



In This Issue

Big Walk and Wheel	2
Sickness Absences	2
Diary Dates	2
Fundraising	3
Staff News	3
Numbers Day	4
More Numbers Day Fun	5
Seaford Competition	6
Healthy School Award	7
World Book Day	8
Attendance Figures	8
Computing	9
Writing Journals	10
Parking Promise	11
Step into the NHS	12

WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENTS

Well, this may have been a short term but we have certainly packed a lot into it despite the challenges that continue!

There is so much that I always feel proud of and with each and every newsletter there are exciting things or wonderful achievements to share with you. This newsletter is no exception.

There continues to be very high staff absence which has been very challenging at times- mostly on a Sunday afternoon! I would like to thank the team for being incredible at pulling together and working through this, supporting each other, remaining positive and most importantly putting the children first!

BIG WALK & WHEEL

DIARY DATES

7th February
Parent Consultations

9th February
Parent consultations

10th February 2.30pm
Think Tank Meeting

11th February
Last day of term

21st February
Start of term 4

1st April
Last day - end of term 4

19th April
Start of term 5

2nd May
Bank holiday

27th May
End of term 5

6th June
Start of term 6

Can we do better than 8th place?

Last year we came 8th across the south east on the leader board so we are hoping to better that this year!

A chance for Polegate to show how fit and active we all are and give us some incentive to leave cars at home and come to school on foot, on a scooter or by bike.

I will be cycling so please join me!



ABSENCES RELATED TO SICKNESS

I just wanted to clarify the advice given in the previous newsletter. The 48-hour rule still applies to sickness related to norovirus however there are a number of other causes for sickness that are not infectious.

It was these that we were referring to: headache, heartburn, overeating, food intolerance, motion sickness, sensitivity to light or sound, dizziness, anxiety none of which are infectious. The sickness alone is not an indication a child must be off for 48 hours. In these cases a child can return as soon as they are well enough.

The same is true for diarrhoea, usually this is a symptom of bowel infection but again there are other causes: anxiety, food allergy, appendicitis or a side effect of medication. Some children in school have long term conditions which result in diarrhoea but we are able to manage these.

We do take the safety of our children and families very seriously and take a measured approach to individual conditions.

John & Grace's Cycle For Pulse Oximetry Machines



I wanted to share with you the fundraising one of our pupils is involved in for a very good cause.

On Sunday 13th February John and Grace will be cycling from Eastbourne train station to the bottom of Beachy Head at Holywell to Sovereign Harbour and then back to Eastbourne Train Station to help raise funds for Tiny Tickers to purchase Pulse Oximetry machines for Eastbourne DGH and Hastings Conquest. This is a round trip of about 10 miles or so. This is Grace's first fundraiser of this sort where she's doing a challenging cycle ride for her age. But she's keen to challenge herself and hopes you'll sponsor us accordingly.

Finally, after many years of us and others trying, East Sussex NHS Trust (Eastbourne DGH & Hastings Conquest) have agreed to do Pulse Oximetry testing on new born babies from March 2022.

They are one of the last NHS Trusts in the country to do this! However, they are keen to make up for lost time and require several Pulse Oximetry machines both for use in hospital and

mobile ones for midwives to use outside for home births and home checks. Tiny Tickers can provide the machines for free to the Trust, purchased through donations, and they also get a discount from the supplier as they buy so many for all the hospitals around the country, so it's better value for money.

A baby is born with a serious heart condition every two hours in the UK and despite congenital heart disease (CHD) being one of the biggest killers of infants, only around half of congenital heart defects are picked up during routine prenatal scanning. With your help we can help Eastbourne DGH and Hastings Conquest provide a safety net for the 1,000 babies each year that leave hospital with their heart defect undetected by providing Pulse Oximetry machines that will increase detection rates, improving a baby's chances of survival and long-term quality of life.

What a great cause and Grace and her family even made it into the Eastbourne Herald! We will keep our fingers crossed for a sunny day for you!

STAFF NEWS



BEFORE



AFTER

I am delighted to share the exciting news that on 02.02.22 (what a special date of birth!) Miss Marsh became a proud mummy! Miss 'baby' Iles was born weighing 7lb 13oz. Miss Marsh and her partner, Mr Iles were still deliberating on her name... I will keep you updated!

Both are doing very well.

NUMBERS DAY

Numbers Day on Friday 4th February was a huge success at Polegate.

Pupils across the school put so much effort into their fantastic costumes and made it so tricky for teachers to choose winners from each class. Well done to all our well-deserved winners! Special mention must also go to the nursery staff team for their amazing numberblocks costumes.

