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## A BUSY END OF TERM

**For a very short term there has been so much happening.**

**We have enjoyed many incredible assemblies (they get better and better!) and I have been inundated with emails following these saying how much you enjoy them which is fabulous! Thank you.**

Plans for the Congress are well underway now. We are busy making props and rehearsals are beginning. We are so excited about this! You will begin to receive letters from class teachers about costumes if they are needed and anything further related to their year groups act.

A very topical issue at the moment is illness and teachers have been

focusing on germs and are ensuring that children use the antibacterial gel that we have available in each class. There have been many science experiments this term to demonstrate to children how germs are spread and make it real for them.

**Wishing you all a wonderful germ-free holiday.**

# SAFETY FOR KIDS

## No Age is too Young!



### A fire safety visit for year 5 today.

Amber is in charge and taking responsibility for calling the emergency services.

#### Would Your Child Know What to do in an Emergency?

Make sure your children know:

- How to call 999
- Their home address
- How to open the front door in an emergency.

Activity books, video and colouring sheets are available on the link below:

<https://www.emas.nhs.uk/news/latest-news/2017-news/would-your-child-know-how-to-make-an-emergency-999-call/>

## LOOK WHOOOOO'S VISITED YEAR 2!



Year two had a hoot of a time when lots of owls visited as part of their stunning start.





# WE WILL ROCK YOU!

Year 5 and 6 were rocked at Willingdon Community School

We visited to see their take on the musical, We Will Rock You.



## DIARY DATES

Friday 14th February  
Last day of term

Monday 24th Feb  
First day of term 4

Thursday 5th March  
World Book Day

Friday 6th March  
International Women's day

Wed 18th &  
Thurs 19th March  
Mothers' Day/Gifts for Loved Ones

Friday 27th March  
School Disco

Friday 3rd April  
INSET day

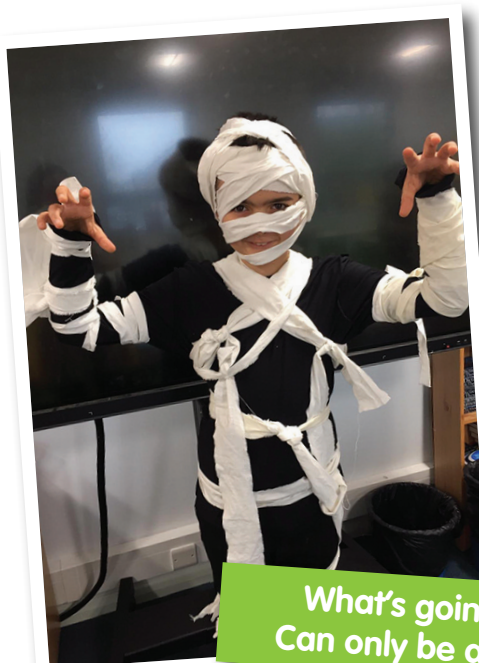
Monday 20th April  
Start of term 5

Monday 11th May  
SATs week Year 6

Tuesday 19th May  
PFA Meeting

Wed 17th &  
Thurs 18th June  
Fathers' Day/Gifts for Loved Ones

Saturday 20th June  
Summer Festival



What's going on in Year 6?  
Can only be a class assembly!





# LITTLE PEOPLE, BIG EMOTIONS



Nursery have been thinking about how important it is to be kind to ourselves as part of **CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK**. Set up by children's mental health charity Place2Be, the week shines a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health.

**This year's theme is Find your Brave...**

Lots of fun activities including yoga.



## YEAR 1 ARTISTS



Year 1 artists inspired by Rousseau



# OUTSTANDING

## POLEGATE MAKES HEADLINE NEWS!

### **Polegate School rated as Outstanding in all areas under the new Ofsted Framework.**

**Polegate School has become the first primary school in East Sussex to be judged outstanding by Ofsted since the introduction of the new, more rigorous inspection framework in September 2019.**

Under this new framework Ofsted have predicted that fewer schools in the country will achieve an Outstanding judgement.

#### **Ofsted found that:**

'The vision for what pupils can achieve at Polegate is limitless. There is an infectious appetite of high expectations, complemented by the care and consideration shown by the whole school community. This ensures that the experience for every pupil is the very best it can be.'

The school achieved the judgement of outstanding in all of the four new categories which include: Quality of Education; Behaviour and Attitudes; Personal Development and Leadership and Management.

#### **Ofsted state that:**

'Outstanding is a challenging and exacting judgement. In order to reach this standard, inspectors will determine whether the school meets all the criteria for good under that judgement, and does so securely and consistently. In addition, there are further criteria set out under the outstanding judgement, which the

school will also need to meet. Our aim in making this change is that schools should only be judged outstanding in a particular area if they are performing exceptionally, and exceptional performance in that area is consistent and secure across the whole school.'

