

NEWS

October 2019



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Reception have settled exceptionally well and 1Mc are loving their new classroom.

Year 5 can't wait to move into their new rooms after the holiday. So much is happening at Polegate, there is never a dull moment!

Learning around the school is exciting and your children are visibly engaged with the topics. I would to thank parents for all the support you have given to dress up days, home learning, volunteering in school and our fundraising events. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed and I am so grateful for your support!

I am so pleased to have had some really positive comments about the changes to Home Learning and the difference this has made at home. Many parents are reporting that their children are now reading for longer periods than they once did- which is great! It appears that you are not missing those home learning task battles!

ABOUT THE THINK TANK

Our Think Tank members are Ronnie Campbell, Tash Aamer, Matt Knott, Shadi Wood, Hannah Dartnell, Nikki Danika Pain, Rachel Keen, Chloe Stanton, Sarah Purdey, Marie Le Beau, Eleanor Tansley, Jessica Constanti. We welcome our new reception representatives.

This is a group of parent representatives, one from each year group at least, who meet to discuss general school-related issues. This Forum provides a valuable way to listen to your ideas, suggestions and seek your views on our ideas, helping to ensure the needs of the children and their families are met.

This has been a really successful initiative that has been in place for an unbelievable 7 years now! Part of the success of this group is down to the fact that the parents share the aims of the school to:

- To support and promote children's learning
- To help the school find out what parents and carers think about important issues

- To involve parents and carers actively in school decisions
- To make plans that support the ways the school wants to develop and improve outcomes for our children

The school has benefited hugely from their support and I have certainly appreciated their views and commitment. They always have solutions and suggestions at the ready.

It is important that all parents understand the role of this group.

This group is not in place to address specific concerns about an individual child or issues relating to individual members of staff. Parents who need to discuss these issues should follow school procedures relating to this, approaching their class teacher, Leader of Learning or the assistant headteachers or Deputy/Headteacher.

We know that when parents are involved in their child's learning and in the life of the school, children do better. This is borne out by a growing body of research. Parental involvement is a key lever for school improvement and we are lucky to have such a committed group of parents.

PARENT CONSULTATION

Thank you all for attending Parent Consultation Evenings. It has been great to see so many of you and hear such wonderful feedback at the end of a very long term.

The comments and emails I have received really reflect the amazing teachers and support staff we have at the school. Here are just some:

I am writing to let you know how impressed I am with parents evening, this evening. I am so proud of my children, and I feel a lot of this success is because of your staff.....

I would like to thank all the staff, you all make Polegate school such a lovely school and make the children and their families feel supported. It feels like one big family!

The letter was very long and this is only an extract. Our aim is to create a family feel especially as we increase our numbers and so it made my evening to read that comment!

DIARY DATES

**Parent Consultations
Mon 21st & Wed 23rd
October**

**INSET Day
Friday 25th October**

**Last Day of Term
24th October**

**INSET Day
Monday 4th Nov**

**Start of Term 2
Tuesday 5th Nov**

**Anti Bullying Week
Monday 11th Nov**

**School Open
Afternoon for 2020
Reception Children
Wednesday 20th Nov**

**School Open
Afternoon for 2020
reception children
Thursday 28th Nov**

**Last Day of Term
Thursday 19th Dec**

**INSET Day
Friday 20th December
Christmas Holidays**

**INSET Day
Monday 6th January**

**First day of Term 3
Tuesday 7th January**

ATTENDANCE

We will again be holding our prize draw to win a brand new bike. Any child that reaches our whole school target of 98% will be entered into the draw.

Congratulations to all these children that achieved 100% attendance last year!

The whole school is currently at: 96.2%

RH = 95%	2AB = 97%	4B = 97%
RM = 96%	2H = 96%	4E = 96%
RY = 97%	2M = 96%	5G = 96%
1C = 95%	3D = 96%	5J = 94%
1H = 96%	3M = 98%	6R = 97%
1Mc = 96%	3W = 96%	6M = 97%



These children were in school every single day last year!

PLAYPARK

There has been some local discussion about the playpark and I was saddened to read this comment.

Well as long as the teachers get their car park... doesn't matter that the over 400 kids at the school have a tiny play park!...

The planning process insisted on a certain number of spaces due to the size of the school and this was a requirement. It was not something the school or teachers insisted on or wanted. We are certainly not demanding!

