

news

September 2018

WELCOME BACK



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Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and for a change we had amazing weather!

We would like to give our new reception parents, pupils and all new families an especially warm welcome as they join the school. This is quite a long newsletter so make yourself comfortable with a cup of tea before you make a start on reading it!

A WARM WELCOME BACK

I am sure like me on your return you expected to see much more progress with the building work!

Disappointingly they are behind schedule and the MUGA has not been completed. I have been promised it will be ready at the end of next week. It has however created another challenge for us to contend with.

The builders may not have been too busy but the teachers and teaching assistants certainly have! They have created a wonderful environment for the children's return. We now have a seaside along the corridor and the classrooms look spectacular. If you get the chance please pop in and have a look.

Drop off and collection

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support with the arrangements at drop off and collection. Your understanding, patience and kind words at the start

of the week really helped what could have been an otherwise negative start for everyone. By day two I think collection was working well. Your junior children will get used to where you stand and it will become a routine for them. Filtering Infant parents out along the pedestrian path also eased congestion.

It is wonderful to see the junior children walking in confidently and leaving parents at the gate. Hopefully it helps parents too as it means you can make a quick get away!

If your child is anxious about this please speak to us as some parents have and we will find a solution. Juniors can arrive as they have been and filter straight in to the locker area rather than wait on the MUGA; this has been shared with them. This will naturally stagger the number of children at the lockers making it less busy. Infant doors will open at 8.45am so please don't arrive too early with Infant children.

Our leadership structure

We have had a recent development in the leadership structure that I would like to share with you. The school now has two deputy headteachers: Mrs Jones and Mrs Dallaway who we were delighted to welcome back from her maternity at the end of last term. As the school has grown it has become very evident that we will benefit from increased capacity to manage the ever increasing workload! Mrs Dallaway is also teaching for two days a week in year 5 this year.

We have also gained Sue Bateman who many of you will know as a parent and member of the PFA to the office team. She is predominantly supporting the Inclusion team but will also be in the office to ease the pressure on Mrs Gillbanks



Year 2 having fun on their stunning start!



Mrs Dallaway
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Jones
Deputy Headteacher

PROUD OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

The school takes pride in all of its achievements and last year was quite remarkable for many reasons, gaining Teaching School status and becoming a national support school, Flagship status again as part of the Inclusion Mark, an Ofsted and also our results!

It was a testament to staff's hard work, to the loyalty and continued support of all our families and school partners, and to our pupils' enthusiasm and passion for learning. We now have a six year rising trend in all subjects. Our results exceeded our targets and the average for all national and East Sussex schools! The progress our pupils make is outstanding.

We do set aspirational targets for ourselves and we have exceeded the progress made by schools in the top 25% percentile nationally and for some subjects the top 5%!

A phenomenal achievement! I am so proud of our pupils. Take a look at how well they did!

KEY STAGE 2 RESULTS				
KS2	2017		2018	
	Polegate	National	Polegate	National
Reading Expected	68	71	85	75
Reading Greater depth	30	25	42	28
Writing Expected	81	76	87	78
Writing Greater depth	25	18	30	20
Maths Expected	87	75	92	76
Maths Greater depth	25	23	27	24

The table below shows progress which is even more important than the results themselves because they show how far our pupils came and how hard they worked.

PROGRESS		
Reading	Writing	Maths
+2.9	+2	+2

What progress measures mean

Most schools will have progress scores between -5 and +5.

If a school has a progress score of 0 this means that on average their pupils achieved similar results at the end of KS2 (end of year 6) to pupils in other schools with similar results at the end of KS1 (end of year 2).

If a school has a positive progress score this means that on average their pupils made more progress than pupils in other schools with similar results at the end of KS1.

For example: a score of +3 in reading would mean that on average pupils at the school got 3 scaled score points more in the KS2 English reading test, compared to other

pupils nationally with similar results at the end of KS1.

A negative score doesn't mean a school has failed or pupils have made no progress. It just means that on average their pupils have made less progress than pupils in other schools with similar results at the end of KS1.

All of these achievements in a school which has accommodated extra pupils without the facilities or resources yet just shows how determined we all are to maintain an exceptional standard of education for your children. We will not allow all these other pressures to detract from what is most important to us- your children and their success. Forget outstanding we are aiming for exceptional and each and every one of us in the school shares this ambition. This brings me on nicely to our school priorities for 2018-2019 and I always like to share these with you.