#### **The headteacher, Claire Martin-O'Donoghue said that the quote in the report:**

'Each and every moment of the day reflects the leaders' ambition for irresistible learning.' really captures the essence of Polegate.

Claire is exceptionally proud of the whole school community particularly because children have continued to have achieve exceptionally well despite the significant building work and development the school has undergone for the last few years as part of its expansion to include an additional 120 pupils. 'The focus has absolutely been on providing our children with the very best learning experiences and the quality of education has remained a priority reflecting our very strong sense of community and partnership with parents because they too have needed to be flexible and yet they have remained positive and supportive and I would like to thank them for this.'

Inspectors noted that the, 'Pupils are cheerful, kind and welcoming. One pupil told inspectors: 'It's really easy to

make friends at Polegate.' Ofsted found that 'Staff use many different approaches to help develop a real sense of belonging. For example, Year 6 pupils are buddied with Reception children through writing letters and playing together regularly. This helps the youngest children to feel part of the school.'

Pupils told inspectors that they are extremely proud of their school and really appreciate the many varied and exciting opportunities they are given. They have a very strong awareness of justice, believing that everyone has the right to be respected and treated well. One pupil told inspectors: 'It's simple. If you respect them, they will respect you.'

#### **The response from the parents at Polegate has also been overwhelming and very touching:**

**'Firstly, a huge congratulations to you and your Outstanding team. However, I'm not at all surprised by this. Saying Polegate School is outstanding is like being reminded that the sun is hot and that water is wet. Seriously though, I'm immensely proud that my three kids go to this amazing school. Things like this don't just happen, it takes an incredible amount of hard work and talent, not to mention outstanding leadership. Well done, you thoroughly deserve it.'**



Ofsted judged that 'The headteacher and governors provide an exceptional education.' The Co-chairs of Governors, Jan Meyer and Richard Harper, value and appreciate the commitment and considerable skills of the leaders and staff in unleashing the potential of the whole child, as well as their academic potential and are pleased that this was recognised during the inspection.

The headteacher, Claire Martin-O'Donoghue and all staff are very proud and thrilled to announce the outcome of outstanding, however they all recognise that progress doesn't stop here. Claire says 'We are aiming for beyond outstanding to exceptional, we are always striving to be better and improve. Nothing will change that – we are never complacent.....'

**Our school improvement partner, a very experienced school leader sent a lovely message:**

The only response to your Ofsted report is 'Wow!' How reassuring that everyone involved in teaching and learning and all-round care was given proper and unqualified recognition. Congratulations to you and your team.

**The responses from you were so special and honestly brought tears to our eyes. In all honesty they mean even more than our Ofsted report because the reality is we do it for your children not for Ofsted!**

'I know you are very proud of what you have all achieved. The stories that are told of the children when I attend assembly's are fantastic and make me brim with pride mostly for children that I have never met but that my children associate with.

I know that you are giving my children the best foundation that they could receive. This basis will help them become the wonderful grown-ups that I know they will be and that I am excited to see develop in front of me.

Congratulations to you and all your staff. Best wishes to you all in your continued success.'

Parent

Dear all,

I've just seen the amazing news regarding the Ofsted inspection- wow!

I can't say I'm surprised that the school has achieved 'Outstanding', because Polegate School really is.

I'm so proud that my daughter attends such a brilliant school, we are lucky to have such wonderful teachers and staff that care so much for the children and their future.

Well done!

'Whilst I've always been very happy with the school and how my children have progressed, it feels important to write to acknowledge the (long-awaited in my opinion) 'official' recognition of how outstanding the school is. In particular, it's great to read the detail of the Ofsted report where they describe the atmosphere of the school fostering the pupils' desire to learn, develop in confidence, their respect for each other and pride in the school.

I'm aware of how difficult it is to achieve an outstanding rating these days and the commitment, drive, determination and sacrifice it must take to get a school to this position, so thank you to you and all involved for all it's taken to get here.'

# ADVICE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

**You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus.**

There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school or further education setting as normal.

We [the government] recognise that some families or children may be planning to travel to China during the forthcoming half term period. If so, please refer to the FCO's latest travel advice via the link above.

