

# NEWS

November 2015



## In This Issue

Think Tank	2
Reading Quizzers	3
PFA Update	3
Sports News	4
Forest School	4
Great Work	5
Prospective Parent Events	6
Diary Dates	7
Harvest Thanksgiving	7
Year 3 - Stone Age Day	8
Year 6 - Orienteering	8
Anti-bullying Week	9
In the Press	10
Christmas Card Winners	11
Attendance	12

## It is hard to keep up with all the wonderful things happening in school.

**Thank you to the parents that attended our information sharing events about assessment and curriculum changes. If there is anything specific you would like us to run for you please just ask.**

The maths week was a great success and I have received some lovely comments from parents and staff. I would like to thank the staff for organising this.

We love having parents in to share their child's learning and we hope to offer an opportunity each term in different subject areas so keep an eye out for our next one.

In a few weeks time we have a 'Book Week' and the children can expect some exciting visitors and events. We will be welcoming in authors, a Times journalist, illustrators amongst others. We will have a few writing challenges running for the children as well.

And then of course we have our build up to Christmas Productions! We love to be busy!

I have had the pleasure of sitting in on some parent consultations in Year 5. The children in Year 5 and 6 create their own presentation on their learning and progress and they then tell this to the teacher and parents. Quite daunting, I think you will agree! I have to say how impressed I was with the quality and their confidence. I felt very proud – Well done.

## Music Enrichment Afternoon

Eight children from year 2 participated in the annual music enrichment afternoon.

They joined children from other schools and took part in lots of different activities that looked at keeping the beat and improving our singing voice. They finished the day with a small concert for parents. All children were a credit to the school and demonstrated exemplary behaviour.



## About the Think Tank

Our Think Tank members are **Ronnie Campbell, Eve Ayling, Katy Watts, Tash Aamer, Cindy Ward, Julie Jones, Shadi Wood** and we welcome **Hannah Dartnell** who is joining us to represent the Reception year group.

This is a group of parent representatives, one from each year group, who meet to discuss general school-related issues. This Forum provides a valuable way to listen to your ideas, suggestions and seek your views on our ideas, helping to ensure the needs of the children and their families are met.

This has been a really successful initiative that has been in place for an unbelievable 5 years now! Part of the success of this group is down to the fact that the parents share the aims of the school to:

- To support and promote children's learning
- To help the school find out what parents and carers think about important issues
- To involve parents and carers actively in school decisions

- To make plans that support the ways the school wants to develop and improve outcomes for our children

The school has benefited hugely from their support and I have certainly appreciated their views and commitment. They always have solutions and suggestions at the ready.

It is important that all parents understand the role of this group.

This group is not in place to address specific concerns about an individual child or issues relating to individual members of staff. Parents who need to discuss these issues should follow school procedures relating to this, approaching their class teacher, Leader of Learning or the Deputy/Headteacher.

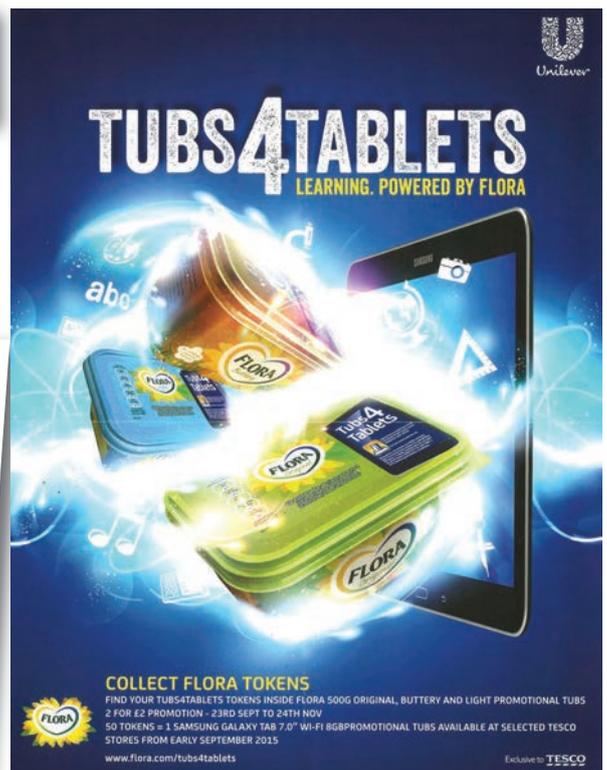
We know that when parents are involved in their child's learning and in the life of the school, children do better. This is borne out by a growing body of research. Parental involvement is a key lever for school improvement and we are lucky to have such a committed group of parents.