We have not had a car park since September 2018. Originally ESCC were claiming back all the land the park was on to provide parking however the school and staff were in full support of the children maintaining a play park albeit a smaller one and so negotiated a reallocation of parking with the architects to enable the play park to remain.

The children have gained new equipment and kept a space to play in. It is a balancing act for the town council and there are many considerations not least local residents and the disruption they face at drop off and collection times.

E-SAFETY - GAMING

Gaming is a huge area and it can be easy for parents to become overwhelmed with all the games, age restrictions, content and so much more.

Add into the mix screen time, playing the games on different devices, the fact that many games can connect your children with anybody around the world it can become a full time job all on its own.

But fear not. Internet Matters has a brand new gaming hub to support parents which gives advice to explain and understand the world of online gaming and encourage children to game safely and responsibly online.

There is a lot of information on the website such as:

- The Risks - learn how to protect your child from potential risks of online gaming.
- The Benefits - see how gaming can benefit your child's development and future prospects.
- The Resources - a list of recommended resources to help children get the best out of online gaming.
- And much more.

This is a really valuable resource for parents with plenty of useful snippets of information you can read through whilst sitting down with a cup of tea.

Common Sense Media

To learn more about the games or apps you children are using, Common Sense Media covers thousands, which includes advice and reviews from other parents.

Internet Matters

Tons of age-specific related information created specifically for parents. Includes information to set up devices.

More brilliant advice on a range of issues is contained on the National Online Safety site.

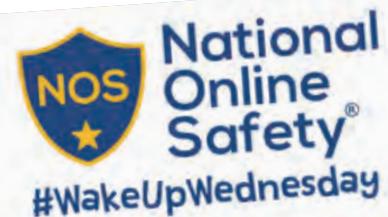
YEAR 1 SCIENCE TRIP

To enhance the curriculum in Year 1 they visited Herstmonceux Science Centre for an exploration of all things space and Science!



POLEGATE ON THE RADIO

Tune in on 13th November at 12pm to hear Polegate Pupils live on air as part of Eastbourne Youth Radio! They will be creating their own hour long slot as part of this annual event.



Our guide for parents & carers about **SOCIAL PRESSURES** Linked to 'Appearance'

The fourth guide in our mini-series focuses on the pressure for the perfect online appearance. With almost every child now on social media, whether it be sharing, following or simply browsing, imagery is central to their experience. However, what they perceive to be a 'perfect' picture may not always tell the whole truth which is why we've created this guide to help parents and carers understand how their children may be affected in their pursuit for similar ideals.

ANOTHER LOVELY LETTER

Hi!

Just a message to say that when I was shown around the new building this morning by Hollie after her wonderful class assembly (2M), I was really impressed at how many of your children opened up doors for me and my family. They were all so lovely and polite and it really shows the effort you all put in pays off! They are all a credit to you and again, every student I came across, were friendly, polite and extremely well behaved. It really was lovely to see!

Happy Friday!

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PARTNER

Our school improvement partner visit supported our judgement of outstanding. She scrutinised our data, website, school development plan, SEF, toured the school and questioned leaders.

Feedback from our school improvement partner visit included:

- During her visit, the adviser observed pupils across all the key stages cheerfully engaged in learning. They were happy to explain what they were working on. Pupils are evidently keen to do well and have a confident, constructive relationship with the adults who work with them.

She also informally commented on how polite and well mannered the children were. Without fail they opened doors for us and greeted us beautifully.

She loved the new library as we all do! She thought the quality of artwork and writing was exceptional on display.

DROP OFFS

Drop off and collection arrangements for key stage 1 will change again after the holiday until Christmas. A letter explaining the arrangements will be sent out this week.

INJURIES IN SCHOOL

We have moved to an online recording system for all medical information to save the trees!

This includes injuries in school. Don't be alarmed if you receive an email, this is standard form of communication and we think much better than a paper copy that could be lost.

If your child has required first aid treatment then this is recorded on the system. As before minor injuries such as a grazed knee or scratch would not be recorded so your inbox shouldn't be filled with emails from us!

YEAR 5 - BACK IN TIME

Year 5 were taken back in time to 1880

Lots of new schools were opened in Victorian times, but they were very different from the schools of today. Thankfully as the children in year 5 found out for themselves this term.

The children in Year 5 experienced what it may have been like for a school child in the Victorian era last Monday. The classrooms were transformed to make the experience as authentic as possible and paper was replaced with chalk and slate! Several children dressed up for the occasion as did the staff!