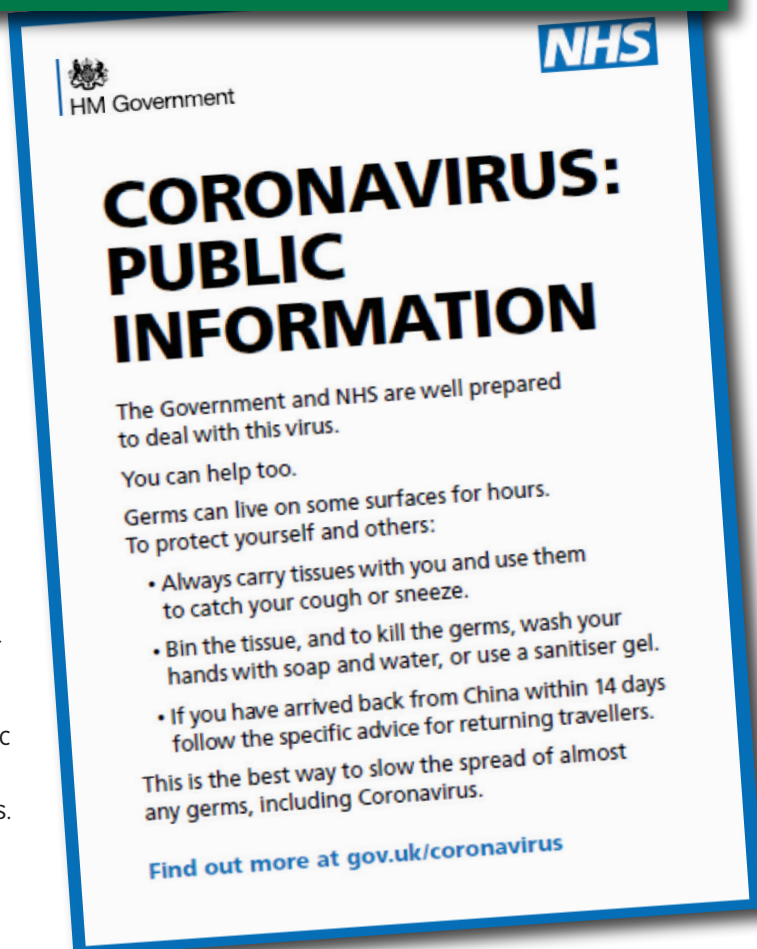
## **What action you can take?**

A UK wide campaign has been launched to provide clear advice on how to slow the spread of Coronavirus.

Please help to support the campaign which promotes basic hygiene practices, such as regularly washing hands and always sneezing into a tissue, to stem the spread of viruses.

## **Sharing DHSC content from the following social media links:**

- <https://twitter.com/DHSCgovuk/status/1223888531262726144>
- <https://www.facebook.com/DHSCgovuk/videos/194227541968649/>
- [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/dhsc\\_coronavirus-coronavirusoutbreak-coronavirusuk-activity-6629655670331318273-Djpu](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/dhsc_coronavirus-coronavirusoutbreak-coronavirusuk-activity-6629655670331318273-Djpu)



# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

We do monitor every child's attendance every term but if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Take a look at the classes summary, there are some big differences between the classes and anything below 96% is a concern.

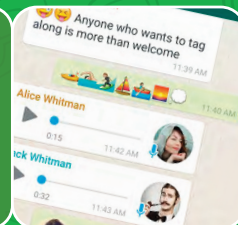
**Prize draw at the end of the year.**  
Any child who has attendance above our target of 97.5% is eligible to be entered into our prize draw to win a brand new Bicycle.

RH = 96.2%	3D = 97.2%
RM = 95.6%	3M = 98.1%
RY = 96.8%	3W = 97.2%
1C = 96.4%	4B = 97.6%
1H = 97.6%	4E = 97.1%
1Mc = 96.8%	5G = 96.9%
2AB = 95.7%	5J = 96.9%
2H = 96.2%	6M = 97.3%
2M = 96.2%	6R = 96.9%



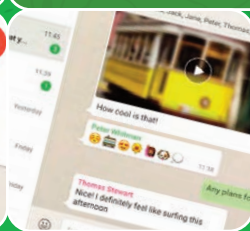


WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps in the world, with more than 1.5 billion people in more than 180 countries using it to send and receive text, photos, videos and documents, as well as make voice and video calls through an Internet or Wi-Fi connection. The free app offers end-to-end encryption, which means that messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient in one-to-one chats, or all members if it is a group chat. Not even WhatsApp can read them.



AGE RESTRICTION

16+



# What parents need to know about



# WhatsApp

## AGE LIMIT CHANGE

Since May 2018, the minimum age for using WhatsApp is 16 years old if you live in the European Union, including the UK. Prior to this, the minimum age was 13, which still applies for the rest of the world. WhatsApp has not yet stated whether it will take action against anyone aged between 13 and 16 who already hold accounts under the old terms and conditions, such as closing their account or seeking parental permission.

