



HOW TIME FLIES

As we approach the end of Term 3, it's hard to believe how quickly the time has flown!

So much has happened at Polegate School over the past few weeks, and we are excited to share some highlights with you.

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Enriching Activities

Our children have been actively engaged in a variety of enriching activities, including memorable school visits that have sparked curiosity and learning.

The recent trips have provided wonderful opportunities for exploration and discovery, while our sporting events have showcased the incredible talent and teamwork of our pupils.

Additionally, the inter-school competitions have been a fantastic way for our children to demonstrate their skills and sportsmanship, fostering friendships and camaraderie with peers from other schools.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school. We look forward to sharing more exciting updates as we move into the next term!

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

We are thrilled to announce a variety of events celebrating the National Year of Reading!

We are thrilled to announce a variety of events celebrating the National Year of Reading! Throughout the year, we will host events that highlight the importance of reading and the pleasure it brings. Mark your calendars for World Book Day- Thursday 5th March, where we will have special new texts, school book cafe, paper plate book character competition and a little of dressing up!

Throughout the year the reading team are planning exciting author visits and engaging activities to inspire our love for reading.

In addition, look out for the after school Reading Café, a warm and

inviting space for children and their families to enjoy books and share their thoughts with friends.

Remember, reading every night not only helps you grow as a reader but also earns you a raffle ticket! You could win a fantastic school book or a delightful bedtime read. Let's make reading a cherished part of our daily routine!

The benefits of reading

From babies to children in their early years and all the way through to early teens, reading brings profound and wide-ranging benefits that can have a lifelong positive impact on children's lives.

Follow the Book Trust link below for further information

Supporting Parents, Carers and Families | BookTrust
CLICK HERE

DIARY DATES

12th February
Reading Tea Party

13th February
Last day of term 3

16th – 20th February
Winter Half-term

23rd February
Term 4 starts

25th February
PFA AGM Meeting

26th February
Parent Consultations

2nd March
Class Photos

3rd March - Year 2
Great Fire of London Workshop

5th March
World Book Day

10th-11th March
PFA Mother's Day Gifts

12th March
Wonderful Work

12th March @3.30pm
Family Math Challenge

20th March
4T Class Assembly

23rd March
Science Day Whole School

26th March
Reading Tea Party

27th March
RS Class Assembly

27th March
Last day of term 4

30th March – 10th April
Spring Holiday

13th April
Term 5 starts

16th April – Reception
Blackberry Farm Trip

24th April
3C Class Assembly

29th April – 1st May
Year 5 Hindleap Warren
Residential Trip

REMARKABLE INCLUSION PRACTICES

On 4th February, we had the pleasure of welcoming 19 delegates from schools across the South East to Polegate School. Miss Ashdown hosted this special event, where our visitors observed the remarkable inclusion practices we have in place.

Everyone was truly amazed by the variety of support offered to our wonderful children. It was a proud moment for us to showcase the dedication and hard work of our staff, as well as the incredible achievements of our children. The delegates engaged in meaningful discussions and shared valuable insights, highlighting the importance of fostering an inclusive environment in education.

We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive, and it was heartening to see our commitment to inclusion recognised by our guests.



CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS FEEDBACK

The East Sussex Health Protection Team is gathering parent feedback to better understand experiences with childhood vaccinations.

These views will help us improve information, access, and support for families across the county.

The survey is completely anonymous and takes just 3–5 minutes to complete. Please share with your parents to help us shape services that support children’s health and wellbeing.

For the Vaccination Accessibility Survey [CLICK HERE](#)

LATEST ATTENDANCE FIGURES

RJ =	94.8%	2D =	95.6%	4T =	95%
RKH =	96.7%	2H =	97.3%	5D =	97%
RS =	93.1%	3B =	96.1%	5EK =	94.5%
1RH =	95.7%	3C =	94.3%	5K =	95.3%
1L =	95.6%	3H =	95.9%	6M =	95.6%
1M =	96.4%	4D =	96.3%	6L =	94.1%
2B =	97.7%	4H =	95.2%	6W =	92.9%

Diary Dates

26th February
Parents Consultations

PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

In Reception we have been learning about people in our community who help us and keep us safe.