## TUBS FOR TABLETS

So far we have collected 29 we need 50 to redeem them for a Tablet. If you have any tokens from Flora purchased from Tesco please bring them in as soon as possible.

**WANTED**  
Lollipop person

Please speak to Kerry in the school office for more details.



**TUBS 4 TABLETS**  
LEARNING. POWERED BY FLORA

COLLECT FLORA TOKENS  
FIND YOUR TUBS 4 TABLETS TOKENS INSIDE FLORA 500G ORIGINAL, BUTTERY AND LIGHT PROMOTIONAL TUBS 2 FOR £2 PROMOTION - 23RD SEPT TO 24TH NOV  
50 TOKENS = 1 SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB 7.0" WI-FI 8GB PROMOTIONAL TUBS AVAILABLE AT SELECTED TESCO STORES FROM EARLY SEPTEMBER 2015  
www.flora.com/tubs4tablets

Unilever  
TESCO

# CALLING ALL READING QUIZZERS!

Here at Polegate School we love encouraging you to become confident readers.

Striving to get 100% is hard work and to recognise this we are again awarding a £5 book token to the pupil who has made the most progress that term. Every Year 1 to Year 6 class will have a chance. So keep reading and quizzing. You never know, it could be you!



We were very pleased to host one of the first Accelerated Reader cluster meetings in our area.

Teachers from Battle Abbey, Battle and Langton, The Haven and The Harbour schools joined us to discuss ways to support all of our children's progress in reading. We were pleased to be able to support other schools in using Accelerated Reader and have been asked by Renaissance Learning to advise on future developments in the use of Accelerated Reader in schools.



## PFA UPDATE



The Annual fireworks evening was a great event raising £2,669.13 profit for the school.

We thought you would like to know what we are currently raising funds for. We are being ambitious and want to work towards a substantial project and invest in a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area). The whole school would benefit from this



The next event is the Disco on Thursday 19th November. Tickets on sale now from the school office. The Christmas Fayre will be on Friday 18th December 5.00pm – 8.00pm



You are all very welcome to attend these meetings and the PFA are always grateful for offers of help on the night.



# SPORTS UPDATE

## OCKLYNGE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

We went to Ocklynge School at 8.30am. I was the first one there. Our first match was against Pevensey and Westham. The score was 1-0 to Polegate and Leo scored the winning goal. After that we played Stone Cross school where we lost 5-2. After that we played Parklands and won 3-1. Billy, Lewis and Leo scored the goals then we played Oakwood. The score was 9-0 to us Leo, Vinny and Lewis scored. The tournament was won in the end by Tollgate School. It was a very good day – everyone enjoyed it.



Written by Fletcher Sheppard 5P

The Polegate team: Leo, Joshua, Michael, Billy, Vinny, Lewis, Fletcher, Luke & George



## FOREST SCHOOL - WE LOVED LEARNING OUTSIDE!

During the week beginning 19th October we took the children's learning outside. They loved it! This is what year 5 thought:

'It was fun being outdoors. We explored outside'

'It is fun to be outside on a rainy day'

'We learnt health and safety rules – how to chop wood'

How to work with other people'

'We want to do this more often – it was fun'



# Great work

Oliver's fabulous sketch of a Viking ship



I can spell C A T!



Kia's impressionist painting!



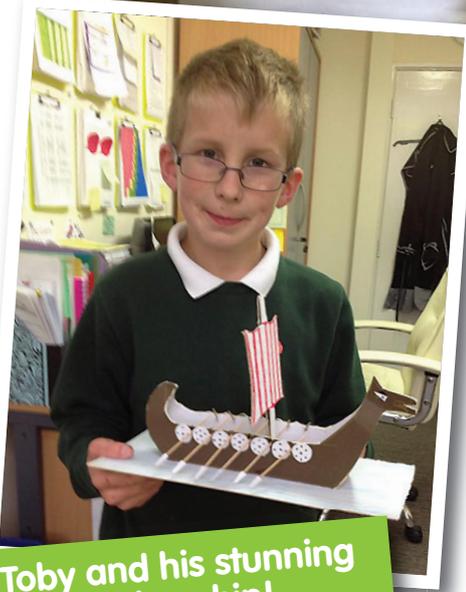
We're playing teachers!