One of our Year 1 winners Toby Northcott said, "I loved Numbers Day. My favourite part was the afternoon when we had different maths activities on each table and had to go around and complete them all." Aeryn Noakes, 5T's winner agreed, "Numbers Day was very exciting. I loved the dice game we played where we had to get the closest answer to 6,000 using the column method. It was really tricky to decide where to put the numbers we threw on the dice."

A great day was had by all and most importantly lots of money was raised for the NSPCC.

Nursery - Callie-Rose Sinclair,

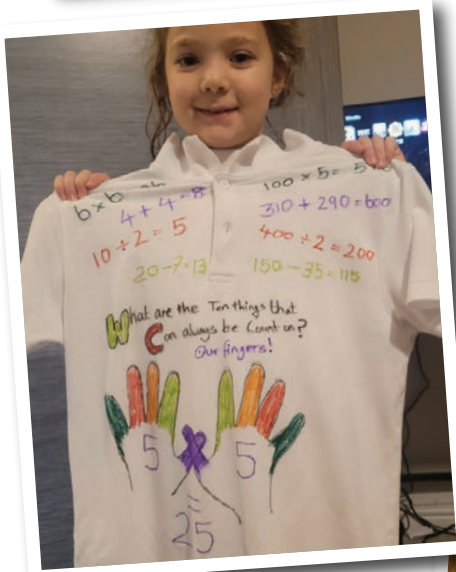
Reception - Jack Ransome, Drake Eadon, Charlie Akehurst and Olivia Burnett

Year 1 and 2 - Iris Barber, Harlow Starr, Josh Morrison, Toby Northcott, Sophia Prangnell, Beatrice McAndrew and Jack Anderson

Year 3 and 4 - Jessica Butters, Stanley Dean, Millie Leicester-Murphy, Sophie Northcott, Verity McAndrew and Lucas Say.

Year 5 and 6 - Ethan Peters, Aeryn Noakes, Eli Netschepir, Sophia Kerr, Noah Prangnell.

Thank you to everyone that joined at home from isolation! It was wonderful to see you all taking part!



EVEN MORE

NUMBERS DAY FUN!



COMPETITION

HELP TELL THE STORY OF SEAFORD BEACH

THE
BEACON
SHOW



SUSSEX
CONTEMPORARY
ILLUSTRATORS
& PRINTMAKERS



HM Government



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

The Beacon Show is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund via the Welcome Back Fund

Help tell the story of Seaford beach

This summer SCIP is proud to present The Beacon Show, a public arts trail of illustration, photography and written word, celebrating Seaford's extraordinary landscape and the community who love and maintain it.

We want you to be part of The Beacon Show and are calling out for submissions of illustrations or written word inspired by the Seaford Coastline and created by young people aged 5 - 16.

The SCIP Youth members, the SCIP team and representatives of publishing house Rocket Bird Books will choose their favourite stories and illustrations to feature in the beach front exhibition all summer!



What can I write about?

We are on the hunt for stories and poems about Seaford Beach, they can be about a day out you had there, or something you saw, or experienced? Perhaps a seagull once came and snatched your mum's fish and chips? Or it was the first place you learned to ride a scooter. Maybe Seaford Museum is your favourite place to visit, or you're passionate about beach combing! We want you to tell us everything, and have fun creative writing!

What can my illustration be?

Illustration has few rules, and as long as you take your inspiration from the Seaford coastline we will consider every submission. You could draw a landscape picture or just explore one small aspect of the beach. You may want to consider what lives in the water, or the skies. What sports happen on the beach, why do people visit the beach? We have more ideas on our website to help inspire your creations!

How can I make my picture?

Your picture must be 2D, and can be drawn, painted, printed or collaged - any medium that you like. It must be on A4 size paper or card of any colour. You can work either landscape or portrait.

When do you need it by?

The submissions deadline is
Monday 28th February.

How do I submit my illustration?

Step 1: Please ensure you have written your **NAME, AGE, SCHOOL NAME** (where applicable) on the back of your submission.

Step 2: Your school can collect all the submissions and arrange for the SCIP team to collect them for you on the **28th February** by arrangement - please email hello@wearescip.co.uk to arrange a collection time for your school.

Alternatively illustration or hand written submissions can be posted to **SCIP C/O Seaford Town Council, 37 Church Street, Seaford BN25 1HG**. Written submissions can also be emailed to hello@wearescip.co.uk

Thank you so much for taking part in **The Beacon Show**.

We are passionate about getting young people and children involved in all our projects and look forward to seeing your amazing creations!

We will be in touch if you have been selected to be in the main arts trail.

