



### In This Issue

Inspirational Curriculum	2
Staff News	2
Whole School Reader	2
Virtual Parents Tour	3
Christmas Countdown	4
Governor News	4
Reading Raffle	4
New Computer Suite	5
Sports News	5
Your PFA News	6
Covid Update	7
School Uniform	8
Little Princess Trust	9
Kind Donations	10

## AN EVENTFUL TERM

A really eventful term in so many ways. I am so proud of the entire school staff who are navigating a totally new and strange way of working.

Almost nothing is the same - times of day, training, meetings but in true Polegate style nothing has stopped them providing the very best for your children and all without question.

**READ  
MORE  
INSIDE**

# AN INSPIRATIONAL CURRICULUM

**We were absolutely determined that the children would still receive an inspirational curriculum and I am delighted to say this is still happening.**

We have hit the ground running and it is a credit to you and your children that they have coped brilliantly with their return to school.

We have carried out all the usual monitoring and we were so impressed with the quality of work in their books. Work is looking very impressive and it was clear that all the children across the school are striving to do their best! Of course there will be some catch up to do for some and we will be sharing details of this with you next term after we collect the usual end of term data but we are really confident that we can address most gaps through our usual high quality teaching.

## Fire Drills

We had a practice fire drill this term and the entire school had evacuated the building in 4 minutes and 20 seconds! Quite phenomenal considering we have grown in size to over 500 pupils now. It was actually quite incredible to see the whole school out on the playground and brought home to us all just how large the school has got in recent years!

## Class Assembly

We hope you are all enjoying watching your child's class assembly from the comfort of your own home! We always look for the positives at Polegate and this pandemic has provided a perfect opportunity to do things differently and some of these changes have been incredibly positive.

## Star of the Week

Star of the Week also continues in a different way. I dash around the school with my iPad on a Monday and announce the Stars in each class. I then put all the clips together in a short assembly which classes watch in school and is made available for you to watch at home later in the week. I try my hardest to get this done as soon as possible but sometimes other things crop up in school.

The lovely thing about this is it is totally spontaneous and you get a very real fly on the wall opportunity to see what goes on in the classrooms around the school. They never know when I will appear and we do see some magical reactions to my arrival and genuine delight for the stars of the week.

# WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

**5TH OCTOBER**

**Thank you, I don't think I have ever seen the bike and scooters as full as they are at the moment! Its lovely o see how many of you are walking and cycling at the moment... .. and yes I'm still persevering with the cycling!**

## STAFF NEWS

### Baby Ashdown has appeared!

Miss Ashdown is so in love and we don't blame her! We are delighted to introduce Millie Louise Ashdown. She weighed 7lbs 1 and was born on the 5th October at 8.45am.

There will be more baby pics to come as we are still waiting on a few other staff members!



### Welcome to Rebecca Kay 6R maternity cover.

We welcome Rebecca Kay to Polegate in term 3. Rebecca Kay joins us from a school in Brighton.

Hello! My name is Rebecca and I'm thrilled to be joining Polegate School in January. I am originally from Manchester and moved to Brighton to teach in 2016 and I am lucky enough to have been teaching in Year 3 ever since so I cannot wait to get started in Year 6. When I am not teaching, I enjoy exploring new places around Sussex, dancing and having adventures. My favourite travelling experience has to be when I travelled through Indonesia last summer and learnt how to surf.

**Looking forward to meeting you all!  
Rebecca**

# WHOLE SCHOOL READER

**I was eagerly asked the other day by a pupil in school when we would be starting our whole school read.**

Not only was I impressed with the enthusiasm for reading this showed but also the confidence to be able to ask. It just shows how successful some of our reading initiatives have been. If you also want to read the book at home as well it is:

**The Secret Garden for Key stage 2 and for key stage 1 an adapted version of the same story.**

This is a classic story that has been so popular it has been turned into many films and adapted for a television series.

A young, recently-orphaned girl is sent to England after living in India all of her life. At first, Mary is exceedingly obnoxious and short-tempered. She dislikes her new home, the people living in it, and most of all, the bleak moor on which it sits. Once there, she begins to explore her new, seemingly-isolated surroundings, and its secrets and then everything changes.

We are starting our whole school reader this term and also asking pupils to vote on the bedtime story they would like. Please do remember our bedtime stories when you would like a night off from reading, they are all saved in a library in our One Drive folder and always there for you to access.

