

# news

June 2018 Issue 2



## FRENCH TRIP 2018

Well, you can't get better than that! After looking at the weather forecast for the week I have to say I was filled with dread! Every day was showing black clouds with lightning!

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### Review

'It was a fun, exciting new experience. We learnt new things about the French culture and history. It challenged us in our knowledge of speaking French and most of us attempted to engage in conversation in French. To sum it up I would rate the trip 10/10!'

Year 6 pupil





# FRENCH TRIP 2018



**The adventure began with an early start, the children needed to be at the school for 5.15am!**

We travelled through the tunnel to the beautiful Chantilly Chateau where we explored the grounds and had a guided tour. Then it was on to our accommodation for an evening meal. The following day we visited Paris for a sight seeing tour and a visit to the Eiffel Tower. At first sight the children were stunned by how massive the structure actually was! I love these moments when they see something so famous for the first time and we get to share that awe and wonder with them. Every single child made it right to the very top despite the fact that some were very scared of heights! It was a little misty that day but it didn't spoil the experience. 'The people below looked like miniature figures.'

We then travelled back to the accommodation and the children all enjoyed 2 hours in the pool in glorious sunshine before our evening meal followed by an evening of sports: football, volley ball and tennis.

The following day, another early start and we were off to Disney. We arrived as it opened and headed straight for all the best rides! Poor Miss Regan was



terrified but made it on to some of the roller coasters with encouragement from the children. We managed both parks and a little shopping before heading back exhausted. After a meal it was time for more sports. We met the same French children that visit the centre at the same time as us every year and we had our traditional France V England football match. They recognise us now and are always really friendly to the children and this has become a bit of a highlight now!

On the final day we travelled to the French market town of Brie Comptee Robert for the children to experience a traditional market and explore some of the shops in the square. We watched bread being baked and bought our souvenirs before getting back on the coach and heading to La Couple where we visited the planetarium and war museum.

At about 9pm on Friday night exhausted staff and children returned to a very warm welcome.

It was an incredible trip and despite the awful weather forecast the weather was perfect! No rain coats needed at all!



The children were exceptional and impeccably behaved. They were an absolute delight to spend time with. It is a real treat for me and something that I really look forward to. No paperwork in sight- just spending quality time with your children. To be part of these really special memories is a real privilege for us. To be there when they overcome their biggest fears, to share their excitement and just to give them a hug when they miss mum is so special! Despite spending an intensive four days away with them we all missed them over the weekend!

They were brilliant company and this was the perfect trip to end their time at Polegate School with.

**Have a look on Twitter for more photos.**

# Next year's Classes

## Our Staffing Structure for 2018-2019

And so the moment you all eagerly await! I can now announce the teachers for next year.

As you can see we are waiting to appoint one further part time teacher and have the interviews within the next few weeks for year 4.

CLASS PROGRESSION	TEACHER	TA PROVISION
RH	Nicky Hadley	Emma Hanmore
RV	Victoria Veness	Sue Heather
RHi	Connie Hicks	Sally Bennett
RH - 1C	Sarah Cullinane	Tracey Maunder
RV - 1B	Mary McGovern/Rachel Burke	Lorraine Wilkinson
RHi - 1Y	Cathy Young	Dominique MacNeill
1N - 2A	Amie Ashdown - Leader of Learning	Heidi Ireland
1B - 2M	Emma Murphy	Debbie Still
1Y - 2H	Gayle Howland	Corinne Williams
2A - 3B	Sarah Baker	Nicky Shoesmith
2B - 3M	Clare Marsh	Fiona Dury
3M - 4B	Sally Barnard (3 days) teacher to be appointed 2 days	Julie McFarlane
3Mc - 4D	Leanne Dedman	Aidan Keeley
4M - 5GD	Hayley/Gill	Gill Richardson
4D - 5W	Jenny Whelan	Maxine Weyland
5W - 6M	Ruby Murphy	Sue Belk
5GK - 6R	Amy Regan - Leader of Learning	Monika Bailey

**On Tuesday 3rd July the children all spend the day with their new teacher.**

Drop off and collection is as normal for parents. We have also extended the time with their new teacher to every morning during that week. This will

give the children a really good opportunity to get to know their class teacher. It will also mean the class teacher can really hit the ground running in September!

