



In This Issue

Thank you	2
Behaviour Hub	3
The Big Ask!	3
Stunning Starts	4
Reading	5
Top of the Poles	5
Travel Safely	6
Sporting Achievements	6
Diary Dates	6
Home Learning	7
Big Pedal 2021	8

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK!

I really hope you all had a wonderful Easter and enjoyed lots of chocolate!

It's great to be back and recharged!

After only a week there is already so much great news to share. We never stand still at Polegate!

Classes have enjoyed an exciting start to their next topic. The children are all having some great adventures in the stunning Wildlife Garden and it is being very well used by children across the school from nursery to year 6. Your PFA have provided this for the children with funds raised across the years. You will all have contributed to this project in

some way whether through donations, events or contributions and we are SO VERY grateful.

It is nice to be able to celebrate the end result and see the positive impact it is having on children and learning!

Thank you all so very much for your continued support.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you for all your support and flexibility during lockdown and beyond. I think you have been exceptionally adaptable, very kind throughout and I can't tell you how appreciated this has been.

We can't wait to return to normal, although we may need some reminders about what normal even was now!

I am hopeful that if nothing changes we will be able to revert to our school normal for Term 6. Please don't hold me to this but I wanted to prepare you for this eventuality.

This means no staggered starts (I can hear your cheers from here!) no staggered lunches, no staggered finishes. I want to be able to test our arrangements prior to September as we have never experienced a 'normal' infant arrival. I am anticipating this may be challenging as we now have a narrow gate and path for the infants.

Please don't panic or ask any further questions at this stage, further information will follow when we are a little clearer.



BEHAVIOUR HUB PROGRAMME

We have been selected by the Government as one of only 22 schools in the UK to lead the Department for Education's £10million Behaviour Hubs programme.

There are nine secondary schools, seven primaries, three special schools, a PRU, an alternative provision provider and an academy trust that includes mainstream primary and secondary schools, a special school and an alternative provision college.

The programme will begin this term and we will be supporting schools in Buckinghamshire and West Sussex.

Tom Bennett, the Department for Education's lead behaviour adviser, said: "The hubs project is designed to start reasonably modestly, build a model that works and then expand into a size and shape that supports more schools that need it.

"This has the capacity to make a real and substantial difference to the lives

of futures of many thousands of children and families and I cannot wait to see it develop."

We are really proud that the children's success has been recognised and proud to have been selected. As part of the process we were very honest

about the schools and our ethos, 'you never get to perfect' and that we are always looking to improve and develop and we believe strongly in creating schools where children and staff flourish and being part of this initiative will allow us to become even better- beyond exceptional!



NATIONAL SURVEY OF CHILDREN THE BIG ASK, LAUNCHES TODAY

The new Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has today launched The Big Ask – the largest ever consultation with children aged 4 to 17 in England.

It aims to find out children's concerns and aspirations about the future, so that we can put children at the heart of our country's recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

All schools are encouraged to support their pupils to complete this survey. A range of teaching resources will be delivered in school.

Parents, care leavers and those working with children are also invited to complete the adult survey to share their views about the future for children and young people today, and what they think is holding young people back.

The results from this survey will help the Children's Commissioner identify the barriers preventing children from reaching their potential, put forward solutions and set ambitious goals for the country to achieve.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

STUNNING STARTS!

If we can't get to London then London can come to us! That is exactly what happened for the Year 3 children returning to school after the holiday.

The pupils were greeted on the playground by several familiar London faces and from there they spent the morning being tourists and exploring some of the key London landmarks.

The children completed a fact finding quiz as they visited The Tower of London, explored the wonderful Westend and imaged what it would be like to have a turn of the magnificent London Eye! Each classroom was transformed to help the pupils to experience a little of the magic that London has to offer. Much fun was had by all and Mrs Giggs took her role as queen a bit too seriously!



Year 1 discovered a huge, golden surprise in the forest school and made predictions about what could be inside the egg. They then protected their own eggs by building nests.

Lorenzo volunteered to explain the definition of 'enemy' and was locked up in the dungeon!



READING

Here at Polegate school we take reading very seriously and know that it exercises our minds, develops imagination, broadens our horizons and opens doors to learning and so much more.

.....
"Reading turns into an adventure in your mind." **Otto (4DB)**

.....
"Sometimes reading will take me into a different world and I can be so distracted that I don't notice what else is going on around me!"

