

# news

**April 2019**



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## EXCITING LEARNING EXPERIENCES!

**As always it is with great pride that I write about the achievements of your children and the lengths that staff go to in order to offer your children the very best and most exciting learning experiences!**

This term has been packed full of irresistible learning, from World Book Day to International Women's day to an action packed Science Week! The school has been buzzing and I hope the enthusiasm I have seen around the school has been shared with you at home as well.

Alongside the main work of teaching your children three major building projects have also been underway! You can't have failed to notice them!

**Read  
more  
inside**

# WELCOME

**The main school extension is now nearing completion! I have been informed that the much anticipated new building will be handed over on the 7th May and after this time we can begin to move items over.**

The school offices will be relocated to this building and it is likely that around the 3rd June pupils will be eating their school dinners in the new hall and the front reception will be open! All very exciting!

It is unlikely that any year 6 classes will be moved to this space until September 2019, something for our Year 5s to look forward!

In term 6 work then begins in the school to transform the existing hall, staffroom and offices into classrooms- I'm not looking forward to this phase of the project!

Our school roof is also currently being replaced and near completion. New windows were installed at the weekend. I can honestly say that given all this disruption it is quite incredible that we have functioned as a school as though we are not in the middle of a building site! I have always been absolutely determined that this work should not distract us from our core purpose of providing exceptional education for your children and

certainly shouldn't detract from their experiences. I fully appreciate that we would not have been able to do this without the support of you, your children and our local community. You have all been very understanding. I think this newsletter just serves to show how committed we are to providing the best no matter what obstacles we face.

**I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Easter holiday!**

## DANCE FEVER FESTIVAL

**Schools from the Eastbourne Schools PE Association recently took part in the inaugural 'Dance Fever' festival at Ratton School.**

A very talented group of girls from Polegate performed a beautiful piece 'You Raise Me Up' choreographed by the equally talented Miss Baker and Zara Breeze.

The PE association hope that the festival will become an established part of the inter-school events calendar, with plans to hold it in a bigger venue next year.

Although it was not a competitive event, feedback from the Polegate performance was very positive and the girls clearly enjoyed the whole experience. Well done to everyone involved.





# SPORTS UPDATE

## SWIMMING SUCCESS

**Our Year 5/6 Swimming Squad recently competed in the Eastbourne Schools PE Association Annual Gala at Brighton University.**

We had some solid performances in many of the races – Josh came second in the final of the Freestyle A race and Jessica came second in the final of the Freestyle B race. As a team, the girls came 2nd in the 4 x 25m Freestyle Relay.

**Well done everyone and thank you to Mrs Hanmore who accompanied the group.**



## HOCKEY

**Two teams from Polegate took part in the local Eastbourne Schools Cluster Qualifier for the Sussex School Games.**

With 16 teams taking part altogether we were divided into 4 'pools' for the first round. Each team played 3 matches in the first round.

Polegate 1 (Bethany, Louie, Jake, Jack & Josh) won their games against West Rise and Gildredge House then drew 2-2 with Lewes Old Grammar school.

Polegate 2 (Gethin, George, Izzy, Leah, Sam & Alex) beat Ocklynge and West Rise but then lost to the other LOGS team.

The group then split in half for the 'competitive' teams and the 'development' teams. Both our teams performed brilliantly, both winning against Heron Park and then agonisingly having to play each other! Gethin in Polegate 2 had obviously

decided that his team were going to win because he played an outstanding game and indeed Polegate 2 beat Polegate 1 by 4 goals to 1.

So it was a great day for both our teams – Langney won the competition overall with Lewes Grammar coming second and us third.

Well done to all the Polegate players

who, without exception, displayed determination, teamwork, fairness and technical ability.

**I would very much like to thank Mrs Wallis for chairing the Eastbourne area PE meetings and for being so proactive in ensuring we take part in everything going!**



# WANT TO PLAY CRICKET?

**Polegate & Stone Cross Cricket Club have contacted the school to see if we can promote their commitment to encourage junior cricket in the town.**

They play matches at the Wannock Road Recreation Ground & they run 2 adult teams in the 1st Central Sussex Cricket League on Saturdays, plus they play in a number of other friendly fixtures either on Sundays or mid-week through the cricket season.



