

# news

**March 2026**



## PLENTY TO CELEBRATE!

**As we come to the end of a busy Term 4, there is plenty to celebrate! This term has been packed with fun and engaging activities, showcasing the incredible spirit of our students and staff at Polegate School.**

From exciting projects to memorable events, we have truly made the most of our time together.

Now, it's time to sit back and enjoy the Easter break, spending quality time

with family and loved ones. We encourage everyone to take this opportunity to relax and recharge, ready to embrace the challenges and joys of the summer term ahead.

As you read through this edition of our newsletter, we hope you feel the warmth and enthusiasm that fills our school community. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in making Polegate School a wonderful place for our children to learn and grow. Here's to a well-deserved break and an exciting summer term!

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# WORLD BOOK DAY

We had the most amazing day celebrating world book day, we loved sharing stories with our friends and dressing up!



All our teachers thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day and entertained us all with amazing costumes.

**Can you guess this teacher?**

## STAFF NEWS

**Ms Craig will be joining us soon, we cannot wait!**



**Hello, I'm Ms Craig and I am very excited to be joining the Year 3 team at Polegate School.**

I have over ten years of teaching experience across a range of schools, including Outstanding state, private and international schools. My specialism is in Phonics Teaching, and I also love teaching Art and Science. I am passionate about creating engaging and creative lessons, building children's confidence and helping every child reach their full potential.

Outside of school, I love travelling around the world and learning about different cultures. I previously lived and worked in New Zealand for two years, which was an amazing experience. One of my New Zealand highlights was getting married on top of a mountain in -3°C snowy weather! I also love hiking, cycling, and dancing.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know the children, building strong relationships with families, and beginning my journey at Polegate School.

**My Favourites:**

**Food: Lasagne**

**Colour: Yellow**

**Hobby: Hiking**

**Book Genre: Thriller**

**Music: Pop**

## SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTING SUCCESS PHOEBE DELL



**Player of the Tournament at the Ocklynge Cup was awarded to our very own Phoebe Dell who very much deserved this accolade, having scored a goal and provided 5 assists for Polegate throughout the day.**

Phoebe has been playing football for as long as she can remember. She started as a mini under-6 for Old Town Boys where she stayed right up to this season when she moved to Eastbourne Borough Girls where she trains on a Monday night.

She first played for Polegate in a tournament when she was in Year 1 and has played in both boys and girls teams ever since.

Recently, Phoebe was selected for Chelsea FC Girls and so also has to train with them after school twice a week – in Cobham on a Wednesday and Crawley on a Friday!

**We are very proud of your achievements Phoebe and we wish you lots of success and happiness in both your school and sporting future!**

# FOOTBALL ROUND-UP



**Lots of football news this term and the end of last. Starting with the Annual KS1 football tournament that took place at Eastbourne Sports Park on an unusually sunny day in February.**

We took 2 teams from across Year 1 and Year 2 to play against other local schools including Motcombe, Pevensey & Westham, Stone Cross, Bourne and Heron Park. There were 2 leagues in the tournament, so we had an A team and team 1.

The A team were generally more experienced and they faced some very stiff opposition during the afternoon. They played incredibly well and won three of their games, drew one and lost two, coming 4th in their league overall.

The less experienced team, led by Leo, the very prolific goalscorer, played 7 games through the afternoon, winning 5 and drawing two. They finished the day in first place overall in their league, playing their final game just as the rain started to fall and everyone else had left the pitches!



Congratulations to all the players who represented Polegate at this competition. You all did us proud. Thanks too to Mr Heron and Mr Stracey who volunteered to coach the teams and who also did an excellent job!

## **Year 4/5 Ocklynge Cup**

**A team of our older pupils from Years 4 & 5 took part in the annual Ocklynge Cup football tournament on March 5th.**

Mr Keeley and Mrs Dell were coaches for the event, with Mr K commenting "It is days like today that remind me why I chose this job. All players represented Polegate brilliantly, making it all the way to the final without conceding a goal. We lost in the final to an extremely good Ocklynge side, supported by most of their school!"



# EASTBOURNE PRIMARY PARKRUN

## We couldn't have picked a more challenging day weather-wise to start our collaboration with Eastbourne Primary Parkrun.

