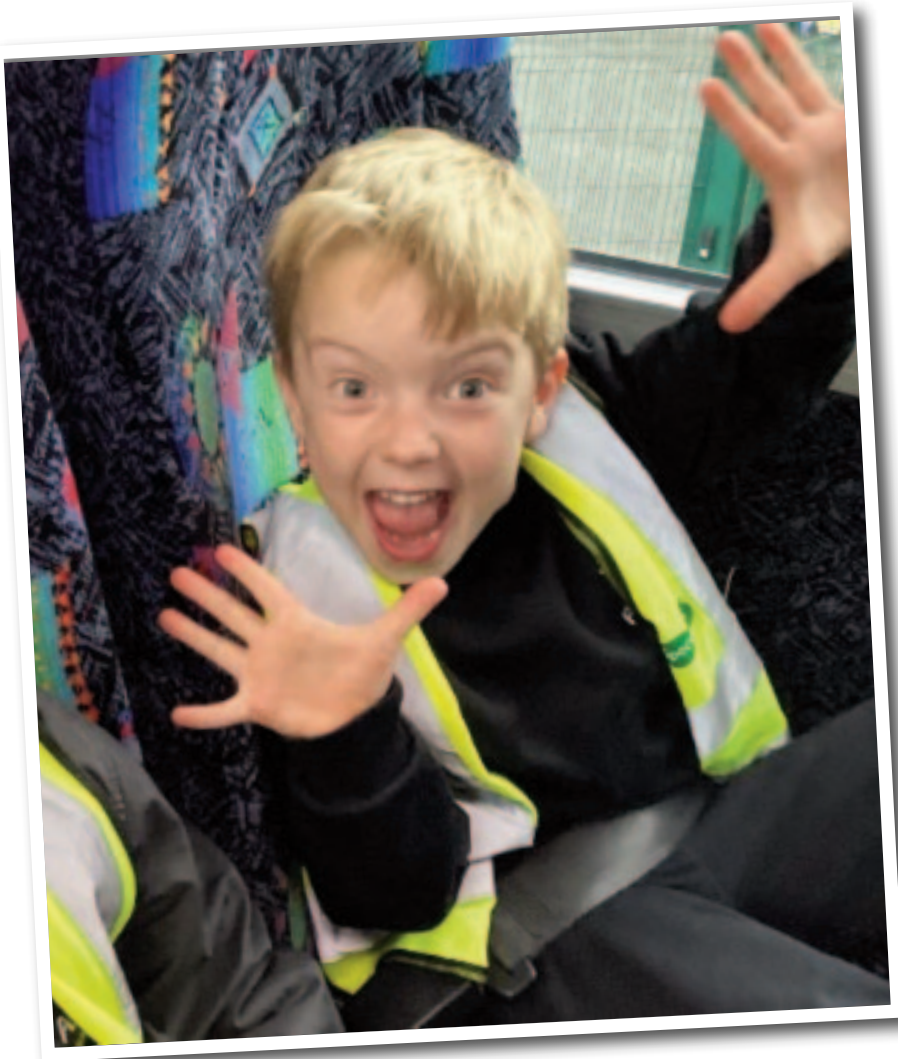


# news

**April 2026**



## In This Issue

Latest News	2
Reception Swimmers	3
Active Easter	3
Blackberry Farm	4
Shining Stars!	5
Year 3 Pevensey Castle	6
Hockey Fun	7
Diary Dates	7
Year 6 Detectives	8
Arriving On Time	9
Morning Drop-Off	10
Foodbank	11
Our Poetry Champions	12
Year 3 London Topic	12
Family Grapevine	13
You Said, We Did	14
Rock & Pop Band	15

## WELCOME BACK TO TERM 5!

**We hope you all had a restful break and are ready for another exciting term ahead!**

It's been wonderful to see the children return to school full of enthusiasm and energy. They've come back ready and excited for all the activities Term 5 has in store.

# ALL THE LATEST NEWS

## TIRING WORK



## SWIMMING RESTARTS

We're delighted to announce that swimming lessons have started again.

Please ensure your child brings their swimming kit on their designated swimming day. If you need a reminder of which day your child's class swims, please contact the school office.



