



news

November 2021



In This Issue

Curriculum	2
Curriculum Evening	2
Library Challenge	2
Inspiring Writers	3
Polegate Parliament	4
Top Teacher Awards	5
Girls Football	5
Sherlock Holmes	6
Attendance	7
Remembrance	7
Book Fair	8
Science Trip	10
Phonics	11
Diary Dates	11
PFA News	12
PFA Workshop	13

WELCOME BACK TO TERM 2

So, I bring you the first letter of this term, I can't believe we have only been back for one full week! How is this even possible?

There is just so much to share with you all already, so many highlights and exciting activities taking place across the school.

We have been hit with a great deal of illness amongst our staff and I would like to thank you so much for your support. You always respond so positively when I share any challenges we face. When I sent the email sharing how desperate the situation was in the office you rushed to our aid and I was inundated with offers of support. Beyond this you sent far fewer emails and I can't tell you how much this was appreciated. **THANK YOU!**

CURRICULUM EVENING SURVEY

I would really appreciate you taking the time to complete a short survey on our recent curriculum evenings - it will make its way to you separately very soon.

Every year group has hosted one of these for parents to share information about the curriculum and learning tailored to each year group. They shared the essential knowledge and skills taught and approaches to this. Even giving out resources to help parents at home.

Thank you so much if you attended one of these. Teachers reported that

feedback on the evening was really positive which is great. They have shared that parents were so engaged, participated in activities and were just lovely.

What we did notice however was that these were not as well attended as they might be. You will appreciate that teachers put in a huge amount of work to prepare for these and stayed late to enable working parents to attend.

One thing parents often share about schools is that they want more information which is why we offered these especially as we have just come

out of a national lockdown and aspects of your child's education may have changed. We had hoped for a full hall but in some cases out of 90 families we had 7 parents attend in person and a couple join remotely.

This raises questions. Is it because we timed these wrong? Is it because you feel you know enough? Or another reason we haven't thought of.

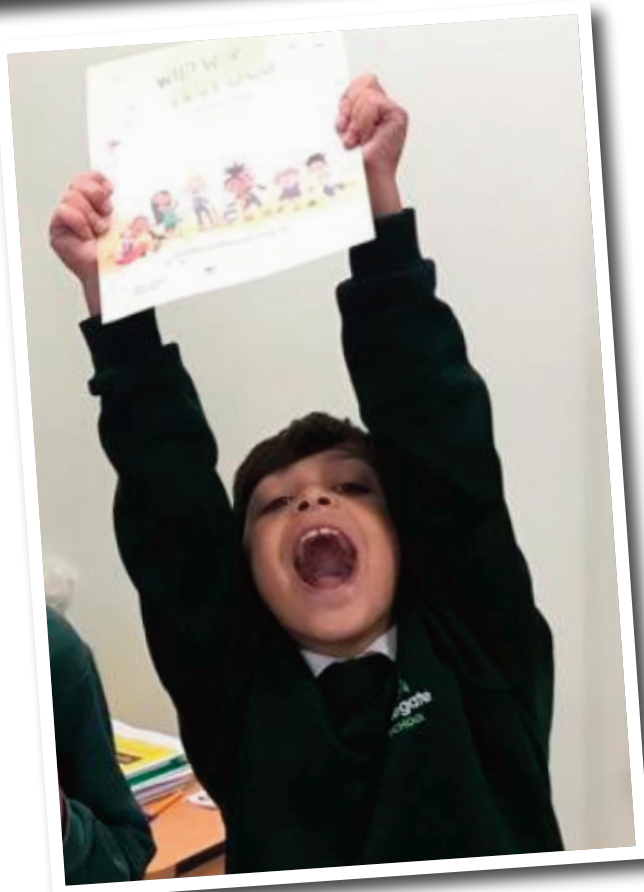
I don't want to continue asking teachers to do this each year if it is not necessary equally we want to offer what you need and if valued we are more than happy to continue.

SUMMER LIBRARY CHALLENGE

The much anticipated certificates arrived and were awarded in assembly. It is wonderful to see how excited the children were to finally receive these. We feel so proud of the children, who are such avid readers!

This face says it all, the sheer delight and in Tyler's words, 'I am so proud I managed to read 6 books this year and do the challenge!'

The lucky winners of the school prize for completing the challenge were Jude and Jasmine Rejeb. They have won a family ticket to Port Lymne. Looking forward to seeing photos of the family enjoying the day!



INSPIRING WRITERS ACROSS THE SCHOOL



This is whole school priority this year. We want our young writers to reach the same standards that they achieve in reading and have that same passion. We have invested heavily in staff training to develop our practice and continue to promote writing at every opportunity in creative ways.