Despite the driving wind and rain, a handful of Polegate pupils braved the conditions to run the 2k track along the seafront, starting by the Wishtower Slope/RNLI museum.

We hope in the coming weeks and months that more families will come along on a Sunday morning 9am to join this wonderful, FREE, event.

You only need to sign up once for a barcode for each family member and then as you complete the run, you have your barcode scanned and this gives you a timing and a position. Wristbands are given out to children marking milestone numbers of runs - the first one is awarded once you have completed 11 junior park runs.

It would be lovely to see more of our pupils joining in the run next Sunday. You can use the link below to sign up.

It's a great free way to get out, get fit and have fun with friends!

## We look forward to seeing you at the next one!

**Sunday 22nd March at 9:00am.**

### What is Eastbourne junior parkrun?

A free, fun, and friendly weekly 2k event for juniors (4 to 14 year olds).

### When is it?

It is held every Sunday at 9:00am.

### Where is it?

The event takes place at King Edwards Parade, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 4BY.



### What does it cost to join in?

Nothing - it's free! but please register before you first come along. Only ever register with parkrun once and don't forget to bring a scannable copy of your barcode

### How fast do I have to be?

The aim is to have fun. Please come along and join in whatever your pace!

### Help Eastbourne junior parkrun happen!

All parkrun events are organised by volunteers - email [eastbournejuniors@parkrun.com](mailto:eastbournejuniors@parkrun.com) to help.

### Safeguarding

Parkrun is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk. For our full safeguarding processes and policies please see our Safeguarding Hub.

**To report a safeguarding concern please email [safeguarding@parkrun.com](mailto:safeguarding@parkrun.com).**

### We're friendly!

Every week we grab a post parkrun coffee at the West Rocks Beach Club Café (where you will get a 10% junior parkrun discount!) - **please come and join us!**



# BOX TO BE FIT CLUB

## Box to be Fit club has been back in full swing again this term!

After some training last term some of our Year 6 Sports Leaders have been helping run the Box to Be Fit club this term. They have been incredible supporting the Reception to Year 4 children who attend the club and have been designing different stations to run each week, including trampolining activities, boxing skills, hula hoop work, skipping activities, gymnastics and bench work.

**If your child is in Year 5 and is interested in helping with this club next year, Mrs Chadwick would love to hear from you!**



# OUR POETS SHINE BRIGHT!

**What an incredible celebration of words, confidence and courage we witnessed at our recent poetry contest!**

## **From Classroom to Stage**

Our talented pupils performed their chosen poems in class, impressing their peers and teachers with their expression and delivery. Each class then voted for their favourite performance, and one champion from every class earned the opportunity to perform in front of the whole school during assembly.

## **A Battle of Brilliance**

The atmosphere in the hall was electric as our young poets took to the stage. Each child performed with incredible confidence, grace and humility, bringing their poems to life and captivating the audience. The standard was exceptionally high, and it was clear that every single performer had worked hard to perfect their delivery.

**After much deliberation, our judges selected two outstanding winners:**

🏆 **Libby (6L)**

🏆 **Alba (1M)**

Congratulations to both girls! You made us all so proud, and we can't wait to see you represent Polegate Primary School at the grand final on 19th March against other local schools. We know you will be absolutely amazing!

## **A Very Special Mention**

We want to give a special mention to Joshua (5K), whose performance left both the judges and audience in complete awe.

Joshua has a stammer and wants to be an advocate for children with stammers everywhere. His confidence and resilience in standing on stage and delivering his poem with such courage were truly inspirational. Joshua showed everyone what determination and bravery look like, and he reminded us all that our differences make us stronger.

## **Joshua's Amazing Challenge**

Joshua is not stopping there! He is running a 15K race to raise money for a charity that supports people who stammer, and to fly the flag for all children facing similar challenges.

**If you would like to support Joshua's incredible fundraising efforts, please visit:**  
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/rachel-keen-13?newPage=true>

## **Thank You**

Thank you to all the children who took part in the poetry contest – every single one of you showed courage by performing in front of your classmates. Thank you also to the staff who supported the children in preparing their performances, and to everyone who came to watch and cheer on our talented poets.

Let's continue to celebrate the unique talents and strengths of every child at Polegate Primary School. Whether it's through poetry, sport, art, or simply being kind – every child has something special to offer our community.

