



Wonderful Achievements

As we settle into Term 2, it's hard to believe how much we've already accomplished!

Though the darker days of winter are upon us, they only highlight the wonderful achievements we've celebrated together.

Sporting achievements where our young athletes will have the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and sportsmanship! Trips, visits, wonderful learning opportunities, I could go on...

In This Issue

A Huge Thank You	2
Let's Celebrate Club	2
Lest We Forget	3
Forest School	3
Dt Competition Winners	4
Pierre-Henry Fonatine	4
Little Chefs Club	5
The Roving Bookshop	5
Maths Challenge	6
Attendance	7
New-Age Kurling	7
Diary Dates	7
Parent Think Tank	8
Book Recommendation	8
Children With Cancer Fund	9
Parking	9
Dogs At School	9
Festive Competition	10
Online Safety	11
Times Table Rock Stars	12
School Trips	12
Active Challenge!	13
Clarinet Lessons	14

A HUGE THANK YOU

Our students have been working incredibly hard, and it's heart-warming to see their enthusiasm and determination shine through.

With so much ahead, there's plenty to look forward to! The upcoming PFA events promise to be a delightful way for us all to come together as a community. We will be treated to some fireworks to brighten those chilly

evenings, creating memorable moments for all.

We can't wait for the fabulous finishes that are being prepared, showcasing the talent of our pupils.

A huge thank you goes out to our wonderful children, supportive families, and dedicated teachers who continually make our school such a fantastic place to be. Your commitment and passion truly make a difference. Here's to another successful term filled with laughter, learning, and joy!

Diary Date

**Friday 19th
December
CHRISTMAS
DINNER**

LET'S CELEBRATE CLUB

We have been talking about Remembrance and making mosaic inspired art.



LEST WE FORGET

This week, we walked to the war memorial in Polegate to represent the youth of Polegate and Polegate School.

We were greeted by a member of the Royal British Legion who gave us instructions on how to lay the wreath. Many people attended, including members of the local community, the police, ambulance services, the mayor and ex-servicemen and their families. Everyone laid a wreath to remember fallen soldiers.

We listened to the Last Post and part of the poem "For the Fallen". It was interesting to watch the lowering and raising of the flag. We also, sang the national anthem before finishing the service. I am glad I went to take part in such an important event.

William Tibbott 6M



FOREST SCHOOL

We were focusing on remembrance this week by making poppies using tools to cut the sticks and applying our knot-tying skills, specifically square lashings, to create the poppy design.



DT COMPETITION WINNERS

Thank you all so much for taking part in the Halloween Costume design competition, I loved seeing all your amazing designs! Well done to our winners!



PIERRE-HENRY FONATINE

At the end of term one we had the pleasure of welcoming Pierre-Henry Fonatine, a famous basketball player who inspired the children to work hard and strive to achieve their goals!

Pierre-Henry was brilliant with the children and showed off his amazing skills during an assembly!

We raised an impress £1526 - this will go towards some fantastic new play equipment, thank you to everybody who donated!



LITTLE CHEFS CLUB

At Little Chefs Club we have been busy making some delicious food, from bonfire star cookies to pizza and doughballs! We have also been learning about hygiene and food preparation.



THE ROVING BOOKSHOP

The Roving Bookshop will be visiting our school on Wednesday, 19th November.

There will be lots of fantastic titles available - many at reduced or bargain prices!

Please support the school with this wonderful initiative, which helps all children develop and maintain a lifelong love of reading.

Happy reading!

The Roving Bookshop
at Polegate Primary School
from
8.30 am Wednesday
19th November
till
4.00 pm

All these books & 3000 more on sale in your school

You can use cash or creditcard to buy your books

Build their future - buy your child a book

BEDE'S HOLIDAY CLUB MULTI-SPORT

Give your child an active holiday, with a focus on fun and participation, allowing kids to engage in sports like tennis, football, badminton, basketball and swimming. Based at Bede's Senior School for children aged 5-12, it's the perfect way to enjoy an active day in a safe environment.



