

news

September 2020



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WELCOME BACK

I cannot tell you just how happy we are to have all the children back in the building! This is possibly the strangest September ever but despite all the challenges it has been incredible.

I would like to especially welcome our new reception families to the Polegate family. Your children have been exceptional - they have amazed us with how confidently they have left you at the gate and come in

to school. You will see from the photos how easily they have settled in. I have made frequent visits to see them and will soon have a surprise ready to share with parents at home.

This is quite a long newsletter so make yourself comfortable with a cup of tea (no need for wine now we are out of lockdown!) before you make a start on reading it!

A STUNNING START

FEEDBACK FROM OUR NEW STARTERS & TRANSITION

We were absolutely determined that our new children would not miss out on having an excellent transition to school so we thought long and hard about the many opportunities we would be able to provide.

It forced us to think in different ways, be creative in our approaches and develop innovative transition strategies that we will keep moving forwards- you see there is always a positive!

We were worried with how the children would manage being left at the gate without parents coming on to the school grounds but actually we didn't need to worry! They were simply amazing and many just skipped in without so much as a backwards glance! Thank you parents for the great job you did of being positive

with your children, understanding and trusting us! It was really important to us that they had the chance to come in and meet their new teachers in small groups. It means relationships are already well established.

We had some lovely feedback across the school about our arrangements:

"I would just like to add that the information and communication from the school for the transition for new children has been brilliant. I've been very impressed with all that has been done to prepare them and us parents. From talking with other friends who children are starting elsewhere many have not had half of what we have. And many are not doing taster sessions either. So thank you."



WHY CAN'T I SKIP MY READING AT HOME TONIGHT?

Pupil A

Reads 20 minutes each day
3600 minutes in a school year
1,800,000 words

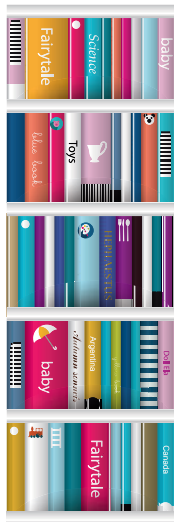
90th Percentile



Pupil B

Reads 5 minutes each day
900 minutes in a school year
282,000 words

50th Percentile



Pupil C

Reads 1 minute each day
180 minutes in a school year

10th Percentile



By the end of Year **Pupil A** will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. **Pupil B** will have read only 12 school days.
 Which pupil would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
 Which pupil would you expect to be more successful in school?
 ...and in life?

What about a pupil that doesn't read regularly at home or perhaps not at all? What are their chances of success?

This is why, at Polegate, we place so much importance on reading at home. All research and studies show that children who read every day do better at every stage of their education. We see it in school; the pupils that read at home are making better progress.

We are very fortunate at Polegate school to have so many supportive families that promote regular reading and learning at home and this reflects in the results our pupils achieve.

The majority of our parents do find time to enjoy books at home with their children and do record this in the home school books.

Thank you for supporting your children and the school's vision and aims!

Reading to child in an interactive style raises his or her IQ by over **6 Points**

Daily reading to children puts them almost **1 YEAR** ahead of those who are not being read to

"For the majority of young people, enthusiastic and habitual **reading is the single most predictive personal habit** for the ability to achieve desirable life outcomes."

After School Literacy Brief

"Children who read **3,000 words** per day will be in the **top 2%** of standardised tests."

"Children who read **20 words** per day will be in the **bottom 2%** of standardised tests."

IT ADDS UP!

If you read just **15 minutes a day**, in one year you will have read over **1,000,000 words!**

HOME SCHOOL JOURNALS

Please remind your child to look after these as we can only fund one per child as they cost £5 each.

We will only have a limited number of spare copies as well and will need to charge for replacements. The children did brilliantly last year, hardly any were lost which is quite miraculous!

We continue with the reading raffle and have stocked up on exciting books for the children to choose if they win! We do expect all children to read every day and if they do and you have signed each day they are awarded with a raffle ticket from their class teacher. We draw the raffle each Friday in assembly.



LOVELY FEEBACK

A lovely thank you from our Governing Board to the staff team at Polegate

To the staff at Polegate School

We wanted to write as this busy and difficult year comes to an end, to take the opportunity to say a huge and heartfelt thank you to all for your continued superb response to the Covid-19 crisis. We recognise that the support you have all provided, from the announcement of the lockdown, followed by the provision of work and feedback to all pupils through online learning and physical resource packs, and your support for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers throughout this strange period of time has been absolutely outstanding. We also recognise that in doing so that you have managed exposure to

greater risk than other professions, who may have been able to continue working remotely and with greater degrees of isolation. We thank you wholeheartedly because your commitment to providing the best possible education for the children of Polegate has remained paramount.

