

news

July 2017



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WHAT A PHENOMENAL YEAR!

Once again so many achievements and so much to celebrate.

It looks as if it is not going to get any quieter here at Polegate in the foreseeable future either! Lots of exciting developments ahead to keep us all busy!

We have all been very appreciative of the support that you, as parents, have shown the school with the proposed extension. We have been inundated with parents' kind words of encouragement and concern about the impact it might have on us, as staff, working in the school. It was a lovely reminder about what a wonderful community we work in and great to know that we will have your support every step of the way! Thank you.

The consultation is open until Friday and so please have your say and mention all the challenges that need to be overcome with more pupils, for example the hall, playground, library...

I'm sure I will see lots of you before the last day of term but on behalf of all the staff in school and nursery I would like to wish you all a wonderful summer holiday- I think we all deserve a rest!

We really look forward to welcoming you all back in September!

MARVELLOUS MATHS WEEK

Parents were invited in to find out more about the way maths is taught in Polegate. They had the opportunity to visit classes and see maths in action, have our approaches and curriculum explained and also take part in a fun maths quiz!

Thank you to everyone that came along and Miss Regan for organising.

PARKING IN THE LIBRARY

Please be respectful if you park at Polegate Library and only park in the disabled bay if your car is displaying a badge.

CLUBS FOR NEXT TERM

The clubs list will be sent out at the beginning of September. All clubs will start the week beginning Monday 18th September

WILLINGDON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Our Year 5's benefited from enrichment provided at Willingdon School.

A Science challenge morning. They had to test out how good washing up liquids were. Then later in the week they joined Willingdon again for a sports event which they really enjoyed.

RESULTS

These are hot off the press as we only received them back in last week and so they are provisional.

Our year 2 pupils gained their highest ever results and our year 6 once again did exceptionally well. Just take a look at the number of pupils reaching the highest levels of greater depth! This really does show that our mixed ability approach to teaching pupils meets the needs of our most able! These results place us in at least the top 20% of schools in the country and in some subjects the top 5%.

These results show year on year improvements. The exception to this is reading at expected level, which although broadly in line with national

and our last year's result does not show the same increase as other subjects or greater depth in reading. What we do know is the children that read on a regular basis at home and have done over many years all achieved expected and most better than that!

All the standards have got higher and it is no longer enough to send children to school and not support learning at home. If children are to reach the standards required it has to be a partnership and these results are a reflection of the brilliant partnership we have with parents. I would like to congratulate the children on these incredible results and thank them for their hard work and really conscientious attitude to learning.

2017 Year 6	At expected or above	Above scaled score 110 Greater depth	National At expected or above
Reading	68% (72% 2016)	30% (17% 2016)	71%
SPAG	83% (75% 2016)	33% (27% 2016)	77%
Maths	86% (83% 2016)	25% (10% 2016)	75%
writing	81% (82% 2016)	25% (22% 2016)	76%
Combined R, Wr, Ma	63.5% (61.7% 2016)	11% (6.7% 2016)	61%

BEAT THE STREET

Thank you to the families that have been roaming the streets of East Sussex looking for the machines on lampposts!

I have dragged my entire family around various towns- the novelty soon wore off for my nearly teenage daughter though!

Team Polegate have been very close to the top ten in East Sussex throughout this competition.



READING CHALLENGE

Join this year's Summer Reading Challenge at your local library

This year we're delighted to announce that The Reading Agency Summer Reading Challenge theme is Animal Agents. It will begin in libraries on Saturday 15th July and end on Saturday 9th September.

Research shows that reading for pleasure is vital for children's life chances, and that children who use libraries are twice as likely to be above average readers. The Summer Reading Challenge builds confidence and independent reading, while preventing the dip in children's literacy levels during the long break from school. It encourages them to develop the habit of reading for pleasure, one of the aims of the National Curriculum for English.

Encourage your children to have fun with reading this summer by taking part in the annual Summer Reading Challenge at any East Sussex county public library.

The Challenge is to read six books during the summer that have been borrowed from the library and are appropriate for each child's reading ability. The Challenge is aimed at children in the four to eleven age group. If your child is not reading on his/ her own yet they can still take part by sharing their books with you or by using audio books.

To take part in this national scheme, children need to have their own library card. It is easy and free to become a member of the library. Take something with your name, address and signature on it (a driving licence is ideal as it has all of these) to the library and you can join the whole family.