27 - 31 October 2025

📍 Bede's Senior School

- Standard Day | 8:30 - 15:00 | £40
- Late Stay | 8:30 - 17:00 | £55

*Packed lunch and snack required

Contact Us:

📞 01323 356983

✉️ Holidayclub@bedes.org



MATHS CHALLENGE

How Old is Granny?

Tom asked his Granny how old she was. Rather than giving him a straight answer, she replied:

"I have 6 children and there are 4 years between each one and the next. I had my first child (your Uncle Peter) when I was 19. Now the youngest one (your Auntie Jane) is 19 herself. That's all I'm telling you!"

How old is Tom's Granny?



ATTENDANCE

RJ	97.3%	2D	96.4%	4T	97.6%
RKH	96.9%	2H	97.8%	5D	97.1%
RS	94%	3B	97.4%	5EK	95.2%
1RH	94.7%	3C	96.1%	5K	97.6%
1L	96.6%	3H	95.5%	6M	95.7%
1M	97.6%	4D	97.5%	6L	94.6%
2B	98.3%	4H	95.3%	6W	93.2%

NEW-AGE KURLING

Some of our year 6 pupils were lucky enough to attend a New – Age Kurling event this term! The children had lots of fun, learnt brand new skills and improved upon these skills as the afternoon went on. Well done all!



DIARY DATES

19th November
Roving Book Shop
19th November
Eastbourne Youth Radio
20th November
Action Your Potential Workshop, Part 3
20th November
Year 3 Stone Age Day
21st November
1M Class Assembly
21st November
Boys Football League Match @Ocklynge School
21st November
Winter Extravaganza Event
26th November
Sports Hall Athletics
26th November
Wonderful Work
28th November
INSET Day
3rd December
Rock Steady Christmas Concert @9.30am, Wednesday Group
5th December
Reception Trip to the Church
5th December
5EK Class Assembly
8th December
Rock Steady Christmas Concert @2.00pm, Monday Group
9th December
RJ Nativity Play
10th December
RKH Nativity Play
11th December
RS Nativity Play
15th December
Year 1 Space Experience
16th December
One Voice Concert at the De La Warr Pavilion
16th December
Author Visit – Alexandra Benedict
18th December
Reading Tea Party
19th December
Christmas Staff Panto
19th December
Christmas Dinner
5th January
Term 3 Starts

PARENT THINK TANK

We're thrilled to share some exciting developments from our recent Parent Think Tank meetings!

This engaged group of parents has been instrumental in discussing key school items and collaborating with me to create positive changes within our school community.

Their input has already had a notable impact on several areas, including the enhancement of our end-of-year reports. With their feedback, we've been able to make them more informative and reflective of each

child's achievements. Reports will now be sent via email, hopefully we can save a few trees! We've successfully improved our PE timetabling, making it more consistent and beneficial for all students to participate in physical activities throughout the week.

But we're not stopping there! Our Parent Think Tank is now actively supporting parking initiatives to ensure a safer environment for our children during pick-up and drop-off times. This collaborative approach has fostered a wonderful sense of community, and we'd love for more parents to get involved!

If you're interested in joining our discussions and contributing your insights, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. Together, we can make our school even better!



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

This month's Book recommendation from Miss Howland.

Almost Anything by Sophy Henn

A beautiful book which shows us all that we are capable of anything with a little determination, resilience and 'magic'! Follow George with a little help from his friend, the bear, as he discovers that he can do 'almost' anything.



CHILDREN WITH CANCER FUND

Florence kindly donated some gifts for other children to The Children With Cancer Fund and she made a wonderful impression in the shop. They posted:

'We had a surprise when a lovely 8-year-old girl popped into the office to donate some items she had been gifted but was unable to use due to her sensitive skin.

We were so impressed by her generosity and kind spirit and are sending her the biggest thank you!!

These will make brilliant gifts for our children who will be thrilled to receive them.'



PARKING

As we settle into another busy term, we'd like to take a moment to remind everyone about the importance of parking safety during drop-off and pick-up times outside the school. Your cooperation is essential in ensuring a safe environment for all our children.

