

# news

December 2017



## In This Issue

Fabulous Finish	2
Polegate Choir	2
Design Winner	3
Diary Dates	3
Great Work	4
Book Fayre	4
Library Campaign	5
Leo Davies	5
Christmas Fair	6
PFA Members	7
Year 6 Letters	8
School Expansion	9
Parent Support/Drop In	11
Attendance	12

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

**As we approach the final few days of this term, I would like to wish you a fabulous Christmas!**

The children have worked so hard all term; they are certainly ready for a break and an opportunity to recharge their batteries (whilst wearing yours out no doubt!)

This has been such a busy and productive term and so there is so much to celebrate. From Nativity shows to magical Christmas

films, trips, competitions, events alongside all the inspiring work going on in classes!

Not only do the children need to rest and recharge but the staff do too. A huge amount of effort, energy and dedication have gone into this term's events and I would like to say a huge thank you to them and wish them a very peaceful, relaxing holiday!



# A FABULOUS FINISH

**Across the school in classes they have been enjoying their fabulous finish for their current tropics.**

In year 5 this involved a marvellous Victorian tea experience in the hall complete with singing and film. Thank you to all the families that supported this. The children worked really hard baking Victoria sponges and scones throughout the week.

In year 4 they enjoyed a Roman day and were busy creating models and using clay. I would like to thank parents for supporting these special days. The children looked stunning in their Roman attire as they arrived at school. It is these kind of days that make school and learning so memorable and fun. We love being able to provide these experiences for your children.

**Some stunning starts await the children on their return in 2018!**



## OUR SUCCESS

**Our success has once again been recognised, this time by the Standards and Testing Agency.**

They wanted to find strong examples of pupils' writing with a view to using it as part of national exemplification and training. As our pupils' writing evidence was so strong we have been asked to provide our year 6 writing from last year!

I can promise you that writing across the school just gets better and better every year and the quality is quite stunning! We regularly have staff from secondary schools visit to see the high standards our pupils achieve.

**They are always amazed!**

## POLEGATE CHOIR

**Polegate Choir have been very busy!**



**They have represented the school and had the opportunity to sing at numerous community events and have visited the local rest homes to bring some festive cheer to the local community.**

Thank you to all the children and families for driving to events after school and at the weekend giving them the opportunity to put into practice all that wonderful singing they do at the after school club.



# CONGRATULATIONS DYLAN

**YOUR DESIGN IS GOING TO NUMBER 10!**



## BUILDING WORK

Thank you all for your patience with the building work that is happening on the school nursery site. This is due to be completed by March when we will be able to offer extra places.

## DIARY DATES

**Tuesday 2nd January**  
**Inset Day**

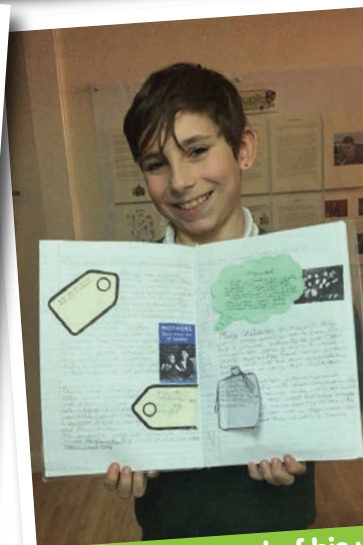
**Thursday 8th February**  
**Wonderful work after school**

**Monday 5th & Wednesday 7th March**  
**Parent consultation meetings**

# GREAT WORK



Such impressive work! Kiera thinks this topic is amazing!

