

news

October 2018

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WELCOME RECEPTION

We have had such a busy start to the year! It has been an incredible term with so much happening- some things have been more challenging than others! Lots of events and opportunities have been organised ranging from basketball tournament to a Young Apprentice opportunity.

Reception have settled exceptionally well and they have been supported very well by their buddies higher up the school. This has been a huge success with both reception and year 6 benefiting from supporting each other. They have formed strong bonds and friendships and it has been such a delight to see how well they interact, work and play together. We have been asking ourselves why we never thought of doing this sooner!

**Read
more
inside**

SUMMER LIBRARY CHALLENGE

Pupil A

Reads 20 minutes each day
3600 minutes in a school year
1,800,000 words

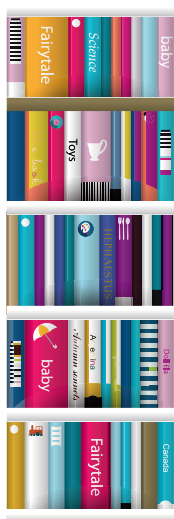
90th Percentile



Pupil B

Reads 5 minutes each day
900 minutes in a school year
282,000 words

50th Percentile



Pupil C

Reads 1 minute each day
180 minutes in a school year

10th Percentile



By the end of Year 6 **Pupil A** will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. **Pupil B** will have read only 12 school days. Which pupil would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which pupil would you expect to be more successful in school? ...and in life?

What about a pupil that doesn't read regularly at home or perhaps not at all? What are their chances of success?

This is why, at Polegate, we place so much importance on reading at home. All research and studies show that children who read every day do better at every stage of their education. We see it in school; the pupils that read at home are making better progress.

We are very fortunate at Polegate school to have so many supportive families that promote regular reading and learning at home and this reflects in the results our pupils achieve.

I would like to say a huge thank you to you all. I have seen in home school journals that you do all read regularly with your children and record this in the books.

Through reading children gain a rich vocabulary and this is so important as the research shows. We want to give our pupils power and confidence and words give them both.

**WORDS
HAVE
POWER!**

Poor vocabulary at 5 years old - higher unemployment.

Poor readers as adults, more mental health issues.

**Learning
without
Limits**

NO LIMITS

'Word poor' children are left unable to describe their world. The limits of vocabulary really do prove the limits of their world!

WELCOME

The Year twos are loving the expansion of an additional mobile to their village as it is now called!

Learning around the school is exciting and your children are visibly engaged with the topics.

I would to thank parents for all the support you have given to dress up days, home learning tasks, volunteering in school and our fundraising events.

Your efforts have not gone unnoticed and I am so grateful for your support!

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Traffic and parking have been a hot topic this term causing quite a lot of contention and anger.

I would like to thank everyone for supporting this - parking has improved significantly over the last few days. It is not enjoyable for any of us to challenge parents' parking but that is exactly what a number of school staff have done because we care far too much about your children to allow an accident to happen. Sadly some parents have behaved in an ignorant way and at times have been exceptionally rude. This is not setting the example we expect and has been very disappointing.

The children themselves have thrown themselves into this topic as well. They have been shocked and quite upset to consider what the consequences of parents' actions could be. The whole school has had a recent focus on road safety and the Highway Code. Across the school we have seen some very creative advertising and campaigning to address this issue. I look forward to sharing this with you all - I think you will be very impressed! It is great to see how our whole community pulls together and the support we have had regarding the parking has been appreciated.

I would like to extend my thanks to the police who have visited to add the weight of the law to our campaign. We are looking forward to seeing you again soon!



TOWN COUNCIL

This term our school council were given the opportunity to contribute to the development of the playpark.

As you know it is being reduced in size as our school expands but what the Town Council plan to do is install exciting new play equipment. The pupils felt the smaller space was going to provide better equipment after looking at the plans.

We welcome any opportunity to bring learning to life and make learning relevant and so I would like to thank the Town Council for doing exactly that! They considered two proposals and the council went away with their thoughts and ideas.



**Polegate Town Council, Council Office, 49 High Street,
Polegate BN26 6AL
Telephone: 01323 488114**

Town Clerk - Jo Ognjanovic e-mail admin@polegatetowncouncil.gov.uk
Town Mayor - Councillor Ms Angela Snell e-mail cllr.angela.snell@polegatetowncouncil.gov.uk

Mrs C Martin-O'Donoghue
Polegate School
Oakleaf Drive
Polegate
East Sussex

5th October 2018

Dear Claire

School council visit

I am writing to thank you, Miss Marsh and all the children that form the school council for our wonderful visit.