Did you know?

- In the first half of the 1800s, classes were massive. Sometimes there were more than 100 pupils in every class.
- The windows in a Victorian classroom were high up (to stop pupils looking out of the window) and the rooms were lit by gaslights. As a result, the schoolrooms were gloomy and often stuffy.

They found out discipline in Victorian schools was quite harsh!

- Victorian pupils who couldn't keep up in lessons were often made to wear a 'dunce's cap' (usually made of newspaper) or told to put on an armband or badge with the word 'dunce' written on it. The Victorian teachers thought that the pupil would be embarrassed into making more of an effort.



CAN I STOP READING ALOUD TO MY CHILD?

Often as children become more fluent with reading and capable of reading texts alone we reduce the amount of reading aloud we do as parents. Should we?

NO! It is more important than ever to continue reading to your child even in year 6.

You should not be reading books at their level to them though. It is the type of book you read to them that matters. Read them books that are far more advanced than they could read on their own. This is vital because it prepares them to engage with difficult texts and complex ideas.

Your child will learn challenging vocabulary before they are able to read it on their own. And at a faster rate. When they then encounter these words in their independent reading, they will have the benefit of knowing more of the words they are trying to read. This will help them to decode them. I am doing exactly this myself and last night within a page we found vocabulary such as, emaciated, bedraggled, rivulets, palpable and incessantly.

I don't know about you but these are not the type of words that often come up in conversation at home! Words like this do not tend to occur in spoken conversation. They only show up in written texts specifically, in the kind of advanced complex texts that children must read as they progress through academic study.

So children who have been read to are likely to be familiar with the words at the next levels of their reading, words that will be barriers to other children.

In challenging books sentences are longer. In Oliver Twist for example, one sentence is 37 words long. It takes skill to master and understand the meaning within this. To give you an idea in the last year 6 reading test a sentence was considered a grade 26 by the Flesch reading age test.

Children aged 11 are considered to be grade 5! This one sentence had 64 words and it tells us just how much expectations have been raised.

Your child will love sharing more advanced books with you because you will bring them to life! These books will be far more exciting than anything they could read on their own.

They will find the challenge engaging because you can explain and stop at key points to discuss and talk about characters, emotions, events; you can reveal subtle messages they may have missed and above all else this is such a special thing to do.

Congratulations to all the children that achieved a Summer Library Certificate for reading during the holiday. I was thrilled to see it was an increase on the numbers last year.



Our avid summer readers!

SWIMMING GALA

Our super swim squad made a splash at the recent Eastbourne College inter schools swimming gala.

Ten schools took part this year making it more competitive than usual - with St Andrew's Prep, Moira House, St John's Meads and St Thomas a Becket all fielding strong teams.

The event started brilliantly with the girls - Bethany (backstroke), Olivia (breaststroke), Imogen (fly) and Sydney (crawl) - taking 3rd in the medley relay. This was followed by a fantastic first place from the boys - Ezra (butterfly), Louie Ray (crawl), Alfie Hanmore (breaststroke) Will Fenton (backstroke).

During the evening there were some solid individual performances from Imogen (backstroke), Olivia (breaststroke) and Alfie Hanmore who all came in 2nd on their events. Natalia swam the longest race - the 50m freestyle and was just pipped to 3rd place.

After the last event, all scores were calculated and positions announced in reverse order. We held our breath as the order for the girls teams were announced... Polegate 4th. Then the boys... one step further - Polegate 3rd, and bronze medal winners. Then the announcement for the prestigious Headmasters Cup - awarded to the most improved team. And for the second year running Polegate won that one too!

Well done to everyone who contributed to our success;

Ezra Hartland, Louie Ray, Alfie Hanmore, Will Fenton, Alfie Davy, Bethany Wood, Olivia Narine, Imogen Welfare, Natalia Bednarz and Sydney Stewart.



Our swimmers with their medals



SWIMMING

Swimming Payment
for next year has
been set up on
Parentmail account

YOUR PFA NEWS

Don't miss out on your chance of becoming a lottery winner!
I have had a few Dominos pizzas thanks to my winnings!

Unlike most other lotteries, Your School Lottery lets you support your local school directly. We believe in the principle of raising money through the community for the community.

Together we can make a difference

As a supporter, you can join for as little as £1 per week and for this, you will have the chance of winning a guaranteed weekly prize for someone within your school community.