We genuinely appreciate those of you who are already parking appropriately and adhering to the designated parking rules. Your thoughtfulness not only helps keep traffic flowing smoothly but also protects our little ones as they arrive and depart from school.

For those who may need a gentle nudge, please remember not to park on double yellow lines opposite the school, as well as avoiding parking on pavements, in front of driveways, or in areas marked with no parking signs.

Creating a safe drop-off and pick-up zone is a shared responsibility, and your support is invaluable. Together, we can ensure that our school remains a safe haven for our children.

Thank you for your understanding and support in maintaining these essential parking standards.

Let's keep our school community safe and welcoming!

DOGS AT SCHOOL

As much as we adore dogs here at Polegate School, we would like to gently remind everyone that dogs should not be brought onto the school playground before and after school hours.

We truly appreciate your understanding in keeping our school environment safe and welcoming for all.

That said, we do have a very special four-legged friend who brightens our days! Rufus, our lovely lurcher who visits us weekly. Rufus is more than just a dog; he is a nurturing companion who supports the children and helps to create a calming atmosphere. Many of our students look forward to his visits, and he never fails to bring smiles and joy to our school community.

We know how important dogs can be in our lives, and we appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that Rufus remains the only furry friend roaming our playground during school hours. Thank you for helping us create a safe and enjoyable space for everyone.



Festive COMPETITION

**MAKE A CREATIVE FESTIVE
DECORATION USING ONLY RECYCLED
OR REUSED MATERIALS.**



DESIGN CRITERIA

- **MUST BE MADE ONLY FROM
RECYCLED/REUSED MATERIALS
(E.G., CARDBOARD, TINS,
BOTTLES, FABRIC SCRAPS, OLD
CDS, PAPER, ETC.)**
- **SHOULD BE SAFE, STURDY, AND
EASY TO DISPLAY (ABLE TO
HANG, STAND, OR BE PLACED
ON A SURFACE).**



COMPETITION CLOSES MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER

PLEASE HAND DECORATIONS (WITH NAMES) INTO THE MAIN
OFFICE
GOOD LUCK!



ONLINE SAFETY

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING

Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health ... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

1. GET CONNECTED

Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.

2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

3. STAY VIGILANT

Observe your child while they're using technology and just after they've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, jumpy or anxious, angry or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything is OK.

4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

When conversations about online bullying do take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.

FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.

Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 225 5787 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html

The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0800 800 5000

6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'fighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with screenshots to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.

8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyber-bullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details in the central panel below.

10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



**National
Online
Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.11.2022

TIMES TABLE ROCK STARS

As part of our commitment to makes maths exciting and hogh profile in our school, we are taking part in a friendly competition involving schools in England. Knowledge if times table facts is a key skill, which supports all areas of Maths.

All children in years 2-6 are registered to take part through their TTRockstars logon - it's all done online at play.ttrockstars.com.

The competition runs from 7:30am on Tuesday 18th November until 7.30pm on Thursday 20th November 2025.

Children can play in any game-mode with every correct answer to a multiplication or division question, earning themselves, their class and the school a point. The Times Tables Rock Stars platform will calculate the class average - the number of correct answers per pupil in the class who play during the competition hours.

Winning classes in the school and in the competition as a whole will be the ones with the highest average.

To support player wellbeing, there is a daily time limit of 60 minutes per player. Once the player goes beyond 60 minutes of play on that day, they

will still earn coins but will no longer earn points towards the competition.

In the spirit of the competition, please don't play on their behalf but by all means encourage and support them to the extent that is doesn't cause high stress levels or impact on family plans.



SCHOOL TRIPS

We wanted to clarify with you all the legal requirements regarding voluntary contributions regarding school trips.

As outlined in the 2014 National Curriculum, school trips are designed to enhance our students' learning experiences and provide them with opportunities to engage with the curriculum in a meaningful way.

We value these experiences immensely and work hard to ensure that they can run; we know the impact they have on our pupils. It is essential to note however that while participation in these trips is not compulsory, they are reliant on your generous contributions to cover the associated costs.

The law states that schools can request voluntary contributions from parents and carers to cover the costs of school trips, but it must be clearly communicated that no child will be excluded from an activity should a parent choose not to contribute.