## We know that school can be exhausting, but it's also so much fun!

The friendships children form during their primary years are incredibly important for their happiness and security and we love seeing the strong bonds developing between our pupils. These busy days are filled with learning, laughter, and the joy of being part of our school community.

This promises to be another busy and exciting term with lots of wonderful learning opportunities and activities planned for the children.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us make this another successful term for all our pupils.

## WOW WALK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Don't forget to continue collecting your WOW badges this month

The April Art badge is waiting for you! Keep up the fantastic work walking, wheeling, cycling, or scooting to school. It's great for your health, great for the environment, and a wonderful way to start the day with your child.

# RECEPTION SWIMMERS

Reception have been busy learning how to safe in the water and starting their first swimming lessons at school!



## ACTIVE EASTER ACHIEVEMENT!

Lucy and Jake both completed a spring challenge for young lives vs cancer.

They both had to do one mile a day for 14 days – walking, scooting or biking. They really got into the spirit of it and had a target of £150 but have smashed it by raising a whopping £270. Well done!



# BLACKBERRY FARM

Reception had so much fun during our recent trip to Blackberry Farm.

The children fed the animals with such care and attention including a huge highland cow with big spiky horns!

The highlight for many was the tractor ride around the farm and spotting many animals along the way. Reception behaved impeccably both during the coach ride and at the farm.

**We are so proud of everyone!**

A big thank you to all of our parent helpers, we couldn't have done it without your support! Thank you to Blackberry Farm for hosting another fantastic trip for our children.



# SHINING STARS!



## Our Dance Group Shines at the Congress Theatre!

We are incredibly proud of our dance group, who excelled at the recent 'Let's Dance' evening held at the Congress Theatre. The girls were absolutely incredible, performing a stunning routine to music from Wicked.

Their hard work, dedication and talent truly shone through on stage, and they represented Polegate Primary School beautifully. It was wonderful to see their confidence and

teamwork as they performed in front of such a large audience.

The girls were so excited to share their achievement with the rest of the school, and performed their dance routine for all pupils during a special assembly. It was a fantastic moment of celebration for our whole school community.

A huge thank you to Mrs Barden and Miss Durbidge for their dedication in supporting and coaching the dance group.

Their time, expertise and encouragement have been invaluable in helping the girls achieve this wonderful success.

Well done to all our dancers – you made us so proud!

## Diary Date

Monday 4th May  
**Bank Holiday**

# YEAR 3 PEVENSEY CASTLE

**Year 3 had a fantastic day out at Pevensey Castle recently, and we couldn't be prouder of them!**

The sun was shining as the children explored this historic Norman castle, bringing their history learning to life. They had the opportunity to walk through the ancient ruins, discover the castle's fascinating past, and imagine what life was like hundreds of years ago.

Our Year 3 pupils were an absolute credit to the school throughout the day. Their behaviour, enthusiasm and curiosity made the trip a real pleasure, and they represented Polegate Primary School beautifully.

Thank you to all the staff and parent volunteers who accompanied the children and made this wonderful learning experience possible. Trips like these help bring the curriculum to life and create lasting memories for our pupils.



**Diary Date**

**22nd May**

**INSET DAY**

# HOCKEY FUN



**Another sporting event recently at the Saffrons Sports Park saw 2 Polegate teams compete against 4 other teams from Ocklynge and Bourne.**

Although we were disappointed by the number of entries from other local schools - last year there were at least 8 - our 2 squads had an amazing afternoon. Each team had 5 games during the tournament which meant the 2 Polegate teams had to play each other - Yikes!

But it was a friendly affair and Mrs Dell's team won that game. Mrs Wallis's team had several very strong games - losing only to Ocklynge A.

When the results were read out at the end of the competition we were very happy to finish in 2nd and 3rd overall. A lovely hockey experience for all involved.

