

news

October 2021



GOODBYE SUMMER

It may feel like a long time since the blue skies of summer, but the moment when the clocks go back marks the end of British Summer Time.

Good news - it also means an extra hour in bed. Everyone in school, staff and pupils have worked exceptionally hard and are ready for a break.

The clocks will go back on 31 October at 2am.

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NEW DEBATE TOPICS

We are going to start our debate topics next term with:

A campaign at the beginning of the 20th century successfully argued in favour of changing the clocks during the summer months to avoid wasting time in the morning.

Do we agree with this now?

Why not consider the arguments for and against at home over the holiday and find out the history behind the British Summer Time. Find out some facts around this topic ready to share when we return.

When do the clocks go back in 2021? Royal Museums Greenwich (rmg.co.uk)

Learning around the school is exciting and your children are visibly engaged with the topics.

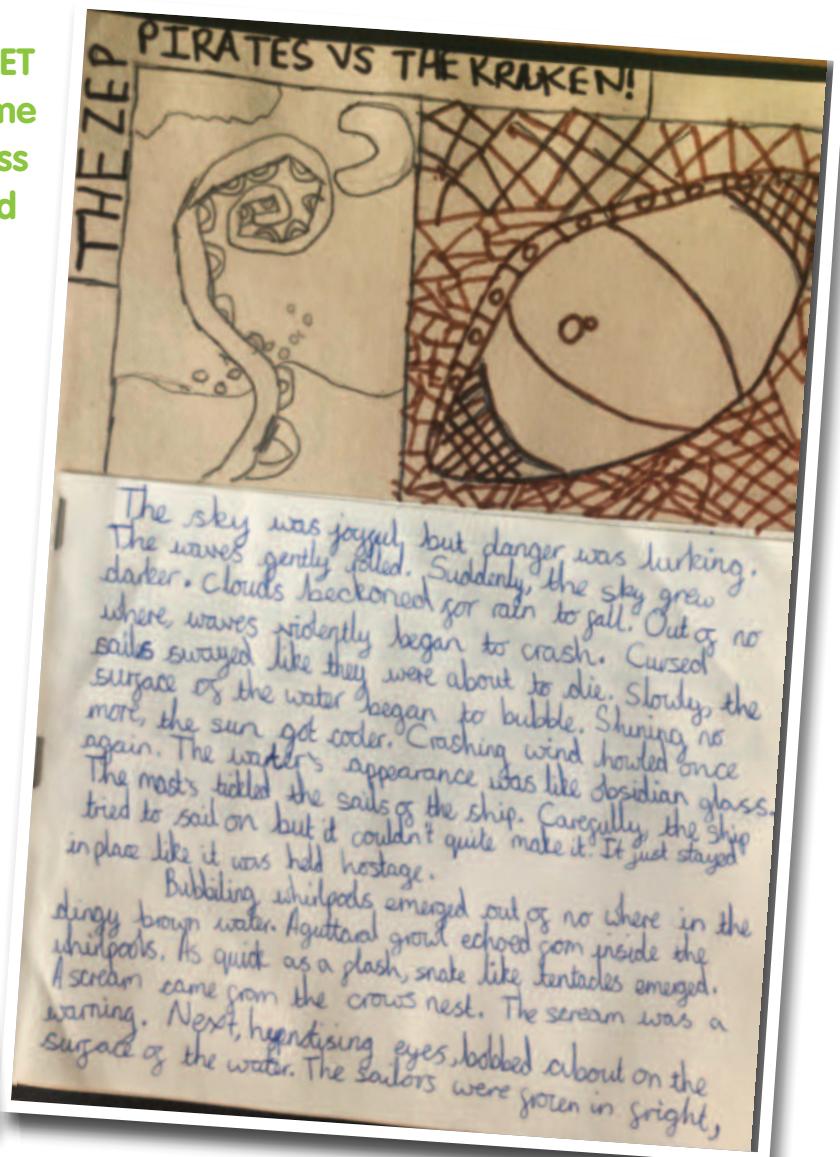
I would like to thank parents for all the support you have given to dress up days, home learning and volunteering in school. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed and I am so grateful for your support!

WE ARE AUTHORS

Following all our staff training (INSET days) on writing we have seen some stunning examples of writing across the school and pupils making rapid progress which is so impressive.

