

# NEWS

September 2023



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# WELCOME TO 2023-24!

**Welcome back! I hope you all had a marvellous summer break. Not sure where the sun disappeared to for 6 weeks, but it was back in all its glory as we returned to school.**

The children did incredibly well returning to school during the hottest week of this year! Even with the high temperatures school was as busy as ever.

Nursery and reception welcomed children new to Polegate School. All the children did incredibly well meeting their new teachers and making lots of new friends.

Year 1 to 6 started the academic year as they mean to go on... Stunning starts, were, as always enjoyed by all- treasure trails, quizzes, military training camp, astronaut training, I could go on and on...

# NURSERY'S FIRST NATURE ADVENTURE

The nursery children have already been on their first welly walk of the new academic year and were excited to discover juicy blackberries growing at the bottom of the field.

After carefully washing them the children used them in their baking to make delicious blackberry buns.

They used lovely language, super motor skills and great attentive listening. What a super experience to make connections and build new friendships. Well done Nursery!

The children are settling in brilliantly to Nursery. They are enjoying investigating both our indoor and outdoor learning spaces and being introduced to the routines and the expectations of the setting. It's lovely already seeing relationships and connections being made. We are all so very proud of them all.



**The Reception team are extremely proud of all of our amazing new starters!**

We have had the most wonderful week getting to know every child and implementing our school routines. The children have enjoyed exploring their new environments and making new friends. We are so excited for the year ahead. Well done Reception, what a great start to Polegate School!

# YEAR 1 INTERGALACTIC ADVENTURE!

**Year 1 have started an intergalactic adventure!**

Problem solving, art work (whole class painting!) and virtual reality were just some of the exciting activities completed on day 1!



## AFTER SCHOOL COLLECTION

Please ensure that you arrive at school to collect children at the allocated time. We have a number of children

that are being collected late from school. This has an impact on teachers development and preparation time.

# INTO THE FOREST GO YEAR 2

The children had to work for their topic, solving clues and meeting challenges. I'm happy to report that all 90 met the challenge and are now immersed in their new topic.



## OUR RESIDENT COMEDIAN

Dylan Morgan is our new resident comedian. Dylan recently won a free holiday to Cambersands after winning a talent competition. Dylan is

through to the next round, and if successful he will win another holiday, £2000 and the opportunity to meet celebrity comedians!

**Good luck Dylan**



# YEAR 5 GO BACK IN TIME

## Year 5 journeyed back to Victorian times.

The children had rather a firece start to this academic year, immersed into the Victotrian era.

Top of the agenda were tough rules. I have to admit the power went to my head a little! I visited the year 5 classrooms on a number of occasions and each time the children all stood to attention and offered a very formal welcome!

The day included playtimes, where the children learnt old playground games, handwiting on chalkboards and artwork. Fun was had by all!



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**Never has this been more true!**

**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.**

We are looking forward to another year where we can be aspirational for your children and expect the best. Attendance and punctuality are an important part of good

behaviour and such an important life skill. It is an essential requirement in any job and habits formed early become embedded.

Pupils who miss valuable time in classrooms fall further behind and become more disengaged from the work of the class, it is hard to regain this ground and hard to motivate pupils when attendance drops.

I am sure you are looking forward to travel and holidays abroad again but I do want to set expectations now. As a school we will not be authorising holidays this year. Every day in school counts.

We will be monitoring attendance and lates on a daily basis from now. I am sure there will be a lot to celebrate.

## Expectations

- Call before 9am explaining absence each day your child is off school- this is for safeguarding reasons.
- Ensure you provide a written letter of explanation when your child returns in addition to the call so we can maintain accurate records.

# PFA EVENTS 2023-24

**4th Oct 2023 - PFA meeting 7pm**

**14th Oct 2023 - Quiz night**

**19th Oct 2023 - Second hand uniform sale**

**31st Oct 2023 - Spooky disco**

**1st Nov 2023 - Bags 2 School**

**1st Dec 2023 - Fireworks**

**7th Dec 2023 - Wreath Making (fbc)**

**25th Jan 2024 - Second hand uniform sale**

**3rd Feb 2024 - Family games night**

**21st Feb 2024 - PFA AGM meeting**

**6th & 7th March 2024 - Mother's Day/Gifts for loved ones Gifts**

**27th March 2024 - Easter hunt after school**

**28th March 2024 - Smarties Challenge**

**18th April 2024 - Bags 2 School**

**24th April 2024 - Second hand uniform sale**

**5th June 2024 - PFA meeting**

**7th June 2024 - Freeze Pop Fridays start (Weather permitting)**

**7th June 2024 - Disco**

**12th & 13th June 2024 - Father's Day/Gifts for loved ones Gifts**

**11th July 2024 - Bags 2 School**

**20th July 2024 - Summer Fair**

# THE HIVE

Lunchtimes are always busy at Polegate School.

