thank you all.

She has attended Polegate since Reception and I cannot express enough how grateful I am for the wonderful education she has received and how much she has learnt. I am so proud of her. Every parents evening I have attended has been nothing but positive, encouraging, with reassuring feedback and I have never had cause for concern or complaint.

I know she is going to miss everyone and has always enjoyed attending. I am also grateful for everything you have done for the keyworker parents and that the decision was made to keep the school open throughout all of the Coronavirus upheaval, ensuring their levels of learning were maintained. Polegate School thoroughly deserves its 'Outstanding' Ofsted report!

I'd also like to thank all of her teachers over the years individually; Mrs Perkins, Mrs Jones, Miss Regan, Miss Dedman, Mrs Barnard, Mr Clayton, Mr Trent and Miss Murphy. I would also like to thank Mrs O'Donoghue for ensuring that all the children are gaining the best standard of education they can. I am sure I have missed out a lot of teaching assistants that Bethany knew along the way; please pass on my thanks to them also. (And thank you to Monika on reception who is always cheerful and helpful!) I know that she is sad to be leaving but is also looking forward to her transition into Willingdon in September. If the standard and quality of teaching when she gets there is anything like the same as she has received at Polegate School, I will be a very happy parent!

Many thanks again to you all.

Kind Regards

Hello, I just wanted to send a message to say thank you so much for the incredible work you have done this year. Jack has been back in school since reception reopened and he has absolutely loved it. Everyone has been so positive and helpful despite how uncertain everything is. You've made so much effort to welcome them back, and the reception teachers have a lovely last day planned for them today.

Special thanks to Mrs Jones for being so lovely at the school gates and Mrs Coupe for encouraging Jack when he was unsure about leaving me. And of course

Mrs Dedman who has had the difficult job of filling Mrs Hick's shoes and us parents didn't really get the chance to know. Monika has also managed to keep smiling and continues to be so friendly and helpful, even though I'm sure she's been dealing with so many queries!

I know there will probably be work going on in the summer to prepare for whatever next term will look like, but I hope you all have some time to relax. You have been our heroes! Many thanks.

'As it's the last day of school here at Polegate for our daughter, I'd like to take this opportunity and say a huge "Thank you"! That was a wonderful time for her! Thank you ever SO much for all your support and hard work to make this school the most friendly, supportive and motivating place for the children. It's amazing that all the children, no matter where they come from, what strengths or weaknesses they may have, they're so well looked after, with this approach I like the most: so they know they can achieve whatever they want and they would be supported on this journey. I wouldn't imagine better school for our daughter!

When she started at Polegate school, she didn't even speak English and both together, yours and our care, made her the first 2 Millionaire reader two years ago! We are so proud of her! We always wanted her to get a University degree and now I'm sure she will one day. And it gives me peace of mind. Thank you for making it possible.

Just to mention that Natalia, since the very first day at Polegate school, always felt welcomed there, safe and well. Even during school holidays, she couldn't wait to go back to school!

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

You may well have had enough of homeschooling to last a lifetime but if you had a burning desire to continue Microsoft are offering a range of really exciting summer camps in STEM and coding, making stories in Powerpoint and word, coding in Minecraft... amongst other exciting things.

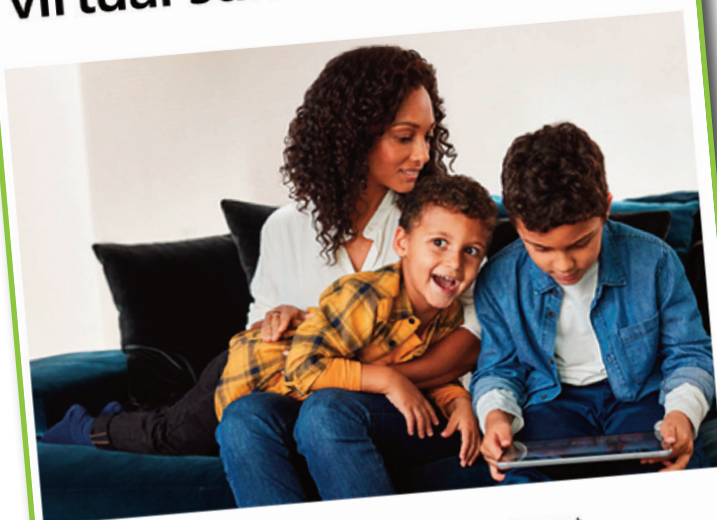
<http://click.microsoftstoreemail.com/?qs=cae9bd5de2039c0a0abe0aada637bfe24c9c014e54fc900847b28b47d0b2d7f3a66dc5dda2a521b4c6428ea6450609ccf5e17d1877a871dc69850672f2deb7bb>

A taste of the types of training available throughout the summer.

