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A FULL TERM OF LEARNING

A full term of learning in school, surrounded by children uninterrupted by the 'c' word all making terrific progress! Phew!

With any luck soon bubbles will be reserved for a glass on a Friday evening!

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

I am hearing a lot from our families about feeling unsettled, stressed, frayed – I think it is reassuring to hear you are not alone sometimes!

If this is happening to you at the moment I'm sorry to hear this, it's been a long and changeable 12 months.

I think it's happened because, on Monday, the country had another change.

And whilst this is welcome change for us, the easing of restrictions brings about yet more questions and uncertainty.

It'll take a little while for the dust to settle on this and people know where they are, hopefully not too long.

In school we are busier than ever and doing everything we can to support the children, families and staff whilst we go through yet more changes. The good news is this brings many positives and I know that together we will all adjust to another version of life at Polegate.

An example of this is introducing clubs again! We are so pleased to be able to offer the range of extra-curricular clubs that we are and I would like to thank the dedicated team at Polegate for providing these experiences.

I had a wonderful email from a parent recognising this and it was just the boost that staff needed- thank you!

Good morning Claire,

Firstly, WOW WOW WOW!!!!

All those amazing clubs back on offer. Me and my daughter have both missed them!

What amazing extra opportunities you have offered children at Polegate. Was blown away when I saw what was on offer.

SO pleased they are back too, a good sign covid is on the way out. Well done to you and your wonderful team for their EXTRA hard work!!!!

A brilliant term in which the children have been astounding in adjusting back and making phenomenal progress.

I would like to give a 'shout out' to 5T for a renewed enthusiasm and motivation towards reading- keep it up and I think we will have a few millionaire readers!



WINNING HOUSE

We have been running out of house points so the pots have been emptied frequently!

Pegasus is our winning house so far!



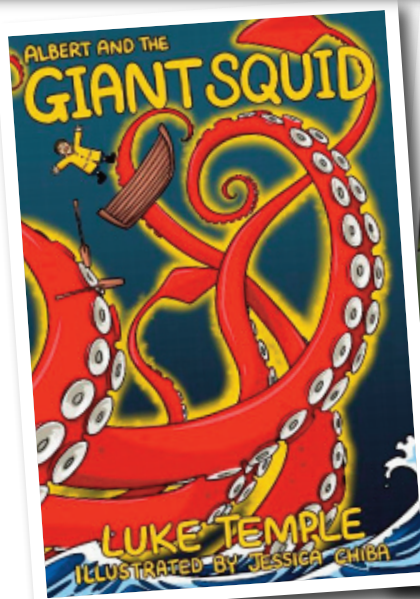
YEAR 1 AUTHOR VIRTUAL VISIT

Even with restrictions we look to provide a range of really exciting opportunities for the children at Polegate. If you follow us on Twitter you will see this on a daily basis.

This term Year 1 had a 'virtual visit' from the author Luke Temple. The children joined his masterclass enhanced with videos and writing activities which got the children really engaged and excited.

The children loved the themes and as I visited the classes they were very excited to tell me all about the author.

'Inspirational and proves anyone can write'



CALLING EVERYONE- CAN YOU HELP?

Fill the library with new books! We can't get enough of books at Polegate!

A good school library isn't just important for academic achievement. Reading for pleasure also improves children's wellbeing – something our children need now more than ever before.

Our big prize draw is back, giving you the chance to win £5,000/€ 5,000 of National Book Tokens for your school's library – and if your entry is picked, you'll also get £100/€ 120 of National Book Tokens to spend on yourself!

Find out about other previous winners, and enter this year's competition, below. The closing date is Saturday 31st July 2021, and the winner will be announced in the autumn term.

<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools>

NATIONAL
BOOK
tokens



STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Mrs Dedman who is expecting her second child and will start her maternity at the end of this school year.

WELCOME TO SOME NEW FACES!

Bethany Budd



Hello everyone, my name is Miss Budd and I will be joining Polegate Primary School in September.