They are actively trying to promote cricket for Juniors in Polegate & as you may already know a number of younger children in the 5 to 8 years old age group have participated in our All Stars fun cricket sessions on Sunday mornings. They are now getting ready to run All Stars this summer for a third year, but as this is restricted to 5 to 8 year olds, they are now looking to offer opportunities for the older 9 & 10 year old children to continue to enjoy playing cricket.

This summer they are aiming to start an under 10's 6-a-side softball team. With this in mind they have entered a team to play in the 6-a-side Softball competition that is being organised by Sussex Cricket this summer. This will

be played as a series of Sunday Festivals, so they are looking for children of either 9 or 10 years who would be interested in participating.

## Get in touch!

They are keen for parents to know what they are trying to do and are very happy for you to contact them directly and register any interest you might have.

**Andy Johnson - Chairman**

**E: [andyjohnsonbn24@aol.com](mailto:andyjohnsonbn24@aol.com)**

**M: 07809124386**

**Clive Harris**

**E: [cjharris1102@gmail.com](mailto:cjharris1102@gmail.com)**

**M: 07809 288111**

## ARTSMARK



**We are not content with our gold Artsmark award, we are now striving for the platinum award and Miss Hicks as art subject leader has been instrumental in this process.**

As part of this we are keen to find out if there are any skills within our community of parents of beyond that relate to the arts.

We are always looking to provide amazing experiences and there may be experts out there that we do not even know about. Now is not the time to be humble!

**If you have any background in the Arts could you please tell us.**

This could include: music, song writing, film, animation, fine art, sculpture, crafts, dance, drama, radio, ceramics... the list goes on!

I promise we won't be pouncing on you straight away! It may just be that we contact you for advice on your specialism or it might be you would be happy to work directly with the children.

**Child's name:**

**Class:**

**Parents name:**

**Experience or specialism:**

**How would you like to be involved?**

# SCHOOL SHOES

All pupils are expected to wear sensible footwear on the school premises. Black leather, low-heeled, lace-up or slip on shoes and enclosed heels and toes.

We will not accept trainers, trainer style shoes, canvas shoes or boots (this includes 'Kickers' style boots or similar). No shoes with visible logos are acceptable.

**NOTE:** You must be able to polish shoes. The handbook is available on the school website and should be checked before you purchase any items you are not sure about.

**These rules are the same as Willingdon Community School and so support transition for our Year 6 pupils.**

These are acceptable to be worn as school shoes.



These are not acceptable to be worn as school shoes.



## DIARY DATES

**Thursday 4th April**  
Opening of Children's Art Exhibition at the Towner Art Gallery- Year 3 will be displaying their artwork- please go along and see it.

**Friday 5th April**  
INSET day

**Tuesday 23rd April**  
Start of Term 5

**Mon 29th April**  
No Pens Day

**13th May**  
SATs week

**15th May**  
PFA Meeting

**20th May**  
Sports Week

**Thu 23rd May**  
Swimming Gala

**Friday 24th May**  
Last day of term 5

**12th/13th June**  
Fathers' Day Gifts/ Gifts for Loved one on sale

**15th June**  
Summer Fair

**5th July**  
Quiz Night

**Tuesday 23rd July**  
Year 6 Leavers' Party



# ATTENDANCE

**Congratulations to 2M for winning last term's best attendance. The class really enjoyed making pizzas as a reward!**

**The whole school attendance is currently 96.71%. It is worth comparing this against your child's attendance.**

**The whole school is currently at: 97.1%**

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

## NUMBER OF DAYS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

If your child has 1 day off school during the year...

If your child has 2 days off school during the year...

If your child has 5 days off school during the year...

If your child has 10 days off school during the year...

If your child has 15 days off during the year...

## CHILD'S ATTENDANCE AT THE END OF THE YEAR

...their attendance will be 99.5%

...their attendance will be 99%

...their attendance will be 97.4%

...their attendance will be 95%

...their attendance will be 92.4%

It has been worked out that 17 missed days of school a year can result in children achieving a grade less at the end of the year. At Secondary school, this is the difference between a D and C in Maths or at Primary, the difference between reaching the expected standard or not!

**This is why we monitor it so closely at Polegate.**

If your child's attendance is below 95% you will receive a termly letter informing you that this is causing us a concern.