**Thank you to all the parents who came to support us - and to Mrs Dell for volunteering as a coach!**



## DIARY DATES

24th April
3C Class Assembly
29th April – 1st May
Year 5 Hindleap Warren Residential Trip
1st May
RJ Class Assembly
4th May
May Bank Holiday
6th May
PFA 2nd Hand School Uniform
11th-14th May
Year 6 SATs
14th May
Reading Tea Party
15th May
1L Class Assembly
18th – 21st May
Sports Week
21st May
Disco
22nd May
INSET Day
25th -29th May
Half-term
1st June
Term 6 starts
4th June
Year 3 London Trip
5th June
Art Exhibition
5th and 8th June
Vision & NCMP Screening Reception
8th June
New to Reception Parents Meetings
12th June
6W Class Assembly
16th and 17th June
PFA Father's Day Gifts
19th June
RKH Class Assembly
26th June
Year 4 Trip to Port Lympne
3rd July
Year 2 Trip to Hastings
3rd July
3H Class Assembly
6th July
Year 1 Battle Abbey Trip
9th July
Reading tea party
7th – 9th July
Year 6 Enrichment Days
16th July
Whole school transition day
16th July
Meet the teacher

# YEAR 6 DETECTIVES

## BREAKING NEWS

TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026

POLEGATESCHOOL.CO.UK

### CLASSROOM VANDALISED BY MYSTERIOUS CREATURE!



YEAR 6 PUPILS RETURNED FROM LUNCH TO FIND THAT THEIR CLASSROOM HAD BEEN VANDALISED BY A MYSTERIOUS CREATURE. THEY DISCOVERED UPTURNED DESKS, RIPPED DISPLAYS AND EQUIPMENT STREWN ACROSS THE ROOM. THEY ARE NOW ANALYSING THE EVIDENCE (WHICH INCLUDES FUR, FEATHERS, TEETH AND ANIMAL FAECES) TO WORK OUT WHAT TYPE OF CREATURE THEIR INTRUDER WAS.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF ARRIVING AT SCHOOL ON TIME

We'd like to remind all families about the importance of arriving at school on time each day.

Our gates open at:

- **Infant gates: 8:25am**  
(registration at 8:40am)
- **Junior gate: 8:15am**  
(registration at 8:30am)

## Why Punctuality Matters

Arriving on time is essential for your child's learning and wellbeing. When children arrive late, they:

- Miss valuable learning time - If your child arrives just 10 minutes late every day, they will miss approximately 6.5 hours of learning each half term. That's over a full school day lost!
- Miss out on meeting their friends and the social time that helps them feel settled and happy
- Miss the important settling-in routines at the start of the day that help children feel calm and ready to learn
- Feel anxious and unsettled about walking into class after everyone else has started
- Disrupt the learning of other children in the class when they arrive late

## Punctuality Reflects Our School Values

Arriving on time demonstrates that your child is ready, responsible and respectful - our core school values. It shows:

- **Ready** - prepared and organised for the day ahead
- **Responsible** - taking ownership of their learning and commitments
- **Respectful** - valuing their own education, their teacher's time, and their classmates' learning
- Building Good Habits for the Future

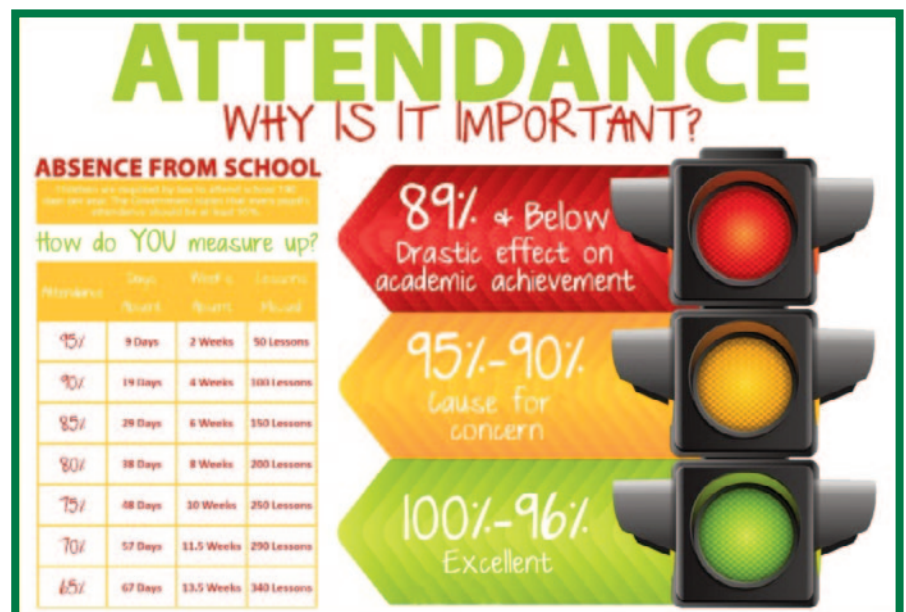
Establishing good punctuality routines now prepares children for success in secondary school and beyond into the world of work. Being on time is a life skill that will benefit them throughout their education and career.