**There are books for all ages read by lots of staff saved.**



## VIRTUAL NEW PARENT TOURS & MEETINGS

### **Our Reception Class of September 2021**

**We are incredibly sad that we are unable to host our traditional new parent meetings in school for our prospective parents- just another thing we have needed to change!**

The virtual tour will be available to view on our website by the end of October. A date will be confirmed. Nothing will replace actually being in a school meeting the children and seeing learning take place in classrooms but we hope this will give parents enough information to make their decisions.

**Please do share with anyone considering Polegate School. We will also be hosting live Zoom question and answer sessions for prospective parents.**





# CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

**From the day I am writing this it is only 74 days until Christmas! Sorry to bring you this news!**

As we will be unable to perform any carols or performances in school we have other plans.

**We are going to turn the children into popstars!**

Each class is going to record and perform their own chart topping Christmas song and accompanying video.

We will then compile these onto a school compilation album/ DVD which will be able to be purchased in order to raise funds for the school.

Stuck for Christmas ideas, this could be just the thing for relatives! Details and order form will follow.

## GOVERNOR NEWS

**We are looking for a Co-opted Governor**

Whilst we have filled all our parent governor roles on our Governing Board we are still looking for a co-opted governor. This can't be a parent but I thought I would share with you all as you may know someone interested in making a difference and contributing to the school. You may have connections in the community.

Our last co-opted governor was a member of the Town council.

All school governors contribute to the work of the governing body in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school by:-

- Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account

for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and  
Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

A co-opted governor is a person appointed by the governing body and who, in the opinion of the governing body, has the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. As a co-opted governor, they may have an area of specialist knowledge or experience or bring a wide range of skills and experience to this role as a governor.

**Please ask them to contact us if they want to find out more about this role.**

## READING RAFFLE

**The boxes are full to the brim just waiting for our winners.**

Children receive a raffle ticket for reading for 7 days in a row. Any reading counts and it's really important that it is not always the child reading even if they are in year 6. Children love listening to stories and you can read them a book that's a little more challenging that they couldn't access independently because this exposes them to more adventurous vocabulary and moves their reading and writing ability on more rapidly.



**Bethany is digging deep to find her winning book!**



# NEW COMPUTING SUITE

The gasps of awe and look of wonder have been wonderful to hear and see as children walk into the new computing suite, otherwise known as the 'Innovation Hub'.

They have been so excited to use it and I was struck by how grateful and appreciative year 6 were when they walked in for the first time. Lots of 'wows', quickly followed by 'thank yous'. It is a total pleasure to be able to provide these incredible resources for your wonderful children.

Whilst we are very fortunate to have a over 80 ipads now this facility will enable pupils to develop those keyboard skills and computing skills that just are not possible using ipads and remain so important.



## SPORTS NEWS



William with his trophy

**William with his football trophy for most improved player at Polegate Grasshoppers.**

**And more footballing success that was shared with me via email this term: Oscar Spiers (2M).**

Oscar plays for Willingdon Athletic FC under 7s. They played Ringmer Rovers on Sunday.

In the second game Oscar played the whole match and they won 8-2. Oscar scored a magnificent hat trick. His second goal was the best goal he has ever scored. He beat 3 players and lifted it over the goal keeper into the left corner. His third goal was in the last second. This was in addition to some great defence skills and lots of runs down the right wing. We were all so proud. Well done Oscar, what a great game of football!

# PFA UPDATE

## Hello from all of us on the PFA!

For those of you that don't know who we are yet, the Parents and Friends Association are a group of parents and friends of the school that work together to raise money for the school to provide some of those extras that a school budget otherwise cannot stretch to. We are a registered charity and raise money through applying for grants and also organising fundraising events, which in the past have included an annual fireworks display, discos, quiz nights, summer fairs and selling gifts for loved ones.

Last year, despite not being able to run any events after March because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we ran 13 events in total and made over £9000 profit, which will go directly back into the school for the benefit of every child.

This year things will have to work differently for us, just like in all walks of life and areas of the school! We held our AGM (Annual General Meeting) on 30th September via Zoom... it was wonderful to see everyone, including some new faces. At the meeting our officers were elected and remain as they were... Chair- Rachel Keen, Vice Chair- Sarah Bond, Treasurer- Eve Noakes and Secretary- Louise Ness. We are always looking for new members to get involved, this can be as little or as much time as you can manage to spare... please do get in touch if you would like to find out more or join us!

We are continuing to work towards funding a refurbishment to the Wildlife/ Forest School area this year and will keep you updated how these plans are coming along.