If it drops below 92% we do invite parents in for a meeting to discuss in more depth the reasons and to explore any support we may be able to offer. Anything below 90% is classed as persistent absence and requires intervention to improve rapidly. Unless there is a serious medical condition every child should be achieving 97% at least.

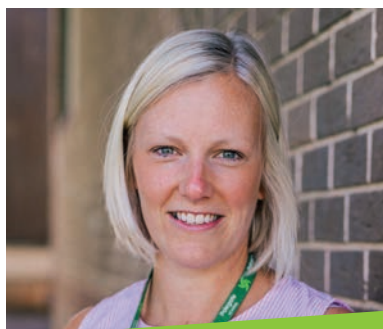
**If your child reaches the school target or above then they are eligible to be entered in our prize draw at the end of the year for a brand new bike!**

# STAFF NEWS

## Assistant Headteachers

As the school grows we have opportunities to create further capacity and add to our currently very small school leadership team. We are a National teaching School and increasingly support other schools across the country so there is a real need for further leadership to cope with the increased demands. We interviewed potential assistant headteachers this term and had a very strong field from both beyond and within school. I am delighted to

say that Mrs Barnard and Mrs Holbrook were both successful and will begin their new roles in September.



**MRS BARNARD**

## Teachers

We also held teacher interviews and shortlisted 10 candidates. We are thrilled to have found two exceptional teachers to join the team in September. I will tell you more about these new team members in the next newsletter.

# 2019 SCIENCE WEEK REVIEW

British  
Science  
Week  
2019



The children have absolutely loved getting stuck into a ton of science over the past two weeks! In classes children have been carrying out science investigations, meeting with science professionals, entering science competitions, debating current scientific news topics and thoroughly enjoying a cross curricular topic enriched with science. Here are some snap shots of the amazing things that happened in Science Week...

## Nursery

During science week they found some mysterious, slimy trails on the door mat.

### What could it have been?

Everyone went hunting and found...  
SNAILS!  
Not only that, the children in Nursery have been busy growing all sorts of

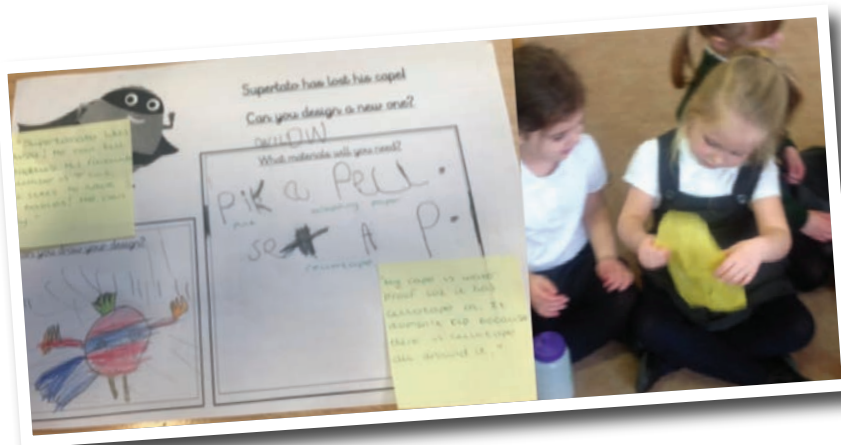
things now it is spring- including some cress. The theme has been change. The children have seen frogspawn turn into tadpoles, soft dough into crusty bread and seeds germinate.



## Reception

In literacy this week Reception have been reading **Supertato** as part of their Super Hero topic.

Unfortunately Supertato lost his cape! They had to investigate different materials to test and find which would be best for a new one. Not only this Supertato needed a new home! There are currently Supertato's hiding in different places around reception- I wonder what will happen to him in his new environment? Will he prefer the windowsill or the dark cupboard?





## Year 1

**Year 1 had fun carrying out a celery experiment investigating the effect food colouring would have!**

They also explored the school grounds picking up plants and parts of plants. Back in class they then created a journey stick and drew a map.

British  
Science  
Week  
2019



## Year 2

**Year 2 have had lots of fun investigating the 'Laws of Motion'!**

They used their engineering skills to make different air crafts. After a great deal of thought and prediction all that was left was to test them out. It was so much fun that the children asked to take copies of the experiment home!