We know that your flexibility and ability to adapt to this ever changing situation has given those pupils who have chosen to, the best possible chance to continue to make progress with their learning and that you have made every effort to encourage reluctant learners with phone calls and exciting tasks.

Michael Morpurgo said:

"So often and for so many of us, it is a teacher who changed our lives, was at our side through hard and difficult times, who lifted us up when we were down, helped us find our voice, gave us confidence when we needed it most, set us on a path that we have followed ever since."

We know this is why you do what you do even in these challenging circumstances.

We hope you have an enjoyable and restful summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you in September.

With our thanks and best wishes
The governors

BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK

Bike to School Week is a week-long event across the UK to showcase the many benefits of cycling to school.

It takes place from 28 September to 2 October 2020. And there's even an opportunity for one lucky pupil to win a fabulous prize. Find out how you can get involved in this year's event.

Join me on my 'get fit' mission. I have been cycling in from Herstmonceux to school as often as you can and have only driven twice this year. So feeling smug at the moment but we will see what happens in the rain!

Bike to School Week is a great opportunity to promote the positive impact that an active lifestyle can have on pupils' wellbeing and health.

It's free, there's no need to register, and it's a fantastic way to get warmed up ready for Sustrans Big Pedal in the spring.

Organised and supported by the **Bikeability Trust**, Bike to School Week celebrates cycling to school and the benefits of travelling actively for children.

To support schools throughout Bike to School Week, there's a range of resources available. These include:

- school posters
- daily activities to be completed in class
- a video guide with simple practices to check your bike is safe to ride.

These activities aim to inspire pupils to think about their journeys to school, understand the benefits of active travel, and consider the causes and effects of air pollution.

Bike to School Week 2020 takes place between 28 September and 2 October.

SPORTS NEWS

FUTURE WIMBLEDON STAR IN THE MAKING!

Who would have thought that during lockdown we would have a County Tennis Champion in our midst?

Mason Wimalasena won the County Under 8's Championship Tournament. I have been told that

He spent lockdown and holidays training very hard so this is well deserved and we are all exceptionally proud of his achievements.

Here's Mason. He started tots tennis programme at 3 years old and spent the first few months hiding behind his parents legs! He's now just 7 and is the County U8 Champ. A bit taller, a headband and some hair gel ...

otherwise just the same! Feeling proud. You can sign up to our new tots courses at

<https://www.thetenniscave.com/childrens-coaching-courses>



ATTENDANCE

As you can appreciate the office phones are busy at the moment in the morning. Generally the calls relate to illness and understandably you are all worried about what to do if your child is unwell.

You all know attendance is important to us and will continue to be so. Not because of any targets we or others set for us but because when your child is not in they are missing their education. This remains true however at the moment everyone's health and safety are a priority and **MUST** outweigh attendance.

Please use the NHS website - follow this link:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> to make decisions about whether or not your child should be in school.

We are not medical professionals and we are not with your child to assess them. You will see that the advice is if your child has ANY of the symptoms they should stay at home and get a test. You can get a test on the same website.

Check if you or your child has coronavirus symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually

have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.
- Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

We know that you will all make the right decisions so don't feel you need to call and ask our advice because all we will do if follow the guidance above.

USE THE NHS 111 ONLINE CORONAVIRUS SERVICE IF:

- **You're worried about your symptoms**
- **You're not sure what to do**

Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service

Call 111 if you cannot get help online. Do not go to places like a GP Surgery, hospital or pharmacy.

A FIRST CLASS HONOURS DEGREE!

We take our vision of learning without limits very seriously here at Polegate.

Maxine Weyland is proof of this! For a number of years Maxine has been completing her degree whilst working at the school as a TA.

In July she finally heard she had awarded a 1st class honours degree and this year will be embarking on her teacher training here at Polegate.



Maxine Weyland

TERM 1 DIARY DATES

Friday 11th September	6R assembly
Friday 18th September	5M assembly
Friday 25th September	4DB assembly
Monday 28th September	INSET DAY
Friday 2nd October	3D assembly
Friday 9th Oct	3G assembly
Friday 16th Oct	1C assembly
Friday 23rd Oct	6J assembly
Friday 23rd Oct	Last day of term

2020/21 TERM DATES

TERM 1

Start of Term 1 - 2020-21	Friday 4th September 2020
INSET Day	Monday 28th September 2020
End of Term 1 - 2020-21	Friday 23rd October 2020
INSET Day	Monday 2nd November 2020