Evelyn (3G)

.....
"If there are no pictures in the book, the words tell you the story and you can imagine it in your head."

Alex (3G)

.....
Accelerated Reader is a fantastic resource which enables the children to quiz on every book that they read, helping to really understand the book that they have just finished. After every quiz AR calculates the number of words they have read and these add up towards them becoming a millionaire reader within the academic year.

COVID-19 and Lock down haven't stopped some of our most avid bookworms who already within this academic year have managed to achieve millionaire reader status!

**Our 2020-2021
Millionaire Reader
Champions so far...**

**What makes AR
so good?**

"AR is good because you can look back over time at the books that you have read on your (virtual) bookshelf and see your progress."

Alfie (6J)

"It's good because there are lots of questions and you can see how much you can remember. The vocabulary quizzes help us to understand tricky words."

Maya (6J)

.....
"I like answering the questions, it gets your brain going and your mind gets excitable while answering!"

Amy (4DB)

Diary Dates

**Monday
3rd May
Bank
Holiday**

TOP OF THE POLES

A BIG BIG well done to all the children have submitted entries to Top of The Poles so far!

We have loved seeing your entries and sharing them with everyone; Polegate school has got some incredible talent and definitely some stars of the future! ☆

There is still time to enter... we are extending Top of the Poles until the end of Term 5.... so keep sending those entries in!

Mrs Young & Miss Durbidge

BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK

Mrs MOD is joining Bike to School Week and what a lovely day to cycle!



TRAVEL SAFELY

Update to guidance from DfE Travelling to school and college safely

It is likely that the roads and public transport system will be busier than when students returned in March, given other businesses have reopened.

As part of your ongoing communications with your pupils and their parents, you may wish to share the following messages on how pupils can travel to and from school safely:

- if you live a short distance from your school or college, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble if

you are using public transport to get to school or college, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey when you are travelling by public or dedicated school transport, don't forget to:

- wear a face covering (unless you are exempt – including if you are aged 11 and under). It is important you wear them for the entirety of your journey, including inside a bus or train station
- social distance where possible wash or sanitise your hands regularly be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS!

All Stars U9's made it into the Mid Sussex league cup final after a nail biting semi final in December. After a long wait they were able to play their final on 24th April and were crowned the champions with a 6-0 win against Withdean.

Fin and Sefton are both part of the All Star's U9 team.



DIARY DATES

Monday 3rd May
Bank Holiday

Friday 28th May
Last day of term 5

Monday 7th June
Start of term 6

We are currently planning a sports week but it is likely to be in term 6 when we hope you can enjoy it with us. Further details will follow.

5th July
Transition week
within school

7th, 8th, 9th July
Transition days for year 6
pupils starting secondary
schools in Eastbourne

Friday 23rd July
Last day of the year!

LOOKING AHEAD

1-2nd September
INSET Days

27th September
INSET Day

8th November
INSET Day

17th December
INSET Day

HOME LEARNING

I was surprised to be approached by a pupil last term to ask if we could set home learning. I wasn't surprised because the child 'wanted' this because I know how keen our pupils are to learn but I was surprised that the impression was that we were not setting it!

We still have home learning expectations

A few years ago we decided to focus on what is proven to make a difference to children and this was the basics of reading and maths. We supplement this with optional tasks in each term's class newsletter.

I am quite sure you have all had quite enough of 'remote learning' and being teachers! The expectation is not that you do it for them but that they develop that independence at an age appropriate level. It should not consume precious family time but little and often makes a big difference.

In these final two terms as we return to a more normal it is vitally important your children tackle home learning every evening.

The basics are reading and maths and everyone is clear on our expectation for a little reading every evening. We expect the same for maths. Our home learning policy stipulates how much time should be spread across the week. This is available on our school website if you are unsure.

The time can be flexibly split based on your child's needs and should not feel onerous, but should include:

- Reading
- Doodle maths
- Practising spellings
- Optional tasks
- Lexia - if your child is using this programme
- TT Rockstar
- BBC Bitesize sites to consolidate basic skills.

Don't forget the optional tasks that are in each class letter issued with every new topic. We offer these for those children and families that enjoy the wider curriculum and more creative ways of learning and developing knowledge. Please do send these in so we can celebrate the achievements in school.