Magical homework, Maddie!

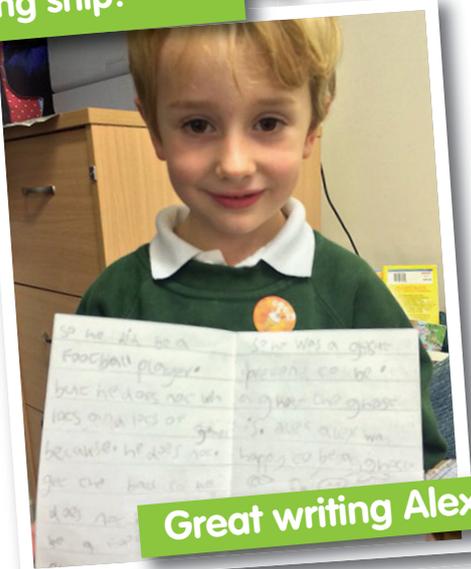


Toby and his stunning Viking ship!



We are so proud of our finished learning ladders. On to the next one!

Great writing Alex!



## Letter from a happy mum!

**I am so pleased with how well my son is coming along in only three weeks he has been attending school.**

His stammer seems to have vanished which is incredible as this is something he has battled with since starting nursery at the age of two. He is far more outgoing in the sense of wanting to make conversation with children his own age rather than children older or younger than him.

His vocabulary has come along in leaps and bounds, he is happy to sing rhymes at home with me as well which he has always been reluctant to do. He seems to have formed some lovely bonds with class mates which is absolutely fantastic and more than I ever imagined and only hoped for.

I cannot believe this in just 3 weeks. I cannot wait to see what a few months can do for his self esteem and confidence.

**Mrs O'Donoghue says:**

Reception have settled in so well to life at Polegate School. It is great to get feedback and I thought this quite special.

## PARKING

**I had another upset local resident who lives near the library come in to the school to complain about a parent's driving.**

They are naturally angry when parent's use their driveways to reverse into and then proceed to back into their fences causing damage. She reported this happens quite frequently. Please could I ask you to be considerate towards our local residents.

# Prospective Parent Events

**We have recently held our 'prospective parent events' and following these we have been sent some lovely comments from our visitors:**

**Letter from a Grand Parent who attended our new parent meeting**

I would like to thank you all for the preparation involved in the Open Day on Wed 4th November and to congratulate you all on the excellent high level of local and National achievements you have attained.

I was very impressed by the hearty welcome by the prefects and how confident and articulate they all were. I loved how keen they were to provide brilliant answers to the questions during the opening address to us.

I think the school is extremely well-equipped and much more extensive than it appears from outside.

The whole approach to the learning experience seems to be very encouraging for the students and the extra-curricular activities very attractive. The examples of very neat hand-writing in the hall were of a very high standard.

I would particularly like to thank Olivia and Chloe for a very enthusiastic tour of the school, showing me and explaining in depth what all the different areas were and answering my queries very comprehensively.

I guess the prefects are the 'cream of the crop' but if they typify the standard that students can attain at the school and how happy they are there, then I do so hope that my Grand-daughter, will get the privilege of a place there, as it is so close to our home and because I look forward to sharing and supporting her experience there, as her parents (who will be at the following open day) do too of course.

Keep up the good work, and I hope to see you more next year.

P.S. We all enjoyed the firework evening very much, and hope it helped to raise some much-needed funds.

**Email from a prospective parent who came to the Parents open morning**

I would like to say a big thank you to the Head, all the teachers and especially the children for making this mornings visit so helpful and fun. I was shown round by two year 6 pupils, Poppy and Ashlesha.

They were excellent, very helpful and knowledgeable and I came away with a lovely picture of life at polegate school. I hope you can pass on my thanks to them both and their teachers, they did very well. Not sure I could have done what they did when I was their age.

Polegate seems a fantastic school, I still can't believe so much is packed into a day and the wide variety of opportunities available to pupils. Your pupils are very lucky. Thanks again.