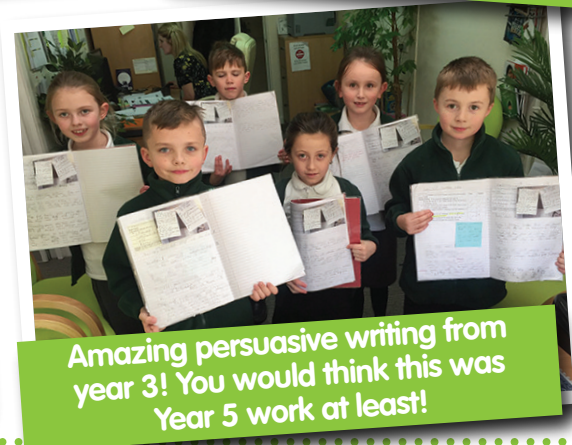
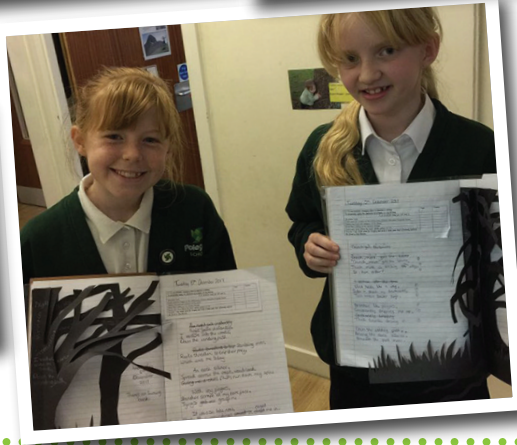


Tristan is very proud of his work on World War II evacuees!



Gracie and her amazing home learning! Worried faces...excited faces... time to test!

Amazing poetry and so beautifully presented, Poppy and Hattie



Amazing persuasive writing from year 3! You would think this was Year 5 work at least!

# BOOK FAYRE

The Scholastic book fayre raised £630. This is a wonderful amount and the success of this event is largely due to the very diligent and passionate year 6 that ran the fayre every day before and after school (with a little help from Miss Murphy!)

Scholastic kindly turn this amount into rewards for us to spend in our school library.





# LIBRARY CAMPAIGN

## A phenomenal success - I think I could easily be out of a job!

I would like to thank families that have been really proactive and joined the campaign to save our local library. Your efforts have been incredible, even making the local newspapers and television!



We were joined by councillor Michael Ensor for an assembly in which the children presented their arguments for why the library should be saved. The decision will be made in March and now we wait to hear the final verdict.

**Michael Ensor wrote a lovely letter to us following his visit:**

'What a delight it was for me to visit Polegate Primary School and to attend your whole school assembly on Monday afternoon. I know the purpose was to hear the petition to keep the Polegate Library open, but to see all of your delightful children so engaged in this subject it was quite inspiring to me.'

This has been a really important 'real life' lesson for the children. No matter what the decision they have learnt that they can play an active part in their own community and stand up for what they believe in. They will know that they did everything they could and were active citizens. I feel very proud of them.

## THE SECRET LIFE OF LEO DAVIES!

A wonderful Twitter post appeared showing Leo being presented with the Queen's Award for voluntary service, this is in recognition for the voluntary work that the charity does in the local community and is the highest award given to any voluntary group in the UK! Quite an achievement!

Leo is a huge part of the charity and is a great little fundraiser. He is seen as a key member of the charity and has been delivering blood to the hospitals since before he was even born!

SERV Sussex was started in 1981 and was created to transport emergency blood, blood products, medical samples and in more recent years donor human breast milk for premature babies.

SERV covers all the major hospitals in Sussex and operates 365 days a year between 7pm and 6am.

90% of the runs are completed by volunteers using their own vehicles at their own expense.

Each year SERV Sussex alone saves Sussex hospitals on average £150,000 which can then go back into patient care.



## BAD DAD

This book has been a huge hit across the school and all the children are buzzing about reading which is brilliant and exactly what I wanted.

Every class had their own copy so we have all been reading the story together and this has created a real reading community. We have also invested in a number of copies of all of David Walliam's books and they have just flown off the shelves!



# CHRISTMAS FAIR

The PFA have been busy supporting the school and raising funds for all of our children since September.

**Following our AGM in September, several new members came on board including our new Chair, Rachel Keen...you can find out more about her in this newsletter!**

You will no doubt have seen us helping at cake sales and making cups of tea and coffee at events such as Parents Evening...thank you to everyone that has made donations or contributed cakes, it is very much appreciated.

Our main fundraiser in the Autumn terms is the Annual Firework night. What an amazing night it was, raising a huge amount, £6612.47 to be exact! Thank you to everyone who helped to organise the event, to all those who donated items for the night and also to all of you for coming along!