Author Visit – October 2021

We had the pleasure of welcoming Steve Clifford, children's author, into our school at the beginning of October to help inspire reading and writing across all year groups.

The children had a fantastic time engaging in presentations in class and in the hall, attending workshops to inspire story writing and then impressing Steve with their wonderful stories.

Steve loved his time in our school and was really impressed by how motivated the children were to write, using his top tips to help engage their audience. The children were able to purchase signed copies of Steve's books and it has been great to see so many of them being read around the school. We also have a full set of Steve's books available in the school library.



POLEGATE PARLIAMENT

Pupil voice really matters at Polegate and we are delighted that we can once again resume our Polegate Parliament.

true democratic process selects pupils in each class to share views, thoughts and suggestions to innovate our school and make improvements for the benefit of everyone!

They held their first meeting of the year and created their mission statement for what they wish to achieve this year. They received their badges and introduced themselves to the children in assembly. We are excited to see what brilliant things they achieve this year!

Polegate School 2021/22 Mission:

Every child has a voice, no one is unheard and every opinion matters. We care for our school community and strive for no limits in everything we do.

Quotes from our Councillors:

We want to make changes that are meaningful

We will all be happy, kind, friend for everyone, you can always approach us.

It's important children feel heard and that their opinion matters. As councillors we'll be the voice of the children in school.

We must respect all opinions and not judge and come to a decision as a democracy.

We promise to set an example to follow the 3 R's.

We'll share our ideas to help make the school community even better than it already is.

I for one can't wait to hear their ideas!



OUR POLEGATE SCHOOL PARLIAMENT

TOP TEACHER AWARDS

Top teachers across Sussex praised for their work at awards ceremony

Including one of our own!

It goes without saying we are exceptionally proud to share that **Miss Murphy won not just one award but two! East Sussex well-being champion and overall East Sussex well-being champion!**

The aim of the awards is to celebrate excellence in teaching and share best practice across schools

Organisers said, "It's so important to raise awareness of the outstanding work going on in schools every day. And it's not just teachers; all members of staff make a difference."

I would like to say Miss Murphy totally deserves this recognition I would like to recognise the hard work of every member of staff at Polegate. The whole team is exceptional and goes the extra mile.



MISS MURPHY WITH HER AWARD



OUR FOOTBALL STARS

Year 5/6 Girls Football Team played in the Albion Cup Tournament at Eastbourne Borough on 5th November 2021. Despite winning two games 5-0 and drawing one game against All Saints School, we lost 3-1 to Langney Primary who were the eventual winners. This meant we just missed out on qualification for the next round – but the girls should be very proud of themselves – they played some brilliant football and scored 13 goals in 4 games. Awesome!!

Written by our very sports journalist – Leah Sidonie



SHERLOCK HOLMES

"My name is Sherlock Holmes. It is my business to know what other people don't know." Sherlock Holmes

Year 5 had their detective day marvellous middle the first day back

On Monday 1st November, Year 5 experienced a slightly different return to school... Instead of their classrooms, they were transported to 221b Baker Street, home of the great Victorian detective: the renowned Sherlock Holmes! They learnt about the art of deduction, completed Victorian forensic science, and began to crack a case for Sherlock Holmes and his trusted associate, Dr John Watson.



ATTENDANCE

We strongly believe in tackling attendance early before it causes longer term problems for your child and there are many reasons why we address this from the very start of the year.

Pupils who missed 2 to 4 days in September were 5 times more likely than those who missed fewer than 2 days to be chronically absent for the year. Half the pupils who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.

This is a significant amount of time. We firstly aim to support. Please share with us any difficulties you face as a family- we want to help!

If attendance is causing a concern you will be invited in for a meeting to discuss the reasons behind it and offer support.

Higher attendance clearly equates with success and higher earnings later in life. This may seem obvious but if you were in any doubt attendance is the building block of pupil achievement. The bottom line is that if they are not in school then they are not learning.

RH	97.48%	2M	96.2%	4D	97.4%
RH	97.8%	2Ma	97.5%	4H	95.3%
RM	96.6%	2R	95.6%	5W	95.3%
RB	96%	3L	95.3%	5M	96.9%
1B	96.2%	3Y	97.3%	5T	97.3%
1C	97.3%	3M	96.9%	6V	94.2%
1S	97.1%	4G	97%	6J	97.8%

REMEMBRANCE

Remembering the sacrifice of those people who have fought to preserve our freedoms.



BOOK FAIR

 SCHOLASTIC

ONLINE PAYMENT AT YOUR BOOK FAIR

WHETHER YOU'RE ATTENDING THE BOOK FAIR IN PERSON OR ORDERING FROM HOME, YOU CAN NOW PAY FOR YOUR BOOKS SECURELY ONLINE

Once you've selected your books, simply scan the QR code on the right or visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay and enter your school's name or postcode. Then, follow the instructions below based on where you're making your payment.