We are delighted to introduce our new Hive, which is a hit with the children. Our highly trained ELSA practitioners open the sessions to all children offering quiet, calm activities- If you cannot find me check out the Hive.



## MORE SPORTING SUCCESS!

### Ellen, Jade, Daisy- future Lionesses

The girls had their very 1st league game for Polegate Grasshoppers on the 3rd September and won 12-0. Ellen and Jade won player of the match. The girls are all amazing and love it!



# SUMMER CONCERT

Keeping with the summer theme of festivals we held our own at the end of the academic year. After a rigorous rehearsal schedule the children performed solos and duets confidently.



## DOODLE MATHS

Well done to everyone kept up with the Doodle Maths over the summer holidays.

We have lots of awards to be giving out over the next couple of weeks. If you registered for the summer challenge (using the parent dashboard) I will be receiving the badges very soon and they will be given out in an assembly

## MATHS CHALLENGE

Can you work out the value of each piece of sports equipment?

$$\text{Soccer Ball} = \text{Football} + \text{Football}$$

$$\text{Tennis Ball} \times 5 = \text{Football}$$

$$\text{Badminton Racket} + 3 = 8$$

$$\text{Tennis Ball} = \text{Badminton Racket}$$



# SPORTS STARS OF THE YEAR

Every year, the Paula Moore Memorial Trophy is awarded to two pupils in years 5 or 6 who have made an outstanding contribution to PE at Polegate.

This year the award went to Eddie Donald and Eloise Lavender, both of whom have now moved on from Polegate but we hope to see them achieve even greater things at Secondary School and beyond!

Eddie's commitment to sport and his eagerness to help others in PE lessons and clubs is what earned him the accolade of Sports Star of the Year. He represented Polegate many times and is an all-round sports star and amazing role model to other students.

Eloise had to follow in the footsteps of her three brothers who are all amazing sportsmen and whose names are already engraved on the PMM Trophy!



Eddie Donald and Eloise Lavender

Eloise has been a shining star for sport at Polegate over the last few years. Not only has she represented the school in Football, Swimming, Hockey and Multi-Sports, but she is kind, considerate and supportive to others whilst also being strong, brave and having a steely determination to do well at whatever she does Well done and good luck in the future to both of you!

## NEWSFLASH!!!

We will be re-launching Sports Star of the Term this year. At the end of each term a special certificate will be awarded to a pupil in KS2 who has excelled in any kind of PE activity either within school or outside it. Please let Miss Kenny, Mrs Wallis or Miss Stew know if you are doing something outside of school that we don't know about!

## OUR TENNIS STAR

Mason Wimalasena, our school tennis star, competed in several tournaments over the summer.

Mason Wimalasena, our school tennis star, competed in several tournaments over the summer. The highlight was a Grade 1 LTA National Tournament in Nottingham. Mason reached the final putting up a great fight on court, he came out as runner up, but what a huge success! 2nd Nationally competing against 32 of the strongest boys in the UK. Mason is currently ranked 4th in Great Britain in his age group after a very successful summer.

He has promised me a ticket to Wimbledon in the future!



# IQM REPORT

As always all teachers and support staff continued their relentless drive to exceptional until the last day of the summer term. July saw another successful IQM assessment, so successful in fact that we hope to achieve the National IQM National status later this academic year!



**“ Polegate is a happy, welcoming and vibrant community, where staff and governors work as a team and share a commitment to continuous school improvement and meeting the needs of every child.**

The school has a very strong and dynamic senior leadership team (SLT), led by the Headteacher. They meet and greet each child every morning and know their families. Relationships are key at Polegate: ‘knowing and understanding the individual needs of all our pupils and all of the adaptations. We look at all parts of the school day for all children’.

Polegate offers a rich, inspiring, theme based, creative curriculum; ‘An Irresistible Curriculum’, with a focus on reading and diversity. Reading is at the heart of learning. The curriculum is very orally based, including opportunities for debate and philosophy for children.

The pupils interviewed were great ambassadors for the school, making comments like: ‘All the pupils are kind and caring’ and ‘the teachers help you in your learning’. They told me that every lesson is fun. Home learning is encouraged through daily reading; times tables rockstars; doodle maths and writing journals. I was told that the school provides: ‘Lots of opportunities to be successful at things’ for the children and that they want the children to leave Polegate as ‘well-rounded, positive confident happy individuals.’ ”

## Twitter

**Be the first to hear the news.**

**Follow us on Twitter. We now have 1,361 followers!**

## DIARY DATES

22nd September  
6W class assembly

28th September –  
Y6 NHS NCMP screening

29th September  
5MD class assembly

6th October  
2K class assembly

13th October  
6M class assembly

17th October  
Parents Consultations

18th October  
Individual School Photos

19th October  
Parents Consultations

19th October  
Y1 trip to Herstmonceux  
Science Centre

20th October  
Last day of Term 1

23rd – 27th October  
Half Term Holiday

30th October  
Term 2 start

2nd November  
New to Reception 2024  
Open Day 9-10am

7th November  
New to Reception 2024  
Open Day 1.45 to 2.45pm

9th November  
New to Reception 2024  
Open Day 5-6pm

INSET Days  
10th November 2023  
24th November 2023  
2nd February 2024  
15th April 2024

# PRIZES GALORE!

What an amazing team we have here at Polegate School!

