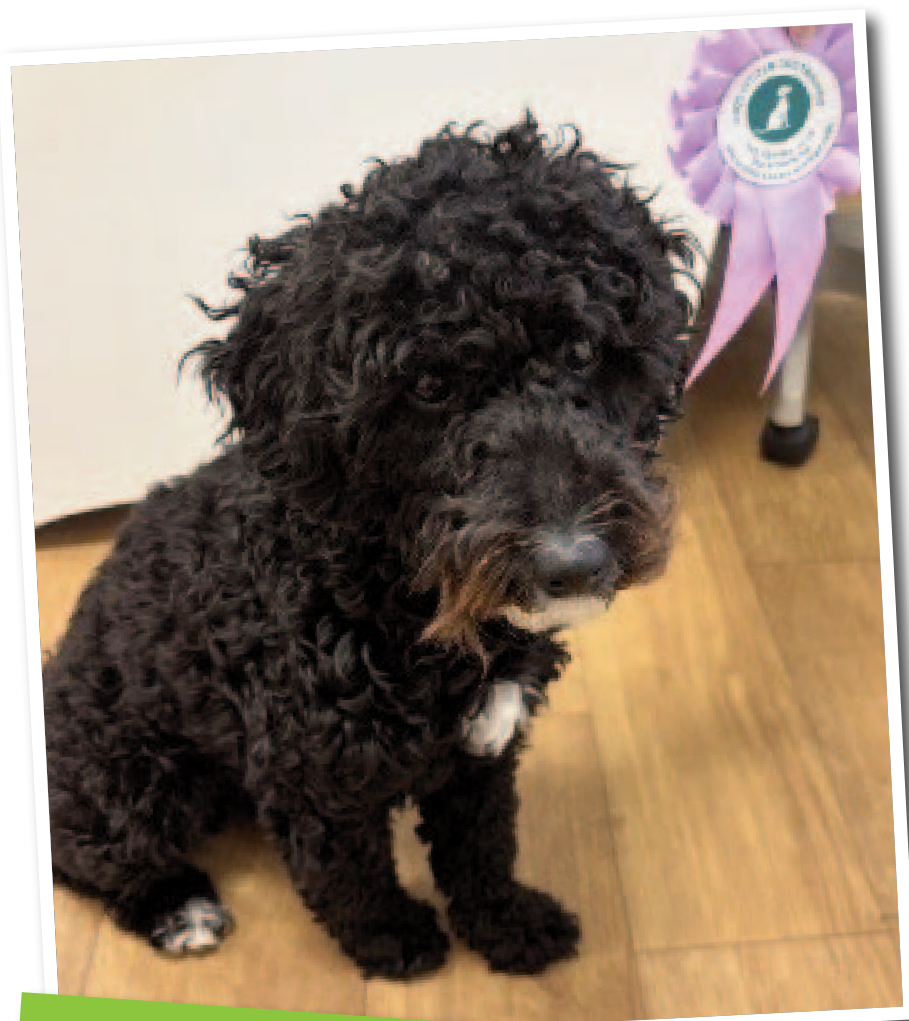


news

July 2026



What a year it has been!

As we draw to the end of the academic year, I find myself looking back with real pride at all that our school community has achieved. What a year it has been!

From memorable trips and exciting sporting events to stunning starts, fabulous finishes, art exhibitions and visits, the list could go on. Our children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, curiosity and commitment, and it has been a joy to see them grow.

In This Issue

Crossing Patrol	2
Skills Builder Gold Award	3
IQM Award	3
The Big Future Survey	3
Healthy, Active Travel	4
Lego Club Movie Day!	4
A Letter From Bruno	5
Polegate School PFA	6
E-Safety	7
Attendance	8
Reading Challenge	9
Forest School	10
Parent Support Portal	10
Green Fingers?	11
Baby News	11
Career Encounters	11
Diary Dates	11
Music Lessons	12
Our Facebook Page	16

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER BREAK

Now it is time for us all to rest, recuperate and prepare for next year.

Summer is a well-earned chance to slow down, spend time with loved ones and enjoy some sunshine and adventure. I hope that all of our children and families have a truly restful and happy break.

