Polegate SCHOOL

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

news

October 2026



WHAT A TERM WE HAVE HAD!

As we reach the end of Term 1, it is lovely to reflect on what a fun and exciting term it has been. The children have thoroughly enjoyed an array of activities, experiences and special events, creating many happy memories along the way.

We have welcomed some fascinating visitors, including owls, which gave the children the opportunity to learn more about these impressive birds. We have also enjoyed the support of our new catering team, who have been providing delicious meals for the children to enjoy each day.

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WHAT A TERM WE HAVE HAD!

Year 1 had a wonderful opportunity to visit the local high street, making links between their classroom learning and the world around them.

There has also been plenty of football, including the exciting experience of playing at Brighton and Hove Albion.

The children have shown great enthusiasm, teamwork and enjoyment during these opportunities.

Author visits have added another special dimension to our term, inspiring the children to read, listen and share their own ideas. These are just some of the highlights from a busy term, alongside many other activities and experiences – and much, much more!

I think we all deserve a week off to recharge our batteries before beginning Term 2 with renewed enthusiasm and energy. We hope everyone enjoys a restful break and returns ready for another term of learning, laughter and new experiences.

YELLOW DAY

On Friday 9th October, we celebrated Yellow Day to get our school community talking about Mental Health and how to look after our minds.

In class, children talked about their wellbeing and what activities we enjoy to help us when we are feeling low. Some of the ideas were, playing outside, reading, drawing, listening to music, exercising, talking to someone we trust, playing a game and singing. We also took time to notice the 12 rocks of wellbeing which are displayed around our school to give us more ideas about looking after ourselves.

Thank you so much for all your support to make our first Yellow Day such a huge success. We raised an incredible amount of money which we are going to use to buy two buddy benches to support play time loneliness and friendships. It was wonderful to see all the amazing yellow outfits which really brightened up the school on a wet and cloudy Friday.

"It was so great to see everyone so happy and smiling" – Edie in 4H

Thank you again for your generosity and support. Mrs Hibberd is still on the lookout for the perfect benches so for any ideas or family connections which could help, please email: **j.hibberd@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk**



500 WORDS

500 Words, the UK's largest story writing competition for 5-11 year-olds, is now open for entries! Make sure you submit stories before the deadline, at 9pm, Friday 6 November.



The competition celebrates children's creativity and imagination, encouraging children from across the UK to create an original story in 500 words or fewer.

There are two age categories: 5-7 & 8-11 year-olds.

Click here to find out more

PRIMARY SCIENCE QUALITY MARK

Polegate School are pleased to announce that we are one of 227 schools that has achieved Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) this month, a nationally recognised accreditation that celebrates a commitment to developing excellence in science leadership, curriculum design, teaching and learning.



Helen Sizer, PSQM Director said: 'The Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) recognises a school's commitment to developing and strengthening science education, celebrating the positive impact this has on children's learning and understanding of the world around them. Our congratulations go to the whole school community on this achievement and particularly to the school's science subject leaders, who have led this process through participation in the PSQM professional learning programme and by driving a cycle of reflection, development and improvement across the school. Their leadership helps to ensure that all children benefit from high-quality science teaching and learning. Everyone involved should be very proud of the positive difference they are making to children's learning and of their commitment to continuous improvement in primary science education.'

WOW - WALK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

WOW – the walk to school challenge helps pupils build strong, lifelong habits by making walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling a simple, fun part of the journey to school. Pupils log their daily journeys, earn collectable badges and feel proud of their progress.



FOREST SCHOOL

In forest school we have been exploring the change in season by finding mushrooms after making fairy doors and making animals from pumpkins.

At afterschool club we celebrated the end of the sessions by cooking marshmallows over pumpkin fires.