These are areas that we focus on throughout the year to improve outcomes for your children. In the distant past reading was a focus. Through working together we can make such a difference! Just look at the results now!

Our focus this year

This year our focus is on improving attainment in **writing** for our **Infant children**, especially **boys** who do not reach the same standards as girls at the moment. This is a national challenge but I am sure we can help our boys do even better.

For our junior children we want **girls'** progress to match that of our boys in **maths**. They make good progress but our boys do even better.

The final priority relates to our **free school meal pupils** who make excellent progress but are not yet reaching the **highest levels**. By the end of Year 6 we want our free school meal pupils to achieve greater depth. To do this they will need to be in school and you will know from our Ofsted that this was the only target we were given, to increase the attendance of our free school meal pupils. To match that of others. It is quite telling that this group have the lowest attendance and do not reach greater depth in their tests. The correlation is quite clear. Those pupils that come to school regularly do better.



POLEGATE CROSSING CLOSURE

I have been informed by Network Rail that Polegate level crossing will be closed while drainage works are carried out underneath the tracks over the weekend of 15/16 September.

I have received this information from Maria Caulfield:

To carry out the work, Network Rail will need to close the crossing to both vehicles and pedestrians as there is no way to operate the machinery safely while also keeping the crossing open. The crossing will be closed from 11:45pm on Friday 14 September until 04:00am on Monday 17 September. As a result, Polegate station will also be closed over the weekend with replacement bus services in operation.

To help mitigate the impact on local residents, Network Rail will be operating a free taxi service to shuttle

residents between each side of the crossing. There will be two vehicles in operation between 07:00 and 23:00 on both Saturday and Sunday. The journey time between the two sides of the level crossing is estimated at 10-15 minutes, depending on traffic (the route for diversions will be clearly signposted for road users). The station footbridge at Polegate will remain open as an

alternative option for those able to use this crossing, but it is understandable that this is not suitable for everyone.

I want to ensure that as many residents as possible are aware of this closure well in advance, so please do feel free to share this email with friends and family in Polegate and the surrounding areas.



STARS OF THE YEAR

A very big well done to our Stars of the Year for 2018-2019.

They did not get a mention in the final newsletter of last year but they certainly deserve one now. I would like to congratulate them on their hard work. This is such a special achievement and I loved listening to the reasons why each child was selected by their teachers especially as the reasons were so varied.

They were not the children who were necessarily the most confident or the most academic but they were the children who perhaps quietly 'got on', who behaved all the time and were exemplary role models for others.

I was delighted to see their beaming smiles as they were announced!



COMMUNICATION

Following feedback from our Think tank group of parents we would like to share each teacher's work email.

It was felt this would help all parents but especially our working parents who find it harder to liaise with their child's class teacher. I am sure you will all welcome this additional means of communication and appreciate you may not get an immediate response.

I have given strict guidance to teachers on how and when they respond as many already work exceptionally long hours with planning and preparation extending well

beyond the school day. I have a responsibility to staff and do not want them to feel pressure to respond to emails beyond the normal working day.

You are welcome and encouraged to send emails but please do not expect a response that day if it is sent after 5.30pm. I know they will do their utmost to respond as soon as possible and I know you will all be understanding of the other commitments they have.

You will soon receive your classes own welcome letter and emails will be shared in this for class teachers.

KEY CONTACTS

ROLE IN SCHOOL	NAME	EMAIL
Headteacher's PA & School Secretary	Kerry Gillbanks	office@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
Inclusion assistant	Linda Lord	l.lord@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
Inclusion assistant	Sue Bateman	s.bateman@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
SENDCO	Una Holbrook	u.holbrook@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
Leader of learning year 5 & 6	Amy Regan	a.regan@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
Leader of learning year 2 & 3	Amie Ashdown	a.ashdown@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
Deputy Headteacher Leader of Early Years & year 1	Debbie Jones	d.jones@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
Deputy Headteacher Leader of year 4	Gill Dallaway	g.dallaway@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
Headteacher	Claire Martin-O'Donoghue	c.martin-odonoghue@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

Come and say hello

I am always available for an informal chat before or after school when I am outside along with my deputy headteachers.

If you have a concern or question please raise it with us. The first person to speak to you is usually your child's class teacher. Generally matters can get dealt with very quickly by the teachers reducing the need for too many staff to get involved. The next person would be the Leader of learning and then deputy and head.

Wonderful Work

Following Think Tank feedback we are adding a slot to the day in the hope that parents that can't make the afterschool session may be able to pop in before school. **8am-8.30am**

STUNNING STARTS

Stunning starts provided lots of excitement on day 1



The spacemen landed in Year 1 and there was a small alien invasion!