We also say a heartfelt goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children and their families. As they move on to KS3, we know they will continue to be amazing and will go from

strength to strength. We will miss them dearly, but we wish them every success for the future. I cannot wait to hear how they all get on in the years ahead.

As always, our children have been a credit to us all. I would like to say thank you to each and every one of you for making our school such an incredible place to be. I am a very lucky head teacher, and that is thanks to our brilliant children, dedicated staff, and supportive parents and families.

Thank you all for everything you have contributed this year. Enjoy your summer break.

CROSSING PATROL

We are delighted to welcome our new Crossing Patrol Officer, Martin Gorley, who has quickly become a valued part of our school community.

Martin is doing an excellent job helping children and families cross the road safely at the beginning and end of each school day. The school has worked hard to secure this important support, and we would like to thank all members of our community for their patience, understanding and cooperation throughout the process. We are very pleased that this vital safety provision is now in place for everyone.

I would like to remind all parents and carers not to park on the double yellow lines opposite the school. This is incredibly dangerous for children, families crossing the road, and for our crossing patrol officer.



For the safety of everyone, this includes blue badge holders. Please also do not park across drop kerbs or in areas where the road becomes restricted, as access to the school site must remain clear at all times.

Parking can be difficult, but safety must always come first. Please park sensibly and allow plenty of time to collect your children in a timely fashion. By planning ahead and following these

guidelines, you are helping to keep our school community safe and supportive for everyone.

We appreciate your understanding and thank you for working with us to keep arrival and collection as safe as possible.

SKILLS BUILDER GOLD AWARD



Polegate School Achieves Skills Builder Gold Award

We are delighted to share that Polegate School has been awarded the Skills Builder Gold Award in recognition of our commitment to developing essential life skills across the school.

The Skills Builder programme focuses on eight key skills: Listening, Speaking, Problem Solving, Creativity, Staying Positive, Aiming High, Leadership and Teamwork. Achieving Gold status means that these skills are embedded throughout our curriculum and wider

school life, helping pupils to build confidence, resilience and independence.

This award reflects the hard work of our pupils and staff in creating meaningful opportunities for children to develop and apply these important skills every day. We are incredibly proud of this achievement, which demonstrates our commitment to preparing children not only for academic success, but also for future learning, employment and life beyond school.

ANOTHER WONDERFUL REPORT



We have another wonderful report to share with you!

We are absolutely delighted to announce that our recent IQM (Inclusion Quality Mark) report has been received and is overwhelmingly positive. This achievement is a true testament to the incredible efforts of our whole school community.

As the Headteacher, I am incredibly proud of our wonderful children, who

continue to impress us every day with their enthusiasm, kindness, and determination. Their spirit is the heart of our school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our staff. Their passion and commitment to providing the very best education and support are what make this success possible.

THE BIG FUTURE SURVEY



The Big Future survey - have your say!

The survey allows children to share what it's like to be a child or young person in England today.

Click the link to complete the survey from the Children's Commissioner.

CLICK HERE

HEALTHY, ACTIVE TRAVEL

It has been wonderful to see so many children walking, scooting and cycling to school this term.

A big thank you to families for supporting healthy, active travel and helping our school community start the day in such a positive way.

It has also been great to see the success of the WOW badge scheme, with some classes receiving their badges already. To earn a badge, children need to walk to school at least once a week. We hope this will continue to encourage more pupils to take part and enjoy the benefits of active travel.

As part of keeping everyone safe, please remember that scooters and bikes must not be used on school grounds. This helps prevent injuries and keeps pathways clear for children and adults moving around the site. We also ask that children and families do not enter gated areas, as these spaces are for staff use only and help us manage safety throughout the day.

A small reminder as well: school equipment should not be used after school. In particular, the KS2 gym and reception play area are set up and cleared away by teachers for the school day, so please do not use these spaces before or after school.



LEGO CLUB MOVIE DAY!

The Lego club children attended school on a Saturday for a movie event! A quote from one avid movie goer...This is the best day ever!

I hope they saved me some popcorn



A LETTER FROM BRUNO



Woof! Woof! Hello everyone!