The children showed great enthusiasm for the park project and came up with some great ideas and questions for us. It was fantastic to see how they looked at the two different designs and discussed the positives and negatives of both, before coming to a conclusion as to which they preferred.

All of the children got involved and asked us questions and were very respectful to each other's opinions and ideas, which was lovely to see. I am sure that there could be a few budding town councillors among them!

Miss Marsh mentioned a future visit to the town chambers for the school council. Please do contact me if you wish to arrange this.

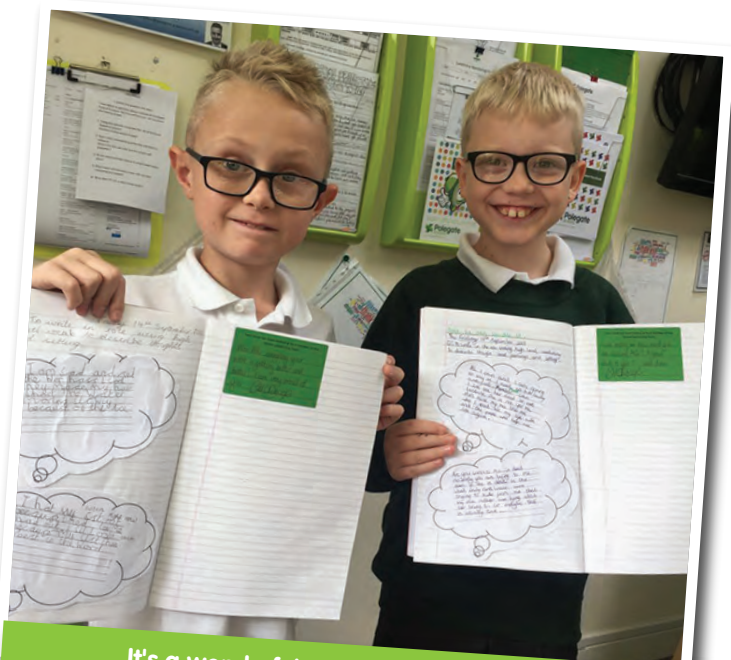
We are hoping the new play park will be up and running by September 2019 at the latest, and we will keep you informed of the progress.

Kind Regards

Jo Ognjanovic
Jo Ognjanovic
Town Clerk



Emily's very impressive Roman shield!



It's a wonderful day if your name is Alfie!
Both sent to show me impressive writing!

ATTENDANCE

The whole school attendance is currently 97.25% which is brilliant to see!

Please keep this up because I have set an ambitious target this year for the whole school of 97.5%.

Our focus over the last few years has been on increasing the attendance for our vulnerable groups. Our Free School Meal pupils traditionally have a much lower attendance than the whole school. This correlates with how well they do. It is no surprise to know that children who miss school do not do as well or make as much progress.

Already a gap is showing for some of our focus groups:

FSM	94.05%
NON-FSM	97.64%

The second group that do not attend school as frequently as others is our pupils with special educational needs. They already face barriers with their learning and so to miss more school only compounds this problem.

SEN	94.96%
NON-SEN	97.63%

The whole school is currently at: 97.25%

RH = 96%	1C = 96%	4D = 96%
RHi = 97%	2A = 98%	5W = 97%
RV = 98%	2M = 97%	5GD = 97%
1B = 98%	3M = 95%	6M = 98%
1Y = 97%	3B = 99%	6R = 98%

You can see in the chart below the reasons why children have taken time off school already. It is quite shocking to see that after a 6 week holiday some families have already made the decision to take their children out of school for yet another holiday! I wonder what parents would say if teachers decided to do the same?

Illness	37.7%
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Family Holiday (not agreed)	34.5%
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12.3%	Unauthorised Absence
--------------	-----------------------------

6.0%	Medical/Dental Appointment
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I appreciate it is not always easy but please try to make appointments outside of the school day where you can. Most of the time dentists will be very accommodating and find these slots for you.



Ceryn and her home-learning task! A glittery lava lamp invention! We like it very much!



Our first of many stars of the year! A big welcome to our new pupils too who have made a great first impression!