PUMPKIN CARVING



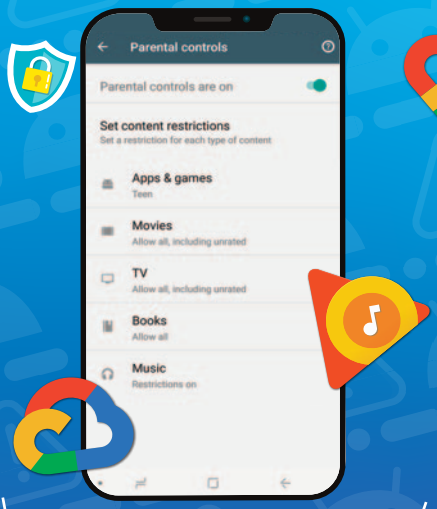
ONLINE SAFETY

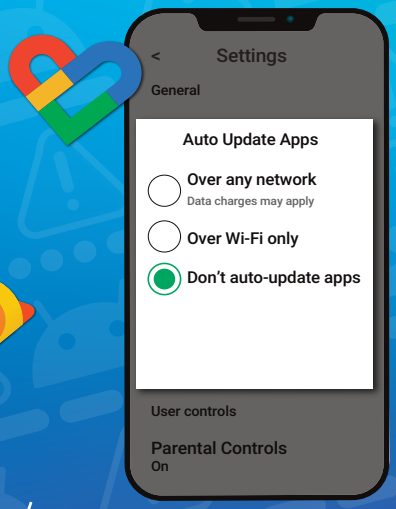
At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

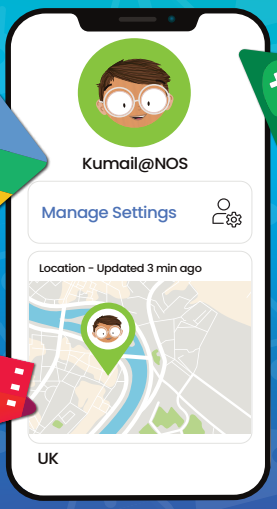
How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS

Android Phone

On Android phones, restricting access to particular apps usually requires going onto Google Play. From there, it's fairly easy to navigate your way through the settings to manage the parental controls and authentications relating to any apps on the device. These features can prevent your child from downloading or buying anything unsuitable for their age. Updated versions of apps or games that your child has already installed may occasionally contain something inappropriate, so we've explained how to stop those, too.







How to Block App Downloads (This Also Disables In-app Purchases):

1. Open Google Play Store
2. Tap the profile icon in the top right
3. Tap Settings
4. Scroll down to the Family section and tap Parental controls
5. Toggle 'Parental controls are off' to 'Parental controls are on'
6. Create a PIN and tap OK
7. Confirm your PIN and tap OK again
8. Tap Apps & Games
9. Set the age limit you wish to set
10. Tap Save to apply your changes

How to Stop Auto-updates

1. Open Google Play Store
2. Tap the profile icon in the top right
3. Tap Settings
4. Tap Auto-Update Apps
5. Select 'Don't auto-update apps' and then tap Done

Restricting Apps Through Google Family Link

1. Open Google Play Family Link for parents
2. Tap the three horizontal lines in the top left
3. Select your child's account
4. Tap Manage
5. Tap Controls on Google Play
6. Tap Apps & Games
7. Select the age limit you wish to set



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ONLINE SAFETY

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How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS

iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available: Mail, FaceTime and Safari, for example. However, you can choose which apps and features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games, as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.



How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
5. Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear(or disappear) on your child's device

How to Restrict Game Centre

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
5. Scroll down to Game Centre
6. Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends Only in the settings for each feature

How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases

1. Open Settings
2. Tap Screen Time
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
4. Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
5. Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)

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POETRY COMPETITION

Huge congratulations must go to Harlow, Aurora, Grace and Matilda, who took part in the 'LitFest Poetry Competition' held at the Eastbourne Library, on the 24th September.

These children had been selected from their year groups to represent Polegate, where they had to recite and perform a poem from memory.