OPTION 1

I AM ATTENDING THE BOOK FAIR IN PERSON AND WOULD LIKE TO PAY AT THE FAIR

On the Scholastic website, select 'I am paying at the Book Fair'. Enter your details, along with the total amount you are paying for your books. Once payment is complete, show your payment reference and the books you are purchasing to your Book Fair Organiser. Then, take your brand new books home!



OPTION 2

MY CHILD HAS ATTENDED THE BOOK FAIR AND ADDED BOOKS TO THEIR WISH LIST. I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE SOME/ALL OF THESE BOOKS

On the Scholastic website, select 'I am paying for books from a Wish List'. Enter your details, along with the total amount you are paying for your books. Once payment is complete, forward your payment reference and details of the books you have purchased to your Book Fair Organiser at school. They will arrange getting your brand new books to you!

NAME:	CLASS:

Information for Parents and Guardians

Pay Online

Book Fair Organiser

OPTION 3

I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND THE BOOK FAIR, BUT WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE BOOKS FROM THE BOOK FAIR INVITATION

On the Scholastic website, select 'I am unable to attend the Book Fair'. Type in the title of each book you'd like to purchase from the Book Fair Invitation and click 'Add'. Once you have finished adding your chosen books, click 'Confirm & pay' and enter your details. Once payment is received your books will be sent to the school for you to collect.*

*only titles listed on the Invitation can be purchased using this option.



To find the payment page on the Book Fair website, simply scan the QR code or visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay. If you're unsure of which payment method to use, please speak to your Book Fair Organiser or visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents.

BOOK FAIR



Dear parents, carers and grandparents, Celebrate reading at our Book Fair!

The Scholastic Book Fair has arrived in school, with hundreds of new children's books to browse and buy... perhaps an opportunity for some Christmas shopping too!

Come and join us!

WHEN: Monday 15th November – Thursday 18th November 2021

WHERE: Polegate School - Small Hall

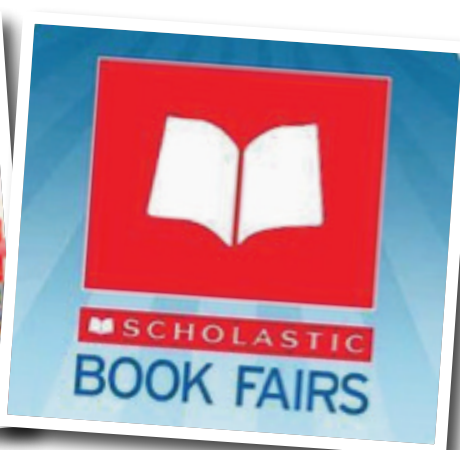
TIMINGS: 8:00 – 8:15am and 3:05 – 3:25pm

There are over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from only £2.99, there's sure to be a book for everyone.

Remember – you can pay by cash or card!

Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get FREE BOOKS for our school!

We will also be selling raffle tickets at 20p each for the chance to win a Scholastic £5 book voucher to spend at the fair. The 5 lucky winners will be announced on Wednesday 17th November, in the morning.



HOLIDAY READING

There was a some shock when teachers eagerly opened the Home School journals after our recent holiday to see a line through the weekly record of home reading!

A holiday is not a holiday from reading, it is so important that the basics continue during a week off- it helps the children continue to consolidate rather than take a backwards step especially for our youngest pupils. Reading should not be seen as a chore, it is a special time to enjoy a book with your child. Remember you can mark each day if you read a story, it my no means needs to always be your child reading.

In an attempt to reduce screen time and get active both the girls set themselves a challenge to run 25 miles in the month of February.