**Good luck, Libby and Alba – we're all rooting for you!** 🎉

**And Joshua – you are an inspiration to us all. We're so proud of you!**



# HOLI PARADE

**Year 1 students truly entertained the entire school with a vibrant and joyful Holi Parade!**

The event was a delightful spectacle, filled with bright colours, laughter, and fun. Students donned their colourful outfits and participated in various activities that brought the spirit of Holi to life.

It was wonderful to see everyone come together, sharing smiles and creating cherished memories. The Holi Parade is undoubtedly one of the must-see events of the year, reminding us all of the joy and unity that celebrations can bring.



# BABY NEWS

**Miss Hayes shared some beautiful news!**

**Introducing Margot Grace Williams born on 21st February. We cannot wait to meet her!**



## DIARY DATE

**27th March  
LAST DAY  
OF TERM**

## DIARY DATES

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
13th April
Y3 Pevensey Castle Trip
16th April – Reception
Blackberry Farm Trip
24th April
3C Class Assembly
29th April – 1st May
Year 5 Hindleap Warren Residential Trip
1st May
RJ Class Assembly
4th May
May Bank Holiday
6th May
PFA 2nd Hand School Uniform
8th May
2D Class Assembly
11th-14th May
Year 6 SATs
15th May
1L Class Assembly
18th – 21st May
Sports Week
22nd May
INSET Day

# WANT TO WORK WITH ANIMALS?



You might look after a school dog like Bruno!

## Animal Care Attendant

### Animal Care Attendants

feed, clean and generally care for animals in animal shelters, stables, kennels, pet shops, veterinary clinics, aquariums, zoos and wildlife parks.

### Routes into the industry

Locally, Cornwall College offer the following **courses** and **apprenticeships**:

- Diploma in Animal Care (Level 1 & 2)
- Animal Management Diploma (Level 3)
- Apprenticeship as an Animal Care & Welfare Assistant

You can also get into this job through **volunteering** or **applying directly**.

### Skills

#### Day to day tasks:

- Preparing food and feeding the animals
- Keeping animals clean and grooming them
- Cleaning out kennels and cages
- Maintaining cages, runs and grounds
- Exercising dogs in a yard or taking them for walks
- Looking after animals which are elderly, ill or distressed
- Answering telephone calls and greeting visitors to the premises

### Subjects

There are no specific skills required for this job, but competition for full-time jobs is strong. You must show employers that you are enthusiastic and interested in working with animals. You will need to meet the minimum GCSE requirements in English and Mathematics to access apprenticeships or college courses.

### Salary\*

Starting at £12,000 and rising to £17,000.

### Jobs

There will be 8% more Animal Care jobs by 2025.

\*In 2020 the average salary was £31,461, up 3.6% on 2019.

Annual pay estimates are largely unaffected by Covid-19.

# MATHS FAMILY CHALLENGE:

## ESCAPE THE FRACTION FOREST!



Thank you to all the families that attended our family maths challenge this term.

All teams were successful in escaping the fraction forest! So much fun was had by all and there were lots of great prizes to be won! Do join us for the next maths challenge...

## CROSS-COUNTRY



### School Games Cross-Country Area Finals at Bedes Senior School 6th March 2026

Three of our runners who had qualified from the local area event at Ratton School before Christmas, took part in the next round of the Sussex School Games cross-country competition at Bedes.

The Bedes' course is tough – with more sloping terrain than the previous round – but our runners were

incredible. In the Year 6 Boys group, James finished an amazing 7th which will put him through to the Sussex School Finals in Crawley later this month. In the Year 5 Girls, Arabella also qualified in the top 10 and will go through to the Finals. Elliott finished just outside the top 20 for the boys which means he missed out on qualification for the next round, but well done for putting in such a great effort as always!

**Good luck for the Level 3 School Games Final – we have only had runners through to that level twice before!**

# MULTISKILLS EVENT



In February some of our year 3's had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a Multiskills event, held at Hailsham Academy. They did amazingly well, represented our school beautifully and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, well done!

## CHARLESTON FESTIVAL 2026

### Charleston Festival 13th- 25th May 2026

For 37 years, Charleston Festival has been a home for bold ideas and boundary-pushing art.