I was the lucky member of staff who accompanied them to the venue. What an incredible afternoon for us all! The children displayed such professionalism; combatting nerves, performing in front of an audience and above all, supporting one another! I'm not sure adults could have been able to do what they did!!

We are all so proud of them and what an experience that will last a lifetime!!

Eastbourne LitFest

Diary Dates

26-30th October Half-term Holiday

PFA DATES

PFA DATES 2026-2027

20th November 2026
Winter Extravaganza (Fireworks)

4th December 2026
Wreath Making

1st February 2027
Second Hand Uniform Sale

11th February 2027
Valentines Disco

23rd February 2027
PFA meeting 7pm

2nd and 3rd March 2027
Mothers Day/Gifts for loved ones Gifts

6th March 2027
Bring-and-buy sale

24th May 2027
Second Hand Uniform Sale

1st June 2027
PFA meeting (time tbc)

4th June 2027
Freeze Pop Fridays start (Weather permitting)

15th and 16th June 2027
Fathers Day/Gifts for loved ones Gifts

17th June 2027
Summer Disco

17th July 2027
Summer Fair

Please note that all events are subject to change/cancellation where necessary.

AUTHOR VISIT

A Special Author Visit from Lindsay Galvin

We were delighted to welcome author Lindsay Galvin, who shared her amazing stories with us.

The children listened carefully, asked questions and enjoyed seeing her bring each story to life. They even acted out her stories, creating plenty of laughter and enthusiasm. If you enjoyed the visit, maybe you could read a book or 2 by Lindsay Galvin at home and discover more of her imaginative adventures together.









LA SEMAINE DU GOÛT

This week in France, people are celebrating La Semaine du Goût (Taste Week), a French tradition that encourages children to explore new foods, flavours and cultures.

We would love families to join in at home! You might like to try tasting some French foods, play a blindfold food-guessing game, learn a few French food words, or even create your own French café. Every little bit of French helps build confidence and curiosity about languages.

We have included some French vocabulary on the poster to help you get started:

- **J'aime... (I like...)**
- **Je n'aime pas... (I don't like...)**
- **C'est délicieux ! (It's delicious!)**
- **Croissant, fromage, pomme, raisin**

We would love to hear about your family's Taste Week adventures. Children are welcome to share photos, drawings, or stories of what they have been doing at home with their class teacher or myself, Miss Liddell, at a.liddell@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk.

Bon appétit and have fun exploring French food and language together!



A QUICK MORNING MESSAGE

Thank you for helping us make the start of each day run smoothly.

When dropping off children in the morning, our team is busy welcoming children with smiles and high 5's, helping everyone settle happily into the school day.

Please do not share messages in the morning, as they can be difficult to remember while we are supporting the children. To ensure important information is passed on safely and accurately, please email the class teachers or contact the school office. This gives us time to respond properly and ensures that your message reaches the right person.

WELL DONE, PHOEBE

We're delighted to share some fantastic news about one of our Year 6 pupils, Phoebe, who has been signed to the Chelsea FC Women's Pre-Academy for this season.



After re-trialling over the summer, Phoebe secured her place in the under-11s squad – an incredible achievement, as she's one of just 14 players selected from across 7 counties. This is a testament to her dedication, talent and hard work.

Phoebe now trains twice a week at Chelsea's training ground in Cobham.

We're incredibly proud of Phoebe and can't wait to see where her football journey takes her.

Well done, Phoebe – you're a superstar!

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS IMPROVING

Thank you to all our families for helping to improve school attendance.

Attending school every day is important because children can spend time with their friends, continue their learning, enjoy fun opportunities and make the most of each school day.

One day, we celebrated 98% attendance, which was a fantastic achievement for our school community. Children who collect 100% attendance stickers will be part of the prize draw, and they are really enjoying this challenge.

Bruno, the school dog, is here every day to welcome the children. His friendly greetings help everyone feel happy and ready to start the day.