Children signing up for the Challenge get an animal Agents sticker. Children will be able to collect a prize for each of the six books they have read. When they finish the Challenge they will get a certificate which they can receive in school or at the library.

You can find out more about the challenge at:

<http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

or by asking in the library or visiting

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/libraries.

Last year we had a record number of children take part! Can we beat our record?

It's FREE, FUN and LOCAL! Borrow library books and collect rewards along the way.

Everyone can join in! Ask at your local library.



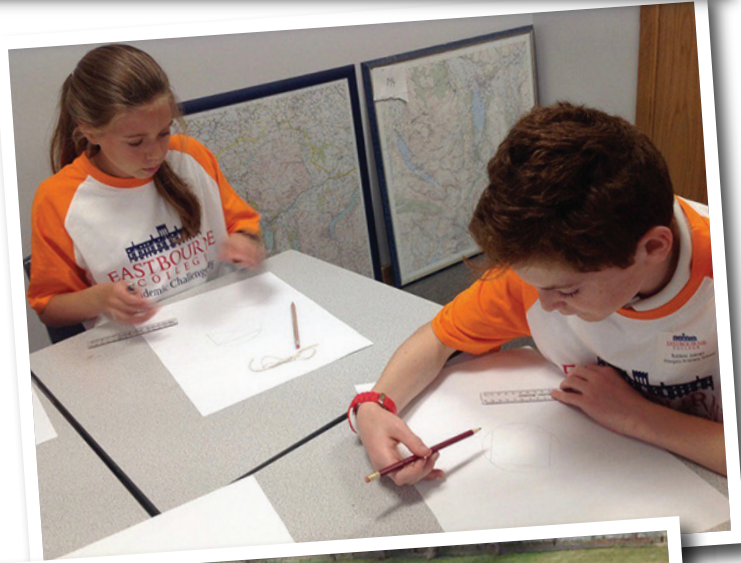
**Start
meeting
the animal
agents**



EASTBOURNE COLLEGE ACADEMIC CHALLENGE DAY

A group of Year 6 children enjoyed a day at Eastbourne College.

I would like to thank Eastbourne College for providing our pupils with this enrichment opportunity each year. They had a terrific day being challenged alongside other schools in such a lovely environment.



We were so impressed with Chinedu's wonderful mystery book entry!




Year 6 having a fascinating time at the Ardingly Country Show



5R pupils are engrossed in and inspired by photography!

23rd June 2017

Top Secret Agent Name: chinedu



Favourite Character: Sam. Helped the elephant

Which was your least favourite character: Elephant
He was rude

Three word review: Funny, Silly
crazy

Alternative ending: They move to Australia.

BEDTIME STORY COMPETITION

- 2017 -
BookPeople
Bedtime Story Competition

This summer your child will come home with their writing journal. This competition might just inspire your child to write!

Do you know an aspiring young author?

Do you know a child aged between 5 and 11 years old who has a brilliant idea for a bedtime story? Would they love to see it published as a fantastic picture book? Book People, in association with Little Tiger, are on the lookout for the nation's best storyteller!

The joy of bedtime stories...

Reading plays a huge part in a child's development, and bedtime stories are integral to inspiring a lifelong love of reading and learning. Book People's Bedtime Story Competition highlights the benefits of reading to children, sharing stories and encouraging children to harness their creativity by writing their own exciting tales of friendship.

Stories of friendship

This year's Bedtime Story Competition theme is friendship, and we want to read stories about all kinds of friendships - from imaginary friends, best friends, and unlikely friends to new friends.

An opportunity of a lifetime

Opening Monday 10 July, we're accepting 200-800 word stories across 3 age categories on the theme of friendship. There will be a winner in each of the 3 age

categories and they will receive £250 of books from Book People for themselves and for their school.

From these three winners, one lucky winner will be chosen to win a publishing contract with Little Tiger who will help them bring their story to life. Illustrator Alison Brown will create stunning artwork to accompany the text, and the book will be published in 2018 and sold exclusively at

BookPeople.co.uk

How to enter

Any child living in the UK aged between 5 and 11 years old can take part in Book People's Bedtime Story Competition. School, libraries and community groups are welcome to submit entries for their children too. All they will need to do is:

- Write a 200-800 word bedtime story about friendship
- Have a parent or guardian submit their entry using the link below
- All entries must be submitted by 11:59pm on Monday 2 October

Bring your entries to school and we will submit on your behalf.