Every penny we make goes into supporting the school to fund all the little extras that make school life an even more exciting and fun place to be. We are fundraising this year for a 'Scrapstore Playpod' that the children will be able to use at their break/lunch times to create games, challenges and generally have a lot of fun!

Our final event of 2017 was the Christmas Fair on Friday 15th December, Thank you so much to all of you that supported this event, whether it was coming along and spending your pennies (and pounds!) on the day, buying raffle tickets beforehand, donating items or lending us a hand...every little thing you do really does make a difference so THANK YOU! A huge thanks too to all those of you who stepped in on the day to help us run the event, we couldn't have

done it without you. A final figure for the amount raised will be on its way soon...

If you would be interested in getting involved with the PFA, we would love to welcome you on board! Watch out for the next meeting date on our noticeboard.

If you would like to help us out with any of our fundraising but cannot commit to being on the committee and coming along to meetings we are always looking for PFA supporters that we can call upon when we need help. Please do let one of the PFA know if you are interested in getting involved.

**Don't forget you can follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with all of our events!**





# OUR PFA MEMBERS

**We would like to introduce you to our new PFA Members.**



## **Rachel Keen Chair**

**I am Rachel and in September 2017 I took on the role of Chair!**

I always knew that I wanted to get involved with the PFA and when my daughter started in Reception this year I got involved...I wasn't expecting to be Chair straightaway but the role needed filling and I was willing!

I am passionate about supporting the school and raising funds to enable them to provide all of our children with the extras that make their experience at school even more enjoyable and fulfilling. My husband jokes that one of my talents is spending money and so therefore this is the perfect role for me!

When I'm not busy with my PFA role, I am mummy to two gorgeous children, three crazy animals...and my husband! I am also a Veterinary Nurse. In my spare time I love planning our holidays, swimming and plenty of quality family time.

I am really looking forward to my future as PFA chair and to working with the great PFA team, and all of you, to provide as much as we can for all the wonderful children at Polegate School.



## **Sue Bateman Vice-Chair**

**I got involved with the PFA, as I wanted to make a difference to my children's education.**

Schools are seriously underfunded and it's good to know you've been able to make a difference. I also like the community spirit that comes from events like Firework night, Christmas and Summer fairs. It's so rewarding to see the enjoyment that the children get from attending these events and also in the build up to them. My son is in Year 6 and my daughter now attends Willingdon Secondary school and is in Year 9. In my spare time I enjoy walking my Labrador and Reading a good book!



## **Eve Noakes Treasurer**

**I am in my second year on the committee for the PFA, having joined once my youngest was at school full time.**

I work for the Halifax so I guess my banking background was a contributing factor to taking on the role as treasurer. I have been coming to the annual fireworks display long before my children started school so being involved in the events and being able

to support the school is fantastic

I have two children at Polegate school, my son Oscara, who is crazy about maths, in year 4 and my daughter Aeryn, who is just crazy, in year 1.

When I'm not working or PFAing I am usually busy being crafty, either sewing (usually a costume for an assembly they happened to forget to tell me about) or designing and making jewellery.



## **Paula Partridge Secretary**

**I started helping the PFA at events when my son was in Year 1 as a friend on the PFA got me involved helping at discos, firework night and wrapping presents for the Mothers Day and Fathers Day rooms.**

Earlier this year, my son and I discussed how much we enjoyed helping at events so I decided it was time to join the committee myself! It is our small way of saying THANK YOU to the school and giving a little something back. At the first meeting this year I offered to become Secretary because somebody was needed and also because I felt my strengths in administrative tasks from my job as an Office Manager for Burning Sky Brewery would be really useful.

I really enjoy Motorsport and up until this year regularly raced my own Kart at Lydd Kart Circuit. I retired as Mason has now taken up Karting, so my fastest engine has now been passed onto him! I am now trackside as his mechanic, with help from Grandad when it gets complicated!

# EMOTIONAL LETTERS WRITTEN BY YEAR 6

Wednesday 15th November 2017

To my Private Peaceful Dear Private Peaceful,

I must tell you something. It's vital, I tell you. I must tell you something, something vital to your future. My time has come. My time has come Tommo, my time has come. It's hard to come. It's hard to believe this my friend, but this is the end, the end of my life. I will watch you forever onwards. I've never said this to you before, but I love you, to the moon and back on all that gubble gubble. I mean it though Tommo, I really do.