For more digital resources to help with your creations please visit:
www.wearescip.co.uk

HEALTHY SCHOOL AWARD

The outcome of the visit is that Polegate School is awarded the East Sussex Healthy Schools Award, which lasts for three years and will expire January 2025.

We had an External external assessment of the evidence that the school has made an accurate judgement using the School Health Check.

Staff and pupils display a great confidence in the school and what they are doing. Positive social interactions come naturally and children are happy to talk about what they are doing, whether in the classroom or when at play. Staff are confident when describing their work and the rationale behind it, both in terms of teaching and learning and their curriculum, but also in terms of wider, whole school approach strands.

This confidence stems from strong leadership and the many ways in which both pupils and staff feel secure and well supported.

The strong leadership at the school is shared between the Senior Leadership Team and subject leaders, who share a common vision and are given responsibility to work to their passions and strengths.

The planning of both the curriculum and wider whole school aspects of health and wellbeing is highly collaborative, with children and families at the centre of the school's work. Staff, pupils and families are involved in what goes on and the school actively seeks feedback measures the impact of the health and wellbeing measures put in place. There are many examples of positive and productive partnership working throughout the school – with other agencies, with other schools and fundamentally with parents and carers.

The school clearly has concerns beyond the school gate and sees itself as an important part of the community.



It was exciting and interesting to spend some time with the School Council, known at Polegate as the Pupil Parliament. They presented themselves in a very impressive way and were a pleasure to speak with. It was notable how expressive and articulate they are and how proud they are of their school. They described how they were elected by their peers and were able to give some examples of what the Pupil Parliament has achieved at the school. They were particularly clear and articulate on the subjects of Anti-Bullying and British Values.

Pupil Voice is taken seriously at the school and it is clear that pupils feel that they are listened to.

The Ethos of the school is clearly presented on the website and throughout various key documents.

The emphasis is on ambition, positivity and happiness. When spending time at the school, it quickly becomes evident that this approach is not just the stated intention of the school but is enacted in each facet of the school day, from the welcome at the reception office to what goes

into teaching and learning from the dining hall to the playground – children and staff are clearly embedding the ethos of the school on a daily basis.

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

A REMINDER

East Sussex do have a 'No dogs on school's grounds' policy. This has always been the case for every school in East Sussex and is in place for safety reasons.

This means that dogs cannot go beyond the school gate and into the playground. Only assistance dogs and dogs being used for educational purposes are allowed onto school premises. This includes puppies that are carried or even smuggled in bags!

'No dogs on school grounds' policies are designed for the safety of children and to protect children with allergies. Plus, there's nothing worse than dog poo in the playground...other than dog poo on children's shoes!

We do request that parents don't tie dogs to the school gate. As well as considering the safety of children, there is the issue of your dog's safety. Leaving them tied to the school gate makes them an easy target for dog theft. Some children are incredibly frightened when they have to walk past dogs and will increase anxiety significantly when arriving at school.

In contrast others are instinctively drawn towards dogs and want to stroke and hug them. However, if a dog feels threatened by an over-affectionate and excited child it could easily result in an incident.

Please do not bring your dog in no matter how small they might be.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday, 3rd March 2022
This is its 25th birthday celebration!

On World Book Day, every child in full-time education is given a voucher to spend on whatever book they want, with the hopes of encouraging kids to read more.

Reading more will help to improve their vocabulary while learning new information, and enhancing their creativity in the process!

The theme for this World Book Day follows the message "You Are a Reader," I don't think anyone at Polegate will need convincing of this!

It's also a time when authors, illustrators, books, and reading can be appreciated and celebrated in over 100 countries around the world. The main aim of the day is to encourage children to explore different genres and develop a passion for reading.

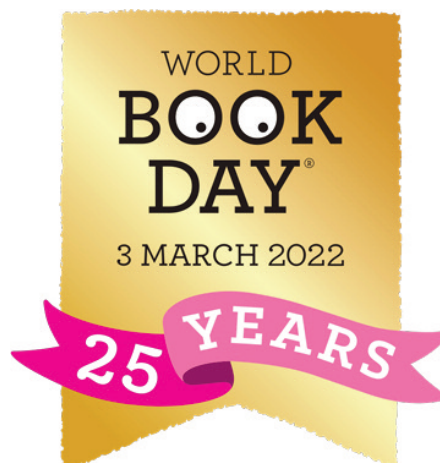
This is because there are many benefits of reading, such as increasing and expanding your vocabulary, heightening your empathy, and improving your concentration. World Book Day provides an opportunity for children who may not have their own books at home to be able to own their very first book. It stresses the importance of reading and reminds us that we should all have the privilege of being able to read. The World Book Day organisation especially aims to help

support children who don't have their own books at home.