Please do take the opportunity to meet with your child's new teacher. We hold

'meet for the move' meetings after school on Tuesday 3rd July.

It is really valuable for the teacher to get to know both you and your child and gives you the opportunity to share anything you want the teacher to know about your child.



# ENTERPRISE

**We want to develop learners without limits, who challenge and reflect on their own learning. It's these 'softer' skills that will make the difference ultimately in the world of work and for their future.**

This is why across the school all children engage in enterprise topics.

The constant change of modern day life means our young people need to be resilient, innovative and intellectually curious – all key characteristics of entrepreneurs. Enterprise plays a key part in our curriculum throughout the year, embedded in our school right from our youngest pupils.

## **Not only do they learn about:**

- how to make informed choices and be enterprising and ambitious;
- about the economic and business environment;
- how personal financial choices can affect oneself and others and about rights and responsibilities as consumers.

It also allows the children to apply their maths and English in a real life situation whilst working as a team and solving problems.

Year 2 excelled themselves this term by hosting a film afternoon generating a total of £190.25. The children had decided to make popcorn, lemonade and snacks.

**Thank you to all the families for supporting and encouraging our young entrepreneurs so well! Who knows in the future we may see them on The Apprentice or Dragon's Den!**





# BEAT THE STREET

Thank you to everyone that has been busy walking, scooting, cycling to move us up the leaderboard! I get very competitive and would love to come top this year.

You can see we are doing quite well. Currently sitting in 5th place!

Rank	Team Name	Total Points	Average Points	Number Members
1	Sandown Primary School	73345	99	737
2	Harbour Primary & Nursery School	29620	54	540
3	Grovelands Community School	26840	54	533
4	Cradle Hill Community Primary School	20670	48	426
5	Polegate School	17350	43	398
6	Little Common School	15440	40	381
7	Hawkes Farm Academy	12590	43	289
8	Pevensey and Westham Church of England Primary School	11180	73	152
9	St Paul's Church Of England Academy	11020	25	429
10	Ocklynge Junior School	10780	38	281

# SWIMMING

I do have to say that I feel really sorry at times for Kerry who has to deal with queries from the many parents that do not read letters that come out from school.

A recent example of this is swimming. Online payment has been set up since October to make it easy for parents to spread the payments, detailed letters have been sent home regarding swimming including a breakdown of the costs attached to the pool. Three letters have been sent home regarding the arrangements in term 6. The last newsletter also included a section on swimming in term 6.

'If you would like your child to benefit from lessons in term 6 please ensure that if you haven't already paid that you do so before the start of Term 6. The swimming payment has been open on ParentMail since October last year to give you the opportunity to pay over a period of time.

If you have not yet paid then your child will not have the opportunity to swim in term 6.'

It quite clearly states that if parents have not paid then the

children will not swim. Yet parents have been surprised by this and complained when their child has not swum even though this is the same arrangement as last year.

If we had not introduced this then it is highly likely the pool would have closed. The Think Tank had felt frustrated over a number of years at the fact that many parents never contributed to the pool but every year their children benefited from swimming- they didn't feel it was fair. This was a compromise that they agreed on and I feel it is very fair.

Every child swims in term 5 regardless of payment but term 6 is reserved for the families that really value swimming. All the feedback I have had on this arrangement has been really positive but if you have a different view or alternative suggestion then please speak to me.

I was a little disappointed that office staff had to deal with questions and were challenged on this throughout last week all because parents had not read the letters that went out- it's not fair.

# E-SAFETY UPDATE

The National Online Safety team have created a very useful leaflet for us to share with the school community about an online game that is widely regarded as the biggest online game of 2018 so far.

## The game is called Fortnite: Battle Royale.

The guide gives information about what the game involves and the dangers associated with playing this game, including how it allows strangers to talk to players AND how it creates an addictive environment that is designed to lead to players making compulsive and repetitive low cost online purchases.

The leaflet to the right contains hints on how, if your child is playing this game, you might reduce the associated risks, including, but not limited to: restriction of payment methods, preventing children talking to strangers, making a report, avoiding scams and using strong passwords.

