

# news

**January 2026**



## WELCOME TO TERM 3

Although the cold, dark days of winter are still upon us, we're delighted to see that the days are gradually getting longer.

As we reflect on the end of Term 2, we can't help but smile at the memories made during our spectacular pantomime. The staff cast truly brought the story Wizard of Oz to life, filling the hall with laughter and fun!

### In This Issue

Xmas Fun	2
Diary Dates	2
Our Whole-School Focus	3
Forest School	3
Primary Lead School	4
Attendance Figures	4
Smart Watches	4
Year 1 Stunning Start	5
Interim Reports	5
Rainforest Adventure	6
Enterprise Fayre Success	6
Wooden Reindeers	7
Year 6 Crime Scene	7
History Corner	8
Reading Tea Party	9
Dfe Health Resources	9
Year 3 Fabulous Finish	10
Free School Meals	11
Foodbank	11
Year 1 Space Dome	12
Author Visit	13
All Aboard The Titanic!	13
Junior Park Run	14
New Facebook Page	12

# XMAS FUN

**Our Christmas dress-up day was a highlight, and the Christmas lunch was a busy but joyous occasion, filled with festive cheer and delicious food.**

It was heartwarming to see everyone come together, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

As we step into Term 3, we are excited for what lies ahead. The term

has already kicked off with stunning starts across the school. The children returned with such enthusiasm, running through the gates and shouting "Happy New Year!" Their bright faces certainly brighten up these dark, wet mornings.

We have plenty of engaging activities planned, and we look forward to sharing more joyful moments with you all. Thank you for your continued support, and let's make this term another fantastic one!



## DIARY DATES

23rd January  
1RH Class Assembly

26th January  
INSET Day

27-30th January  
Reception Balance  
Bikeability Sessions

27-30th January  
Bikeability Level 2 Group 1

30th January  
2H Class assembly

2nd – 6th February  
Bikeability Level 2 Group 2

4th February  
2nd Hand Uniform Sale

6th February  
5D Class assembly

10th February  
Parent Consultations

12th February  
Reading Tea Party

13th February  
Last day of term 3

16th – 20th February  
Winter Half-term

23rd February  
Term 4 starts

25th February  
PFA AGM Meeting

26th February  
Parent Consultations

3rd March - Year 2  
Great Fire of London Workshop

10th-11th March  
PFA Mother's Day Gifts

12th March  
Wonderful Work

20th March  
4T Class Assembly

26th March  
Reading Tea Party

27th March  
RS Class Assembly

27th March  
Last day of term 4

30th March – 10th April  
Spring Holiday

# OUR WHOLE-SCHOOL FOCUS

**This term, our whole-school focus skill is teamwork.**

**Teamwork helps pupils learn how to work effectively with others, listen to different ideas, share responsibilities and support one another to achieve a common goal.**

These skills are essential not only for learning in school, but also for future education, work and everyday life.

Families can support the development of teamwork at home in simple and meaningful ways. Encouraging children to take part in team activities such as sports, clubs or group games helps them practise cooperation and communication. Involving children in shared tasks at home—like cooking, tidying up or planning family activities—also provides valuable opportunities to work together and understand everyone's role. Talking with children about how it feels to be

part of a team, praising positive teamwork behaviours and modelling collaboration as adults can all help reinforce this important skill. Together, we can help our pupils grow into confident, respectful and effective team players.



## FOREST SCHOOL

Reception have loved exploring forest school and having sessions with Mrs Gudgeon. They have been looking closely at seasonal changes and how the environment has changed over the winter months.



# CAREERS HUB PRIMARY LEAD SCHOOL

We are delighted to share some exciting news with our school community. Our school has been designated a **Careers Hub Primary Lead School for the East Sussex Careers Hub.**

This prestigious role recognises our commitment to high-quality careers education and our work in helping pupils develop early

aspirations, skills and an understanding of the world of work. As a Lead School, we will support and collaborate with other primary schools across the area, sharing best practice and contributing to the development of strong, inclusive careers education from the earliest years. We are proud to be part of this important initiative and look forward to the positive impact it will have on our pupils and the wider community.



## SMART WATCHES

As we move beyond the festive season, we are excited to see many students eager to show off their lovely new smart watches!