LATEST ATTENDANCE FIGURES

RJ =	97.9%	2D =	97.2%	4H =	96.1%	6D =	96%
RKH =	94.6%	2H =	96.5%	4K =	95.5%	6L =	94.7%
RS =	97.3%	2S =	93.4%	4R =	96.9%	6W =	96.6%
1C =	98.1%	3B =	97.6%	5K =	95.8%		
1M =	93.5%	3L =	97.8%	5M =	96%		
1RS =	96.1%	3M =	95.3%	5W =	97%		

YEAR 3 SCIENCE

Year 3 got stuck into science, creating their own fossilisation process!







DIARY DATES

20th October
Parents Consultations

23rd October
Last Day of Term 1

26th – 30th October
October Half-term Holiday

2nd November
Term 2 starts

3rd November
1M & 3L Parents Consultations

5th November
Parents Consultations

10th November
Roving Bookshop

11th November
- New to Reception Parents Meeting @9am

12th November
New to Reception Parents Meeting @2pm

13th November
New to Reception Parents Meeting @5:30pm

13th November
3L Class Assembly

20th November
2H Class Assembly

20th November
Winter Extravaganza/Fireworks

27th November
1M Class Assembly

4th December
PFA Wreath Making

7th December
Rock Steady Christmas Concert

8th December
RJ Nativity Show @2pm

9th December
RKH Nativity Show @2pm

10th December
RS Nativity Show @2pm

10th December
Reading Café

17th December
Christmas Dinner

18th December
INSET Day

21st December – 1st January
Christmas Holiday

4th January
Term 3 Starts

MATHS CHALLENGE

Maths Reasoning Challenges

Think • Reason • Solve

It's not just about getting the answer... it's about how you think!

Try these maths reasoning challenges. There's more than one way to think about them – and there's no calculator needed!

1 Number Puzzle

The sum of three consecutive odd numbers is 57.

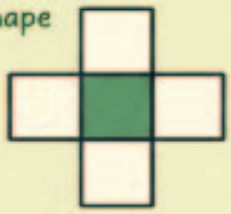
What are the three numbers?

? + ? + ?

2 Shape Challenge

This shape is made from 5 identical squares.

What fraction of the shape is shaded?



3 Logic Challenge

A, B and C each have a different number of balloons: 2, 3 or 4.

A has more than B.
C has fewer than A.

How many balloons does each person have?



4 Pattern Challenge

Look at the number pattern:

4, 9, 16, 25, ...

What is the next number in the sequence?

Can you explain your reasoning?