Fortnite has a PEGI rating of 12, PEGI have said this is due to the: 'frequent scenes of mild violence. It is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age'.

This PEGI rating only takes into account the content in the game and not the contact element, where players may be exposed to swearing and offensive language from strangers, either through audio or on-screen text chat.

Click on this link to find out more:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/parents-guide-fortnite-battle-royale>

**FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE**

**AGE RESTRICTION 12+**

**What parents need to know about FORTNITE: BATTLE ROYALE**

**'Fortnite - Battle Royale'** is a free to play section of the game 'Fortnite'. The game sees 100 players dropped on to an island from a 'battle bus' where they have to compete until one survivor remains. The last remaining player on the island wins the game. Players have to find items hidden around the island, such as weapons, to help them survive longer in the game. To make the game harder, there is an added twist called 'the storm', which reduces the size of the island from the start of gameplay, making the players closer together in proximity. The game is available on PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Mac and iOS.

**MICROTRANSACTIONS**  
New featured items are released daily and are only available to purchase within 24 hours of their release. These are cosmetics, items, called 'skins', 'gliders' and 'emotes', which change the look of the characters but do not improve the game play. Once purchased, the player has full use of these in the future. The designs are made desirable for players to purchase and even celebrities are endorsing them. Also available to purchase in the game is a 'Battle Pass'. When a new 'Battle Pass' is released, users can play a series of challenges to receive more rewards (cosmetics) by progressing through different tiers. Whatever rewards they achieve can then be used in the game.

**HACKER ATTACKS**  
News site Forbes said it had seen "evidence" of reports online by people who said their accounts had been compromised by hackers. Hackers gained access to users' accounts in the game and spent hundreds of pounds in fraudulent charges.

**NO PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED**  
Signing up to the game is relatively simple. Users have the option to log in with their Facebook or Google accounts or their email address. When signing up with an email address, there is no proof of age required. If your child is under the age of 12, it is important to check if your child has the game downloaded.

**SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS**  
There are many accounts on Facebook and Twitter which claim to give away free money (known as 'V Bucks') for games which will be transferred to their Xbox Live or PSN cards. Any giveaway promotion from Fortnite will be in game. It is important to check the authenticity of these accounts before giving away personal information in order to claim 'V Bucks'. The websites or accounts may ask you to share your account name and password in order to claim the money. If these offers seem too good to be true, they usually are.

**IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE**  
Games can last around 20 minutes but this varies with each game. Children may feel angry if they lose the game and continue to play until they achieve the result they want. The competitive nature of the game may make it difficult for children to stop playing halfway through as it could affect their position in the game.

**IT CAN BE PLAYED ON THE GO**  
The game was released on mobile in April 2018 meaning it can be played without a games console at home. Some schools have reported that the game is distracting their students while in the classroom. As the game is available outside of the home, parents may not be aware of how long their child is on the game.

**TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE**  
Interacting with other players to the game is part of the fun as players can communicate with their friends and other players in the game. Players will benefit from wearing headphones in the game to hear footsteps from other players trying to compromise their game. Wearing headphones makes it difficult for parents to hear what exactly is being said and children may be exposed to inappropriate language. Fortnite includes early good reporting features for players either cheating or misbehaving, and work towards having one of the best online gaming communities.

**'FREE' TO PLAY**  
The game is free to play. However, if playing on Xbox, you will need an Xbox gold subscription to play the game which is chargeable.

**WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE**  
PEGI has given the game a rating of 12+. Even though the game includes violence and weapons such as crossbows, grenade launchers, rifles, pistols, shotguns and more, PEGI say "more graphic and realistic looking violence towards fantasy characters is allowed. Any violence towards human characters must look unrealistic unless it consists of only minor or trivial injury such as a slip", making the game 'suitable' for children aged 12 and over.

**Top Tips for Parents**

**#1 LIMIT GAME TIME**  
Parents can use parental controls on Xbox and PC to limit the time your child is playing games on the devices. Be aware that the game is available on iOS and will soon be available on all mobiles. With this in mind, it is worth having a conversation with your child to discuss and agree how long you would like them to spend on games. Even though the games last around 20 minutes, it may be hard to take them away from a game mid play. It may be worth using a limit of the amount of matches they play rather than a time limit.