## How You Can Help

- ✓ Plan to arrive at the gates a few minutes early
- ✓ Prepare school bags, uniforms and packed lunches the night before

- ✓ Set alarms with enough time for a calm morning routine
- ✓ Walk, wheel, cycle or scoot to school through our WOW initiative - it's a great way to start the day and helps avoid parking delays

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child arrives on time and ready to learn every day.



## ATTENDANCE FIGURES

RJ = 93.6%	2D = 95.7%	4T = 94.6%
RKH = 96.7%	2H = 96.8%	5D = 96.8%
RS = 93.5%	3B = 95.2%	5EK = 94.6%
1RH = 95.9%	3C = 94.4%	5K = 94.3%
1L = 95.5%	3H = 96%	6M = 95.7%
1M = 94.9%	4D = 95.8%	6L = 94%
2B = 97.2%	4H = 95.6%	6W = 92.4%

# SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT MORNING DROP-OFF

**We know that morning drop-offs can sometimes feel tricky, especially if your child is feeling a little anxious or uncertain about the day ahead. It's completely natural to want to comfort and reassure them, and we really value the strong partnership we have with you in supporting your child's wellbeing.**

We've noticed that sometimes, when children hear "school will ring if you feel poorly and I'll come and get you" during drop-off, they can become more focused on minor discomforts during the day rather than settling into their learning and activities. We know this reassurance comes from a place of love and care, and we completely understand why parents say it. However, we've found it can sometimes make it a little harder for children to build their confidence in managing their school day.

**Please be reassured that we take every child's wellbeing very seriously:**

- Our experienced staff are skilled at recognising when a child needs to go home
- We follow NHS guidance on common childhood illnesses
- We always contact you promptly if your child is too unwell to remain at school
- We provide a safe, calm space for children who need a quiet moment to rest or settle
- Your child will always be looked after with care and kindness

**If your child is feeling worried about the school day, you might find it helpful to:**

- Reassure them that their teacher and other staff are there to help them with anything they need
- Encourage them to tell a trusted adult if they're not feeling well, and remind them that staff will look after them

- Gently explain that sometimes feeling a bit worried or having a minor tummy ache can pass once they're settled and enjoying their activities
- Keep goodbyes warm but brief – sometimes lingering can increase anxiety for both of you

We understand that some children find transitions harder than others, and that's absolutely okay. If your child is regularly anxious or upset at drop-off, please do come and speak to their class teacher or pop into the school office. We'd love to work together with you to put support in place that helps your child feel more confident and settled.

**Thank you for working with us to help all our children feel safe, happy, confident and ready to learn. We're here to support you and your child every step of the way.**

## FOODBANK



# OUR POETRY CHAMPIONS

## Our Poetry Champions Win the Eastbourne Alliance Final!

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that Libby and Alba have won the Eastbourne Alliance Poetry Final! What an incredible achievement - we are so proud of them both!

### The Journey to Victory

The competition began in school, where children had to learn a poem by heart and perform it in front of their class with expression, actions and confidence. Class winners were then chosen to perform in front of the whole school, where Libby and Alba were selected as our school champions.

Both girls performed beautifully throughout, captivating their audiences with their confidence, expression and brilliant use of actions to bring their poems to life.

### Representing Polegate at the Final

On 19th March 2026, Libby and Alba represented Polegate Primary School at the Eastbourne Alliance Poetry Final, competing against other schools from across the area. Their hard work, dedication and outstanding performances paid off.