Knowing you, Mate, you'll be crying your eyes out: remember, don't cry for my death, cry to celebrate my life. I will be there; up above you. I'll admit it Tommo, I really will. I'll admit it Tommo, I've been a fool, and I've been unbearable at times, but I guess it's too late. This is my last chance to communicate with you, I guess, so I'm so I've made mistakes, we all have. I've made mistakes - we all have. I'm away.

I've made mistakes - we all have. However, if you look to them. However, I have a way to forget them. However, if you live a free and happily happy life, you will be my hero, Britavia's hero! Learn to forget those moments and live the life I never could. Throughout this dark time you have been that little light at the end of the tunnel for me, for everyone. Although this could be the end. Despite this being the end of my game, my spirit will always stay by your side, until you join me in heaven.

Look on the bright side; I guess Molly is yours now. If you were to look over that rainbow of hope & life; you'd see you are now married & married to Molly. Chin up, ch! There is a bright side (for once)! My spirit shall care for you, love you.

The love of my life is going to need your help; you when you return, you will help my Molly raise. After this dreadful battle, the love of my life (Molly) is going to need your help; I am trusting you to become the proud father of the other Tommo. Peaceful life is boring life is short - enjoy it while you can, and pass my words; you are the perfect father. Life is short - enjoy it while you can, and whatever you do, don't stop believing.

This is the end of boy, this is the end. Since this is the only way is the only time to express my feelings, I'll do it now. I love you from the bottom of my heart, and cannot thank you enough: thanks. You have been my inspiration, and I will miss you too much. I may've gone, yet this is your chance to show the family that you're not just Tommo, shadow of Charlie, but Tommo, the man of the house. You are one in a million.

You are one in a million Tommo,

Love the other Private Peaceful.

By Hattie Clark

Wednesday 5th November 2017

Dear Tommo,

I'm afraid to say I might not see you ever again. When you read this letter, I will be dead. Up with the birds. But, don't worry, don't fear, I'll always be with you. //

Carry on having your own adventures ~~with~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~also~~ <sup>also</sup> having my own with Molly and Biggie whilst I'm having them up here with Pele and little Lez. You'll make it on your own, Tommo. If you ever need me don't look in the grass or the birds, but simply in your heart. I will guide the way. You will always I will help you in bed. You will see me at dark times because I'm that star twinkling to you every night. //

Remember me like the happy spirit I used to be; rolling in the grass and swinging in the trees. Be the father ~~take care of~~ <sup>go the</sup> little Tommo for me. Chin up, look after yourself kiddo. Tell the family the truth Tommo.

Was this is our last goodbye, so you're my best friend; I never got to express that, so I love you to the moon and back. Tommo.

Why did it have to end like this?

Love Charlie xxx

The other Private Peaceful. xxx

By Rosey Blackwell

## OUTDOOR GYM

I hope that when the children all return they will be greeted by the sight of a new outdoor gym!