As we come to the end of this school year, I wanted to give my tail a wag and say a huge thank you for making me feel so welcome. When I first arrived, everything was new and exciting (and a little bit sniff-worthy!), but all of you have helped me feel right at home.

I have loved getting to know so many of you. One of my favourite things in the whole world - apart from treats, obviously - is going for a walk with Mrs Giggs and seeing lots of friendly faces around school. There is nothing better than hearing someone call, "Hello Bruno!" and stopping for a little fuss. **Woof!**

Next year, I am hoping to get to know even more of you. The plan is for me to work with every class at different points throughout the year in small groups. I'm very excited about this because it means more new friends, more smiles and more opportunities to be a very good boy. However, if you don't want to spend time with me, that's absolutely okay too. No one will make you - I know we're all different, and that's perfectly fine.

I also have some exciting news to share. I have just passed my first level of **The Kennel Club Good Citizen Award** - the **Puppy Foundation Level!** Mum was very proud of me, and I was pretty pleased with myself too. Next term, I will be moving on to the **Bronze Award**. I'm not quite as excited about that one though, because Mum keeps telling me I won't get nearly as many treats. Surely that's not fair? **Woof!**

Hopefully I'll see some of you out and about over the summer. If you do spot me, don't forget to say hello—I will probably be the handsome one with four legs and a waggy tail!

Woofs, waggy tails and puppy kisses,

Bruno 

School Dog and Professional Treat Tester

Diary Date

**20th July
Year 6
Leavers
Party**

POLEGATE SCHOOL PFA

A Huge Thank You to Our Wonderful PFA

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible PFA (Parents and Friends Association) for their continued hard work and dedication in raising vital funds for our school.

You can show your support by attending our Summer Fair on Saturday 18th - a fantastic community event and a great way to help raise even more funds for projects like this one.

If you're interested in joining this supportive and enthusiastic group of parents and carers, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact the PFA for further information-

Together, we can continue to make a real difference!

Get on touch

E pfa@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

W pta-events.co.uk/polegateschoolpfa

Facebook [pfapolegateschool](https://www.facebook.com/pfapolegateschool)



E-SAFETY

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

18
CENSORED

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hlpal.app/about/privacy.html>



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.09.2023

ATTENDANCE

The Importance of Daily Attendance and Punctuality

Every day at school matters. Regular attendance gives children the very best chance to succeed, build confidence and make steady progress.

When pupils arrive on time, they begin the day calmly, settle quickly and are ready to learn alongside their classmates. Punctuality helps children develop positive habits that will support them well into adult life, including responsibility, organisation and respect for others.

Missing even a short part of the school day can mean missing important core learning. This is especially true in phonics, writing and maths, where each lesson builds on the last. A child who is late may miss key explanations, practice or new vocabulary, making it harder to keep up and feel confident in class. By being present every day, children can strengthen their skills, revisit learning and make the progress they deserve.

We know that mornings can be busy, and we appreciate the effort families make to get children to school each day. Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can help every child develop excellent routines and achieve their full potential.

Diary Date

22nd July
Last Day of Term

Diary Date

2nd & 3rd September
INSET Days

LATEST ATTENDANCE FIGURES

RJ = 93.2%

RKH = 95.7%

RS = 93.6%

1RH = 95.6%

1L = 95.2%

1M = 95.1%

2B = 96.6%

2D = 95.2%

2H = 96.6%

3B = 94.9%

3C = 93.6%

3H = 96.1%

4D = 94.9%

4H = 95.3%

4T = 94.1%

5D = 96.7%

5EK = 94.4%

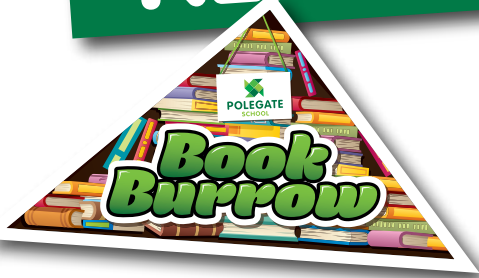
5K = 94.6%

6M = 95.2%

6L = 94.7%

6W = 92%

READING CHALLENGE



Thank you for using our Book Burrow. It has been wonderful to see so many children and adults at the beginning and end of the school day choosing a new book to enjoy.