This year's lineup brings audiences together with the creative trailblazers shaping our ever-changing world. Join us for live conversations, electrifying performances, family fun and hands-on creative workshops.

### For some family favourites

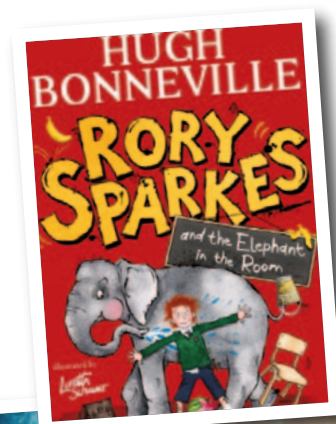
Horrid Henry, Rory Sparkes, Tweens and The Magic Faraway Tree follow the links below:

**Charleston: The Story of Art Without Men... For Tweens!**

**Charleston: Horrid Henry**

**Charleston: Rory Sparkes and the Elephant in the Room**

**Charleston: The Magic Faraway Tree**



# MARVELLOUS MIDDLE

**Year 2 enjoyed their Marvellous Middle so much!**

We had actor visitors from Trunk Theatre Company who performed an amazing, informative and entertaining show all about the Great Fire of London. There was lots of singing, dancing and lots of opportunities to join in! Year 2 loved getting to share all they have already learnt about their topic with the visiting actors.



# HALF TERM FUN



Looking for a half term project?  
You are invited to take part in our  
Easter Bonnet Competition!

Can you create an egg-citing bonnet  
using recycled materials or upcycling an old hat?

Please bring your bonnet into school by:

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April**  
we will have a special Easter Bonnet Parade at the end of the week  
and prizes for some of the most innovative designs!

Hoppy Creating!



## DEAR PARENTS

### Help Inform Childcare in East Sussex

#### East Sussex County Council must publish a Childcare Sufficiency Report every year.

This report explains how the Council plans to ensure there are enough childcare places for families who are working, studying, or training.

It covers childcare for children from birth to age 14 (or up to 18 for children with disabilities).

To help inform the 2027 report, we will be gathering feedback from parents and carers at several points throughout the year. As part of this, we kindly ask you to complete this survey by 13th April 10am using the link below.

**Childcare sufficiency parental survey Spring 2026**

[Click here to Fill in form](#)

**DIARY DATE**

**6th May  
PFA 2nd Hand  
School  
Uniform**

# YEAR 4 TIMES TABLE MATHS PARTY!

On Thursday 12th March all of year 4 took part in our very first times tables party!

The children took part in a range of maths games and activities and received a party bag to go home with!

Thank you so much to all the families that came along to join in the fun with their children!



**DIARY DATE**

**11th-14th May**  
**Year 6 SATs**

# BIGGEST EVER FOOTBALL SESSION

For the fourth year running we celebrated International Women's Day by taking part in the FA's 'Biggest Ever Football Session' on Friday March 6th.

The aim of the day as always is to give girls the opportunity to experience the joy that playing football can bring, alongside the boys, and to highlight the idea of creating equal access to sport for girls.

Before the day itself, pupils took part in assemblies that explained some of the social inequalities that exist for women and girls around the world and highlighted some of the barriers to participation in sport that girls sometimes face.

Every class from Reception to Year 6 had a timetabled session with our expert sports coaches, focusing on some fun activities for budding footballers of all abilities. It is important that the boys also participated in the sessions and had the opportunity to think about how they could support, encourage and respect their classmates in this setting.

There were lots of lovely quotes from some of the girls who don't always view themselves as 'sporty', including:

**"I'm not normally very good at football but I had fun playing the games"**

**"I actually enjoyed it and maybe I would join a girls' team"**

After school, the rain forced us indoors for the Female Fun Footie Festival. Despite only having a small group of girls, their mums and some other family members, we had lots of fun playing different types of football games. There was some serious mum competitive spirit on show – but it all ended amicably with some well-earned refreshments.



# WE MISS YOU WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE!



## At Polegate Primary School, every single child is a valued member of our community.

When your child is absent from school, they're not just missing lessons – they're missing out on being part of our school family. We genuinely miss them when they're not here, and we want to share why attendance matters so much to us.