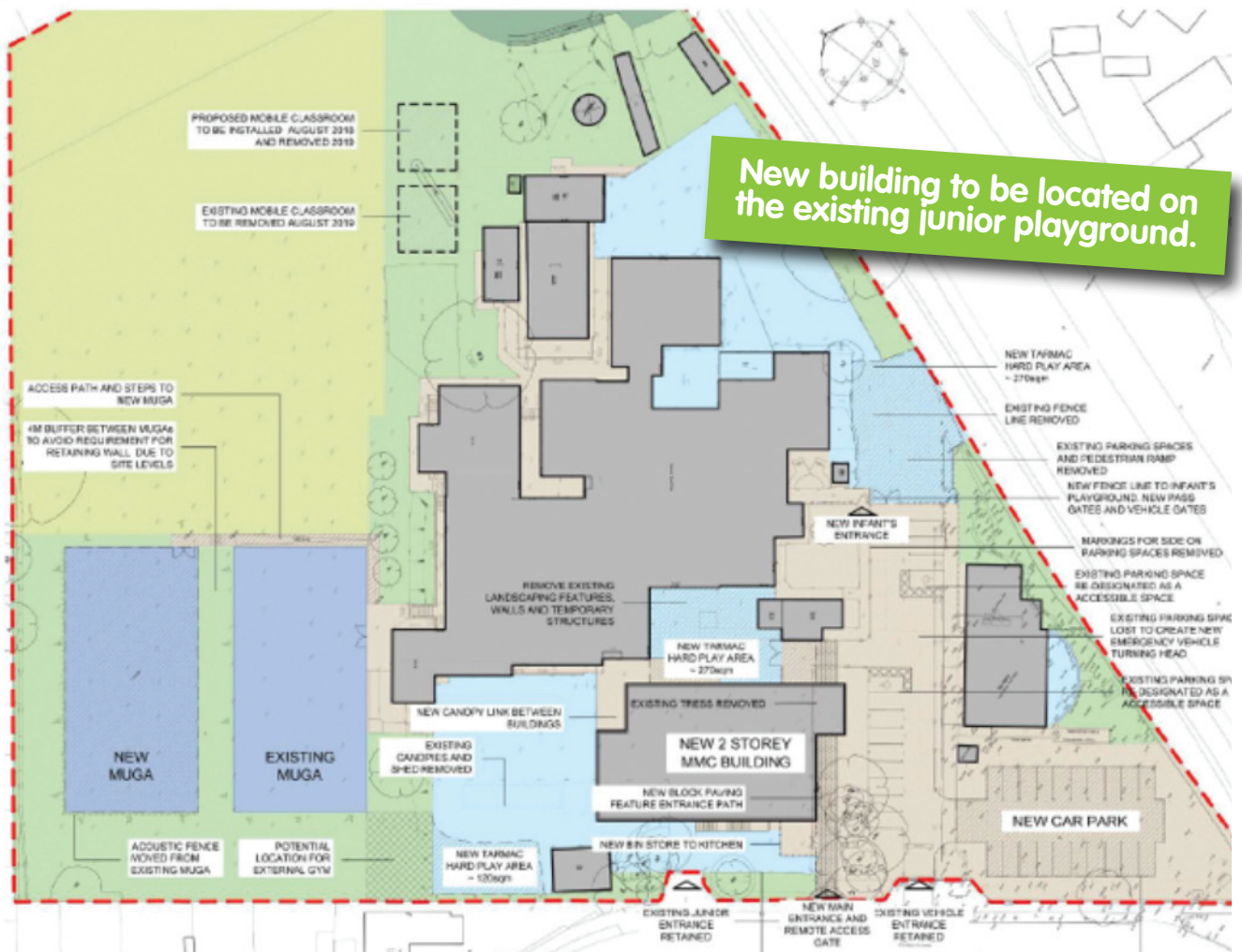
This equipment is for Key stage 2 children and older. Who knows we may be offering parent/ teacher gym sessions in the New Year as well!





# SCHOOL EXPANSION

Many of you came in for the consultation and had a look at the proposals but for those of you that didn't I thought I would include it in the newsletter.