However, we have noticed an increasing number of students bringing these devices to school, which raises some important safeguarding concerns.

Smart watches that can take photos, video and send or receive messages pose a risk in our school environment. To ensure the safety and well-being of all our students, we kindly ask that under no circumstances should smart watches be worn into school. Students are permitted to wear either analogue or digital watches.

We understand that these devices can be quite expensive, and we certainly do not want them to be damaged or lost.

If a child is found with a smart watch, it will be handed to the class teacher and kept safe until it can be collected at the end of the day.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe and focused learning environment for all our students.

## LATEST ATTENDANCE FIGURES

RJ =	95.7%	2D =	95.3%	4T =	95.2%
RKH =	96.8%	2H =	97.3%	5D =	97.1%
RS =	93.4%	3B =	96%	5EK =	94.7%
1RH =	95.5%	3C =	94.1%	5K =	95.4%
1L =	96%	3H =	95.5%	6M =	95.5%
1M =	96.9%	4D =	96.4%	6L =	94.6%
2B =	97.7%	4H =	95.5%	6W =	93.1%

## Diary Dates

**11th February**  
Parents Consultations

# YEAR 1 STUNNING START



Year 1 were fully immersed in all things India during our stunning start.

We jetted off to India using our VR Headsets where we visited the streets of New Delhi, a gurdwara, some caves and even got to see elephants bathing in a river.

To take us a step closer we explored and smelt the glorious flavours that come with Indian food.



Diary Dates

10th February  
PARENT  
CONSULTATIONS

## INTERIM REPORTS

Interim reports were sent out this term via Arbor, and the feedback has been incredibly positive!

Not only have we received wonderful responses, but we are also proud to announce that this new approach has helped us save quite a few trees!

Moving forward, both interim and end-of-year reports will continue to be sent through Arbor. A heartfelt thank you to all our teachers and families for embracing this new style of reporting. Your support makes a real difference!

# RAINFOREST ADVENTURE

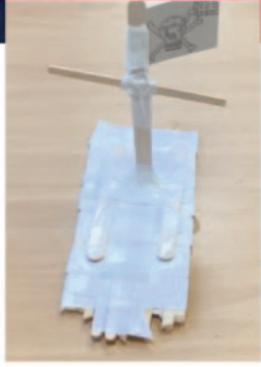
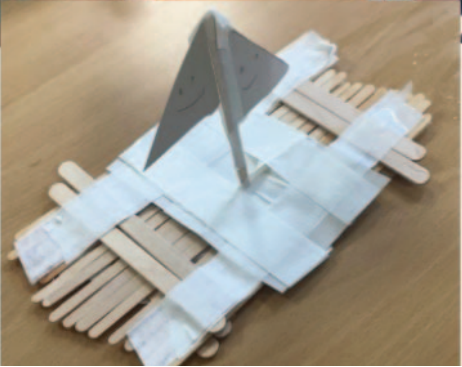
Year 5 embarked on an exciting adventure to the rainforest!

With our VR headsets, we were fully immersed in the vibrant sights and sounds of the jungle. We even built our own rafts to navigate the mighty Amazon River, making our learning experience truly



## Diary Dates

**13th February**  
**LAST DAY OF**  
**TERM 3**



# ENTERPRISE FAYRE SUCCESS

We raised a total of **£1,267.04** at our Enterprise Fayre at the end of Term 6 last year, with 20% going to the children's chosen charity: RSPCA and the remaining money going towards projects in school

**The Children of Polegate School**



**Thank you!**

For choosing to donate 20% of the money raised through your whole school enterprise project

all in aid of the RSPCA and raising an amazing

**£253**

On behalf of the RSPCA and all the animals we care for thank you so much for your support!



**RSPCA** FOR EVERY KIND.

The RSPCA helps animals in England and Wales. Registered Charity No. 217099.

# WOODEN REINDEERS

We are thrilled to share that our talented students at Forest School have been busy crafting beautiful wooden reindeers!

This project has not only showcased their incredible creativity but also fostered teamwork and the effective use of tools. We believe this could be the start of our next enterprise project, so keep an eye out for these delightful creations on sale next Christmas.



# YEAR 6 CRIME SCENE

Year 6 returned from their Christmas break to find a crime scene had appeared!