I have been a teacher for 2 years and have taught in Year 1 and Year 2. My favourite subjects are maths, English and art. I love all things creative and my hobbies include drawing, sewing and baking. So you can get to know me a little better, here are three of my favourite things.... My favourite colour is pink, my favourite animal is a flamingo and I absolutely love Christmas! I am very excited to get to know you all too. See you in September!

Max Vigor



Since beginning my teaching career in September 2016, I have been fortunate enough to work across various year groups in key stage two, but primarily in year six.

I love nothing more than working closely with children from my class and across the school, helping them to develop through engaging lessons and a wide range of experiences outside of the classroom.

My main passion is sport and I can be found watching almost any sport that is available on the television! I am a huge football fan and love to keep fit. I will often be found in the gym or out and about exploring the area either running or on my bike.

More recently, however, I have been preparing for life with my daughter who is due very soon!

Maxine Weyland



Hello everyone, lots of you already know me as I feel I have grown up at Polegate School.

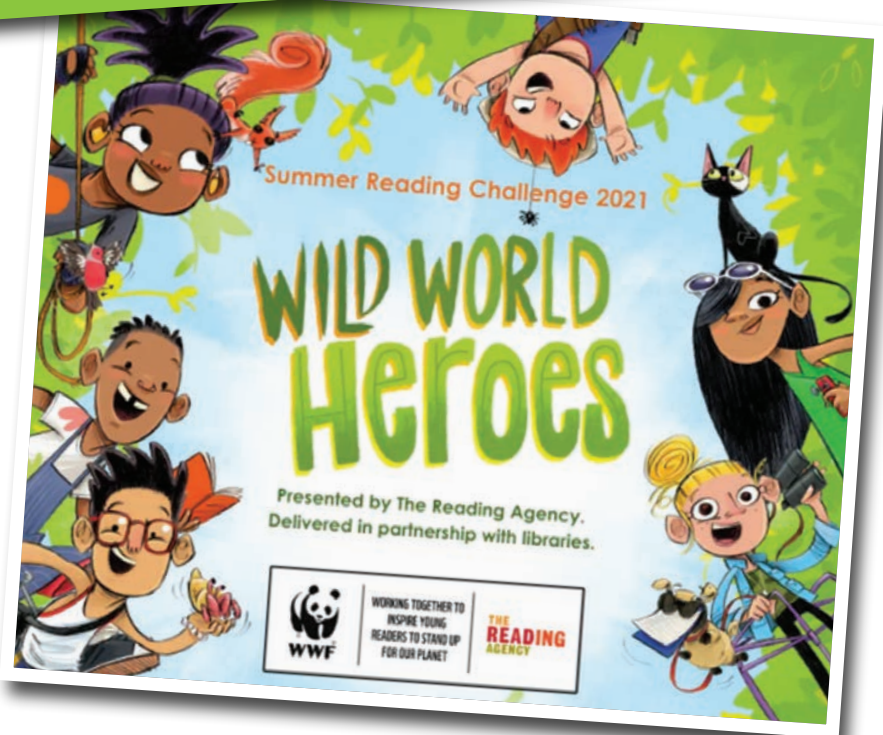
I have studied for the last 5 years to achieve my dream of becoming a fully qualified teacher. I am so looking forward to meeting my new class and taking them on a learning adventure with me. So what might you not know about me? I love to take long walks with my family over the South Downs, I love to be outside. I adore reading but especially children's books - they take me to so many wonderful places and on so many journeys. I have to admit I am a fan of science fiction films and superhero movies but my favourite film of all time is "The Wizard of Oz" and when I was a little girl I got into big trouble wanting red shoes to wear to school! Can you guess what one of my favourite colours might be? I have two grown up children of my own who also came to Polegate School and Mr Weyland pops in occasionally to read a story especially on World Book Day. I guess you could say that a Weyland is for life not just for Christmas!

Diary Dates

**Monday
7th June
Start of
Term 6**

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

We are delighted to announce the theme of this year's Summer Reading Challenge, produced by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with libraries: **Wild World Heroes Summer Reading Challenge 2021.**



The Reading Agency have teamed up with WWF for a nature themed Summer Reading Challenge and will encourage children to discover how they can make a difference to the environment. The Challenge will begin on Saturday 17 July and end on Saturday 11 September in all East Sussex Libraries.