We have been learning all about their important jobs, maybe one day we will have some future nurses, firefighters, police officers or vets!



FOREST SCHOOL

This term at Forest School has certainly been a wet one!

The children have embraced the rain, turning our huge puddles into a fantastic playground. With mud everywhere, they've been busy making boats to float on the water, sparking their creativity and teamwork. It's wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they splash about, learning through play and exploration. The wet weather has not dampened their spirits; instead, it has provided a unique opportunity for hands-on learning and fun.



Diary Dates

5th March
World
Book Day

JUNIOR PARK RUN

We have launched the junior park run!

Why not come down and join us on Sunday 15th February, 10am at King Edwards Parade, Eastbourne.

The junior park run encourages children and families support their own physical and mental wellbeing and connect with their community. Pop down to your local park and see what it's all about!

First timer at

junior parkrun?

Here's what it's all about:

It's a weekly, free, 2k community event in open spaces for 4 to 14 year olds and their families.

With a focus on fun, you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate.

Events are on Sunday mornings and everyone is welcome - find your local event at: <http://parkrun.me/jpinfo>

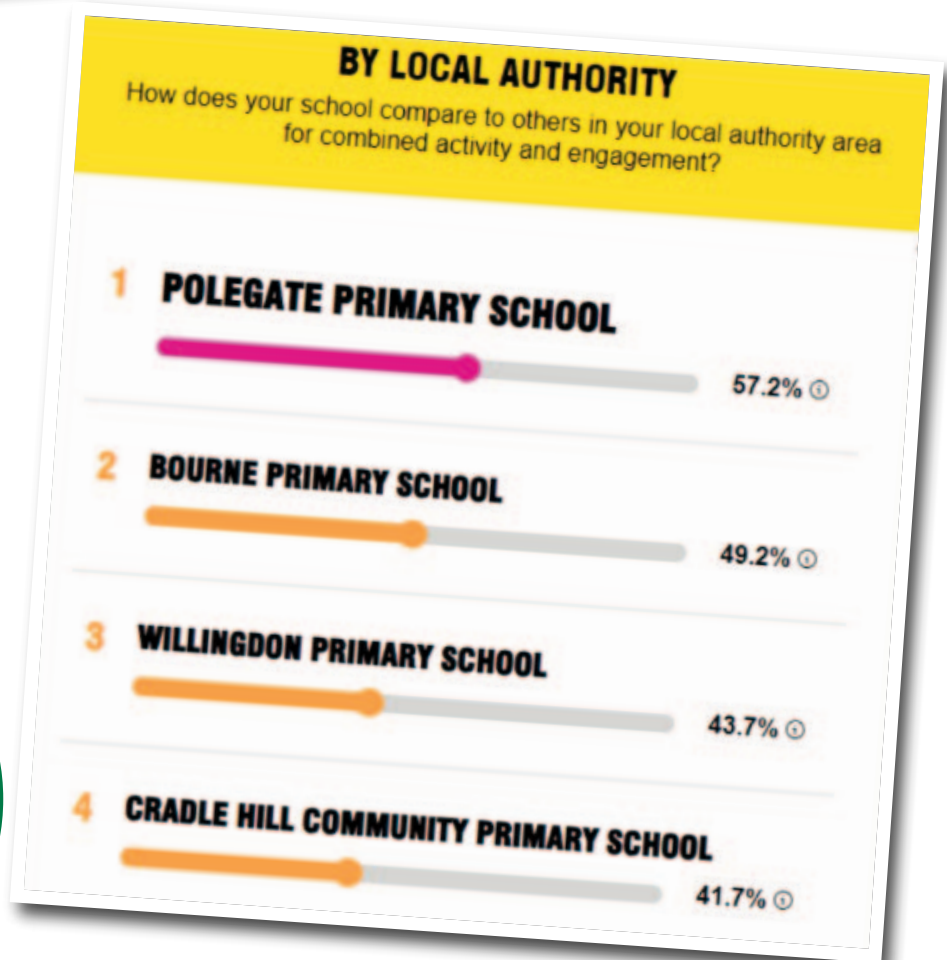


WALK TO SCHOOL

WOW! Our first month and we are in the lead!!! Keep walking, scooting, running, skateboarding to school to receive the next walk to school badge.