Meet our head judge

One winner will be selected from each age category and one overall winner will be chosen to have their book illustrated by Alison Brown, published by Tiger Press and sold exclusively through Book People!

We are thrilled to announce that one of the UK's best known broadcasters, Claudia Winkleman, is this year's Bedtime Story Competition head judge!

Claudia, who loves to write and began her career as a journalist, is a huge advocate for the arts and as a mum of 3 is a big fan of bedtime stories!

She is the host of Strictly Come Dancing (BBC 1), the voice of Sunday nights on BBC Radio 2 and writes a weekly column for the Sunday Times Style Magazine for which she was nominated Fashion Journalist of the Year at this year's Press Awards.

Claudia will be selecting the winners for each of the three categories from shortlisted entries, as well as choosing the overall winner who'll have their bedtime story published!

To find out more:

<https://www.thebookpeople.co.uk>



POCKET

SCIENCE

FUNFAIR

Learn science secrets of
Harry Potter, Star Wars and The Hobbits.
Plus games to play, and things to make in
the funfair with a twist.

From the Brighton Science Festival
www.BrightonScience.com 01273 777 628

Under Ground Theatre

1 Grove Rd. Eastbourne. BN21 4TL

Monday July 24

10.00am - 4.00pm

£4 all ages, under 7s free, Family of 4: £14

More information - www.BrightonScience.com

No unaccompanied children

Good luck Caroline!



The end of year is always incredibly sad as we have to say good bye to year 6 and also some staff each year.

This year is no exception as we say goodbye to Miss Garland who has worked at the school for the last six years!

Caroline has been my deputy throughout the time I have been head and has been a terrific support. She has achieved an incredible amount since joining Polegate- raising over £5,000 in this time through the Scholastic book fayre for us to restock the library; supporting our newly qualified teachers through their induction; surviving an Ofsted; Congress; staff pantomimes; supporting our prefects and buddies in their work; trips to HIndleap Warren and so much more!

I would like to thank Miss Garland on behalf of the whole school community for working tirelessly to ensure the school is as successful as it is. Catsfield School is very lucky to be gaining such a committed professional as their new headteacher!



SPORTS

We have just achieved a Gold Mark for Sports!

The School Games Mark is a Government led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community. We have just been awarded the Gold Mark!

Polegate is one of very few schools in the South Downs Area who have received the Gold Mark award so far this year.

Mrs Wallis and Mark Potter our sports coach organised and hosted a reception sports event for other local schools last week. It was a huge success and we received this feedback:

"I just wanted to pass on our Thanks for a really lovely event yesterday afternoon at Polegate school.

The children, parents and staff all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

It was simple planning from start to finish and the visit from Mark to work with the children in Foundation Stage prior to the event was great fun too.

Many thanks again and we look forward to future events.

Thank you very much for organising the festival. The children had a fantastic time. They were amazed to have a snack in the afternoon and told everyone about their experiences.

Have a great holiday."

GREAT WORK



Creative young people



Great Homework



Super star readers

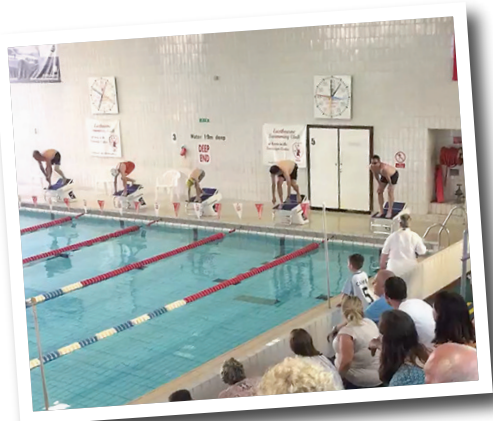


Reception writers sharing their wonderful progress!

SWIMMING GALA

We all love this event so much in school it is a highlight of the year. This year our Year 2's stole the show with some incredible swimming.

The huge pool did not faze them at all. It looks as if we may win lots of swimming galas in the future! I would also like to announce that for the first time ever I won a medal!



It may only have been a bronze in the teachers race but it is a huge improvement on previous years! The children's efforts have spurred me on. Another highlight was the addition of a parent's race. We've never had this before but it was brilliant! Thank you to all the dads that took part.

A few competitive children also raced their parents and (this may be a sore subject, so I apologise now. Don't read on if you don't want reminding!!) won!!

All dads were brilliant sports – thank you. Who knows we may have a few brave mums next year!