Full courses can be found here.

https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/store/locations/england/london/oxford-circus/store-1144?eventcat=10000053&OCID=ema_7021197_summercamps_20_CRM_explore_all&WT.mc_id=PromoEmail_7021197_17284_en_UK_Virtual_Summer_Camps_07-13-20_Banner_5_Virtual_Summer_Camps_General

Spark curiosity with free virtual summer camps



Make good use of free time during July and August with the Summer Passport for Digital Fun: a series of virtual workshops for kids. They'll be so busy having fun, they'll forget they're building valuable digital skills.

15 July 2020

10:30

UK Virtual Summer Camps – Hour of Code Minecraft: Voyage Aquatic, ages 8+
Join us for this free virtual workshop to take part in the Hour of Code. Using the power of code, kids aged eight and older will explore aquatic ...
[See more event details >](#)

12:00

UK Virtual Summer Camps – Make your own story with PowerPoint and Word: Minecraft, ages 6+
In this free virtual workshop, kids six and up will learn how to create a story using Microsoft PowerPoint and Word. They'll explore the latest ve...
[See more event details >](#)

13:30

UK Virtual Summer Camps – Hour of Code Minecraft: Voyage Aquatic, ages 8+
Join us for this free virtual workshop to take part in the Hour of Code. Using the power of code, kids aged eight and older will explore aquatic ...
[See more event details >](#)

15:00

UK Virtual Summer Camps – Make your own story with PowerPoint and Word: Minecraft, ages 6+

STAFF NEWS



Mrs Richardson

Mrs Richardson

Mrs Richardson walked through Polegate School doors on the 8th May 1988 (I can actually say this was before my time!) A staggering 32 years working at Polegate School!

Some parents, I'm sure, will remember Mrs Richardson keeping lunchtimes in order - all it took was that look! She has had many roles across the whole school over the years and supported many children to reach their potential.

She is retiring this year and we wish her many happy years. I'm sure she will be kept just as busy with her many grandchildren!



Miss Wheelhouse

Miss Wheelhouse

It feels like Miss Wheelhouse has been with us forever (in the nicest possible way!) She quickly made an impression but actually she joined to cover Mrs Dedman's maternity a little over a year ago. Mrs Dedman returned part way through this year but because Miss Wheelhouse loved her class so much I was able to convince her to stay for the rest of the year to provide continuity for 3W. She is wanting a complete change and looking for a career outside teaching- which is a real loss to the profession but we wish her every success!

Farewell from Miss Wheelhouse!

As summer approaches, I am bidding you all a fond farewell.

I have had so many outstanding experiences whilst at Polegate School!

I feel extremely lucky to have met such incredible and wonderful children at Polegate, who have filled my days with joy and laughter.

Have a relaxing summer one and all and best wishes for the future.

Work hard, be kind and keep singing!



Mrs Priddle

Mrs Priddle

You may never have seen her but she worked tirelessly behind the scenes making sure that all our bills were paid and ordering all the resources classes needed. She is also retiring and will be spending the time travelling around the country in her campervan with her husband and dogs.

We will miss them all.

Diary Dates

**Start of Term 1
2020-21
Friday 4th
September
2020**

WIN A BIKE!

In addition to a board game, we are giving away a **CHILDREN'S BIKE** to encourage as many families as possible to give us their feedback.

Sustrans are working with schools in East Sussex to support more families to walk, scoot and cycle. To see how we've been doing, we are asking parents to provide some feedback using the survey link below.