Diary Dates

26th March
Reading
Tea Party



WORLD RELIGIONS DAY

World Religion Day takes place each January, aiming to promote understanding and peace between all religions as well as mutual understanding and tolerance between peoples from different backgrounds.

“After learning about a range of religious sacred spaces on World Religion Day, the children created art work inspired by their own sacred or special place.”

Percy - 1RH: My House

My sacred space is in my house. It makes me feel calm and safe. I like spending time with my family watching TV and playing games.



Grace - 1L: Sacred Church

In Year 1 Grace has learnt about Christianity whilst also learning about their topic 'India'.

Grace has chosen to merge the two religions/cultures by creating and decorating a church (as a sacred space for some Christians) and by including Indian rangoli patterns. Grace kept it bright and colourful because it makes some people happy and bright colours are important in Indian culture.

Ada - 2D: My Home

Based on the theme of 'Sacred Spaces', I have created a picture of my home and the where I live.

After learning about religious sacred spaces, I learnt that a sacred space is something that is really special to people and it helps them feel calm. A sacred space to Muslims is a Mosque and it helps them feel close to God.

Although I don't pray in my sacred space, I consider it sacred because we have special celebrations at my house and I get to spend time with lots of my family.

My sacred space is important to me because all of my special things are there. Muslim people keep the Quran safe in their sacred space, I keep my first ever toy in mine because I had it when I was a baby and it's really special to me.



Sophia - 2B: The Beach is my place

For my special place I have made a picture of the beach where I love to go. I learnt that a sacred space is a special place for someone.

I don't pray in my sacred space, but the beach is special for me because I like how the birds tweet and the sea makes me feel calm. I take my special buckets and spades and look for special sparkly stones to collect.



Skylar - RJ: Family Time

My special place is family time at soft play.

Willow - Nursery: Drusillas

My special place is Drusillas on a quiet day with Mummy and Daddy and me.

I like bouncing on a trampoline. It makes me happy and I can have goes on the swing. I don't like it when it's busy and noisy. I like watching the animals. I like the penguins. They are stinky but I like watching them play and the colour of them!



WANT TO BE ARCHAEOLOGIST?

Archaeologist

Skills

Day to day tasks:

- Identify possible sites to study using aerial photography, field-walking and surveying
- Take part in excavations or digs
- Record finds and sites using photography, detailed notes and surveying
- Identify and classify finds
- Clean and preserve finds in a laboratory
- Use computers to produce simulations of the way a site or artefact would have looked
- Preserve industrial artefacts and buildings
- Check planning applications and identify the impact of developing on archaeological sites
- Make sure important sites, buildings and monuments are protected
- Classify, display and look after artefacts in a museum

Archaeologists

learn about the past by studying sites, excavating, classifying, recording and preserving objects.

Routes into the industry

You can get into this job through:

A **university course** in Archeology or a related subject.

An **apprenticeship** such as a Level 3 Archaeologist Technician apprenticeship or other Archaeological specialist degree apprenticeships.

Competition for archaeology courses and jobs is very high. Practical work experience with a local archaeological association, museum or another employer will improve your chances of being accepted. You'll find details of volunteering opportunities through the **Council for British Archaeology**.

Subjects

You'll need at least 4-5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades 9-4, including **English** and **Maths**. Archaeology is a broad subject linking with many others, such as **Geography**, **History** and **RE**. For specialisms, a GCSE in **Science** may be more appropriate. Qualifications in Computer Studies focusing on CAD and GIS may be useful.

Salary*

Starting from £17,000 to £40,000 for experienced archaeologists.

Jobs

Jobs for Social Scientists are projected to grow by 1.5% by 2027, creating 900 jobs. In the same period, 39.9% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 6,700 job openings.

*In 2020 the average salary was £31,461, up 3.6% on 2019. Annual pay estimates are largely unaffected by Covid-19.

RECEPTION LUNAR NEW YEAR

This term, Reception have been learning all about the Lunar New Year.