WRITING MODERATION

In Year 6 teachers assess children's writing and these assessments are used by the Government to look at standards in schools.

This year we were selected by County to be moderated. In this process they randomly select pupils and check that our assessments are accurate. I am pleased to say that they were!

They were so impressed I have already had calls from schools wanting to come in and look. I honestly could not be prouder of the children and all the staff across the school who contribute to such high standards.

POLEGATE'S GREATEST ADVENTURE!

I'm not sure the teachers would describe the creation of films to replace the Congress Show as an adventure- possibly more of a horror!

However all their hard work paid off and the films were all so varied, creative and magical!

Twitter had lots of lovely comments-thank you!

"Once again Polegate has exceeded expectations! What a wonderful film night, made me cry lots.... But in a good way! Thank you!"

Throughout the year it made the teachers cry too but not in a good way!

I would like to thank the whole school team who really do pull together when I have these ambitious ideas! Everyone is prepared to go that extra mile for the benefit of the children. These events are such hard work, the easiest thing would have been for us to take a year off from doing any

type of show as the Congress was closed. However this felt wrong, these events are memories that last a life time for the children and us, as parents. We never take the easy option at Polegate and at every opportunity want to live up to our vision of learning without limits! So the idea of using all our technology in school and producing film was born!

Thank you for supporting these initiatives and attending the cinema. The films really did deserve the big screen and seeing them shown at a cinema was really special!

The smiles and enjoyment from all the children including nursery were a delight to see in all the films.

Congratulations to our performers, directors, set designers and singers on an Oscar winning film night.

Special thanks to Tony Holter for working his magic on the editing- he really was hiding in a dark corner, rocking by the end of term!

STAFF NEWS

The final new addition to 'Team Polegate', the official transfer window is closed! Mrs Young is joining the growing Year 1 team in September.

Hello, my name is Cathy and I am really looking forward to joining Polegate School in September! I am passionate about providing children with an education that is engaging, inspirational and fun and one which allows all children to access exciting learning topics and achieve their absolute best!

I can't wait to join Polegate School where I know I will work with likeminded teachers and amazing children.

When not teaching, I enjoy reading, running, spending precious time with my family and going to the seaside!

Congratulations Mrs Burke

More changes, just when I thought it was safe- another surprise! I blame that chair again! Mrs Burke is expecting her second child. We are all thrilled for the Burke family- it is really exciting news!

With my headteacher hat on it was just a little bit stressful! Mrs Burke is a hard teacher to replace and I only want to employ the very best teachers for your children- they are not always easy to find. But I am delighted to say that in the final 3 weeks of term we have appointed a terrific teacher with experience of reception to cover the maternity. A little bit about Miss Veness:

I am delighted to be joining Polegate School in September! I have worked in Reception for 4 years and I absolutely love it. When I'm not in school I enjoy baking, dressmaking, reading, exploring new places and spending time with my friends and family. I also enjoy keeping fit, and love to snowboard!

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO POLEGATE SCHOOL

I would like to thank Jemma Orange for the enormous amount of hard work that she has put into supporting Polegate through fundraising as part of the PFA.

Sadly she is stepping down as chair of the PFA. Her son is leaving Polegate and so it felt like the right time to hand over to a new chair.

Jemma started as a member of the Polegate Playscheme team, the Playscheme parents used to organise a week of fun holiday activities for the children during the summer- she was then persuaded to join the PFA and this groups has gone from strength to strength.

The PFA raise much needed funds that have really enhanced everything we offer the children at Polegate.

So far in Jemma's time as chair they have raised money towards these items:

**Our MUGA • Play equipment • Attendance rewards
Craze of the Week • Ukuleles for year 4
Reward stickers • African Dancer
Prefect playtime games
And the list goes on.....**

Thank you Jemma!

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS OF PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION VOTE

I am delighted to announce the outcome of the count of votes that took place at 09.30 this morning in the presence of myself and Clerk to the governors.

The highest number of votes was received by Shannon Lester-Murphy. As our newly elected parent governor, Mrs Lester- Murphy's appointment will begin from September.

I would like to thank all the nominees for their interest in the role and the parents and carers who took the time to vote.

I look forward to welcoming Mrs Lester-Murphy to our board of governors and have no doubt she will add great value to our team.

DEBATE

We have just had our debate results confirmed and these were excellent!

4 merits and 9 distinctions in total!