**Compliment on school and pupils**

My husband and I recently attended an open day for prospective parents, at your school. We just wanted to let the headmistress know how impressed we were with the pupil's conduct, when showing us around. They were polite, listened and responded to our questions with enthusiasm. They had nothing but praise for the school.

It was a pleasure to see children who openly and honestly enjoyed attending and learning. This cannot always be said for every educational environment.

We were particularly impressed by the the resources and wide variety of equipment, available to the children. After hearing the introductory speech from the headmistress and what she strives to achieve and expects from the pupils, we realised these are exactly the same beliefs and expectations we have for our children. Polegate school, in conjunction with ourselves, will help our son achieve everything we know he's capable of. Plus, push him that little bit further. We hope to see you all in September 2016, if our application is successful. Thank you for a very pleasant and insightful, open day.

# Harvest Thanksgiving



# THANK YOU

You are helping *local* people in crisis

## POLEGATE SCHOOL



From your Harvest Thanksgiving donation  
you have helped us to provide  
**A WONDERFUL**

## 191 meals

Thank you **SO MUCH** for your generosity

Eastbourne Foodbank  
Albury House, 1 Cornfield Lane, Eastbourne 01323 409925  
October 2015

## DIARY DATES

18th November at 5.30pm  
open evening for  
prospective parents 2016

Friday 20th November  
Inset Day

Monday 14th December  
Our Wonderful Work event

Thursday December 17th  
KS2 Christmas productions  
at Willingdon School

Friday 18th December  
Last day of term 2

Friday 18th December  
Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 5th January  
INSET day

26th January  
Year 5 sing at the O2!

Friday 12th February  
Last day of term 3

Mon 22nd February  
Start of term 4

## Building Work

The company carrying out the  
building work are expecting  
to hand over our new rooms  
at the beginning of Term 3.

We will then be in a position to  
move our Breakfast and Afterschool  
Club to their new building.

Unfortunately it has taken a lot  
longer than expected!

## No dogs on school premises



Dogs were seen tied up to the  
post along the pedestrian  
path. It is against all East  
Sussex County Council rules to  
allow dogs on school premises  
at any time of the day.

Please be a responsible  
dog owner!

## Santa Fun Run and Walk

Please support us as some  
of us will be taking part in  
the **Santa Fun run** along  
**Eastbourne Seafront** on  
Sunday 6th December at  
1.30pm

# STONE AGE DAY – YEAR 3

Year 3 had a fantastic day continuing their learning journey into the Stone Age. We started with a huge time line taking us right back through the ages to the Stone Age. We saw real furs, skulls, tools and got to try on lots of exciting outfits. We even got to dress up our teachers. We had a great day.



# ORIENTEERING - YEAR 6

Year 6 visited Gildredge Park to take part in an Eastbourne Schools event. We don't have the results just yet!



# Anti-bullying Week - 16-20th November

## THE KEY AIMS OF THE WEEK ARE:

- To empower children and young people to make a noise about bullying – whether it is happening to them or to someone else, face to face or online;
- To help parents and carers have conversations with their children about bullying – both as a way of preventing bullying, and to help children who are worried about bullying;
- To encourage 'talking schools' where all children and young people are given a safe space to discuss bullying and other issues that affect their lives, and are supported to report all forms of bullying;

## TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

- If your child is being bullied don't panic. Explain to your child that the bullying is not their fault and together you will sort this out.
- Bullying is never acceptable; and should always be taken seriously. It is never your child's fault if they've been bullied.
- Try and establish the facts. It can be helpful to keep a diary of events. If the bullying is online, save or copy images and text.
- Find out what your child wants to happen. Help to identify steps you can take; and the skills they have to help sort out the situation. Make sure you always keep them informed about any actions you decide to take.
- You may be tempted to tell your child to retaliate but this can have unpredictable results. Your child might get into trouble or get even more hurt. Rather - role play non-violent ways they can respond to children that are bullying them (e.g. 'I don't like it when you say that to me / do that to me. Stop. '); show them how to block or unfriend people if the bullying is online and help them identify other friends or adults that can support them.
- Encourage your child to get involved in activities that build their confidence and esteem, and help them to form friendships outside of school (or wherever the bullying is taking place).
- Make sure your child tells their teacher so that action can be taken.



## Introducing our new faces at school

### This year we have used our sports premium funding to employ a coach to work alongside our teachers during PE lessons.