They are currently working with the Metropolitan and Sussex Police to solve the mystery of a dismembered foot, found at a Bloomsbury address. There have been many theories and children are carefully discarding any red herrings. The current concensus is that Mrs Higgins ( the victim's neighbour) is the main suspect. However, new evidence this week suggests that there is more to rhe package found at the scene than meets the eye. The case will continue...



# HISTORY CORNER

## Mrs. Weyland Recommends:

**Attention children of all ages!**

Greg Jenner introduces his brand-new comedy history show for all the family. From Ramesses the Great to the History of Football, the team behind You're Dead to Me serves up a smorgasbord of the funniest, messiest, and most astonishing stories from history. Expect pirates, spies, superstars, chariot races, bouncing cats, ancient toilets, radioactive notebooks, and a pig named Albert, all crammed into 14-minute episodes packed with jokes and sketches.



## Mrs. Weyland Recommends:

**Relive the classic Scottish tale, based on a true story, of a dog's devotion to his master.**

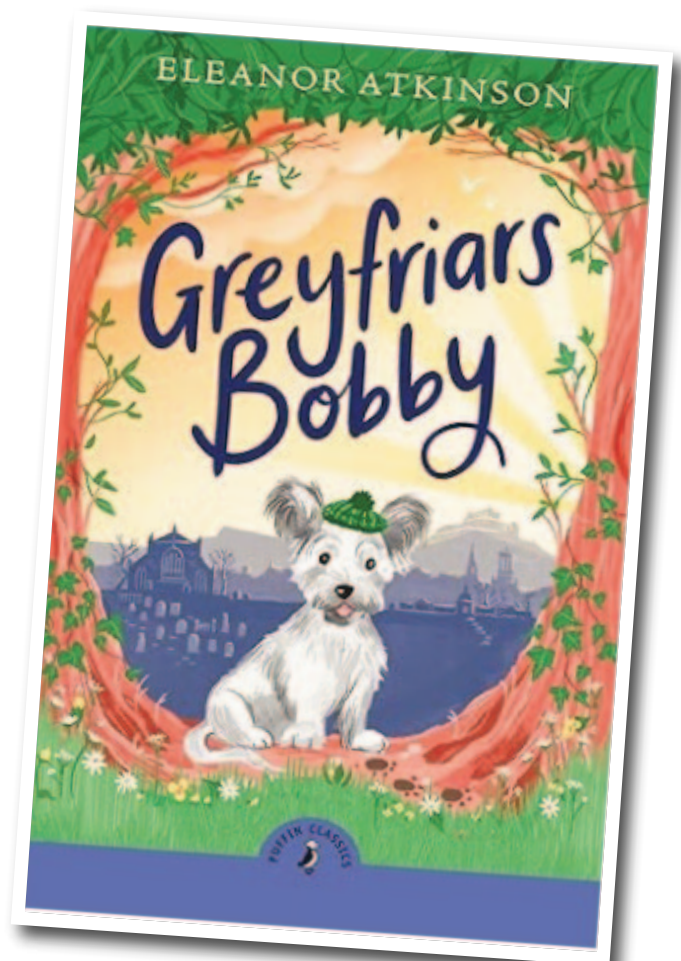
Bobby, a sparky silver-haired Skye terrier, adopts lonely shepherd Auld Jock, for his master and the two become inseparable. When Jock is dismissed by the farmer he tries to find work in the city, but sinks into poverty and dies, having suffered one cold winter too many.

The farmer tries to reclaim Bobby as a pet for his daughter but the little dog remains faithful only to Auld Jock, guarding his master's grave in Greyfriars Kirkyard in the heart of Edinburgh's old town.

By day, he plays with the local orphans and eats at a nearby tavern but, in spite of anything even the Lord Provost himself can do, Bobby returns each night to sleep by his master.

Bobby's devotion changes the lives of those around him and ultimately the conditions of the poor in Edinburgh. And as the years go by, the little dog's loyalty is rewarded in a very special way.

**The book is in 6W if anyone would like to borrow it!**



# READING TEA PARTY SUCCESS!

## What a wonderful time we had at our Term 2 Reading Tea Party!

Despite the wet, windy, and dark cold day, our avid readers across the school gathered to share their love for books. It was heartwarming to see so many familiar faces enjoying hot drinks and a biscuit or two while diving into new stories.