TERM 2

Start of Term 2 - 2020-21	Monday 2nd November 2020
INSET Day	Friday 18th December 2020
End of Term 2 - 2020-21	Friday 18th December 2020

TERM 3

Start of Term 3 - 2020-21	Monday 4th January 2021
End of Term 3 - 2020-21	Friday 12th February 2021

TERM 4

Start of Term 4 - 2020-21	Monday 22nd February 2021
End of Term 4 - 2020-21	Thursday 1st April 2021

TERM 5

Start of Term 5 - 2020-21	Monday 19th April 2021
End of Term 5 - 2020-21	Friday 28th May 2021

TERM 6

Start of Term 6 - 2020-21	Monday 7th June 2021
End of Term 6 - 2020-21	Friday 23rd July 2021

STAFF NEWS

Pregnancies at Polegate School are a little bit like buses, none for a while then they all seem to come along at the same time! I really must find that chair!

Miss Regan, class teacher to 6R is expecting her first child and will be starting her maternity in the New Year. We are currently shortlisting for a maternity cover teacher and will appoint as soon as we can to enable a really strong handover and transition. We will of course keep you updated.



Miss Regan

FLAGSHIP STATUS!



Having a full Ofsted inspection during the year just wasn't enough for us! We like to challenge ourselves and in our journey to exceptional we have again undergone the process to receive a national award and this came right at the end of the year when it is fair to say we were all on our knees and juggling lots of Covid plans and transition arrangements!

Following a rigorous assessment day and annual review we have again been awarded Flagship status.

The full report is available to read on our website but I have taken some snippets to share with you here.

Forward Thinking and Positive School

'This continues to be an exceptionally forward thinking, positive school with very high expectations of all alongside very high levels of support. It continues to be a reflective community where very interesting work takes place to meet the needs of all its pupils and the community it serves.'

'The school never stands still and is always striving to do better. Its motto, "Learning without limits" is a genuine description of the ethos of this school, which has inclusion at the heart of all its work. The inspirational leadership of the Headteacher along with the Inclusion Leader and senior team ensures that the work of the school continues to thrive with the needs of children always at its core.

The school is continually developing its excellent practice on inclusion and is sharing its practice with other schools through its Teaching School. I recommend that the school continues to hold Flagship status for a further 3 years.'

'In addition to the excellent work on the behaviour strategy, a lot of excellent work has taken place since the last IQM Flagship review and this has once again been a very positive year for the school, with many achievements prior to lockdown, including an outstanding inspection by OFSTED in January.

During and since lockdown the school has managed the many challenges it has faced with its positive 'can do' approach focused on the needs of the whole school community including children, families and staff.

The school has been open throughout for whole days, with breakfast provided for vulnerable children and the children of key workers with great success and it has also managed to keep in touch with and provide lessons and activities for the whole school.'

We are all thrilled to receive this yet again and feel it has really captured our school.



OUR TEAM OF PREFECTS



Congratulations to our 2020-2021 team of prefects. They are made to undergo a gruelling recruitment process including submitting an application and a phone interview during lockdown!

Their applications were the best we have ever received so we have high hopes for this group!

It doesn't end with the award of a badge. Prefects have a range of duties throughout the year and have to uphold all the school values, setting an excellent example. In this role attendance again becomes incredibly important; if they are not in school then they are letting their team down. Their training begins next week- we wish you lots of luck prefects!

A welcome for our new pupils from our head boy

Hello, my name is Riley Pain. I am head boy of Polegate school and we are really pleased that you are joining us.

I thought I would say hello and let you know some of the important information about Polegate school. First of all we are all very friendly and nice. We look after each other, show respect for each other and with our teachers, we are one big team.

Learning without limits

Our ethos is 'Learning without limits'. We have to stick to the three R's!

RESPONSIBILITY

We need to be responsible for ourselves and others safety.

READY

We have to be ready to learn. We have to be polite, listen carefully, help each other and be sensible.

RESPECT

We must respect each other and the school. Move carefully round the school and open doors for others. Listen to each other in class and speak kindly to one another. Help carry things for the teacher and keep the school clean and tidy. We must show good behaviour on the way to school and on the way home as we are wearing the Polegate School uniform and we want to keep our good reputation.

HOUSE POINT'S!

There are four houses, Hercules (green), Phoenix (red), Orion (blue) and Pegasus (yellow). You will be given a place in one of these house's. You can earn house points for consistent good behaviour and hard work in lessons. Doing something polite for your friends and teachers (like holding a door open) Following the school rules will help you to achieve House points. You will also compete in these houses on sports day.

I am in Hercules.