## SCAM MESSAGES

Occasionally on WhatsApp, people receive spam messages from unauthorised third parties or from fraudsters pretending to offer prizes to 'lucky people', encouraging recipients to click on a link to win a prize. A common scam involves messages warning recipients that their WhatsApp subscription has run out with the hope that people are duped into providing their payment details. Other scam messages include instructions to forward the message in return for a reward or gift from WhatsApp or another person.

## FAKE NEWS AND HOAXES

WhatsApp has been linked to enabling the spread of dangerous viral rumours. In India, for example, a number of attacks appear to have been sparked by false rumours shared on WhatsApp.

## THE 'ONLY ADMIN' FEATURE AND CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is the act of sending threatening or taunting text messages, voice messages, pictures and videos, with the aim to hurt and humiliate the receiver. The group chat and group video call features are great for multiple people to chat simultaneously, but there is the potential for people to hurt others with their comments or jokes. The 'only admin' feature gives the admin of a group chat greater control over who can send messages. Whilst this can be good for one-way announcements, the group admin has the power to block somebody from responding to an offensive message in a chat, which could result in a child being upset and unable to reply.

## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

To start a chat in WhatsApp, you need to know the mobile number of the contact you want to speak to and they also need to have the app downloaded. WhatsApp can find contacts by accessing the address book of a device and recognising which of those contacts are using WhatsApp. If your child has shared their mobile number with some body they don't know, they can use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

## LIVE LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp's 'Live Location' feature enables users to share their current location in real time to their contacts in a chat, allowing friends to show their movements. The feature, which can be found by pressing the 'attach' button, is described by WhatsApp as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." Location-sharing is already a common feature on other social apps, including Snapchat's Snap Map and Facebook Messenger and can be a useful way for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. However, if your child is in a group chat with people they do not know, they will be exposing their location.



National  
Online  
Safety

# Top Tips for Parents

## CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though somebody would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra security measure we suggest altering their profile settings to control who can see their profile photo and status. The options to choose from are 'Everyone', 'My Contacts' and 'Nobody'. We suggest selecting 'My Contacts' or 'Nobody' to ensure their profile is protected.

## EXPLAIN HOW TO BLOCK PEOPLE

If your child has received spam or offensive messages, calls or attachments from a contact, they should block them. Messages and status updates sent by a blocked contact will not show up on the phone and will stay undelivered. Blocking someone will not remove this contact from the contact list - they will need to be removed from the phone's address book. To block a contact, your child needs to open the person's chat stream and tap on the settings.

## REPORT SCAM MESSAGES

Advise your child not to tap, share or forward any message that looks suspicious or sounds too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report the number as spam directly inside the chat. They can also report a contact or a group as spam using the following steps: 1) Open the chat. 2) Tap on the contact or group name to open their profile information. 3) Scroll to the bottom and tap 'Report Spam.'

## LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable or has been added to a group they don't want to be part of, use the group's settings to show them how to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once, if they leave again, they cannot be added again.

## USING LIVE LOCATION SAFELY

If your child needs to use the 'Live Location' feature to share with you or a friend, advise them to only share it for the amount of time they need to. WhatsApp gives the options of either 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can choose to stop sharing at any time.

## DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child has sent a message to the wrong chat or if a message they sent has contained a mistake, they can delete it. To do this, simply tap and hold on the message, choose 'Delete' and then 'Delete for everyone'. The app allows seven minutes to delete the message after it has been sent, but it is important to remember that recipients may have seen and screenshot a message before it was deleted.

## SET TIME LIMITS

A 2017 study found that by the age of 14 the average child will have sent more than 35,000 texts, 30,000 WhatsApp messages and racked up more than three solid weeks of video chat. Although it is inevitable that your child will use technology, you can still set boundaries. This is not easy, especially since teens use their devices for both schoolwork and free time, often simultaneously.

SOURCES: <https://www.theguardian.com/comments/free/2018/apr/26/whatsapp-plans-to-ban-under-16s-the-mystery-is-how>, <https://whatsappbrand.com/>, <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/whatsapp-update-latest-india-hoaxes-forward-messages-app-download-a8456011.html>

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This is not a definitive guide. Please always check with the app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)





**HAPPY FRIDAY**  
Our Nursery held Indoor snowball battle to end the week

## SWIMMING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Imogen Welfare in class 4B, who has had an incredible month with her swimming.

She has taken part in her first open meet and Development gala at Brighton. With her two lengths front crawl she was only 2 seconds off achieving a county qualifying time!

## 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 14th February**  
**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 1059 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)