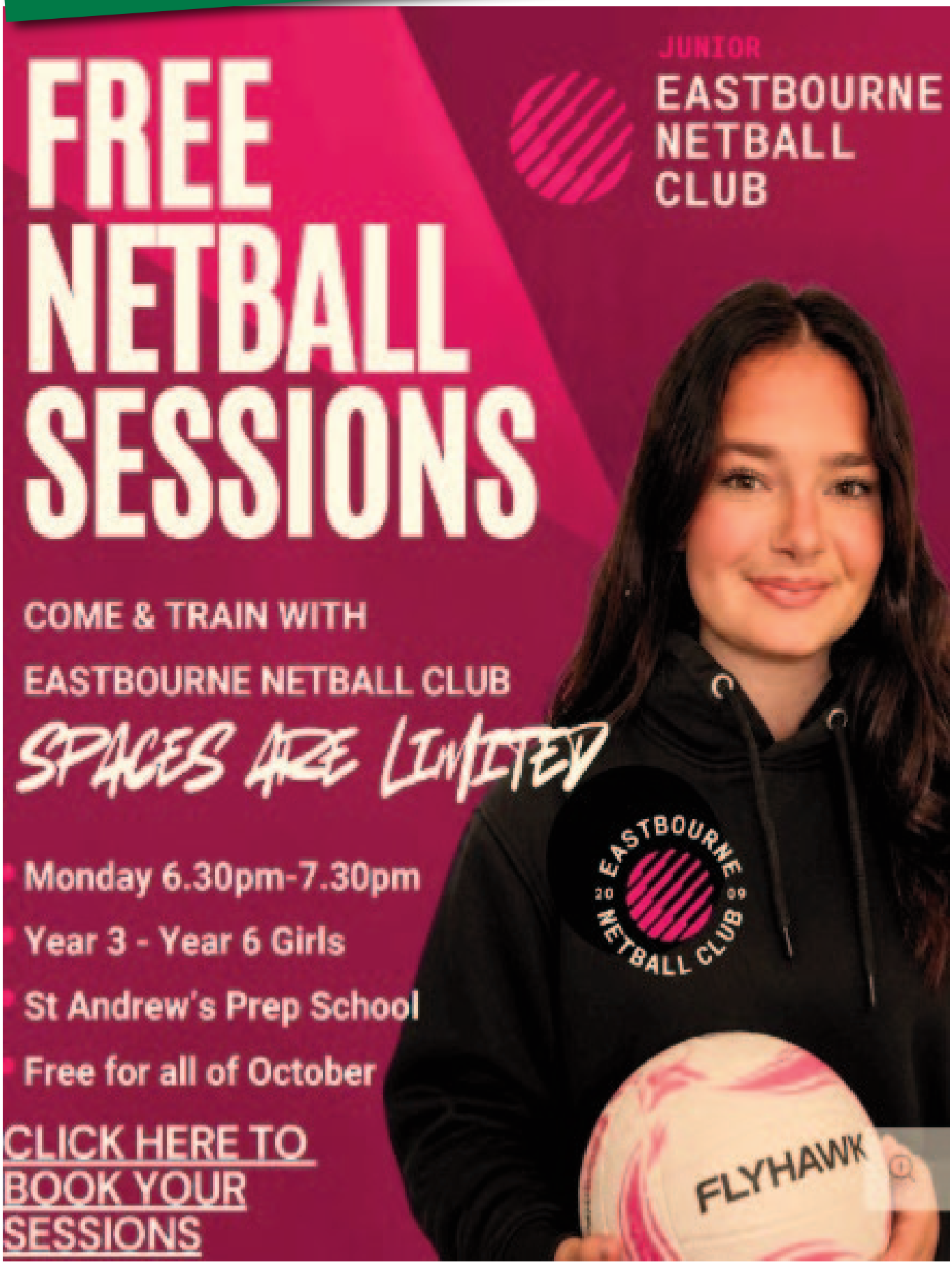


Be curious • Look for patterns • Think logically

Give it a go – you might surprise yourself!

Maths builds brighter futures!

NETBALL


JUNIOR
EASTBOURNE NETBALL CLUB
FREE NETBALL SESSIONS
COME & TRAIN WITH
EASTBOURNE NETBALL CLUB
SPACES ARE LIMITED
Monday 6.30pm-7.30pm
Year 3 - Year 6 Girls
St Andrew's Prep School
Free for all of October
CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR SESSIONS
EASTBOURNE NETBALL CLUB
FLYHAWK

EASTBOURNE CYCLE CENTRE

What's on

October Halfterm - 2026

MONDAY 26th October

LEARN 2 RIDE SESSIONS

09.00 – 09.45 **COURSE FULL**

10.00 – 10.45 **COURSE FULL**

11.00 – 11.45 **1 SPACE**

12.30 – 13.15 **COURSE FULL**

13.30 – 14.15 **1 SPACE**

14.00 – 15.15 **COURSE FULL**

Cost £22.00 pp

BIKEABILITY LEVEL 1

10.00 – 12.00 **4 SPACES**

Cost £13.00 pp

BIKEABILITY LEVEL 2 DAY 1

10.00 – 15.00 **COURSE FULL**

Cost £23.00 pp (for both days)