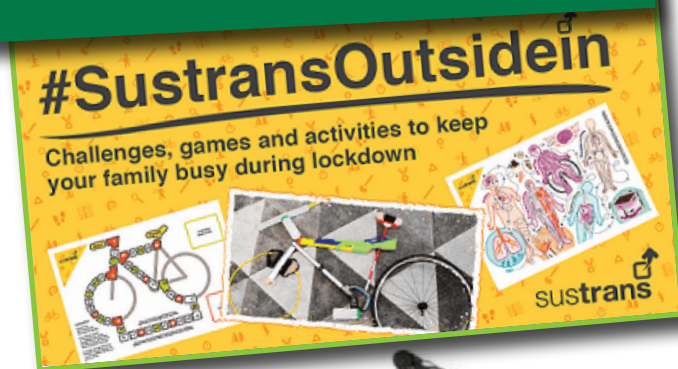
<https://sustrans.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/parent-survey-june-2020>

Survey closes Sunday 19th July 11.59pm

Sustrans are offering a CHILDREN'S BIKE to the school with the most responses, and the board game as a runners up prize to another school. The winning schools can run their own competition or raffle with these prizes, and the pupil who wins the bike can be matched with a frame size to suit them*.

*Please note that there might be a delay in delivery of the bike due to current high demand in bicycles and limited stock across the UK.

** Applies to schools in East Sussex only.



THE SPORTS AWARDS HAVE BEEN FLOODING IN!

The assessment states that they strongly recommend that Polegate Primary School applies for **ACTIVE SUSSEX – Primary School of the Year Award**. That's one to look forward to next year!

We were awarded Platinum Plus – and the assessor included the comment right at the end... **'some outstanding work'**.

I would like to thank the incredible staff that drive sports across the school, run clubs and encourage children to be more active and our two sports subject leaders: Mrs Murphy and Mrs Wallis who ensure children receive their entitlement and more!



YEAR 6 LEAVERS

We are so pleased, that despite everything that was going on, year 6 managed to have a fabulous last term at Polegate. Our wonderful PFA paid for pizzas to celebrate their last day and the whole school enjoyed ice creams!



SUMMER LIBRARY CHALLENGE

It's more important than ever that we are reading!

Join the Silly Squad!

Yes, this is still happening and we would encourage as many of you as possible to do this!

Get rewards, play games and earn badges as you discover awesome books to read this summer!

About the Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge, presented by The Reading Agency, is delivered in partnership with public libraries and funded by Arts Council England. The Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure over the summer holidays, providing lots of fun as well as preventing the summer reading 'dip'.

Each year the Challenge motivates over 700,000 children to keep reading to build their skills and confidence.

This year, the Summer Reading Challenge's Silly Squad will celebrate funny books, happiness and laughter. Children taking part in the Challenge will join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck into all sorts of funny books!

The 2020 Challenge features bespoke artwork from award-winning children's author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson (Amelia Fang; Evil Emperor Penguin; I Don't Want Curly Hair).

With the disruption caused by Covid-19 and the impact of social distancing on schools and public libraries, the 2020 Challenge will launch in a new digital format designed to keep children engaged and interested in reading. It will support parents and carers with children already at home, offer schools exciting ways to animate remote

learning, and provide great content for those back in the classroom. Many wonderful partners are supporting the Challenge this year to help us reach even more children than ever. The Challenge will run from 5 June to mid-September.

The Summer Reading Challenge website is free to access and features games, quizzes and downloadable activities that incentivise and encourage children to take part in reading related activities. Although public library buildings are closed, libraries will continue to deliver the Challenge through virtual services and e-lending platforms.

To find out more click on this link

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>



CONGRATULATIONS BLAKE, CHARLIE & JOSHUA!

You have reached Europe on your maths passport!



CHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO YOUR CHILD

We just wanted to let you know that due to the new GDPR regulations we will not be sending out data collection sheets any more. We do still need to know if there are any changes to information relating to your child.

Changes we need to know about are:

- Medical details (any new allergies, asthma etc)
- Change of address, telephone numbers or email address

Keep us informed

It will be up to you to keep us informed and you can do this by emailing the school office at:

office@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

with any changes or by completing the form which you can find on the download section on our website

www.polegateschool.co.uk

Diary Dates

Start of Term 1
2020-21
Friday 4th
September
2020

Archive



You can read all the previous newsletters on our website.

Twitter

Be the first to hear the news.
Follow us on Twitter.
We now have
1,117 followers!



Polegate School
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Polegate
East Sussex BN26 6PT
Tel: 01323 482404
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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

Designed by Prowork : www.prowork.co.uk