Year 3 became inventors



Year 6 were transported to the trenches for a whole new experience!



A Victorian museum appeared in year 5

BEHAVIOUR IN POLEGATE SCHOOL

September is always a good time to revisit some of our policies, not only for our new parents but also a reminder for existing parents.

As a school we pride ourselves on the behaviour of our pupils and have very clear policies in place to encourage good behaviour.

To view the policy in full have a look on our website at <http://polegateschool.co.uk/about-us/school-policies/> and click on our code of conduct policy.

Learning

We promote good learning through our 'Learning without limits' bookmarks. On these the children need to collect 10 stickers to move up each rung of the ladder. Once they reach the top they are rewarded with a 'Learning without Limits' certificate in assembly. The stickers are awarded for 'Good Learning'. After collecting 6 Learning without Limits

certificates they achieve, bronze, then silver then gold progressively.

Pupils are now achieving silver and gold!

We think it is vital that children can enjoy uninterrupted learning free from any distractions. At Polegate School we expect pupils to come to school to learn and teachers to come to school to teach. Both should be able to do so to the best of their ability. To support this we will follow a 'good to be green' system. Every child in the class has a named card which is green on one side and amber on the reverse which is kept in a pocket on display in class.

- After an incident of poor behaviour all teachers will follow these steps initially with a verbal warning no consequence for this. Clear explanation for child to ensure they understand.

- If behaviour continues the child is expected to turn their card to amber. This will result in the child being unable to achieve Star of the Week; in KS1 kept in for 5 minutes; in KS2 kept in for 10 minutes. The incident is recorded.
- If continued the child is expected to place a red consequence card in their pocket. At this point they are referred to a member of SLT to complete work, discuss behaviour....
- If it continues they will place a Time Out card in their pocket.
- If your child is sent to Time Out you will receive a letter home informing you why. If your child is repeatedly receiving warnings you will be notified by the class teacher so that together we can work together to prevent poor behaviour escalating.

MILLIONAIRE READERS 2017-18

What a fantastic first year we had celebrating Millionaire Readers – well done to all children for participating and creating such a buzz about their reading!

Whenever children complete an AR quiz, it counts the number of words that they have read. Our Millionaire Readers are those children who manage to achieve 1 million words during the academic year.

Our 2017-18 Millionaire Reader Champions

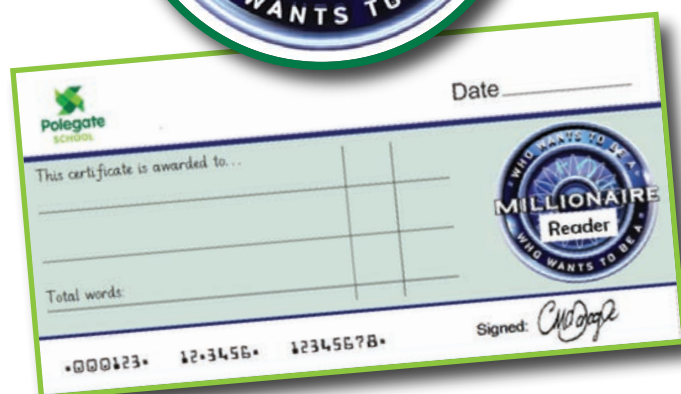
Eva Smith	3,201,401
Alyssa Hatch	2,569,846
Ben Board	2,358,987
Flo Clark	2,279,591
Amber Harris	2,183,997
Maya Bruce	2,031,143
Thomas Marsh	1,912,512
Gethin Budden	1,665,257
Sienna Herbert	1,438,361
Cavan Martin-O'Donoghue	1,140,483
Henry Martens	1,312,576
Yasmin Skinner	1,267,883
Jasmin Jose	1,248,070
Alona Thomas	1,200,617
Hattie Clark	1,117,730

Our top three classes for 2017 - 2018 were:

3Mc	14,578,600
5W	10,093,089
6M	7,758,597

Millionaire Readers for 2018 – 2019 is already up and running and some pupils are already on their way! Who will be our first Millionaire Reader? Who will achieve it by the end of the academic year?

Happy reading!



FUNDRAISING



LEAVERS' PARTY

The PFA did it again! Our Year 6 pupils were given the opportunity to have a terrific celebration event to mark the end of their time at Polegate School.