If you missed out, don't worry! Remember to pop along to our next Reading Tea Party on the 12th of February. We'll have plenty of books to explore and more delightful treats to enjoy.

**We can't wait to see you there!**



## DFE HEALTH RESOURCES

As children return to school after the Christmas break, the Department for Education have a range of resources to help communicate health messages to schools and families this winter:

### Reducing the spread of illness this winter - Seven steps to healthier schools and higher school attendance.

A blog from Professor Russell Viner, Chief Scientific Adviser at Department for Education, which sets out small actions schools can take across seven areas for maximum impact.

**[CLICK HERE TO READ](#)**

### Top tips on how to keep your child healthy at school

A blog aimed at parents and carers taking parents and carers what they can do to reduce the chances of their child getting ill.

**[CLICK HERE TO READ](#)**

# YEAR 3 FABULOUS FINISH

## Year 3 celebrated a fabulous finish to their Stone Age topic!

Students showcased their incredible learning about Stone Age dwellings, sharing fascinating insights into what people ate and wore during this intriguing period. From creating models of their homes to discussing the types of food they foraged and hunted, the children truly brought the Stone Age to life. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and creativity shine through.



**WHAT DID THEY EAT?**  
Early humans were hunter gatherers. They ate berries, fruit and animals they could find and hunt. Such as deer, fish, mammoths...

**HOW DID THEY SPEND THEIR DAY?**  
There was no technology, so they told stories, played games, made tools, jewellery and basic home items out of their limited materials.

**WHAT DID THEY WEAR?**  
Early humans wore clothes made from animal skins.

**WHERE DID THEY LIVE?**  
In the Paleolithic era, they lived in caves. During the Neolithic era, they learnt how to build basic structures from sticks and mud. By the Neolithic era, their homes were better and made of stronger materials.

**WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE IN THE STONE AGE?**  
The U.K. was actually connected to France by ice and an area called 'Doggerland'. This meant the animals could travel long distances. Eventually, sea level rose (ice melted) and the land was underwater.

**WHAT WAS ENGLAND LIKE?**  
The U.K. was actually connected to France by ice and an area called 'Doggerland'. This meant the animals could travel long distances. Eventually, sea level rose (ice melted) and the land was underwater.

**HOW DID THEY COMMUNICATE?**  
There was no writing or language like today. Evidence of cave drawings show us what life was like.

**WHAT WAS THE IMPACT OF FARMING?**  
Farming meant that Stone Age people didn't have to keep moving to find food, they could make their own by planting seeds & breeding animals. People could live longer & pass on the skills.

**Diary Date**  
**Monday**  
**26th January**  
**INSET DAY**



# FREE SCHOOL MEALS

## Infant Free School Meals

**Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) - GOV.UK** is a programme by the UK government that gives money to schools so they can provide free meals to all children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2. This funding is decided on three census days during the school year. You do not need to apply for them.

If you get certain benefits, you should apply so the school gets extra money. This will also make sure your child keeps getting free meals from Year 3.

[Click Here to Apply for free school meals online](#)

### Contact details

**Email:** free school meals queries

**Phone:** 0300 330 9472 (10 am to 3 pm)

## Children in Year 3 & older

Children in Year 3 and above can get free school meals if their parents or carers get certain benefits. These benefits include:

- Universal Credit - GOV.UK (your yearly income must be below £7,400 after tax. Your monthly income cannot be over £616.67.)
- Income Support - GOV.UK
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) - GOV.UK
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) - GOV.UK
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 - GOV.UK
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit - GOV.UK
- Child Tax Credit - GOV.UK (your yearly income must be below £16,190.)

**From the start of the 2026/27 school year, the Department for Education will extend entitlement to free school meals to include all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit.**

# FOODBANK



## Thank you!

### Polegate School

For your incredible donation in support of the work of Hailsham Foodbank.

Your donation weighed 120kg (enough for 288 meals) which will make a huge difference to the lives of local people living in poverty.

Julie Coates  
Foodbank Manager



Registered charity number 1199124. Registered in England and Wales.