**#2 RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS**  
'Fortnite: Battle Royale' is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to limit spending, we suggest using a paysafecard, or a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will allow you to limit how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

**#3 SHOW THEM HOW TO MAKE A REPORT**  
If your child believes a player is playing or talking inappropriately, you should advise them to report them. To report a player, you can use the in-game feedback tool located in the Main Menu of the game. Additionally, you can report a player in-game when speaking them.

**#4 PREVENT THEM TALKING TO STRANGERS**  
There is an option to turn off the voice chat feature, which means they wouldn't be able to talk to anybody, including their friends. Your child will still be able to use the in-app chat and hear other people's conversations. To turn off voice chat, open the Settings menu in the top right of the main Fortnite page, then click on the cog icon. Open the Audio tab at the top of the screen. From there, you can turn off voice chat.

**#5 LOOK OUT FOR VBUCK SCAMS**  
It is important that your children are aware of the scams that they may come across online in association with the game. Open up conversation with them about scams and how they should never share their username or password with people in order to gain anything for the game.

**#6 USE A STRONG PASSWORD**  
It may seem like a simple tip, but it is important that your child selects a strong password when creating an account, particularly if a credit/debit card is associated with the account. This will help reduce the risk of their account being hacked.

**SOURCES**  
<https://www.microwatt.com/es-gb/news/fortnite-deluxe-battle-royale-pack> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newbeat-43636078>  
<http://fortnitehelp.blogspot.com/> <https://www.fox.com/fortnite/2018/03/12/fortnite-accounts-hacked-how-to-protect-yourself-and-what-to-do-if-youve-been-compromised/#.X0c7o2c2078>

© National Online Safety Ltd  
This is not a definitive guide. Please always check with the app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



# TEACHING SCHOOL

**We are going to have an exceptionally busy year ahead! AGAIN!**

You may have seen the recent press article about the school being selected to become a teaching school.

## Polegate headteacher chosen for key school support role

**The headteacher and staff at Polegate have been selected for top roles supporting schools in challenging circumstances and training new teachers.**

Claire Martin-O'Donoghue is one of more than 50 headteachers to be appointed to the role of national leader of education in the latest recruitment round.

National leaders of education along with staff in their school – appointed as national support schools – use their knowledge and experience to provide additional leadership capability in other schools in need of support.

The type of support provided is flexible and tailored to meet the needs of each individual school. National leaders of education also have responsibility for developing the next generation of NLEs and national support schools.

Polegate School is also one of over 40 schools that has been selected to become a national teaching school in the latest recruitment round, taking a leading role in recruiting and training new entrants to the profession.

Introduced in 2011, teaching schools are excellent schools that work with partner schools in an alliance to provide high quality school-led initial

teacher training and professional development opportunities for teachers at all stages of their career.

They raise standards through supporting other schools, especially those in challenging circumstances, and ensure that the most talented school leaders are spotted and supported to become successful headteachers.

**Claire Martin-O'Donoghue, Polegate School said:**

'This is such an exciting time for Polegate School, this announcement closely follows our very recent Ofsted inspection which has also just been published. We see it as such a privilege to work with other partners, to deliver high quality support for teachers and leaders at all stages in their career. We hope to provide a strong supply of new teachers, develop leaders and the next generation of heads, and support schools in challenging circumstances.'

**Lord Agnew, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System, said:**

'I'd like to congratulate Polegate School and Claire Martin-O'Donoghue on being appointed



as a teaching school and a national leader of education. They should be very proud of this achievement.

'Teaching schools and national leaders of education are supporting other schools, attracting and training the best new teachers and developing the next generation of leaders.'

# WALKING BUS

**After a slow start this really picked up! It was so handy for parents that used it to drop off in the car park and drive straight to work. The children loved it and the walk up to school was really sociable and enjoyable.**

Thank you to all the children and parents that tried it throughout the week. I know some even walked the wrong way to get there just to be part of it.

Many parents asked us if this was going to continue. I would love to make it a permanent thing but this would have to rely on a team of parents to make it happen. I have had a couple of interested parents say they would be able to do it on a regular basis on different days but so far there has not been enough interest. Please speak to me if you can or if you would do a different route.

I will happily do all the work to get it started and support initially.