The more people that participate, the bigger this guaranteed prize becomes and the more money raised for your school.

On top of this, you will also be entered into a separate draw with a chance to win an amazing £25,000 EVERY WEEK! We are the first lottery organisation that provides both a guaranteed weekly prize AND a potentially life changing win.



Each school gets
40%
of ALL its ticket sales.
YOUR money will go to YOUR school.

how it works

A graphic with a sunburst background of orange and yellow rays. The text is centered and reads: 'Each school gets 40% of ALL its ticket sales. YOUR money will go to YOUR school.' Below this is a blue rectangular button with the text 'how it works' in white.

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL
EXTRA
CASH PRIZES**

Buy Your Lottery ticket this term for a chance to WIN one of THREE £100 prizes!

A graphic with a sunburst background and several lottery balls. The text reads: 'BACK-TO-SCHOOL EXTRA CASH PRIZES' in large, colorful letters. Below it, in smaller text: 'Buy Your Lottery ticket this term for a chance to WIN one of THREE £100 prizes!'.

Don't miss out on your chance to win one of three extra

£100 cash prizes!

That's right! As well as knowing you're supporting YOUR school AND a weekly chance to win up to £25,000 sign up today and you could also win one of three extra £100 cash prizes.

DONATE AS YOU SHOP

smile.amazon.co.uk

Donate money to the school as you shop on Amazon Prime without it costing you anything. I have just signed up myself- it was so easy and now when I buy anything on Amazon they donate a portion of the purchase price to Polegate School.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your selected charity.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.co.uk to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations to charities by Amazon. You will see eligible products

marked "Eligible for smile.amazon.co.uk donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing Amazon.co.uk account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on amazon.co.uk and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organisation to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to smile.amazon.co.uk you need to select a charitable organisation to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.co.uk will result in a donation.

PFA EVENTS

Friday 22nd Nov
Winter Extravaganza

Friday 31st January
Family Games Night

Wednesday 5th Feb
PFA Meeting

Wednesday 18th &
Thursday 19th March
Mothers Day/Gifts for
Loved Ones

Friday 27th March
School Disco

Tuesday 19th May
PFA Meeting

Wednesday 17th &
Thursday 18th June
Fathers Day/Gifts for
Loved Ones

Saturday 20th June
Summer Festival

Friday 10th July
Quiz Night (Adults Only)

Wednesday 22nd July
Leavers Pool Party

Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



OUR HAILSHAM FM CELEBRITIES!

Our incredible Head Girl and Head Boy made a guest appearance on Hailsham FM last week to talk about their experience of school.

They were true professionals! I could not have felt prouder and their words were so moving when they spoke about how they feel about Polegate School and how it has shaped them as individuals. If you missed it and want to listen then follow this link:

<https://www.mixcloud.com/HailshamFM/17-10-19>

About Hailsham FM

Broadcasting 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 95.9 FM to the town of Hailsham and the surrounding villages.

You can also pick us up on your pc, mobile or tablet via their 'Listen Live' page, the TuneIn app, or by telling your smart speaker to "PLAY HAILSHAM FM".



Our head boy and head girl at Hailsham FM.

OUR PAST PUPILS

Ben King came back to visit year 6 and talk about how his learning has progressed since leaving Polegate School. We are all so proud. Ben is embarking on an astrophysics degree!

He visited every clas in year 5 and 6 to talk about his passion for maths and physics. The children loved it and teachers have said how inspirational it was.

It was a particular treat for me as Ben was my first ever Head Boy when I became headteacher.

We love to hear about what our past pupils have gone on to do so if you know of anyone that came to Polegate, or if you are reading this now and once came to the school please drop us a line.



My first head boy came back to visit!
About to start Astrophysics at Surrey.
Very proud headteacher.

KIND WORDS FROM OUR RESIDENTS

Can you thank the lovely Bethany for taking us on a tour of the new school, she was fabulous and the school looks great.

Many thanks.

Rachel, Ella & Luca

I have had two messages from people who visited the school yesterday to say how good the school looked and how helpful the children were. A special mention was to Jessica Rooney, Caitlyn and Miley who were all very grown up, sensible and took time to answer any questions about the school. The art displays were a big hit as was the library and the visitors were blown away with all the technology that is used when teaching children today.

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 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.uk

WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES

We have small recycling battery boxes in the office.



Diary Dates

Friday 25th
October
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 1027 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