**Laura Angell, a Blood Nurse, came to visit year two to teach us about the blood in our bodies. Wearing lab coats, holding blood cells and looking at microscopes that are used in the lab was so much fun! Thank you Laura**



## Year 3

**Year 3 went back to the stone age and were challenged to design the best cart, tough enough to move over rocks!**

They investigated the effect of friction and used all they had learnt in science to support them in making an effective design.



**Year three were blown away by the Research Nurse who came to visit. They learnt about how important science research is and how this research finds cures. A huge thank you to Anne Cowley who gave up her time to share her amazing expertise with us!**





## Year 4

**Last term Year 4 learnt about sound, how it travels and how they can hear things.**

So Year 4 were thrilled when Liam Thompson, an Audiologist, came to speak to them about his fascinating career. It really brought their science learning to life and put it into a real life context.



British  
Science  
Week  
2019



## STEM

**Building a bird's nest...**

Year 4 built bird nests to support the local wild life. They did this all using natural materials to protect the habitat and environment.



## STEM

**Oil Spill Clean-Up...**

For this investigation Year 4 learnt about the impact humans can have on our environment. They discussed how oil spills occur and how it affects marine animals. They each had a go at skimming, absorbing and dispersing oil which are the methods used to minimise the impact of real oil spills.



**'Liam told us that there are 30,000 nerves in the ear - I couldn't believe it!'**  
**Alfie Short**

**'Liam showed me how to look inside an ear and test hearing.'**  
**Chloe Hilier**

**'I really liked using a special microscope to see inside an ear.'**  
**Edward Wagstaff**



**'I really liked meeting the Research Nurse. She knew so much I thought, I thought she was very clever. She taught me about how to find your heart beat and how the heart pumps blood around my body.'**

**Olivia Vivden 3M**

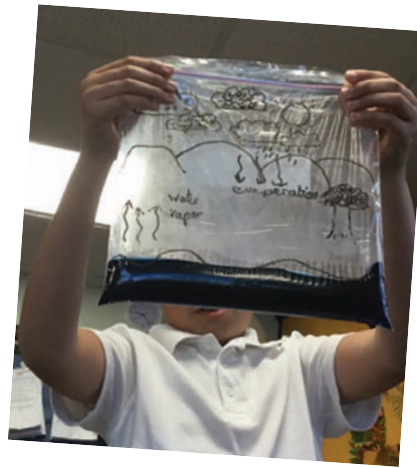
**'When the nurse came she let us use real stethoscopes- I have never done that before! I love science and I think when I am older I might become a Doctor. '**

**Louie Aamer 3M**

## Year 5

**Year 5 have been learning about the water cycle during science week.**

They have been exploring the journey of water, the processes and impacts it has on our environment. Thank you to Joe Lane from South East Water who gave a very informative talk about how water gets to our homes. All this science learning inspired the children to write in role as a raindrop, as well as create stunning pieces of art work.



British  
Science  
Week  
2019



**Year 5 met a STEM engineer who explained what Engineering is and about his career in science. He loved speaking so the children so much he offered to come back and speak to year 2! Thank you so much to Matt Knight for volunteering this time and sharing your passion with us!**

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# BEDE'S

## Bedes Visit

**Some of our year 5 pupils went to Bede's senior school during Science Week to take part in a Science Fair.**

They had to present and model their learning to children and teachers from other schools. It was a real challenge and there were official science judges! The children were over the moon when they came third due to their amazing water clock! The prize of a Terry's chocolate orange was a definite highlight!

Here are some of the children's comments about their experience:

**"My highlight wasn't actually the fair- it was all the build up in school. I had so much fun learning and investigating in science before hand"**

**"It was great meeting new people from other schools and seeing the different projects they had created. Amazing!"**

**Thank you to Bede's Senior School for working in collaboration with us to set up this new Science Event. We look forward to organising another one with you again next year.**





## Year 6

### A group of year 6 children took part in a Doctor Who time lord challenge at St Richards Catholic College in Bexhill.

Their mission was to find out who the terminator was. Just like any time lord they faced lots of challenges: from testing blood groups; to finding the density of rocks. Year 6 said they would love to come again. 'It was good, I really enjoyed using the different lab equipment.' 'You got a taste of what science is like in secondary school which was great as we will be going next year.'