We are currently working on a programme of events for this year; we hope that by next summer we will be able to run a traditional summer fair and be able to get some of the popular events the children enjoy, such as discos, back up and running but unfortunately that is all out of our hands for now. The popular annual fireworks that we have become famous for cannot go ahead this year sadly, but we are already booked in for next year... keep your fingers crossed for us!

If you have any amazing ideas of covid secure, socially distanced fundraising events we would love to hear from you.

If you are able to support the PFA and in turn all of the children at Polegate School by joining in with either of these schemes it would make a huge difference...

### Why not join our School Lottery?

There is a guaranteed winner every week from our school, as well as the chance to win £25,000! The more players we have the bigger our school winner's prize will be!!

#### Sign up at...

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/polegate-primary-school>

**Raise Donations for Polegate School PFA whenever you shop online**

**Turn your everyday online shopping and free donations**



Using this link and signing up to the easyfundraising site also earns us money... just for you doing your shopping!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/polegateschoolpfa/>



### Amazon Smile

You could also link your amazon account and support us by using Amazon Smile! It costs you nothing, but generates funds for us! Win win!

Simply shop at [smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1177773-0](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1177773-0) or with AmazonSmile ON in the App and AmazonSmile donates to us!

**Join our school lottery today**

**All funds raised go to a school  
A chance to win 325,000 jackpot  
Guaranteed winner every week**



# COVID UPDATE

## **It was a matter of when rather than if and unfortunately this term we did have to close a class bubble.**

It is a credit to the measures we have in school that it was restricted to a bubble and we were praised by Public Health England for the measures we had in place and the action we took to respond to this so quickly.

I do want to take this opportunity to explain that the full Government guidance states that adults can move between bubbles and around the school. This is actually necessary because without this flexibility we would not be able to operate fully.

## **Staffing arrangements in school**

Teaching assistants may also be deployed to lead groups or cover lessons, under the direction and supervision of a qualified, or nominated, teacher (under the Education (Specified Work) (England) Regulations 2012 for maintained schools and non-maintained special schools and in accordance with the freedoms provided under the funding agreement for academies).

We have not needed to use supply teachers yet however we may do in the future and guidance states:

'Supply staff and other temporary workers can move between schools.' We do rely on a number of members of staff that also visit other schools such as our sports coach, Zara; educational professionals to support our SEND pupils, such as our speech therapist and it is important these provisions continue.

Schools are still expected to host trainee teachers and we have a responsibility to as we are a Teaching School and we are set targets for the number of trainee teachers we support. The guidance states:

## **Expectation and deployment of ITT trainees**

We strongly encourage schools to consider hosting ITT trainees. Demand for teacher training is high this year and, while it is understandable that schools will have prioritised other activity, there is a risk that insufficient training places will be available. ITT trainees have the potential to play a significant role in supporting schools. Schools should consider how they could host ITT trainees.

'In order to ensure a self-improving, school-led system, teaching schools are required to operate by the following principles: Teaching schools are expected to provide school-led initial teacher training.'

We will have a student teacher joining reception this week and she will become an integral part of our teaching team.

**If you feel inclined the full document is available to read on this link.**

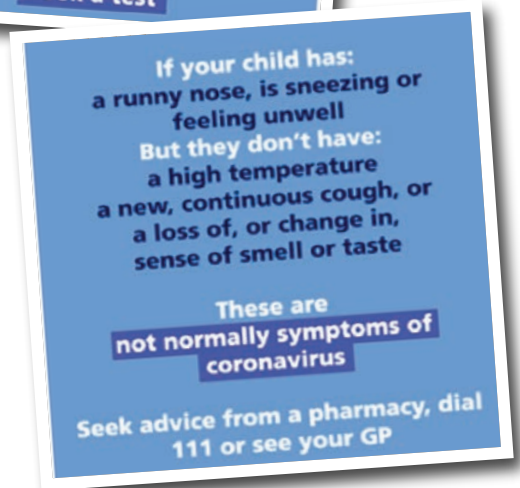
The full suite of guidance documents can be found here and this is the same link that was previously shared in our COVID parent information version IIII

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19>

**Guidance about workforce is found here:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#school-workforce>

(updated 1st October)



# SCHOOL UNIFORM

September always marks the exciting start of a new academic year and for pupils entering the school term it means stepping back into uniform.

**We have made allowances at the start of this term because we appreciate that with the 'lockdown' complications it may have been harder to get the full uniform.**

We are monitoring it this week and will be sending slips if we notice children are not in the full uniform.

We know that the half term break will give you the perfect opportunity to purchase any school uniform that is required so we are reminding everyone now of our expectations.