# YEAR 1 SPACE DOME

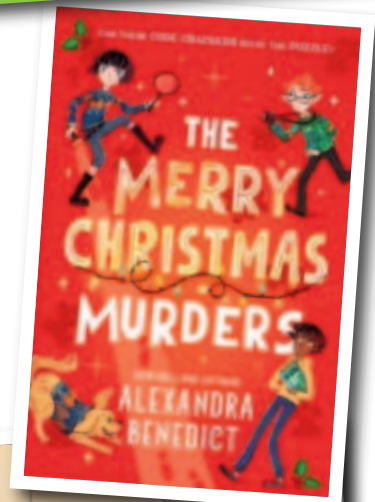
We were wowed when we were transported into space, we felt like real astronauts. We got to experience the stars, the sun and some planets.



# AUTHOR VISIT: ALEXANDRA BENEDICT

**We were thrilled to welcome Alexandra Benedict, the talented author of *The Merry Christmas Murders*, to our school!**

Alexandra captivated us with her engaging storytelling and shared invaluable tips and tricks for aspiring writers. The children were particularly excited to have their books signed, which I am sure will be treasured for years to come. The positive feedback from our young readers has been overwhelming, with many expressing their enthusiasm for reading and writing. It's wonderful to see our budding authors inspired and eager to explore the world of literature!



# ALL ABOARD THE TITANIC!

**Our Year 4 students embarked on an exciting journey back in time with a stunning start to their Titanic topic!**

**They spent a day exploring the different classes onboard the famous ship, immersing themselves in the lives of first, second, and third-class passengers.**

The children had the unique opportunity to prepare food that would have been served to first-class passengers, giving them a taste of the luxury experienced by some aboard the Titanic. They also took on various roles, from crew members to passengers, allowing them to truly understand the diverse experiences of those who sailed. What a fantastic way to kick off our learning adventure!



# JUNIOR PARK RUN

junior parkrun

## How to become a parkrun primary:

"junior parkrun has helped remove barriers and encourages participation in physical activity for our pupils. These types of consistent, community-based opportunities are essential. It's not just about fitness, it's about belonging, confidence, and continued growth."

- Mr Reuben, at Cricket Green School.

Register as a parkrun primary and connect with your local event.

Host a junior parkrun school assembly.

You are now a parkrun primary, great job and welcome to the parkrun family!

Share information with parents and carers.

Attend your local event together.



Sign up to receive your parkrun primary toolkit (also available in Welsh) including customisable assembly presentation, communication templates, guidance and much more here: <http://parkrun.me/jpreg>



## parkrun primary

parkrun's mission is to create a healthier and happier planet for everyone. Become a parkrun primary and join this mission with schools everywhere! Actively promoting junior parkrun within your school will support young people's health and wellbeing, it will help to create opportunities for physical activity and support your school to connect with the local community.

### First timer at

junior parkrun?

Here's what it's all about:

It's a weekly, free, 2k community event in open spaces for 4 to 14 year olds and their families.

With a focus on fun, you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate.

Events are on Sunday mornings and everyone is welcome - find your local event at: <http://parkrun.me/jpinfa>



## How can being a parkrun primary benefit your school?

### Fostering a love for movement:

junior parkrun encourages children, families, and staff to enjoy regular physical activity outside school hours, supporting physical and mental wellbeing. It nurtures healthy habits and lays the foundation for a lifelong positive mindset toward movement.

### Community engagement:

Connecting with your local junior parkrun(s) strengthens community links and fosters a sense of belonging. It provides opportunities for pupils, families, and staff to come together in a positive, inclusive environment beyond the classroom.

### Volunteering and personal development:

Through junior parkrun help pupils to build confidence, develop new skills, and contribute meaningfully to your community. These experiences support the national educational framework, promoting resilience and social growth.

### Enhancing education and school values:

junior parkrun supports the PE and PSHE curriculum by offering real-world application of learning. It demonstrates a school's commitment to holistic education, strategic leadership, and promoting wellbeing, inclusivity, and active citizenship.

67%



67% of parents report that junior parkrun improves their child's physical activity levels and their enjoyment of it, too. Children report feeling proud, full of energy, confident and strong.

## Find your local event

There are currently hundreds of junior parkrun events and new ones are starting all the time so there is bound to be one on your school's doorstep. You can find your local junior parkrun event on our

map here:

<http://parkrun.me/jpevents>



# 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**  
**12th March**  
**Wonderful Work**



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 **256 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)