One more important thing to tell you, we love to read at Polegate school. We must read every day to achieve a raffle ticket. These tickets are out into a box and after a class assembly someone will pick one out and if your name is said you have won a free book to keep.

Reading helps us to become better writer's.

I look forward to meeting you soon.

Yours sincerely

Riley Pain Head Boy

LATEST PFA NEWS

Welcome back everyone!

It's been lovely to see so many of you at the school gates as the children are returning and also starting.

For those of you that don't know I'm Rachel Keen, the Chair of Polegate Schools PFA. PFA stands for Parents and Friends Association. We organise events to provide vital funds for school projects that otherwise wouldn't go ahead without our help, for example the new children's kitchen. We also help with many other things within the school adding to the amazing community.

This year is going to be a very different year in so many ways, but especially as far as fundraising is concerned. We regret that our beloved fireworks and Christmas night are not going to be able to go ahead this year. But we are hopeful and are already starting to organise things for next year. Which in itself is exciting.

The fireworks are usually our biggest fundraiser along with things like the discos, which unfortunately currently cannot go ahead either. Due to this we need your help and support more than ever!!!! Although just because these cannot go ahead, we are still busy trying to find different ways of fundraising.

So what can you do to help?

Well, why not join up to our **school lottery** and be in with a chance to win some money for yourself, whilst supporting us at the same time.

Amazon Smile

You can also link your amazon account to support us through **amazon smile**, this will cost you nothing but generate amazing funds for us.



Or what about seeing if your child wanted to do a sponsored walk or similar to raise funds for the PFA.

You receive a quarterly update from Amazon that tells you how much has been donated to Polegate School. To date Polegate School has received £105.97 from Amazon.

Another thing we need your help with is if you have any other amazing fund raising ideas, Covid friendly or otherwise (for future), please contact us on pfa@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk with any of your suggestions.

We are also looking to hold a PFA meeting in the near future via zoom or teams, we'd love to have you join us. If you'd be interested in this please also email on the address above.

If you'd be interested in any way in getting involved with the PFA we'd love to hear from you. Please remember that being involved doesn't mean you need to give up all your time. Just 15 minutes a year from each family would mean we'd never struggle for helpers again.



We really look forward to hearing from you and hope that all the children are settling in well.

Rachel Keen and The PFA Team



Rachel Keen

.....

The Martin-O'Donoghue household has won the school lottery on many occasions which our children love because it generally means we get a Dominos pizza!

.....

DROP OFF & COLLECTIONS

Thank you all for your patience and understanding with recent arrangements. You have been incredible and that support is wonderful to have. You have been really helpful. We really appreciate it.

I had many sleepless nights over arrangements for our return in September and so it has been lovely to have your feedback on this. I am pleased that so many of you report how effective you feel it has been. This one in particular made us all laugh on a Friday afternoon!

I'd just like to say a massive thank you for ensuring that the school drop offs and pick ups run smoothly. It has been very civilised compared to a friend in Surrey

who describe their experience as a "herd immunity inducing death scrum".

Also, I didn't appreciate quite how much my daughter enjoyed school until seeing her this week going into school with the biggest grin on her face. By day 3 she couldn't believe her luck that she got to go to school again.

Please be considerate of our neighbours and their property. The grass verges immediately outside the flats are their gardens. We teach the children respect and so we should model this ourselves, as adults. We all need to be kind and considerate, some residents are elderly and probably find this quite intimidating. They also pay maintenance for the

CLASS	DROP OFF	PICK UP
6J	8.00am	2.15pm
4H	8.10am	2.25pm
3Y	8.20am	2.35pm
2M	8.30am	2.45pm
1S	8.40am	2.55pm
RR	8.50am	3.05pm

Please queue to the **Left** hand side of junior gate

grounds and in the winter, with rain the grass will soon become mud. This isn't fair as our local community have been really tolerant in recent times. We have put signs out because it may not have been obvious as they have no fences but I would rather take action before anyone has cause to complain. I think we would complain if lots of people stood on our front gardens uninvited.

Thank you

GREAT WORK!



The boys in Year 6 are on it already - there is no stopping them and they look very pleased with themselves. Five pen licenses in less than a week has to be a record - well done boys!



NEW NURSERY SMILES



Settling in and making friends



Archive

Diary Dates

**Monday 28th
September
2020
INSET DAY**



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
1,111 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



Harry Potter Studio Tour

Win
a family ticket
for 4 people

- Help boost our school fundraising
- Tickets cost just £1 per week
- Cash prize winner every week
- You could even win our £25,000 jackpot



To start supporting, visit:

yourschoollottery.co.uk

and search for: **Polegate**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. Entries close on 19th Dec 2020. T&Cs apply, see website for details