Children's reading can 'dip' during the long summer holidays if they do not have regular access to books and encouragement to read for pleasure and this can be a problem for schools to put right in the new term.

The Reading Agency's annual Summer Reading Challenge really helps by getting over 700,000 children regularly into libraries over the summer. There is no other free reading activity that involves so many children, introduces families to their library, encourages children to choose books freely and independently and is endorsed by parents, teachers and the Department for Education.

Children need a library card and PIN to take part. If they don't already have one they can join the library online (card will be posted to home address) or in any branch. They then need to sign up to the Challenge at

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/src

What does the Challenge involve?

Children sign up to Wild World Heroes, then visit their local library to collect a Reader Record and sticker as a reward for taking part.

Choose 6 library books to read. They can be any type: fiction/non-fiction, e-books, e-audio books, Bag Books for children with special educational needs, books on CD - it's up to them.

Children do not need to be independent readers to take part. They can share their books with friends and family. They do not need to borrow all their books at once.

After they have read each book they can come back to the library, tell us their doing the Challenge and collect the appropriate prize.

When they have read and told us about 6 books they will receive a Wild World Heroes pencil, medal and certificate for completing the Summer Reading Challenge. As usual we will give them the option of having their certificates presented in school assembly. We will send the certificates to schools at the beginning of October.

PFA UPDATE

Wow...we can't believe we are into the last part of another school year!

From all of us on the PFA, thank you for all of the support you have given us with our fundraising events this year.

Even though we have had to do things very differently, we are thrilled that we have still managed to raise almost as much for the school than in previous years with the events we have run, over £8000 profit has been made to support projects that benefit every child in the school. The wildlife garden project has been so well received by the children and staff, which makes every event and all of your support so worthwhile.

The Smarties Challenge this year raised 3x more than previously so thank you so much for your support with this!

Our most recent Bags2School collection earned us £102- so that is £237 this year, just for clearing out some wardrobes!

We have had some really positive feedback from you about being able to use the online payment system for PFA events, and we will be looking to try and keep as many of our events cashless as possible going forwards.

Upcoming Events

Circus Tickets

Don't forget to book your circus tickets for the Summer holidays at a discounted rate just for Polegate School families - information was sent out via Parentmail, tickets are on sale until the end of June!

Fathers Day

Gifts for Loved Ones (Fathers Day) will be happening soon- watch out for information about payment and dates

Summer Fair

We are hoping, road map allowing, that we will be holding an amazing Summer Fair on Saturday 10th July... put the date in your diary and join us for lots of family fun.

Get involved

Finally, if you would like to get involved in joining us or have any ideas for fundraisers you would like to see happening, please do get in touch. You can contact us on pfa@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

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 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**

Attendance

Sadly, children have lost so much time in school recently and we all keep our fingers crossed that we are seeing a return to normal when we can focus on what is going to make a difference to your child's attainment and progress without distraction.

We are looking forward to a term 6 where we can be aspirational for your children and expect the best.

Attendance and punctuality are an important part of good behaviour and such an important life skill. It is an essential requirement in any job and habits formed early become embedded. Pupils who miss valuable time in classrooms fall further behind and become more disengaged from the work of the class, it is hard to regain this ground and hard to motivate pupils when attendance drops.

Our expectation is 100% which pre Covid was normal for children at Polegate. We are optimistic we will return to this in term 6. Please do contact us if you are having any difficulties or face challenges we may not be aware of.

You have been totally brilliant at arriving for earlier starts and so we are not anticipating any lates!