We have been sensitive in our expectations and originally minimised our uniforms compared to many other schools locally. We don't expect blazers or ties. However we do expect a high standard of dress from our pupils as this helps to foster a school identity. We believe that children should take a pride in their appearance as this encourages positive attitudes. The importance of uniform exists on several grounds. Uniforms quickly offer a sense of belonging, equality and definitely help with concentration. Even wearing the uniform has a positive impact on behaviour and we clearly see this when we have a non-uniform day. Please do not deviate in any ways from the requirements which will be strictly applied.

Our school handbook contains full details of the school uniform and can be found on the website:

<https://polegateschool.co.uk/public/data/chalk/file/2/c/Polegate%20School%20Handbook.pdf>

## Uniform consists of:

While our uniform allows for some individuality we do insist on a degree of uniformity. We are sensitive to gender issues and have minimal differences between boys' and girls' uniforms.

## Our basic uniform is as follows:

- short or long grey or black trousers (not denim or cord or sports/track suit bottoms)
- grey or black skirt or pinafore dress (girls only)
- green gingham summer dress (girls only)
- white shirt/blouse/polo shirt (with school name)
- green crew necked sweatshirt with school name
- green cardigan with school name • green fleeces with school name
- smart black school shoes - no high heels (leather) Boots are not allowed in school.
- plain white or grey socks
- green baseball cap with school logo
- green (winter) woolly hat with logo

All items of school clothing should be clearly marked with the child's name. Research shows that a distinctive uniform has a hugely positive impact on a young person's journey through the school system. We know that children are facing a range of unprecedented new challenges on their mental health and wellbeing, so a uniform is a vital way to relieve some pressure. By fostering a sense of belonging, helping to reduce levels of peer pressure and bullying, and providing a cost effective and easy method for parents to clothe their children between Monday and Friday, we believe that a uniform plays a critical role in the experience children have while at school."

## PE kit

We do have a full school PE kit as part of our uniform policy. This includes:

- a white T-shirt with logo
- black shorts with logo

- Water proof tracksuit with logo
- PE bag optional
- Plimsolls for indoor PE
- Trainers for outside PE

"Fashionable" shorts and/or multicoloured/slogan bearing T-shirts are not appropriate for school P.E. lessons. We take a firm line with children who fail to have the appropriate kit when it is needed. Written reminders will be sent home asking for your cooperation. We do go out in all weathers and so pupils will need the winter kit (black tracksuit)

## NEW!

An optional extra is this very smart and practical school coat which we have already seen many pupils wearing!



**A few samples of our uniform-cardigan, PE tops, PE shorts and tracksuit.**





# LITTLE PRINCESS TRUST

**The selfless acts of our wonderful children continue and here is another lovely example!**

Evie cut off her gorgeous locks to donate to The Little Princess Trust which provides free real hair wigs to children and young people, up to 24 years, who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions.

**I love your new look Evie and we all think you are incredible!**



**Evie Before**



**Evie After**

## Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



## THANK YOU

### A thank you from our neighbours!

We received a call from one of our neighbours who just wanted to share how successful she felt drop off and collection arrangements were. They said how grateful they were that the roads were quieter and felt it had been managed really well.

Today I received a letter from the residents at Bexley Court thanking you for not standing on their grass which I thought would be lovely to share with you.

### What does it mean to be part of this school community?

**Sophia Rogers in 4H gave a brilliant answer:**

**'I appreciate being a member of this school community and take responsibility for my own learning by going to infinity and beyond and playing nicely.'**

**What a great response!**

## WAITROSE DONATION

We had a lovely donation of £333.00 from Waitrose for which we are incredibly grateful. Our very own Polegate Parliament representatives will discuss how they would like to spend it.

## STUNNING PHOTOGRAPH



This stunning photograph was taken by Jacob Walsh in Year 6 and I thought it was well worth including in our newsletter.

## RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY & READY

These pupils are clearly excellent role models for our school rules - taking responsibility for our environment, being ready to do something about it and showing respect for others in our local community!

I love the photo! You don't look impressed that there is so much litter around our school.

**Thank you.**

You see we have spies everywhere! Please feel free to share any marvellous things our pupils do!



'Izzy, Lilia (3D), Jensen & Matthew (RM) decided they had enough of the litter round the school so have started picking it up after school today.



## 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



Pupils enjoying our new Information Hub

## 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.co.uk](http://www.polegateschool.co.uk)

## WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES

We have small recycling battery boxes in the office.



## Diary Dates

**Monday 2nd November**  
**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 **1109 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)