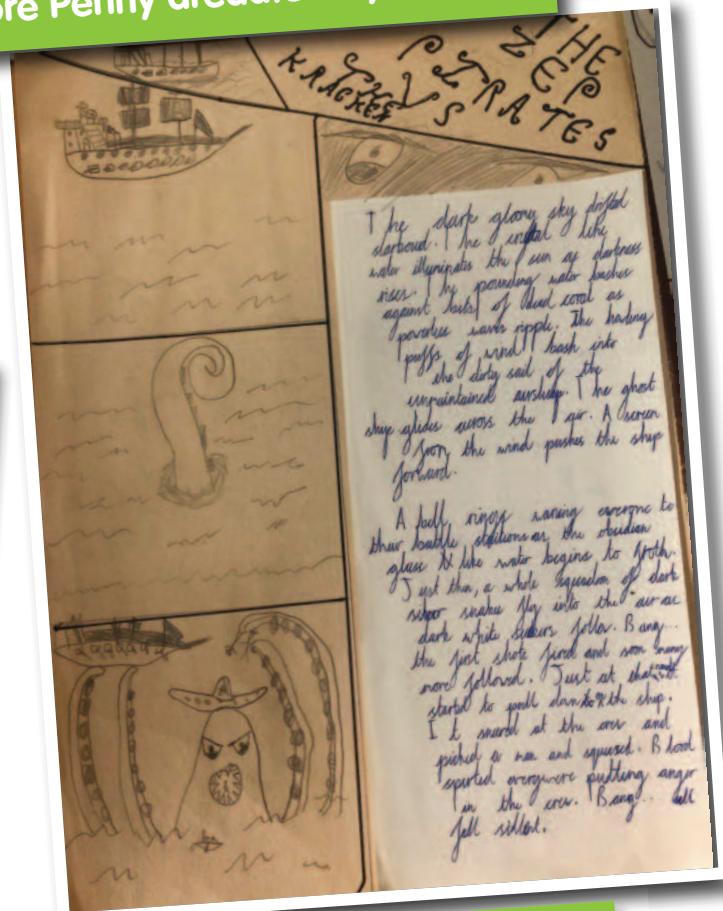


Year 5 have been creating our own Penny dreadfuls inspired by Cogheart!



There have been some stunning examples of work across all subject areas:

More Penny dreadfuls by Year 5



Impressive art created by Year 5



READING



If you are not fortunate enough to be jetting off anywhere exotic then your ticket to somewhere exciting is a book!

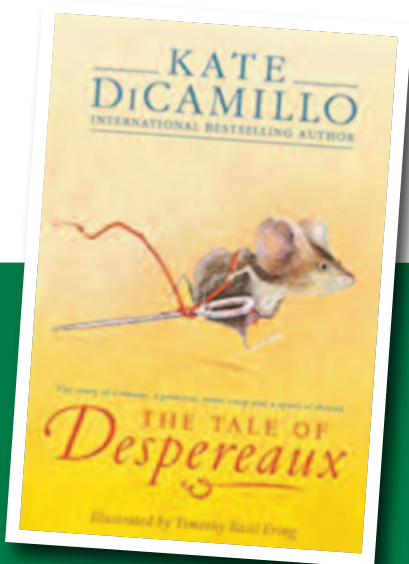
Please keep up that reading during the holiday, there is nothing more important you can do to help your child with their future success!

We have once again launched our whole school readers - you may want to read these yourselves at home as well if you are stuck for a book to read. They are loving these stories.

If you needed any convincing...



Key stage 1 are reading:



A deftly crafted fairy tale adventure story from a New York Times bestselling author, twice winner of the prestigious Newbery Medal. Here, reader, is the tale of a tiny, sickly mouse with unusually large ears; a mouse who takes his fate into his own hands. It is the tale of a beautiful, flaxen-haired princess who laughs often and makes everything around her seem brighter. It is the tale of a poor, deaf serving girl who entertains foolish dreams of splendour. It is a tale of impossible love, of bravery and of old-fashioned courage. And, reader, it is a tale of treachery – unlimited treachery...

Key stage 2 are reading:



Herbert Lemon, Lost-and-Founder at the Grand Nautilus Hotel, knows that returning lost things to their rightful owners is not easy – especially when the lost thing is not a thing at all, but a girl. No one knows what happened to Violet Parma's parents twelve years ago, and when she engages Herbie to help her find them, the pair discover that their disappearance might have something to do with the legendary sea-monster, the Malamander. Eerie-on-Sea has always been a mysteriously chilling place, where strange stories seem to wash up. And it just got stranger...