Jade Dicerbo, Sue Barber and Rachel Keen (PFA chair) all won awards over the summer break at the Pride of Polegate Awards 2023.

Jade - Teacher of the Year

Sue - Volunteer of the Year

Rachel Keen - Community Champion of the Year.



# BABY NEWS

Mrs Rawlinson welcomed Lucas George Rawlinson to the world; he was born on 30th August at 7 pounds 14.



Mrs Barden welcomed Sonny George Barden arrived 31st July at 9.45pm weighing 6.1lbs!



Both boys cannot wait to come for cuddles and meet their Polegate family!

# SPORTS FOR CHAMPIONS

## Sports for Champions Athletes Visit & Workshop Tuesday 10th October

We are thrilled to announce our upcoming Sports for Champions event, instilled with the ethos of perseverance, resilience, and the champion spirit.

This transformative workshop, facilitated by an elite athlete with a rich history of achievements, is designed to inspire our students to reach for their highest potential. The interactive session will foster a can-do attitude, encouraging our young learners to face challenges with a strong mindset and a heart full of courage. Watch out for the sponsor forms, which will be circulated soon,

offering a golden opportunity to contribute and become a part of this vibrant and empowering initiative. Let's gear up to welcome the champions and celebrate the spirit of true achievement and sportsmanship!



# 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](mailto: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](http://www.polegateschool.uk)

# ATTENDANCE

RB = 95.6%

RA = 97.2%

RB = 97.7%

RH = 90.7%

1F = 97.5%

1G = 99.2%

1S = 95%

2C = 97.6%

2D = 99.8%

2K = 98.7%

3JS = 99.6%

3L = 91.3%

3T = 95.2%

4H = 97.6%

4EH = 98.6%

4S = 99.6%

5D = 91.1%

5MD = 96.9%

5K = 85.8%

6M = 95.6%

6MU = 91.7%

6W = 88.1%

## Diary Date

20th October  
Last day of  
Term 1

## 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  
1,361 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](http://www.polegateschool.co.uk)

Designed by Prowork :: [www.prowork.co.uk](http://www.prowork.co.uk)

# MEASLES

## Don't let your child catch it

– get them vaccinated with the MMR vaccine

- measles outbreaks happen when not enough children have been vaccinated
- measles can be a very serious disease, leading to ear and chest infections, fits, diarrhoea, and damage to the brain. Measles can kill
- your child is at risk of measles if he or she hasn't had the MMR vaccination
- 2 doses of MMR vaccine are needed to get the best protection
- if your child is due to have had 2 doses of MMR but has not yet received them, no matter what age they are, you should contact your GP to get them vaccinated as soon as possible\*
- if you can't remember if your child has had any, 1 or 2 doses of MMR vaccine, check his or her personal child health record (the Red Book). If this doesn't help, speak to your GP
- if you don't know how many doses your child has had, it's better to have 2 doses of MMR vaccine now rather than risk leaving them unprotected

\*In response to a local outbreak then the 2 doses can be given one month apart from the age of 18 months.



## Answers to some common questions about measles and the MMR vaccine

### Why are we seeing these outbreaks of measles?

Measles is a highly infectious disease, spreading quickly from person to person, especially in schools. A child with measles will infect almost all unprotected children they have contact with. Since the end of 2017 there has been an increase in measles globally which has affected the UK. This has resulted in some spread into wider communities, in particular in undervaccinated groups.

### When are the MMR vaccinations usually given?

The best times are between 12 and 13 months of age and again at 3 years and 4 months, with one dose on each occasion. But, if your child wasn't vaccinated then, they can be vaccinated at any age with 2 doses one month apart.

### Will there be any side effects to the vaccination?

Your child may get the symptoms of measles, mumps and rubella for up to 6 weeks after the vaccination but in a very much milder form. This proves that the vaccine is working and your child is building up resistance to future contact with the viruses that cause the 3 diseases. Not all children show these symptoms but that doesn't mean the vaccine isn't working.

### Should parents in outbreak areas get vaccinated against measles?

As with many diseases, once you have had measles, you don't catch it again because you have built up a natural resistance to it. So, if you've had measles or 2 doses of MMR vaccine you do not need to get vaccinated now.

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For more information about measles and MMR go to [www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/)