'Here are just some reasons why home learning is important to pupils' success:

- 1 Helps build responsibility. It supports pupils becoming accountable and taking ownership of their learning.
- 2 Develops work ethic from an early age. Children need to understand the value of hard work and to form the obligation and self-regulation to commit to their projects and see them through. That said, homework can help students form a hardy work ethic that they will take with them to college and beyond.
- 3 Improves time management. If we are honest all of us struggle to manage time and prioritise our to-do list from time to time but it is an essential life skill. For children they will need parents to support and value home learning. The goal for secondary school students means eventually learning how to manage multiple tasks to fit it in their schedule, and plan which will take longer or shorter depending on their skill level, strengths, or weaknesses.
- 4 Gives pupils confidence. All pupils need to attempt problems or exercises on their own and realise that failure is an important part of the learning process. In working through math problems or tackling reading questions, pupils gain confidence and develop creative problem-solving skills.

- 5 Enhances self-esteem. Once children gain confidence that they can complete an assignment or perform a skill independently, they build a healthy self-esteem, which is important to many aspects of everyday life.
- 6 Teaches study habits. Children don't start school knowing how to study independently. In fact, many children still struggle with study habits when they enter secondary school! Consistent homework can help children realise the importance of practice, especially if their teachers provide timely feedback and offer tasks that directly relate to the unit quizzes or tests.
- 7 Can offer valuable feedback. When Doodle maths and Accelerated reader is used daily we can collect meaningful information about pupils and then tackle this further in the classroom through intervention and additional support if required. We do use the information generated and track how often pupils are engaging.
- 8 The link between homework and test results. According to some recent studies, there is a modest positive link between pupils who successfully complete homework and success on tests. When taken further, it's not hard to believe that pupils who take their work seriously and value their education naturally perform better on not only in testing, but in classwork as well.
- 9 Prepares pupils for professional careers. While most professions don't require workers to take tasks home, there are indeed deadlines in the real world. Home assignments can help children prepare for the real world by teaching them to meet their obligations on time.
- 10 Improves thinking and memory.

BIG PEDAL 2021

Get set... we're taking part in Sustrans Big Pedal 2021, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge.

The challenge runs from 19 April to 30 April. It's free and we would love everyone to be involved. I have been leading by example and been cycling in myself this week every day!

What do you need to do?

Encourage your child(ren) to take active journeys to school on as many days as possible during the event, and join them on their way.

Or, if your child(ren) are learning from home, take active journeys from home with them or encourage them to do physical activity on as many days as possible instead.

Why we are taking part?

Sustrans Big Pedal is a great way to get children active, which is important for physical health and mental wellbeing. Active school runs also

help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate.

Covid-19 has made active travel to school is even more important. The Department for Education have said encouraging active travel to school helps "to enable pupils to be physically active while encouraging physical distancing."

Plus there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough children taking part!

Cycle, walk, scoot and snap to win family prizes

We have experienced overcrowding in the cycle/scooter shelter next to the Nursery so during the 2 weeks of the Big Pedal we will be extending the area into the staff car park. You can also encourage your child to take their bike/scooter around to the large shed on the junior playground.

Useful resources

To help you prepare, Sustrans has developed a handy free guide packed with advice, games and challenges to help you have hassle-free cycle, walk or scoot to school.

Download your free family guide using this link:

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-family-guide>

Enter the Big Pedal family competition

and be in with a chance of winning one of **three amazing prizes** thanks to our friends at:

m-ero

PEDAL
THREADZ

LITELOK®
LIGHT | FLEXIBLE | SECURE

Big Pedal family competition

1. Snap a photo or a short video of you and your child(ren) walking, cycling, scooting or wheeling to school during 19-30 April.
2. Upload your photo or video to Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.
3. Tag @Sustrans and use #BigPedalWin to enter! (Don't forget to follow us to make sure we can see your posts.)

Families with children who are remote learning can still take part!

Post your photo or video **before Saturday 1 May** for a chance to win one of **three amazing prizes** thanks to our friends at Micro Scooters, Pedal Threadz and LiteLok. T&Cs apply ([sustrans.org.uk/bigpedalwin](https://www.sustrans.org.uk/bigpedalwin)).



RESOURCES TO SUPPORT WELL BEING

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/your-mind-plan-quiz/>

<https://woebot.io/>

The mindshift app

<https://www.headspace.com/>

Royal Academy

Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES

We have small recycling battery boxes in the office.



Diary Dates

**Friday
28th May
Last Day of
Term**

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
1171 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 Prowork :: www.prowork.co.uk