**Summer
Library
Challenge**

The summer may well feel like a distant memory now! We were delighted to receive our certificates for children that read 6 books during the summer holidays. Congratulations to our Summer library challenge winners who will be awarded with their certificates in a celebration assembly this week.

The winners of our prize- family tickets to Port Lympne will also be picked and announced this week!

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

The children's mental health charity, Place2Be, has launched a new website aimed at helping parents with typical situations they can find themselves in with their children.

Advice can be found on over forty topics including:

- Understanding sibling rivalry
- My child is lying, what does it mean, what should I do?
- My child has trouble going to sleep
- My child says 'I hate you!'
- Cultural identity: who am I?

The Parenting Smart website can found here:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk>

Clocks back! Dark nights ahead

We'll soon be setting the clocks back an hour and summer-time will end. The resources below will help remind children, including teenagers, about road safety and keeping safe in the dark.

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents

<https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night

<https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

Keeping Children Safe in the Dark

<https://firstaidforlife.org.uk/keeping-children-safe-in-dark/>

Dark Nights

<https://www.childcare.co.uk/information/dark-nights-children-safety>

Be Bright Be Seen

<https://brightkidz.co.uk/initiatives/be-bright-be-seen/>

STAFF NEWS

We have appointed two members of our site team now. It is credit to the entire team that we have managed without any caretakers since our return in September!

This has put additional pressure on every singly staff member but a HUGE shout out has to go to Mr Holter who has stepped in to open up and secure the site at the end of the day on top of his existing role as ICT technician.

Mr Holter will no doubt be very pleased that we welcome Julie Anderson and Chris Collins who are starting at the beginning of next term. I will introduce you properly then!

REMINDER

THE CLOCKS WILL
GO BACK ON
31 OCTOBER
AT 2AM.

SPOTLIGHT MOMENTS

We are very excited to have awarded a number of our new spotlight moments this term!

They are hard to come by and so really something to celebrate! Congratulations to the children that have achieved one already and blown their teachers away with their awesomeness!

Louie Walker - for phenomenal progress in reading and working so hard on this at home!

Alya Noble - astounding performance in the class assembly, great delivery of her lines!



FANTASTIC GEOGRAPHY

1C had a fantastic geography lesson today. We are learning about where we live so we went for a walk, following a route on a map. Then we came back and created messy maps.



YEAR 6 TOPIC

Year 6 experiencing and creating a trench museum to enhance their topic.



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Thinking of christmas shopping already? Here is your opportunity to get some early gifts ticked off! We are hosting our school **Book Fair** on the week beginning 15th November-

SCHOLASTIC

FILL OUR SCHOOL WITH FREE BOOKS WHEN YOU BUY FROM THE BOOK FAIR*

COME TO THE BOOK FAIR

FIND HUNDREDS OF THE BEST NEW BOOKS FROM JUST £2.99!

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS DONATE OVER £6.4M BOOKS TO SCHOOLS EVERY YEAR.

OUR TOP PICKS

NEW **TOM GATES** **RANDOM ACTS OF FUN** **BY LIZI**
Available from 14th October
Hardback only £7.99
£12.99 ~~£7.99~~

NEW **Peppa Pig** **Super Peppa!**
With FREE Headband
£6.99

NEW **GIRLS RULE** **ALESIA DIXON**
£6.99

NEW **DOG MAN** **Mothering Heights** **DAV PILKEY**
Hardback only £7.99
£10.99 ~~£7.99~~

The Smeds and Smoos **JULIA DONALDSON · AXEL SCHEFFLER**
£12.99 ~~£6.99~~

NEW **STRIKING OUT** **IAN WRIGHT & MUSA OKWONGA**
Hardback only £7.99
£12.99 ~~£7.99~~

Over 200 books to choose from!

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We feel that we have a realistic approach to school uniform in order to reduce expenditure for you. We have minimum expectations but do expect a jumper or cardigan with a logo without fail.

Essential uniform



They should also have a logo on their shirt but in the winter when worn under a jumper is less necessary. Be aware that this is also a requirement. A cap has always been an expectation and is absolutely necessary when pupils go on trips to enable teachers to see and identify pupils easily when out of school.