British  
Science  
Week  
2019



**In class year 6 have been learning about the body. The journey of blood around the body as well as the digestive system.**

This proved very exciting and somewhat messy! Miss Regan and

Miss Murphy decided to bring this wonderful process to life with tights, chocolate and a dash of orange juice! This motivated the children to write some incredible, and highly scientific pieces of writing- all in role as the chocolate cake on its journey through the body.



## Moira House Visit

Some of our older girls, who really enjoy science, were invited to Moira House to be involved in a science challenge. The day involved lots of hands on science!



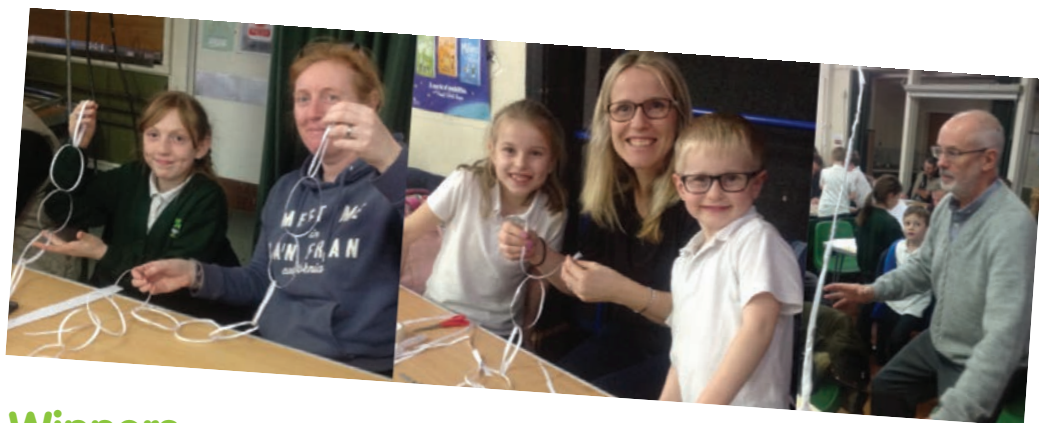
**'It was fun going to Moira house! We made a rocket with an Alka-Seltzer and it blasted into the air so fast! I just love science so much. There were a lot of science work shops that day!'**

**Sienna Hatch 3M**

# Polegate STEM Family Challenge

What a fantastic STEM Family Challenge! We had over 100 families participate.

It was amazing to have so much participation and see so many smiles! The challenge involved a science quiz, building the tallest tower and making the longest paper chain- all with only 2 pieces of paper!



## Winners

Congratulations to Joshua and Charlie Newton the winners of the challenge. There was a lot of strong competition! Enjoy your 'Explosive Experiments' at home but please don't send us any bills for damage caused!



## Whole school debate

At Polegate we value speaking and listening skills. Every fortnight there is a whole school debate topic and children debate and share their thoughts in class. The big debate this week was 'Should we ban cars to lower pollution'.

Some classes created visual cups of pollution using chemical reactions. You can try at home- see the British Science Week website activities 'Pollution Solution'



There were lots of different opinions across the school from reception to year 6. Children were reflecting on how a ban would impact on people's individual liberty- one of our British Values.

Here's what they had to say...

"We shouldn't ban cars because if that is the only way you can get out you will be stuck."

"I think people shouldn't leave their cars running when they are still. Especially outside places like schools and hospitals."

"I think that if you ban cars it will help people stop getting bad lungs from the dirty air."

"If everyone couldn't drive the trains would be too full!"

"No! Definitely do not ban cars. I have to drive to school because my house isn't that close to school. If I had to get the bus I would have to pay. At the moment I am trying to save my money and getting the bus would be too expensive."

"I don't think there should be a complete ban, just a ban on petrol and diesel cars. I think electric cars are ok as they don't have exhaust pipes that pollute the air."

"Personally, we shouldn't get rid of them all. You can't practically get a bus everywhere. Some places are remote. A complete ban wouldn't work. However electric cars are great. Initially they are more expensive but in the long run they probably work out the same price as a BMW."