You will see from the photos the fun they all had. It is always sad and there were a few tears shed.

I am hoping they have all had a great first week at their new secondary schools. We have had a few visits already!



100% attendance for the year 2017-18

A growing number of children are now achieving 100% attendance each year!

The increase is very impressive, thank you for working with us on improving how often your children are in school.

Our 100% Attendance Stars

Jessica Stevenson	RV	Felix Hudson	2B	Oscara Noakes	4D
Mason Wimalasena	RV	Joseph Moore	2B	Lewis Baker	5GK
Scarlett Harris	RH	Todd Phillimore	2B	Owen Groombridge	5GK
Jack Hyne	RH	Olivia Videan	2B	Lily Mai Watts	5GK
Ethan Peters	1N	Ryan Diplock	3M	Kate Aamer	5W
Florence Redstone	1N	Mia Hoggins	3M	Christopher Clepsa	5W
Tyler Simms	1N	Edward Wagstaff	3M	Isabelle Gunter	5W
Takuma Trott	1N	Tyler Ware	3M	Daisy Lawrence	5W
Sefton Heron	1B	Matthew Richardson	3Mc	Sam Hamilton	6M
Alaya Johnson	1B	Dylan Briggs	3Mc	Carla Tad-y	6M
Finley Pain	1B	Alfie Hanmore	4M	Olivia Watson	6M
Alfie Bourne	1Y	Matthew Redstone	4M	Liam Harris	6R
Eli Netschepir	1Y	Bianca Tad-y	4M	Sam Rouse	6R
Caitlyn Simms	1Y	Jake Warby	4M		
Kt Collyer	2B	Alfie Manning	4D		



ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Last Year's Prize Winner

Congratulations to Lily May Watts for winning the prize draw.

She is now the proud owner of a brand new bike and she had plenty of opportunity to ride it during the summer.



This Years Prize

We are going to offer another prize this year for the children that achieve our whole of school target of at least 98%.

We are going to consult the children on the prize they would most like and share in the next newsletter.

Remember each term we reward those children that attend school every day and they get a prize. The children love this and wanted it to continue. Alongside this we also offer a reward to the class or classes with the highest attendance each term so we recognise not just individual but team efforts as well. We have had roller discos, visits from the ice cream van, a cinema experience in school to name just a few.



Last year's school attendance

Last year the whole school attendance was 96.8% Our free school meals pupils attendance was only 94%.

RV = 95%	3M = 96%
RH = 96%	3Mc = 97%
RHi = 96%	4M = 96%
1N = 97%	4D = 96%
1B = 96%	5GK = 97%
1Y = 96%	5W = 96%
2B = 97%	6M = 97%
2A = 97%	6R = 96%

This year's school attendance so far

1B = 95%	3B = 100%
1Y = 92.5%	4D = 92%
1C = 90%	4B = 93%
2A = 93%	5W = 91%
2M = 100%	5GD = 100%
2H = 96%	6M = 95%
3M = 100%	6R = 96%

There is a huge difference between classes and I find it quite shocking that 1Y and 1C, 4D, 4B and 5W have attendance so low given it is the start of the year. It will be quite unsettling for those children to return to school after all their friends. Thank you to those parents who have ensured their child gets the best start and sent them in every day.

2M, 3M, 3B, 5GD all have 100% attendance!

DIARY DATES

12th October
Firework Evening

16th October
Wonderful work
8-8.30am
& 3-3.30pm

5th & 7th
November
Parent consultation
meetings

9th November
School closed
Inset day

20th November
PFA AGM

PAST PUPILS

We love hearing about the success of pupils that came to Polegate School. We don't forget about them when they leave us! I was delighted to receive messages from two proud parents at the end of last term.

Jake Howlett

Jake Howlett gained a FIRST in his masters degree in Aerospace/ Aeronautical engineering!

I think you will agree these are incredible results. Jake obviously took our mascots catch phrase to its extreme- to infinity and beyond! He clearly might be sending astronauts into space.

Megan Fellows

Megan Fellows gained a BA Honours FIRST class degree in Journalism and English.

I am very proud to say you came to Polegate School and even more proud of you both!

WRITING JOURNALS

Some eager writers have already shared their writing journals with me.

I think the recent summer writing challenge was a big hit!

The journals I read were very imaginative and showed a real

motivation to write. Thank Leo and Jazmin for sharing yours with me. I enjoyed reading them while I had my coffee.

We will be sharing these with you in the next newsletter.

Diary Dates

Friday 9th
November
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 892 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

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