There is something really special about children walking away with a story they are excited to read, and it has been lovely to see reading becoming part of our daily school routine.

Reading, especially to young children, is essential. It helps to build language, strengthen listening skills and grow vocabulary. Sharing stories also supports imagination, concentration and understanding of the world around us. Just as importantly, reading together creates warm, positive moments between children and the adults in their lives. A few minutes spent with a book each day can make a lasting difference.

As we move into the summer holiday, please remember to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge. Children are encouraged to read 6 books over the summer break. Certificates will be sent to school in September, and a prize will be awarded to the class with the most participants. In addition, as soon as we receive the certificates, a prize draw will be held for one lucky reader to win an in-school prize.

We would love as many families as possible to join in. Whether children are reading independently or sharing books with an adult, every book counts. Let's keep up the great reading habits over the summer and help make this year's challenge a big success.

About the Challenge

The Reading Agency, along with the UK public library network, delivers the Summer Reading Challenge across the country every year. It is the UK's biggest annual reading promotion for children aged four to eleven. Throughout the Summer Reading Challenge, library staff, along with teenage and adult volunteers, help children to discover new authors and explore a wide range of different types of books, giving them a positive experience of reading for pleasure.

You can make a huge difference by encouraging your pupils to take part.

The Summer Reading Challenge:

- Significantly improves reading confidence and independence
- Ensures pupils are ready for their return to school, preventing the summer reading 'dip'
- Aids the successful transition between year groups and key stages
- Contributes to all pupils' achievement
- Encourages extra-curricular activity – encouraging family engagement with reading
- Develops links between your school, the library and the wider community

You can find additional information and free resources to support children's reading for pleasure in the Summer Reading Challenge School Zone:
www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/school-zone-src



The Challenge will begin in libraries on Saturday 5th July and end on Saturday 6th September.

To take part in the Challenge children need to read six books of their choice that they have borrowed from the library or downloaded from our e-book library over the summer holidays. They are given rewards for each book they read and a certificate and medal if they manage to complete the Challenge.

The Challenge is for all children, whatever their reading ability. Children who are not reading independently can share their books with a family member or friend, or they might prefer to listen to audio books. We have materials to enable children with additional needs to participate as well. You can find out more about these by emailing library.enquiries@eastsussex.gov.uk or by speaking to your local library contact.

Children can be signed up at www.eastsussex.gov.uk/src

They will need to login to their library account (library card number and PIN) to complete the registration process.

FOREST SCHOOL

This term we have been focusing on tool use, these tools include the bow saw, sheaf knives, mallets and drills.

Impressive work!



Diary Date

18th July
Summer
Fayre



PARENT SUPPORT PORTAL

We are pleased to share that our new Parent Support Portal is now available on the Polegate School website.

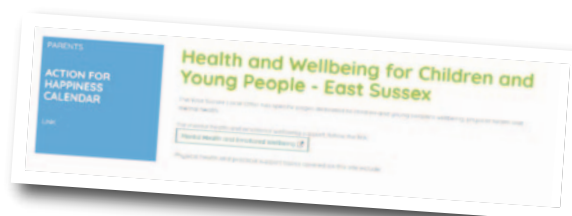
The portal provides easy access to a range of local services and resources designed to support families with a variety of needs, including toileting, sleep, mental health and wellbeing, behaviour, parenting support, and more.

Whether you are looking for advice, guidance, or specialist support, the portal brings together helpful information in one convenient place.

Visit the pages here:

- General Signposting - [Click here](#)
- Mental Health & Wellbeing Signposting - [Click here](#)

We encourage all parents and carers to explore these resources and access support whenever it is needed. Together, we can help ensure the best outcomes for our children and families.



GREEN FINGERS?

Any green fingered volunteers welcome!

Our garden areas are in need of some love and attention. If there is anyone who would like to offer their services to clear and manage our beds, please contact the school office.

We can offer tea and cake!



BABY NEWS

Some happy news to share! Congratulations to **Miss Coleman**.