2026 is the year of the horse! We learnt a special Chinese dragon dance, made dragon masks as well as Chinese lanterns. These represent joy and good fortune. We even carefully prepared some vegetables for a Chinese dish, which tasted delicious!



SAFE PARKING

Last week, we experienced a concerning near miss involving a young child outside our school.

This incident highlights the critical importance of safe parking practices during school drop-off and pick-up times. We urge all parents to refrain from parking directly opposite the school entrance, as this obstructs visibility for both drivers and pedestrians.

It is essential to adhere to the zig-zag lines outside the school, which are in place to ensure the safety of our students. Parking on these lines is not only dangerous but

also illegal, as it can result in fines and penalties under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

We ask that you leave plenty of time to collect your children, allowing for safe and responsible parking away from these designated areas.

We are pleased to inform you that we have secured funds to employ a crossing patrol attendant. If you would be interested in this vital role, contact the school office for further information.

Your cooperation in this matter is vital to maintaining a safe environment for all our children. Let us work together to ensure that our school remains a safe place for everyone.

YEAR 3 'INVENTORS'

This week, Year 3 kicked off their new topic, "Inventors," with a fantastic day of science!

Our young learners transformed into scientists, diving into a world of exciting experiments that sparked their curiosity and creativity. From making colourful chemical reactions to exploring the wonders of simple machines, the fun was had by all. The children were amazed by what they could create and discover, showcasing their enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the day. We can't wait to see how their newfound knowledge will inspire their learning in the weeks to come!



Diary Date
2nd March
Class
Photos

THERE ARE NO LIMITS!



Miss Hackett

YEAR 4 CLASS TEACHER

WHAT WAS YOUR CHILDHOOD DREAM JOB?

I always wanted to dance! From an early age I dreamed of being a ballerina.



SKILLS THAT ARE IMPORTANT IN MY ROLE:

- I have to stay positive - especially on wet play days!
- I have to be able to adapt really quickly like when the internet stops working.
- Speaking and listening is huge - my pupils need to know I care.

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS

- Being able to complete university during the COVID pandemic
- Becoming a teacher - I love working with pupils and their families.
- Directing a musical. I directed the Adam's Family in a real theatre!

JOB HISTORY

- After school club manager
- Worked at a theatre school (I still do!)
- A professional performer - I still do this now too as I love the sparkly costumes!



IF YOU COULD SWAP CAREERS IN THE FUTURE, WHAT ADVENTURE WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

I LOVE reading and so I would become a book editor. Friends often ask me to read through scripts they have written. I would love to get paid for this in the future.



THERE ARE NO LIMITS!

ST WILFRID'S ART INSTALLATION

We're inviting the local community to help shape a new art installation at St Wilfrid's Hospice in Eastbourne.

Precious Pebbles encourages people of all ages to decorate a pebble - whether in memory of a loved one, to mark a special place or moment, or simply to share a colourful design or meaningful message.

Supply your own pebble or collect one from the hospice.

Pebbles should be dropped off at St Wilfrid's Hospice in Broadwater Way by 28th February.



Unleash your creativity and help shape a new community art installation

This March, St Wilfrid's is bringing a unique display to life: an installation made from decorated pebbles, each one carrying a story from local people

Decorate a pebble in honour of a loved one, mark a special place or moment, or simply share a colourful design or meaningful message and it will become part of something special

Supply your own pebble or collect one from the hospice. Please return decorated pebbles by 28th February 2026.

stwhospice.org/preciouspebbles



St Wilfrid's Hospice

For more information, please visit www.stwhospice.org/preciouspebbles or email hospice@stwhospice.org

YEAR 5 COLLEGE VISIT

Year 5 Visit East Sussex College for Sustainability Workshop

Five pupils from 5EK had a fantastic opportunity to visit East Sussex College for an exciting sustainability event, alongside four other local schools.

The day began with an inspiring talk from John Puttick, who explained the variety of careers available in the sustainability sector and the earning potential in these growing industries.

The children learned about:

- Energy efficiency – the importance of turning off lights and unplugging devices when not in use
- Sustainable heating – how heat pumps can warm homes more efficiently

- Recycling – why it matters and how we can all do our part

Throughout the day, the children took part in engaging challenges and quizzes, including. The highlight was a design challenge where pupils built model houses from cardboard and recycled materials, incorporating everything they'd learned about sustainable living.