**I would like to end the year with another walking bus.**

## Amazing work



**Grace and her amazing writing - all three pages of it!**



**Year 6 are thoroughly enjoying their mini-topic at school!**





# SPORTS WEEK

The weather held out right until the final day of the week. Typically, just as the family picnic was about to begin the heavens opened and down came the rain! Sadly this meant we had to cancel the afternoon.

Up until that point the week had been a tremendous success. As always the sports leaders did a phenomenal job of supporting both the teachers and younger children during their sports day. I was so proud seeing them lead events and offering encouragement to the younger children. They were a great role model.

There were plenty of smiles from all the children, examples of resilience and determination, teamwork and competition. It was wonderful to include our nursery children who joined in with our reception sports morning.

Also another lovely chance for us to invite you in to share your child's success and see school in action. Thank you to everyone that came in to cheer their children on and support the event. Some of you even joined in with the races!

**I would also like to thank our terrific PFA for providing much needed refreshments on the day. This was a big hit!**



The race officials!



Phoenix won with 304!



A quick warm up!



And shoot! GOAL!



Cheering on our friends!



# PFA NEWS

Since the last newsletter we have been busy behind the scenes with fundraising activities such as the School Lottery, planning and organising our upcoming events and also manning the refreshments at the school sports days. We have also held our final meeting of the year.

The 'Smartie' challenge was an amazing success, raising a phenomenal £969.52. Thank you so much to everyone that supported us with this, this was an amazing amount of money to raise...even with only half of the tubes returned! We are busy putting together the winning class, 1B's, prize.

Every penny of profit we make goes into supporting the school to fund all the little extras that make Polegate School an even more exciting and fun place to be. At the moment we are trying to raise money for the school's wildlife project.

## Want to win the lottery?

Don't forget that you can get involved with the School Lottery.

All funds raised go to the school, there is a guaranteed winner every week and a chance to win a £25,000 Jackpot! The more players we have the bigger the prize each week. This is drawn every Saturday, you can visit the website below to join today!!

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/polegate-primary-school>

## Get involved!

If you would be interested in getting involved with the PFA, we would love to welcome you on board!

We are always grateful for any support you can give, you don't have to be on the committee, just helping out before/at/after any events you can is a great help.

Come and have a chat with one of us if you would like to find out more. If every parent in the school could contribute just 15 minutes of their time at one of the events across the school year we would have enough support for every event to run!

Don't forget you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date with all of our events!

## DIARY DATES

Upcoming events this year are:

13th-14th June:  
Fathers' Day  
gifts on sale

.....  
Saturday 7th July  
Summer Fair  
.....

Friday 13th July  
Quiz Night

## Welcome new staff

### Sarah Cullinane

Hello! I am very much looking forward to joining the team at Polegate School in September and having my own class.

I am currently completing my PGCE at Brighton University. Prior to this I was a teaching assistant in a local school for over 6 years. I am passionate about children's learning and supporting them in fulfilling their potential.

In my spare time I enjoy long walks on the seafront with my husband, daughters and cheeky 3 year old Maltichon, Buddy! I love watching films and relaxing with family and friends at the weekend!

## PLANS APPROVED

So plans have been approved and in a few weeks' time I have a planning meeting to discuss the start of the building work! I will of course keep you all updated on progress and plans.





# Attendance

**Congratulations to the winning classes for term 5, they are 5GK and RHI.**

These lucky classes will be enjoying a film and ice cream! Both had 98% attendance!

Last term the classes thoroughly enjoyed their workshops as you can see!

**Don't forget to be in with a chance to win a bicycle you need to be in school! Anyone with attendance above 97% will be entered into our prize draw.**

## School Attendance

**Whole school is now: 96.4%. Not far off our target of 97%.**

RV = 95%	2A = 97%	5GK = 97%
RH = 95%	2B = 97%	5W = 96%
RHi = 95%	3M = 97%	6M = 97%
1N = 97%	3Mc = 97%	6R = 97%
1B = 97%	4M = 96%	
1Y = 96%	4D = 97%	



**2B having great fun making pizzas because they had the best attendance last term!**

## Diary Date

**LAST DAY  
OF TERM  
FRIDAY  
20th JULY**

## 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  
890 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)