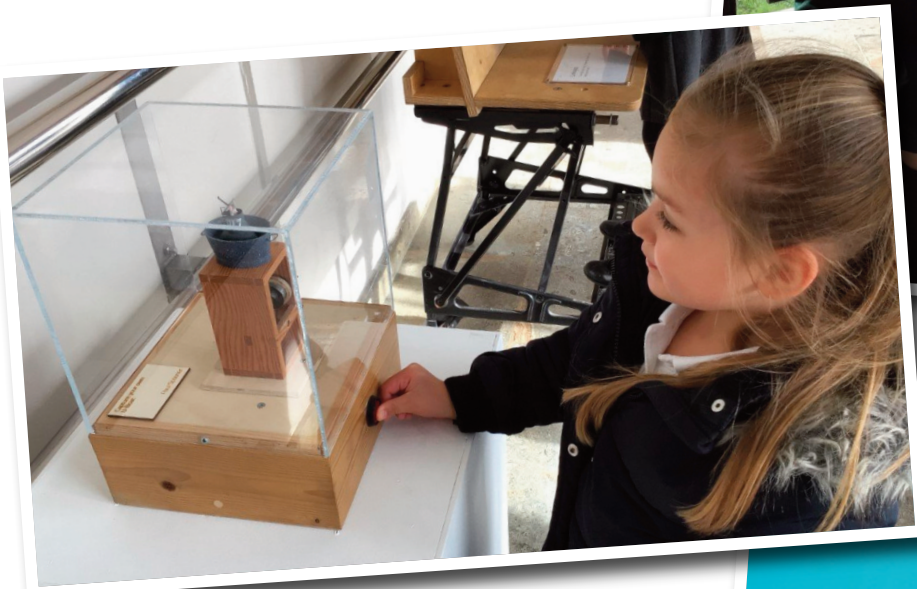
However due to Lucy being in isolation for the first 9 days and later, Isla injuring her knee they did not quite manage the 25 miles, instead Isla achieved 21.5 miles, and Lucy 20.5, however I am still incredibly proud of them and they did so well.

They received medals for this achievement and have brought them into school to show their class but I also thought it would be nice to include this in our newsletter.

Whilst I was cycling home one day I past the girls running in the opposite direction! Keep going girls - I will be looking out for you.

YEAR 1 SCIENCE CENTRE TRIP

In our new 'almost back to normal' it has been wonderful to see classes out on trips again. At the very end of last term Year 1 ventured out on an exploration of all things space with a visit to the Science Centre in Herstmonceux.



OUR YEAR 1 SCIENTISTS

POLEGATE PHONICS

LITTLE WANDLE

We never stop developing our practice and in light of new government recommendations we have invested in a new phonics scheme and books closely matched to the sounds children are learning.

We are introducing Little Wandle this term. To find out more follow this link to a new page on our school website

<https://polegateschool.co.uk/learning/phonics>

You will find a range of videos that show you how to pronounce the sounds. Notice how the children don't add an 'uh' sound at the end, so they say: 't' not 'tuh'. Use the downloadable information to help your child remember how to write their letters and say their sounds.

Reading at home

You can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home.

There are two types of reading book that your child will bring home:

A reading practice book

This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Don't expect books to be changed

frequently. All research shows that children need to keep re-reading until absolutely fluent. This may get boring for you but rest assured it is really helping your child's progress in reading.

A sharing book

Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together. Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together.

Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

We have invested £8,000 on early reading books. Each book costs £4.50! This is a huge investment so PLEASE take care of these books- don't let them near a dog, water or babies! We will have to charge the full cost if any books are damaged or lost.

DIARY DATES

19th November
PFA Winter Extravaganza

6th December
Wreath Making Workshop PFA

9th December
Reception Nativity 10am

10th December
Reception Nativity 10am

16th December
Christmas Dinner Day

17th December 2021
INSET day

4th January
Start of term 3

7th February
Parent Consultations

9th February
Parent Consultations

11th February
Last day of term

PFA NEWS

Polegate School WINTER EXTRAVAGANZA

Friday 19th November 2021
5.30 pm - 7.30 pm

TICKETS ONLY AVAILABLE ONLINE:
www.pta-events.co.uk/polegateschoolpfa

ADULTS £6 | CHILDREN £4 (4-16 years)
FAMILY TICKET £18 (2 Adults & 2 Children)
UNDER 4's FREE

INCLUDING:

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

STIX DRUMMERS

FOOD & DRINK

STALLS

FAIR GROUND RIDES
& OUR SPECIAL GUEST
FATHER CHRISTMAS

PFA WORKSHOP

Wreath Making Workshop

Monday 6th December 2021



£35 includes:

Wreath making taught by the wonderful Mandy from Scent a Posy Polegate, a minced pie and a glass of mulled wine...

Raffle

Refreshments available to purchase.

Doors open at 6.00 pm for a prompt 6.30pm start.

Limited Tickets Available!

www.pta-events.co.uk/polegateschoolpfa



Polegate School, Oakleaf Dr, Polegate BN26 6PT



CHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO YOUR CHILD

We just wanted to let you know that due to the new GDPR regulations we will not be sending out data collection sheets any more. We do still need to know if there are any changes to information relating to your child.

Changes we need to know about are:

- Medical details (any new allergies, asthma etc)
- Change of address, telephone numbers or email address

Keep us informed

It will be up to you to keep us informed and you can do this by emailing the school office at:

office@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

with any changes or by completing the form which you can find on the download section on our website

www.polegateschool.uk

Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



Diary Date

Friday 17th
December
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
1,196 followers!



Polegate School
Oakleaf Drive
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East Sussex BN26 6PT
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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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