The aim of the sports funding is to enable measureable and sustained improvement through:

- PE and sport, high quality teaching
- Increasing participation levels in physical activity
- Increasing healthier pupils who are engaged across the whole curriculum.

We wanted to ensure sustained impact from this investment which is why after careful consideration we have employed Mark. He has a detailed knowledge, understanding, qualifications and expertise across a range of sports. He will transfer his knowledge to teachers through peer mentoring and joint teaching. He is supporting but not replacing our teaching of PE and throughout the year will work with every

class in the school. You will no doubt hear all about him when he starts working in your child's class.

He is also enriching the clubs we have on offer in school and will be delivering multi sport sessions both before and after school.

### Andy Webb

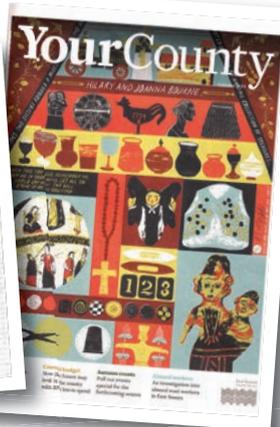
**Andy is the business manager at Willington Community School and he is now supporting our finance at Polegate.**

Andy supported us during the long term absence of our business manager last year and as it worked so well we have now reached an arrangement with Willington to enable Andy to work for a day ½ a week at Polegate.



# IN THE PRESS

And **Polegate Primary** won a Pupil Premium Award for being one of the most improved schools in the country, in terms of the attainment and progress of pupils since 2011.



## Children have designs on art

It's official - Polegate is an arty town!  
And if proof were needed, there is evidence in the shape of many excellent pieces of artwork submitted by the town's children for the Mayor's art competition.

Polegate Mayor Cllr David Watts decided to run the town's first junior art competition in the hope of finding a budding Tracey Emin or Pablo Picasso.  
The judging was carried out by a panel of independent art

lovers, who found themselves spoilt for choice.

The winners were:  
■ Under 11s - first Natalia Bednarz; second J Eilham Brinkley; third Hannah Jones.  
■ 11-16s - first Caleb Goldsmith; second Phoebe;

third Joshua Brinkley.  
The winners were awarded cash prizes at a special presentation evening which was held at the Polegate Town Council's offices in the High Street.  
The paintings are being

displayed in the council chamber until the end of this week.  
Thereafter they will be in Polegate Community Cafe for another two weeks, and then Polegate Community Centre for the following two weeks.

# Outside Learning



We are having great fun!  
Especially getting muddy!



Outdoor learning! Year 4 exploring the wildlife garden

## CUPS FOR POLEGATE CUB GROUP



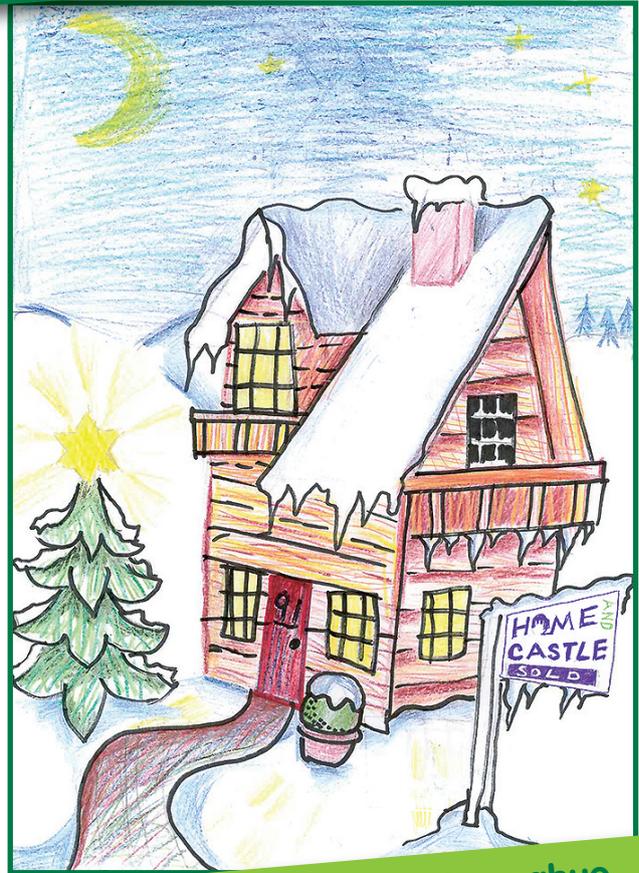
Polegate First Cubs have been given two new cups for presentations for future events and awards for the group.  
They were given two cups including the mayor's cup which can be presented as a special award for the cubs. The cups were supplied because the group are short on cups for presentations.  
Polegate mayor Cllr David Watts said, "Over the last few months I have attended many of the Cub and Scout functions in the area and I cannot think of any other group who are so deserving of these cups. "Hopefully they will go on to be presented to many cubs in the future for many years to come."  
The cups were donated by Cllr Watts from his own funds as a gift.