Mrs Barber was delighted with how our pupils represented Polegate Primary. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, contributed thoughtfully to discussions, and showed confidence when speaking in front of the group.



DEBATE

This term, our whole school has been buzzing with discussions about a rather intriguing topic: is Valentine's Day a waste of time and money?

We invite you to join in the conversation at home!

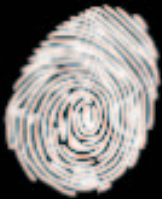
On your way back from school, during dinner, or even at bedtime, why not share your thoughts and debate this topic with your family? We'd love to hear what you think!

Engaging in these discussions not only helps develop critical thinking skills but also strengthens family bonds. Let's make this a fun and lively debate!

ESCAPE ROOM CHALLENGE

FAMILY ESCAPE ROOM CHALLENGE

Can you solve the
mystery?



Can you solve the clues and
challenges and be the first family
to win?



Monday 23rd March 2026

3.30pm

Polegate School Hall



Sign up using the
QR code by Monday
9th March.



SPORTS CLUBS

BACK
IN
TERM 4



CLUBS
FILL UP
FAST!

POLEGATE SCHOOL



Polegate
SCHOOL

**FOLLOWING A
SELL OUT TERM 3,
WE ARE BACK IN TERM 4
BOOKINGS GO LIVE
MONDAY 2ND FEB, 6PM**



<https://infinite-sport.classforkids.io/term/25>

PHONE: 07598 052 259

CONTACT US: OFFICE@I-SPORT.ORG

SIGNS OF SPRING SURVEY



Signs of Spring Survey 2026.

Signs of Spring is a survey asking members of the public to record signs of spring across the UK.

We'd love you to get involved by looking out and recording what you see using the survey link or QR code below.

Signs of Spring – Field Studies Council

The survey is open until 14 June 2026.



60 SECOND FITNESS CHALLENGE



Step In, Step Out 60 Second Challenge



Can you keep trying even when you want to give up?

How many times can you step in and step out of a circle in 60 seconds?



You must step in and out of the circle, one foot at a time. Both feet must step into the circle and then out again. No jumping!



Achieve Gold

55 step in,
step outs



Achieve Silver

45 step in,
step outs



Achieve Bronze

35 step in,
step outs



SCHOOL PHOTOS



imago school portraiture

Bringing High Quality Portraiture into Nurseries & Schools at Affordable Prices

SCHOOLS NURSERIES FAMILY CORPORATE & MARKETING PHOTOGRAPHY

We will be taking GROUP images on
Monday 2nd March

Prints, Frames, Mounts and Canvases available

VIEWING AND ORDERING

You will receive a contact sheet via your school with your Gallery Name, Code and sample images.

www.imagophotography.co.uk

1. Create/Login to your account
2. Add your Gallery(s)
3. Click View Images
4. Click Create Order to purchase your images

A SAFEWORD will be sent to you from your school, please use this if you lose your login.

FREE Delivery period: We offer a free delivery period, after this time orders can still be placed but a delivery charge will apply.

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 **Leo Lion Foundation**
leolionfoundation.org

PART OWNED BY SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
Helping disadvantaged children to help themselves



OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

We are thrilled to launch our new Facebook page, where we will share the wonderful activities that take place within our school day.

Facebook will replace 'X'.

Follow the link below to join this is exciting platform:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/17Lz9SGmXJ/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

This platform is designed to keep you informed and engaged with all the exciting events, achievements, and learning experiences our students encounter.

At Polegate School, we believe in celebrating success, and our Facebook page is a fantastic way to highlight the incredible accomplishments of our students and staff. Whether it's showcasing a school project, sharing photos from a recent trip, or announcing awards and recognitions, we want to ensure that our community feels proud of the achievements that reflect our school ethos of learning without limits.



Diary Dates
12th March
Wonderful Work



You can read all the previous newsletters on our website.

Facebook
Be the first to hear the latest news. Follow us on Facebook. We have **344 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