Please can everyone ensure that your child has the appropriate uniform ready for term 2

There are optional items to supplement this:



PE KIT IN A BAG

From **£13.00**

BUY NOW



Crew Neck Sweatshirt

From **£10.25**

BUY NOW



Sweatshirt Cardigan

From **£11.25**

BUY NOW



Polo Shirt

From **£9.00**

BUY NOW



Showerproof Fleece

From **£17.00**

BUY NOW



PE T-Shirt

From **£5.95**

BUY NOW



PE Shorts

From **£5.75**

BUY NOW



Tracksuit Bottoms

From **£12.75**

BUY NOW



Please label your child's uniform and PE kit.

We have been staggered by the number of items of school uniform that I have found around the school- this is a real plea, PLEASE name your child's items so that we can return them directly to them.

To order uniform please follow this link: <https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/polegateschool>

ATTENDANCE

We strongly believe in tackling attendance early before it causes longer term problems for your child and there are many reasons why we address this from the very start of the year.

Pupils who missed 2 to 4 days in September were 5 times more likely than those who missed fewer than 2 days to be chronically absent for the year. Half the pupils who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.

This is a significant amount of time. We firstly aim to support. Please share with us any difficulties you face as a family- we want to help!

If attendance is causing a concern you will be invited in for a meeting to discuss the reasons behind it and offer support.

Higher attendance clearly equates with success and higher earnings later in life. This may seem obvious but if you were in any doubt attendance is the building block of pupil achievement. The bottom line is that if they are not in school then they are not learning.

RECEPTION

Reception have settled in very well and setting an excellent example to everyone in the way they move around the school and how focused they are in class. It feels as if they have always been with us!

Well done!

RH	97.48%
RM	97.38%
RB	97.08%
1B	95.98%
1C	96.56%
1S	97.13%
2M	96.81%

2Ma	97.67%
2R	93.26%
3L	95.28%
3Y	97.41%
3M	96.48%
4G	96.3%
4D	97.29%

4H	94.56%
5W	94.43%
5M	96.34%
5T	95.45%
6V	94.87%
6J	98.12%

CHRISTMAS HAS COME EARLY!

Thank you to Polegate Scarecrows Community Fund for this awesome gift!



HEART OF GOLD!

Demi Goldsmith, with a little help arranged a charity Horse Drive.

They travelled from Hailsham to Pevensey Castle Pub on to Fisherman's club to the Pier and then finally back to the mushroom farm. Everyone did really well and had a lovely slow trot.

Demi even saw one of her teachers on the way

The Goldsmith family will have the buckets until after Christmas if anyone wishes to donate.



DANCING HER WAY TO SECOND PLACE!

Alaya competed in the South Theatre Arts Festival.

She spent the last few months learning and practicing not 1 but 3 dance routines in readiness for the festival. She was incredibly nervous especially when it came time to perform her solo to the point where I wasn't sure she'd be able to go on stage on her own. However, she didn't let the nerves get the better of her and managed to perform really well for her first solo performance. Her group performance actually won second place which was amazing!

Although she didn't get medals this time around for her solo and duet, I know her scores have given her a

wonderful boost of confidence and she'll use that to make her dances better and better.

We are so, so proud of how hard she has worked over the last few months although learning the routines hasn't always been easy. Not only that, we're proud that she overcame her fears to go on stage all on her own, as well as her sportsmanship behaviour towards the other competitors, including another pupil from Polegate School, Bethany in 3L who was also performing!

From a proud mum and dad.

Congratulations Alaya- we are very proud too!

PARENT CONSULTATION

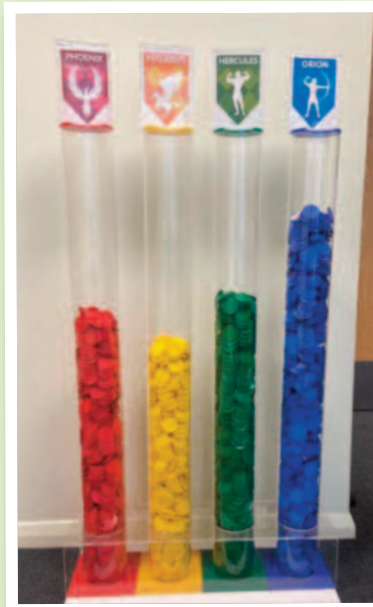
Thank you all for attending Parent Consultation Evenings.

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.

So grateful for all your feedback!

WINNING HOUSE

The winning house this term is Orion!