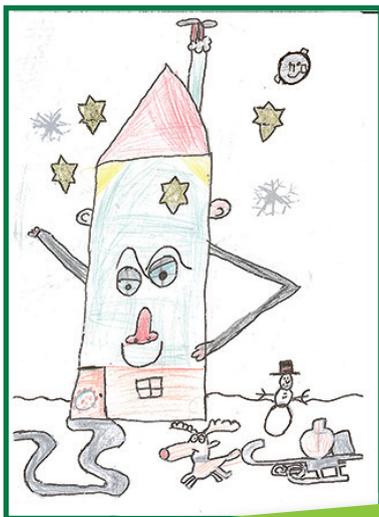
# CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Local Estate Agents Home & Castle recently invited the school to run a the Christmas Card Competition and have kindly donated £100 to the school.

They received 11 entries and the eventual winner was Neave Martin O'Donoghue in Year 6. Runners up were Dylan Pont in 1A and Maya Bruce. They will all be presented with their prizes by Home & Castle.



Winner: Neave Martin O'Donoghue



3rd: Dylan Pont



3rd: Maya Bruce



## Raffle Prizes for Christmas!

Be sure to buy some raffle tickets to support the school, we already have some great prizes.

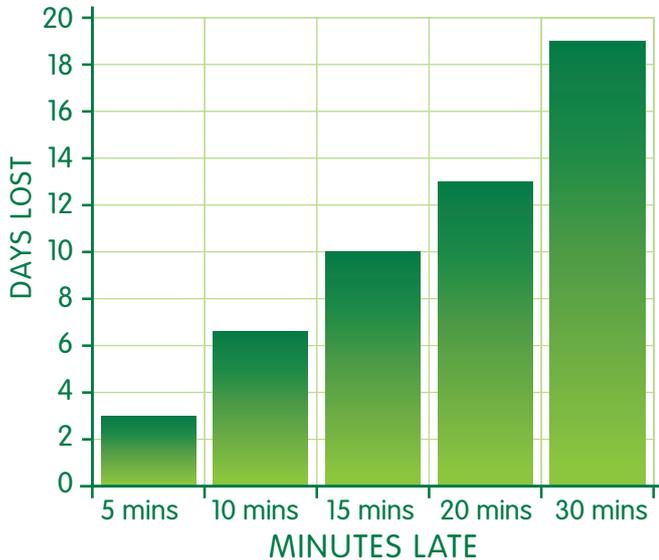
So far prizes include:

- Heaven Farm Leisure family tickets
- Eastbourne Theatres tickets for Peter Pan
- Herstmonceux castle
- Clambers family ticket
- Family ticket miniature steam train
- Drusilla's tickets
- Treacle Mine 2 x £30 off meal vouchers
- Fishers Farm family ticket

# Every School Day Counts

## Being Late adds up to a loss of learning

- If you are 5 minutes late every day that adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- 15 minutes late is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.



## Class figures

Overall school attendance is currently at 96.2%. Our school target this year of 97%.

RH = 94%	2R = 96%	5P = 96%
RP = 97%	3B = 97%	5B = 94%
1A = 96%	3P = 97%	6T = 97%
1J = 96%	4M = 96%	6M = 97%
2M = 97%	4EM = 97%	

- Being late every day can add up to a lot of lost learning time
- Please help your child to be punctual

If you are worried about your child's attendance please talk to us at school about it or speak to: **Education Support Behaviour & Attendance Service** on **01273 481967**

## 97% is our target

### Diary Dates

**Tuesday 5th  
January  
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 **531** 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 Poworx: [www.poworx.co.uk](http://www.poworx.co.uk)