More details to follow but back by popular demand will be the opportunity to dress up- the theme for this is yet to be decided!

We like to have a different focus each year to maintain motivation and take the pressure of parents to find yet more costumes!

Reading for pleasure is the biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income.



LATEST ATTENDANCE FIGURES

RH 96.6%

RM 96.6%

RB 95.3%

1S 96.8%

1C 96.9%

1B 95.9%

2M 95.9%

2MA 96.5%

2R 96.3%

3L 95.8%

3Y 97.5%

3M 97.3%

4H 95.3%

4G 96.7%

4D 95.9%

5W 95.2%

5M 97.1%

5T 97.5%

6V 94.8%

6J 96.8%

COMPUTING

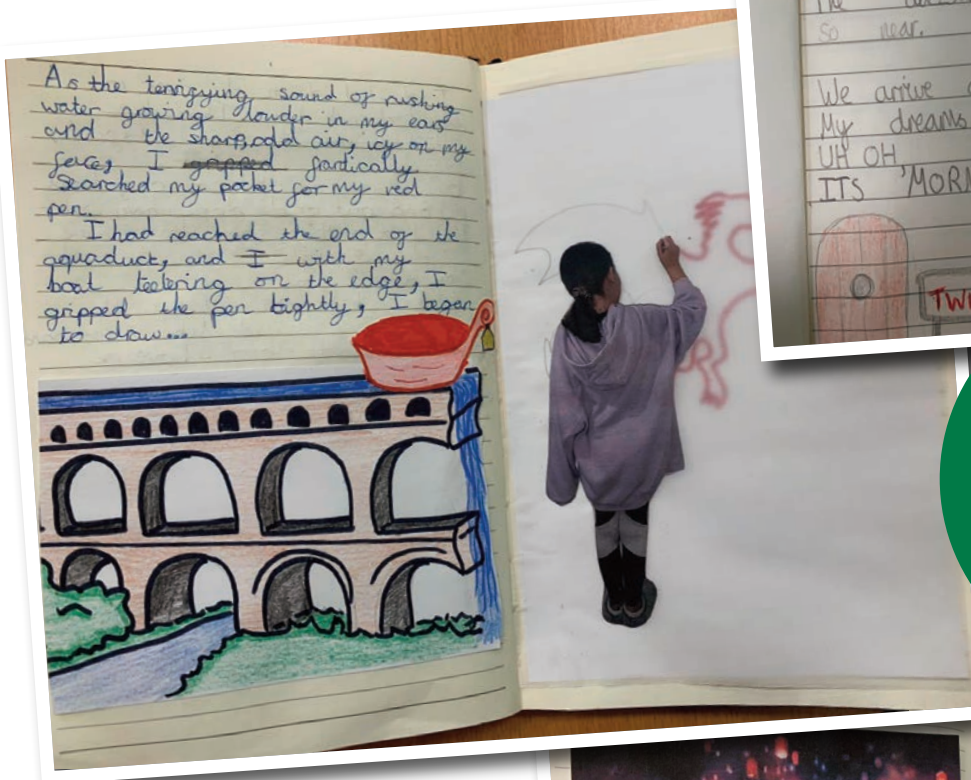
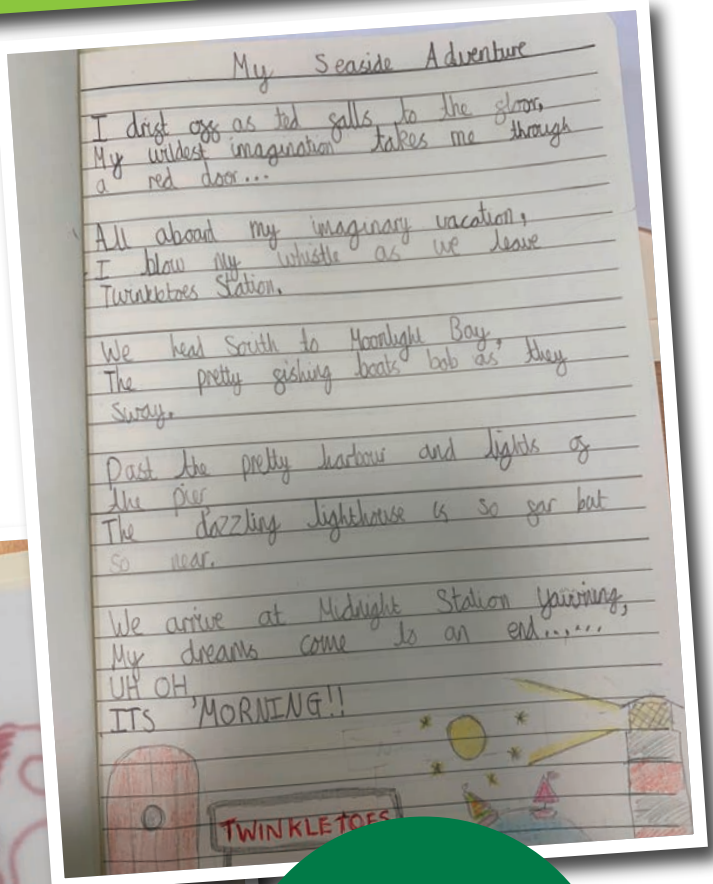
Computing at Polegate across the school