As a reminder term 6 arrangements change with a much reduced staggered start. Learning will start promptly at registration so children arriving after this will be marked as late. Please ensure they arrive promptly so they don't miss out on learning

Term Six Arrangements

| | Drift in Gates open | Register | Break | Lunch | Break | End of the day |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Reception & KS1 | 8.30 | 8.40 | 10.30-10.45 | 12-1pm | 2-2.15pm | 3.10pm |
| Key Stage 2 | 8.15 | 8.30 | 10.30-10.45 | 12-1pm | N/A | 3pm |

Drop off and collection

Arrangements will be as follows: In the morning parents will continue to drop at the gate and leave. In the afternoon parents will come onto the playground.

| | Morning - Entrance through | Parents will enter through same gates and wait in the following areas |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Reception | Main car park gates | RR - Green astro area outside class RM & RH - Key Stage 1 playground |
| Year 1 | Main car park gates | Key Stage 1 playground |
| Year 2 | Junior gates | Key Stage 2 upper playground |
| Year 3 | Junior gates | Key Stage 2 upper playground |
| Year 4 | Junior gates | Key Stage 2 upper playground |
| Year 5 | Junior gates | Children leave independently |
| Year 6 | Junior gates | Children leave independently |

At the end of the day parents will need to wait on site the gate will be opened at 2.55pm. The office will remain closed so please continue to email and call. We are still here for you!

No parents to enter the school building as whilst restrictions have eased and we are adapting to this we still do not

want to cause unnecessary risk. Please continue to social distance in the playground. We can't become complacent and leave the grounds as quickly as possible to enable social distancing and reduce contact and congestion.

STANDARDS, SUCCESS & EXPECTATIONS

We work hard to maintain fair and consistent standards at Polegate which is one of the many reasons we are so successful.

The essentials such as uniform, attendance and manners are 'basics' which mean when these are right we can focus on the important essentials of learning and supporting individual needs.

This last year every kind of normal has been tested and we have shown flexibility and adapted to these ever changing circumstances. We have recognised the importance of being empathetic and shown understanding of unique and individual circumstances. We have extended this understanding over the last six weeks. We recognise children may have out grown shoes, uniform and these may have been challenging to replace.

We now need to ensure that our normal routines and expectations are established as part of the consistent and secure environment that enables staff and pupils to work most effectively.

We ask for your full support in ensuring this is in place, ensuring all pupils return in Term 6 with the correct uniform, allowing us to focus on the aspects of education that make the biggest difference.



UNIFORM REMINDER FOR THE SUMMER TERM

We recognise that most of our children have a full uniform and PE kit.

All uniform needs to be in line with our policy which can be found by clicking <https://polegateschool.co.uk/public/data/chalk/file/3/5/Polegate%20School%20Handbook.pdf>

We ask that over the May holiday this is checked in preparation for the start of Term 6.

Our basic uniform is as follows:

- short or long grey or black trousers (not denim or cord or sports/tracksuit 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 sweatshirt/cardigan with school name
- black jogging suit (PE)
- Black school shoes - not trainers or boots
- plain white or grey socks
- green baseball cap with school logo
- green (winter) woolly hat with logo
- black showerproof fleece with school logo

Particular attention should be paid to shoes

School Shoes: Trainers are not an option, polishable school shoes are the only type of shoe that is acceptable.

If you have any challenges as a family in meeting these expectations, please speak to us. Uniform provides equality; school uniforms also create a level playing field of expectations. Uniforms are an equalizer and we want all children to feel equal and uniform is key to this. We will help if any family is struggling so again I want to encourage you to raise this with us.

PFA PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

In the last few years the PFA have established a successful pre-loved uniform shop. To save money we would recommend parents look here to refresh uniform and ensure the uniform is compliant with our policy. They would also be happy to take any donations of uniform that is too small. This uniform can be delivered to school.

Thank you for your continued support with us upholding our culture and ethos.

CREATIVITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS

Creativity knows no bounds at Polegate as demonstrated by year 5's exploding books! Some stunning work.



Stunning
exploding
books
created
by 5T!

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT WELL BEING

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/your-mind-plan-quiz/>

<https://woebot.io/>

The mindshift app

<https://www.headspace.com/>

Royal Academy

Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES

We have small recycling battery boxes in the office.



Diary Dates

**Friday
28th May
Last Day of
Term**

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
1174 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

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