BIKEABILITY LEVEL 1 PLUS

13.00 – 15.00 **8 SPACES**

WEDNESDAY 28th July

LEARN 2 RIDE SESSIONS

09.00 – 09.45 **2 SPACES**

10.00 – 10.45 **COURSE FULL**

11.00 – 11.45 **COURSE FULL**

12.00 – 12.45 **COURSE FULL**

Cost £22.00 pp

FAMILY FUN WHIZZ

14.00 – 16.00 **TURN UP ON THE DAY**

Cost £7.00 pp

SCAN ME TO BOOK!



TUESDAY 27th October

BIKEABILITY LEVEL 3

09.00 – 12.00 **4 SPACES**

Cost £32.00 pp

BIKEABILITY LEVEL 2 DAY 2

10.00 – 15.00 **COURSE FULL**

Cost £23.00 pp (for both days)

LEARN 2 RIDE SESSIONS

13.00 – 13.45 **COURSE FULL**

14.00 – 14.45 **COURSE FULL**

15.00 – 15.45 **1 SPACE**

Cost £22.00 pp

THURSDAY 29th July

MTB GROUP RIDE

10.00 – 14.00 **7 SPACES**

Cost £35.00 pp (Child)

Cost £35.00 pp (Adult)

Email:holidaycourses@eastsussex.gov.uk

Phone: 07766 422352 / 07584 262556

THE SEAHORSE PROJECT

St Wilfrid's Hospice

Dear School community,

We would like to invite children and young people to take part in the Seahorse Project 'Autumn Gathering' a relaxed creative afternoon inspired by Día de los Muertos — Day of the Dead. This colourful Mexican festival celebrates the cycle of life and death and is a time for families to gather and remember family and friends who have died. You may have seen it in the movie Coco!

Autumn Gathering Event

Thursday 29th October 2026

3:00 – 4:30 pm

St Wilfrid's Hospice (The Street)

This relaxed, drop-in session offers children a safe and welcoming space to:

- Create a mask or decorate a cookie inspired by the Day of the Dead.
- Reflect on and remember someone important to them
- Meet other children and young people with similar experiences

No prior connection to the hospice is needed — all are welcome. Drop in or sign up on the Seahorse Project page on St. Wilfrid's hospice website.

Families can bring their own snacks and drinks or use the on-site café. All creative materials will be provided.

We know that supporting bereaved children can feel important but sometimes challenging. This event offers a simple, creative way to help children express memories and feelings in a safe and supportive environment.

If you know a child or family who might benefit, we would be very grateful if you could share this invitation.

With warm regards,

The Seahorse Team
St Wilfrid's Hospice

The Seahorse Project

Compassionate Professional Progressive Respectful

President Her Majesty The Queen

Registered Office St Wilfrid's Hospice, 1 Broadwater Way, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN22 9PZ
Registered Company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No: **1594410** VAT number: **GB 322 9910 05**
Reg Charity No: **283686**
01323 434200 | hospice@stwhospice.org | www.stwhospice.org

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

We are delighted to share the latest news from Polegate School. To keep up to date with events, celebrations and important reminders, please join Polegate School Facebook page.

It is a wonderful way to stay connected, see what our pupils are enjoying, and share in our school community.

This platform is designed to keep you informed and engaged with all the exciting events, achievements, and learning experiences our students encounter.

At Polegate School, we believe in celebrating success, and our Facebook page is a fantastic way to highlight the incredible accomplishments of our students and staff.

Whether it's showcasing a school project, sharing photos from a recent trip, or announcing awards and recognitions, we want to ensure that our community feels proud of the achievements that reflect our school ethos of learning without limits.

Follow the link below to join this is exciting platform:
https://www.facebook.com/share/17Lz9SGmXJ/?mibextid=wwXIfr



Diary Dates

20th November
Winter Extravaganza/ Fireworks

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 491 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

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