Despite this, it is crucial to understand that if the total number of contributions does not meet the necessary funding requirements, the school may regrettably have to cancel the trip altogether.

To ensure that school trips can proceed, we take several measures to promote funding. These include occasionally organising enterprise projects to generate additional income, providing advanced notice of trips to allow for planning, sending reminders and offering the option for

parents to pay in installments. We completely share the frustrations of pupils and families when enrichment trips have to be cancelled, it is always a last resort but we completely understand the financial burdens facing families.

The decision is never taken lightly however the school cannot commit to paying any more than 15% of the overall cost of the trip.

We hope that this explains the process clearly and we thank you for your support and understanding.

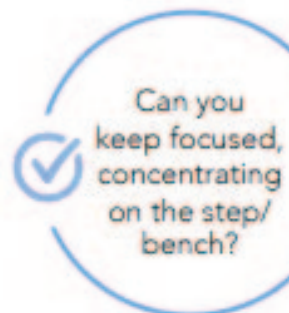
ACTIVE CHALLENGE!



Step Ups

How many times can you step up and down a step or a bench in 60 seconds?

- You must step up and down with one foot at a time.
- No jumping!



Achieve Gold

60 step ups



Achieve Silver

45 step ups



Achieve Bronze

30 step ups





Clarinet Lessons at School

We are starting clarinet lessons very soon, for pupils in year 4 - 6.

Lessons take place in small groups during the day.

Clarinets are borrowed FREE for the first term after which there will be a small hire fee.

To help you find out more please contact me using my details below. You can also apply immediately for lessons via our website at www.createmusic.org.uk

On the website you can find out about financial help with fees.

Best wishes,

Duncan Purvey (Create Music Teacher)

07950 900292

duncan.purvey@createmusic.org.uk



Create Music

Sound Rooms, 3 Pelham Terrace, Lewes Road, Brighton, BN2 4AF • createmusic@brightondome.org • 01273 261565
Registered in England No. 889184 • Registered Charity 249748 www.createmusic.org.uk

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

Keep us informed

It will be up to you to keep us informed and you can do this by emailing the school office at:

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR

To enhance communication and provide clarity, we have gathered all key academic dates and events on the Polegate School Website.

This centralised resource is designed to help parents and guardians plan ahead effectively, ensuring that you are well-informed about important dates throughout the academic year.

We understand that staying updated is crucial, which is why this information will be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect any changes that may occur.

We encourage you to make it a habit to check the website frequently, as this will help you stay informed about any adjustments or new events that may arise.

To access dates and events, please follow the link below:

[School Calendar – Polegate School](#)

Please note that all dates and events are subject to change, so we appreciate your understanding and flexibility as we navigate the school year together.

Diary Date

Friday 28th
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
1,351 followers!



Polegate School
Oakleaf Drive
Polegate
East Sussex BN26 6PT
Tel: 01323 482404
Email: 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

**35%
OFF PAID
SPACES WITH
CODE: PLY188**



★ **FESTIVE SPORTS CAMP** ★
10AM-4PM
22nd & 23rd DEC 29th & 30th DEC

HERON PARK PRIMARY ACADEMY

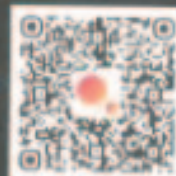
JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS FOR OUR FIRST CAMP.

- FOOTBALL
- BASKETBALL
- FESTIVE CRAFTS
- PARACHUTE GAMES
- GYMNASTICS
- TALENT SHOW
- DODGEBALL
- DANCE

AND SO MUCH MORE...

- TRAINERS & SPORTS CLOTHES, COAT
- ALL CHILDREN REQUIRE A REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE
- FOOD PROVIDED FOR EVERY CHILD

HAF FUNDED SPACES: EEQU



PAID SPACES:

[HTTPS://INFINITE-SPORT.CLASSFORKIDS.IO/CAMP/2](https://infinite-sport.classforkids.io/camp/2)

TEL: 07598 052 259

OFFICE@I-SPORT.ORG