### Why Every Day Counts School is where your child:

- Learns and grows – Every day builds on the last, and consistent attendance helps children keep up with their learning
- Makes friendships – Spending time with friends is crucial for their social development and happiness
- Has fun – From playtimes to special activities, school is full of moments that create lasting memories
- Feels part of our community – Being here every day helps children feel connected and valued

When children miss school, even for a day or two, they can feel left out when they return. They might have missed a special lesson, a fun activity, or simply the daily interactions that help them feel part of the class.

### Our New Mantra: "We Miss You When You Are Not Here"

This isn't just a saying – it's how we truly feel! Every child brings something special to our school, and our community is stronger when everyone is present. We want your child to know that they matter, they belong, and they are missed when they're away.

### Exciting New Attendance Initiatives

We're launching some fantastic new rewards to celebrate great attendance and make coming to school even more rewarding:

### Weekly 100% Attendance Rewards

- Individual stickers for every child who attends every day that week
- Weekly prize draw – all children with 100% attendance that week will be entered into a special prize draw
- Class attendance cup – the class with the highest attendance each week will proudly display our attendance trophy

These rewards are our way of saying thank you for making school a priority and being part of our community every single day.

### Working Together

Excellent attendance doesn't happen by accident – it takes teamwork between school and home. Here's how we can work together:

#### What we'll do:

- Make school an exciting, welcoming place where children want to be
- Celebrate attendance achievements
- Support families when genuine difficulties arise
- Keep you informed about your child's attendance

#### What you can do:

- Make sure your child attends school every day unless they're genuinely too unwell
- Book medical appointments outside school hours wherever possible
- Plan family holidays during school breaks
- Talk to us early if you're having difficulties getting your child to school
- Help your child understand why coming to school matters

### When Should My Child Stay Home?

We know children get ill, and when they do, they need to rest at home.

However, minor colds, headaches or tummy aches often improve once children are at school and distracted. If you're unsure whether to send your child in, please call the office and we'll be happy to discuss it with you.

### Let's Make Every Day Count

Together, we can ensure that every child at Polegate Primary School has the opportunity to:

- ✓ Learn and achieve their best
- ✓ Build strong friendships
- ✓ Have fun and create happy memories
- ✓ Feel valued as part of our school family

**Remember: We miss you when you're not here – and we can't wait to see you every day!**

### Latest Attendance Figures

RJ =	93.8%
RKH =	97%
RS =	93.5%
1RH =	96.1%
1L =	95.4%
1M =	96.1%
2B =	97.4%
2D =	95.5%
2H =	97.1%
3B =	96.3%
3C =	94.3%
3H =	96.5%
4D =	96%
4H =	95.3%
4T =	94.9%
5D =	97%
5EK =	94.9%
5K =	94.7%
6M =	95.9%
6L =	94.4%
6W =	92.7%

# READING

## Reading With Your Child



Eastbourne & Hailsham Family Hubs



01323 463244



EHEastbourneHailshamSeaford  
@eastsussex.gov.uk

Come along to explore ways to build your child's reading confidence, develop communication skills, and spark a love for books. And at the end you get to keep a book!

We have four **25-minute sessions** available on **14<sup>th</sup> April 2026** between **12:30 and 2:30pm**. Contact us to book your place.

**Children's**  
Respite Trust



# THE ARLINGTON BLUEBELL WALK

Join us for a delightful day out in the 24 acre woodland. Team CRT will be running the site for two days with all proceeds from the café going toward respite care for children with disabilities locally.



9th - 10th April 2026  
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM



Bates Green Farm, Tye Hill Road  
Arlington, Polegate, BN26 6SH



Adult £9.00, Child (3-16yrs) £4.50  
Family £23.00 (2 Adults, 4 Children)

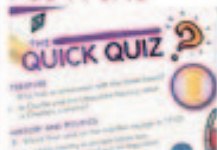




EASTER FUN  
PG 8



QUIZ & PUZZLES  
PGS 14 & 15



RARING2READ  
PG 21



EASTBOURNE



MAGAZINE & WEBSITE

THE GO-TO GUIDE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

[raring2go.co.uk](http://raring2go.co.uk)

SPRING 2026

# 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**  
**4th May**  
**May Bank Holiday**

**Archive**

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 **396 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](http://www.polegateschool.co.uk)

Designed by Powarx: [www.powarx.co.uk](http://www.powarx.co.uk)