WRITING JOURNAL CHALLENGE

What fabulous entries for our relaunch of our writing journals! These have been a treasured special writing book for the children since 2013!

The purpose of the writing journals is to showcase creative, inventive writing which children create at home for their own reasons. In much the same way that children read for pleasure we wanted to give children a special place to write and so develop a love of writing. We may sometimes provide ideas or a stimulus but it can also come entirely from your child's imagination!



**We loved
looking at
their inspiring
entries -
a great start!**

We provided a Writing Journal for all the children in school but cannot afford to replace them if they have been lost. Every child from year 1 upwards needs one so please ask if your child can't find theirs. They cost £5.00.



PARKING PROMISE

Thank you to everyone that has shown their commitment to keeping our pupils safe at drop off and collection by signing up to our 'Parking Promise'.

Strictly speaking as a school we have no authority outside our school gates but we couldn't just sit back and wait for an accident or fatality to happen and sadly it felt like it was only a matter of time.

What can you do to help keep everyone safe around the school gates?

Please don't:

- Block the road - emergency vehicles and other traffic may need access
- Park on yellow lines, zig-zags or block the school entrance
- Park on the pavement, across dropped kerbs or residents' driveways
- Park opposite or within 10 metres of a junction
- Park where you will cause inconvenience to other road users

- Leave your vehicle with the engine still running
- Stop in the middle of the road to drop your child off, even for a few seconds

I appreciate that it is impossible for everyone to walk, scoot or cycle. We all have such busy lives but it does mean many children now miss out on the opportunity to develop vital road safety skills with their parents on the way to school. They fail to build up confidence and learn the ability to manage risk walking around their local community.

Walking can improve overall fitness levels in children and adults. It is a cheap low impact way to exercise.

Getting active in our daily lives can have a big impact on health issues such as obesity. We realise that there are some parents who have no alternative but to drive their children to school, however, many are driving short distances where walking is a

real option. Even those who have to drive to school can do their bit by parking away from the school entrance where it is busy and walking for part of the journey.

If you are spotted parked in a safe, responsible spot displaying your badge you could find yourself in for a treat!



STEP INTO THE NHS

A COMPETITION OPEN TO EVERYONE

Pupils are tasked with saying "thank you" to the NHS after their learning in school about the job roles and opportunities available.

Pupils should be encouraged to reflect on which job or team they want to say "thank you" to and create the thank you.

Challenge your child to think about:

how the NHS has helped them, one of their friends or family.

Pupils will need to produce: Creative artwork: painting, drawing, temporary street artwork, performance, video or slideshow

OR

Creative writing: a story, song, poem or thank you card.
Pupils can enter individually or as a pair.

Entries must be received no later than Saturday 30 April 2022.

Overall national winning pupil(s) will receive Amazon vouchers worth £50. Overall national winner(s) school will be offered a class prize which will be discussed with the winning school.

Regional winners will each receive an Amazon voucher worth £25

Highly commended certificates will also be awarded

Whether they enter individually or as a pair, each pupil will receive a prize if their entry is chosen

<https://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk/primary-schools>

Diary Dates

**11th February
2022
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
1,251 followers!**



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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

Designed by Prowork : www.prowork.co.uk



Carried away with the carnival!

Join children's poet, performer and illustrator **Ed Boxall** for carnival capers

- **Battle Library**

Wednesday 16 February, 11-12pm

Special performance with violinist Naomi Burrell

- **Bexhill Library**

Wednesday 16 February, 2-3pm

- **Heathfield Library**

Friday 18 February, 11-12pm



*"What a tremendous session...
the children loved it!"*



FREE!

But please book at
your local library

0345 60 80 196
[eastsussex.gov.uk/
libraryevents](http://eastsussex.gov.uk/libraryevents)

Covid restrictions apply