# SKIP2BFIT CHALLENGE

The logo for Skip2Bfit, featuring the text "SKIP2BFIT" in a stylized, bold font. The "2" is a large, yellow number. The text is set against a red and blue background with a circular, metallic-looking design.

**This term we have relaunched our Skip2Bfit challenge in school and it has caused a lot of excitement!**

Each child has been given their own skipping rope for use in school and we are all aiming to skip for at least 2 minutes every day!

With the Government's guidance that all children should be physically active for at least 60 minutes every day, we are always looking for ways to include physical activity in our school day and to encourage children to continue this out of school. Skipping has proved to be one of the best ways in which we can do this.

Skipping is one of the best exercises you can do as it gives you the fundamentals of all sports i.e. balance, timing and footwork.

In addition to regular skipping practise, all children are going to take part in weekly 2 minute skipping challenge, where they will record the number of skips they have completed. Each week they will aim to beat their own personal best, as well as having some friendly competition within their class. Children will be rewarded for best effort, most improvement, as well as highest number of skips achieved.

And it's not only the children who will be taking part! With staff already increasing their own fitness and trying to beat their own goals, keep a look out for some parent challenges coming soon!

In addition to the relaunch of Skip2Bfit, we have also launched our new Box2Bfit club which is run by some of our sports leaders before school on a Tuesday morning. The children have loved taking part in these new sessions and getting to use our new equipment.

**I would like to thank Mrs Murphy and Mrs Wallis for organising this initiative.**





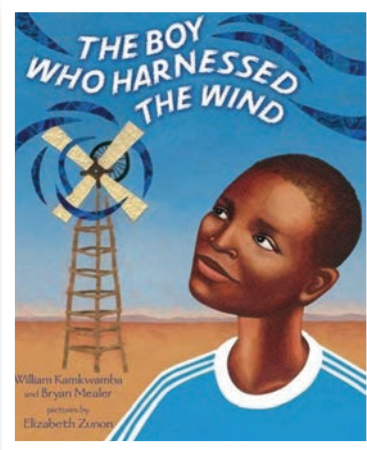
# WORLD BOOK DAY

**We celebrated stories on this day which is always eagerly anticipated at Polegate because we LOVE reading!**

The dressing up is only a tiny part of what went on! Your contributions were stunning and even that is an understatement- the books in the jars looked awesome! These will be proudly displayed in our library.

**I really hope everyone managed to get to the shops to redeem their £1 book voucher.**

As part of the week we introduced our next whole school read and this time I tied it in with the Science/ environmental theme we have had recently in school. The whole school have begun reading the inspirational story of The Boy That Harnessed the Wind. The infants are enjoying a picture book version.



## MYSTERY BOOK

We also received a new mission from 'The We Love Book Bureau'. A surprise parcel was delivered and inside was a new book for every class. Each child in turn will be given the Mystery Book to read with a mission to complete! If it makes its way home please do not let it fall into the wrong hands!

Feel free to Twitter us photos of our 'little spies' enjoying their read for our next edition of the newsletter. They can stick these photos in the journal that comes home with the book. Please make sure it gets returned to school. Instructions are in the journal and I love looking at their entries!



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

7 MARCH 2019



# POLEGATE SCHOOL RADIO



**Polegate School Radio is back up and running!**

After a few technical hitches we are delighted to say that our radio show is being broadcast again during the lunchtime for the children to enjoy!



## WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES

We have small recycling battery boxes in the office.

## Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



# GIRLS FOOTBALL

**Year 5/6 Girls played their first friendly game since starting their football club before Christmas.**

They played brilliantly as a team and deservedly won the match 2-1. The goals were scored by Sienna Hunt and Bethany Wood but everyone played their part in their success. Well done Girls!



## CHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO YOUR CHILD

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

### Changes we need to know about are:

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

## Keep us informed

It will be up to you to keep us informed and you can do this by emailing the school office [office@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto: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](http://www.polegateschool.uk)

## Diary Date

**Friday  
5th April  
INSET DAY**

## 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 946  
followers!**



Polegate School  
Oakleaf Drive  
Polegate  
East Sussex BN26 6PT  
Tel: 01323 482404  
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)

Designed by Prowork: [www.prowork.co.uk](http://www.prowork.co.uk)