We are so excited to announce the birth of baby Simpson. A happy, healthy baby boy born on 13/06



CAREER ENCOUNTERS

Employer encounter in year 3 with ladies from Barracloughs opticians.

We learnt about their career and the Science behind the job!



DIARY DATES

16th July
Whole school transition day

16th July
Meet the teacher

17th July
Reception Beach Day

18th July
Summer Fayre

20th July
Year 6 Leavers Party

22nd July
Last Day of Term

23rd July – 1st Sept
Summer Holiday

2nd September
INSET Day

3rd September
INSET Day

4th September
Term 1 Starts

23rd October
End of Term 1

26th – 30th
October Half term

MUSIC LESSONS

A photograph of a young girl with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored top, looking down at her hands as she plays a piano. The entire image has a green tint. The piano keys are visible at the bottom, with a white audio waveform graphic overlaid on them.

LISTEN TO YOUR IMAGINATION

Learn an instrument with
createmusic.org.uk

Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

DF

MUSIC LESSONS



PIANO/KEYBOARD



CLARINET



SAXOPHONE

Dear parents,

We are starting lessons on these instruments in September. Lessons take place either individually or in small groups during the day.

Clarinets & Saxophones are FREE to hire for the first 10 lessons.

To find out more please contact me using my details below. You can also apply for lessons immediately via our website here:

www.createmusic.org.uk

On the website you can also find out about financial help with fees.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Best wishes,

Duncan Purvey (Create Music Teacher)

07950 900292

duncan.purvey@createmusic.org.uk

September Starting Ages

Piano/Keyboard:	years 2 - 6
Clarinet:	years 4 - 6
Saxophone:	years 5 - 6

Create Music

Sound Rooms, 3 Pelham Terrace, Lewes Road, Brighton, BN2 4AF • createmusic@brightondome.org • 01273 261565
Registered in England No. 889184 • Registered Charity 249748

www.createmusic.org.uk

MUSIC LESSONS

**ROCK
STEADY**

ROCK AND POP BAND LESSONS



IGNITE THEIR INNER SPARK

-  Children learn to play an instrument in their very own band.
-  Fun and inclusive in-school band lessons. No music theory involved.
-  Follow their musical journey in your Backstage account.
-  Exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification.
-  Instruments provided and no experience necessary.

**BOOK TO START
LESSONS IN SEPTEMBER!**



0330 113 0330 (Mon- Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-5pm, local rate)

rocksteadymusicschool.com

MUSIC LESSONS

LEARN TO PLAY MUSIC IN A BAND THAT'S FOR EVERYONE.

Choose from: Drums, guitar, bass, keyboard or vocals.

Inclusive and hassle-free!

Takes place in school, instruments provided and no experience necessary!

Taught by professional musicians

Rocksteady band leaders are highly trained musicians who make learning music fun.

Progress at their own pace

Your child can achieve an exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification!

Have fun and learn by playing

Children work their way through a curriculum of up to 300 musical skills.

Pupils love their music

Improves wellbeing, confidence, social skills and academic achievement.

End every term on a high note

Watch your child shine as they perform in their end of term concerts.

For details on availability and cost, visit rocksteadymusicschool.com and find your school on the sign up page. Money back guarantee for the first month. No payment in August. Cancel at any time.

98%

of parents say their child loves or enjoys their Rocksteady lessons
(Survey of 1000 parents)

"Rocksteady has given Campbell a true love of music. It has improved his life dramatically."

Georgia

92%

of Rocksteady pupils report greater confidence and self-belief
(Reports from 1250 children)



BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE ONLINE!



0330 113 0330

(Mon- Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-6pm, local rates)
info@rocksteadymusicschool.com

ROCK
STEADY

TRINITY
MUSIC SCHOOL
OFFICIAL QUALIFIED
TEACHERS TRAINING



Rocksteady Music School Ltd. Registered in England No. 1075000

OUR NEW 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 exciting platform:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/17Lz9SGmXJ/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



Diary Dates

**16th July
Meet the
teacher**

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 433 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

Designed by Provax : www.provax.co.uk