DIARY DATES

22nd October
last day of term

1st November
first day of term 2

8th November 2021
INSET day

9th December
Reception Nativity 10am

10th December
Reception Nativity 10am

16th December
Christmas Dinner Day

17th December 2021
INSET day

4th January
start of term 3

7th February
Parent Consultations

9th February
Parent consultations

11th February
last day of term

ABOUT THE THINK TANK

Some of you may remember this group or if not you may have a distant recollection of what it was all about but for some of you this will be completely new! Lock down and everything that came with it put a stop to our termly meetings.

I am hoping to relaunch these meetings again now that we can finally meet face to face. I really valued these opportunities to meet and discuss school ideas with a range of parent representatives from each year group.

The Think Tank 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.

I don't want to put any parents on the spot by announcing who was in it before because your circumstances may well have changed. You may not have the capacity you once had. I know the parents that were representatives for different year groups and if you want to continue then that would be fabulous but equally if you no longer able to then I will open this opportunity out to others. You have the opportunity to return the slip to say you will continue or will not below. Just let us know.

The role of this group.

It is important that all parents understand 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 in the first instance.

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.

If you are interested in this role then please return this expression of interest to the school office and we will approach you if there is a vacancy for your year group. Honestly there is no expectation you bring anything but yourself and your thoughts and opinions with an openness to listen and respect other parent's views. The more diverse and representative the group is of our community the better!

The Think Tank's first agenda item is Home Learning following a parent suggestion and recommendation that we also invest in Doodle spelling and Doodle English.

The meetings take place in the school day generally a Thursday afternoon, once a term, at 2.30pm just before pick up at the end of the day.

THINK TANK FORM

BECOME A MEMBER

I am interested in becoming a member of the Think Tank Group

Child's name:..... Class:.....

Parent Name:.....

THINK TANK PREVIOUS MEMBER ONLY

Name..... Year.....

I previously represented Year.....as a Think Tank member. I would like to/would not like to continue in this role.

PFA EVENTS

The PFA have been busy behind the scenes since we have returned to school, we are so excited that we will be running our first 'proper' event in a while and can't wait to share more information with you soon!

Thank you so much to all those new parents and families that joined us at our first meeting of the school year, it is great to have new members to help raise funds to support the school in being the amazing place it is. We will be having our AGM (Annual General Meeting) in November, more details will follow nearer the time, we'd love to see more of you join us then! If you would like to get involved or find out more please do get in touch via our email address pfa@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

Even though we have had to do things very differently last year, we are thrilled that we still managed to **raise over £9733.58 profit** from the events that were organised.

This money will support projects that benefit every child in the school. One of the things we are going to be helping the school with this year is to fund improvements to the swimming pool this year so watch this space!

Upcoming Events- Fireworks night

Our famous, fabulous fireworks night will be back this year! We cannot wait to see you there. This event is happening on Friday 19th November. Watch out for the poster and information coming soon for more details and information about how to book your tickets

Wreath making workshop

We also have an exciting Wreath making workshop run by a local florist planned for December... details to follow.

The School Pool

The school pool is now in need of serious repair. We thought we may be able to get away with replacing the roof but over the summer holiday it became apparent that we would need to replace the pool itself. The structure has bowed and frame is no longer stable.

This is such a valuable resource that we are so committed to providing and it also benefits each and every pupil. The PFA have decided that funds raised will support the complete refurbishment of the pool this year in order that children can use it for years to come.

We hope to have the works completed by our swimming terms in 2022.

Why not join our School Lottery?

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.

www.yourschoollottery.co.uk



AMAZON SMILE



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.



WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES

We have small recycling battery boxes in the office.

EASTBOURNE JUNIOR PARKRUN

Weekly free 2k timed event for juniors



What is Eastbourne junior parkrun?

It is a 2k event for juniors only (4-14 year olds).

When is it?

It is held every Sunday at 9:00am.

Where is it?

The event takes place at King Edwards Parade, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 4BY. See Course page for more details.

What does it cost to join in?

Nothing - it's free! but please register before your first visit. Only ever register with parkrun once. Don't forget to bring a printed copy of your barcode (request a reminder).

How fast do I have to be?

The aim is to have fun. Please come along and join in whatever your pace!

We're friendly!

Every week we grab a post parkrun coffee at the West Rocks Beach Club Café (where you will get a 10% junior parkrun discount!) - please come and join us!

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/eastbourne-juniors/>

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.uk

Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



Diary Date

Friday 22nd
October
**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
1,190 followers!



Polegate School
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Polegate
East Sussex BN26 6PT
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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

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