**Libby was crowned winner of her group!**

**Alba received second place for her year group!**



This is a fantastic achievement and testament to the girls' talent, courage and commitment. They have made Polegate Primary School incredibly proud.

Well done to all the children who took part in the school competition - learning a poem by heart and performing in front of others takes real courage and shows our school values of being ready, responsible and respectful. You should all be very proud of yourselves.

**A huge congratulations once again to Libby and Alba - you are true poetry champions!**

## Diary Date

9th July  
**READING  
TEA PARTY**

# YEAR 3 LONDON TOPIC

## Year 3 have made a stunning start to their new learning topic all about London!

The children kicked off the topic with an incredible virtual reality (VR) tour of famous London landmarks.

Using VR headsets, they were able to explore iconic sites such as the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament – all without leaving the classroom! The children were absolutely captivated by this immersive experience.

To add even more excitement to their learning, the children also took part in an orienteering challenge around the school grounds. This experience helped them develop their map-reading skills and teamwork while having lots of fun.

We're looking forward to seeing what else Year 3 discover about our capital city throughout this topic!



CLICK HERE TO READ THE LATEST ISSUE

EASTBOURNE, WEALDEN & LEWES | MARCH - JUNE 2026

FREE!

# family grapevine

LOCAL  
INFORMATION  
FOR FAMILIES:  
BUMP-TEENS

Inside...

**DAYS OUT**  
around Sussex

**WHAT'S ON This Spring**  
and lots more...

**WIN!**  
Prizes from:



A - Z of Sport & Leisure • Childcare • Education • Parties • Places to Visit • Toddler Groups • and more...

# YOU SAID, WE DID: NEW PIZZA MENU!

We're delighted to share a fantastic example of pupil voice in action at Polegate Primary School!

Our children told us through their elected Polegate Parliament representative that they wanted different pizza topping options at lunchtime. We listened! The children worked with our kitchen team to design a brand new pizza menu with exciting new choices.

The new menu was added to our lunch options and has been thoroughly enjoyed by children across the school at lunchtime.

Pupil voice is incredibly important for creating a sense of school ownership and belonging for all children. Asking pupils how they feel and what you can do to help promotes positive mental health in itself, and gives pupils a sense of purpose and agency.

It is not unheard of for a line of children to be outside my office offering an idea or 2! We truly value their opinion in developing our wonderful school further.



## Diary Date

1st June  
Start of  
term 6

## Archive



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 411 followers!



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East Sussex BN26 6PT  
Tel: 01323 482404  
Email: [info@polegateschool.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.polegateschool.co.uk)

# ROCK & POP BAND LESSONS

**ROCK  
STEADY**

# ROCK AND POP BAND LESSONS!

TAKES PLACE AT SCHOOL



## IGNITE THEIR INNER SPARK!

- ✈ Children learn to play an instrument in their very own band.
- 👉 Fun and inclusive in-school band lessons. No music theory involved.
- ✈ Follow their musical journey in your Backstage account.
- 📄 Exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification.
- 🎵 Instruments provided and no experience necessary.

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PLACE ONLINE!



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# ROCK & POP BAND LESSONS

ROCK  
STEADY

## LEARN TO PLAY MUSIC IN A BAND THAT'S FOR EVERYONE.

Choose from: Drums, guitar, bass, keyboard or vocals.

### Inclusive and hassle-free!

Takes place in school, instruments provided and no experience necessary!

### Have fun and learn by playing

Children work their way through a curriculum of up to 300 musical skills.

### Taught by professional musicians

Rocksteady band leaders are highly trained musicians who make learning music fun.

### Much more than music

Improves wellbeing, confidence, social skills and academic achievement.

### Progress at their own pace

Your child can achieve an exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification!

### End every term on a high note

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£44.68 per month (no payment in August). **Money back guarantee** for the first month. **Cancel at any time.**



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[info@rocksteadymusicschool.com](mailto:info@rocksteadymusicschool.com)

# 92%

of children report greater confidence and self-belief from being in Rocksteady.

Insights from 1,738 children

# 99%

of parents say their child loves or enjoys their Rocksteady band lessons.

Insights from 3,737 parents

"It makes me feel like I'm part of something, and happy."

Rocksteady pupil

TRINITY  
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