We are so proud of you. These pupils took part in a debate in front of an external examiner from the English Speaking board so this is a tremendous achievement for them all!



School Attendance

Attendance is such a high priority for schools at the moment, especially schools in East Sussex.

We have much higher absence rates than other authorities and so you will see a big campaign which starts in September to promote good attendance.

We will be continuing to focus on attendance because we know what

a disadvantage pupils face when they are not in school.

For example: Pupils with attendance below 90% are far less likely to be able to read well. In fact only 17% of children in year 3 that had poor attendance are fluent readers. If you compare this to 64% of children with attendance above 90% the reality is stark as the graph shows.

Class figures

The whole school average is 96% a drop from last term when we were hitting the target. Our target is 97% and we are so nearly there- keep going!

RP = 97%

RH = 95%

RJ = 95%

1A = 96%

1N = 96%

2M = 96%

2B = 96%

3B = 97%

3W = 95%

4M = 98%

4EM = 96%

5R = 97%

5GK = 96%

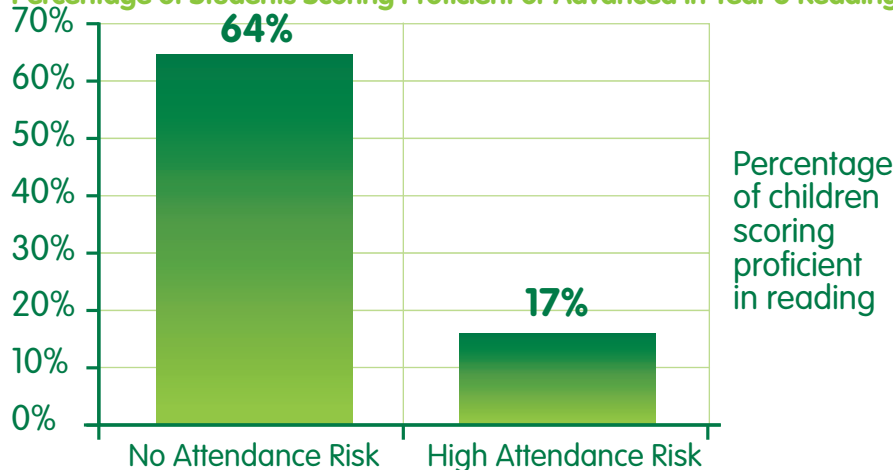
6M = 95%

6O = 96%

97% is our target

Students persistently absent in Reception & Year 1 are much less likely to read proficiently in Year 3

Percentage of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced in Year 3 Reading



I will do all I can to ensure that children succeed and so I am prepared to challenge parents when children are not in school. This is because your children come first and we care!

So what about children at Polegate?

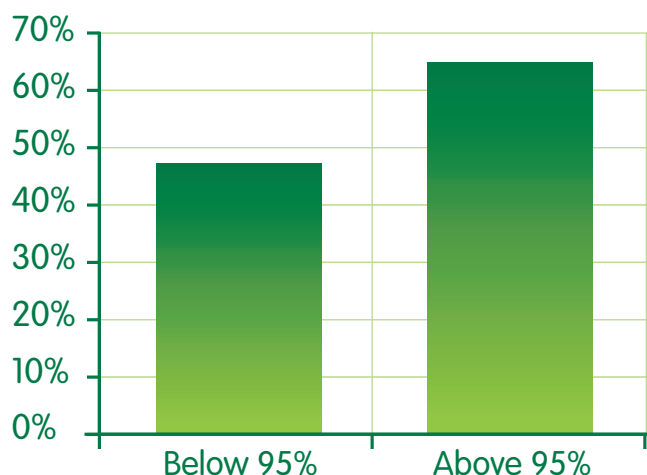
In our own school we really do see a difference! I have just analysed our year 6 results and the children that were most likely to achieve expected level in reading, writing and maths were those with attendance above 95%.

Children that had poor attendance below 95% had far less chance of reaching expected in reading, writing and maths. At Polegate only 48% of these children reached expected level!

Compare this with children that were in school learning for at least 95% and their chances of success increase to 65%.

Pupils achieving Reading, writing and maths in 2017 at Polegate based on attendance

This is why we will have conversations very early in term 1 when children are not at school.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 'STARS OF THE YEAR!'



Diary Dates

**Tuesday 5th
September 2017**
**FIRST 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 **780**
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

Designed by Prowork: www.prowork.co.uk