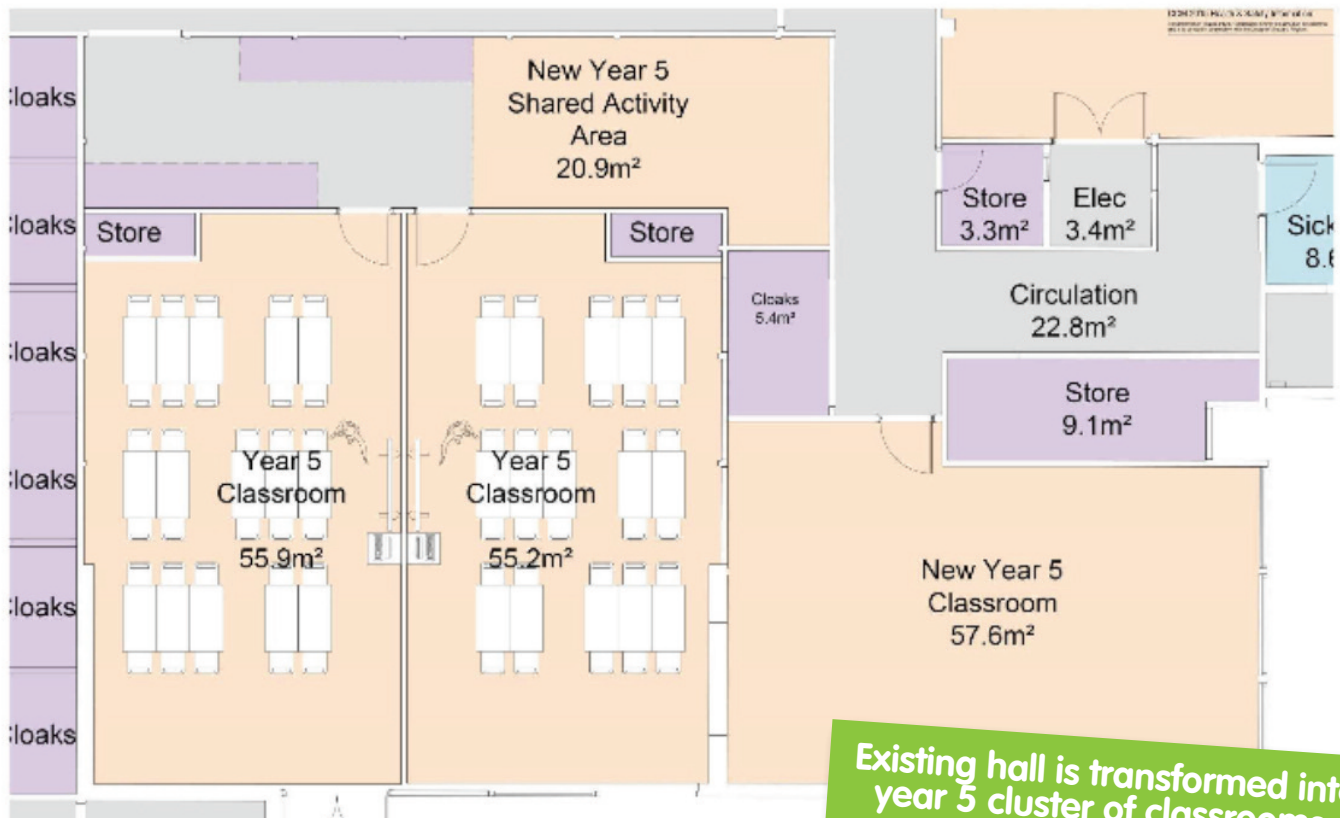


New building to be located on the existing junior playground.



External view of new build.

## Ground floor level including new larger hall.



## Existing hall is transformed into year 5 cluster of classrooms.



# PARENT SUPPORT ADVISOR/DROP-IN

**Coffee  
Mornings**

**Thursday  
11th January 2018**

.....  
**Thursday 25th January**

.....  
**Thursday 8th February**

**Triple P Team Anne-Marie in attendance**

.....  
**Thursday 22nd February**

.....  
**Thursday 8th March**

**Triple P Team Anne-Marie in attendance**

.....  
**Thursday 22nd March**

**Every other  
Thursday in the  
SANCTUARY  
from  
9-10am**

To meet with Family Support Advisor Amanda Nippard and Ann Marie Cox, Triple P Parenting Team to discuss any particular challenges you may have with your child: bedtimes, routines, refusing homework, challenging behavior/or are you struggling personally and need some advice or signposting.

**Want to  
chat to  
other  
parents?**

**All  
parents  
are  
welcome**

**Worried  
about your  
child?  
1-1 sessions are  
available**

# Every School Day Counts

## The Effect of Absence on School Progress

It is quite staggering to see the amount of time missed over a year and it is easy to forget when we look at a percentage how many days that actually is over a year.



### Class figures

Overall school attendance is currently at 95.75%. Our school target this year is 97%.

RV = 95%	1B = 97%	3M = 97%	5GK = 96%
RH = 92%	1Y = 92%	3Mc = 98%	5W = 96%
RHi = 97%	2B = 96%	4M = 95%	6M = 97%
1N = 95%	2A = 96%	4D = 96%	6R = 96%

### Diary Dates

Wednesday  
2nd JANUARY  
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 816 followers!



Polegate School  
Oakleaf Drive  
Polegate  
East Sussex BN26 6PT  
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](http://www.polegateschool.co.uk)

Designed by Proworx: [www.proworx.co.uk](http://www.proworx.co.uk)