ATTENDANCE INITIATIVES

Termly prize for the class with the highest attendance. This is to recognise a team effort regarding attendance. Classes chose the reward for themselves and in the past they have chosen: roller skate disco, cinema, Forest School to name just a few!

Termly prize for individual children that have had 100% for that term. There are lots of goodies such as notepads, mini torches, highlighters, mini pencil cases and a certificate. If a child doesn't win a prize one term then they have a chance the following term. The children love this incentive.

Each week we celebrate the classes with the highest attendance and they get a certificate to proudly display in class.

BIG ATTENDANCE PRIZE

At the end of the year there is the **BIG ATTENDANCE PRIZE** which recognises EVERY child that has reached our school target 97.5% or more with a prize draw. Every child that reaches this is entered into a draw to win a brand new bike of their choice!

This keeps the incentive to reach the target throughout the year.

What type of bike would you pick?



Please note that if your child has attended a hospital consultation their official attendance is affected, they will miss a session if they are not in school for morning registration or afternoon we recognise this is unavoidable and in these circumstances and provided parents pop in and tell Kerry the child will still be eligible for the incentives. Due to the size of our school we do rely on parents to remind Kerry just before the last week because our computer system will not separate attendance in this way when we generate the reports we need.

QUEUES IN OFFICE

I've noticed the queue to the office growing recently.

The office is exceptionally busy during the morning and at the end of the day. Please remember we do have a post

box by the side of the office which does get emptied every day, feel free to write messages down and pop them into the post box.

This alleviates the need to speak to

office staff or TAs on duty which then gives them an extra job to do and of course there is the danger that a verbal message can be forgotten. You are also welcome to email in.

FOOTBALL HOLIDAY CLUB

Football holiday camp during October half term.

The session is for children aged 6 - 12 and is being held at Little Horsted School, Uckfield, TN22 5TS on October 22nd from 10.00am to 3.00pm and is £15.00 per child.

The session will be run by Ian Dove from ICON player development centre / South East Multi Sports and will be assisted by highly experienced and qualified coaches.

How to Book

If you would like your child to attend please follow the link below and fill out at the google form:

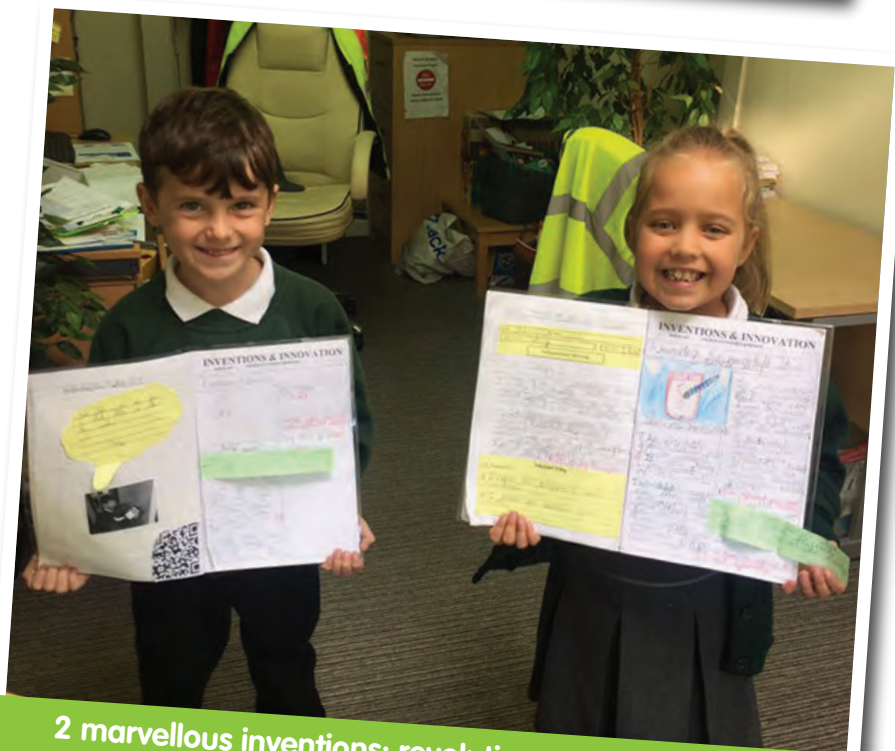
<https://goo.gl/forms/UxfqTmhAnTcVbi3t1>

If you have any questions email Ian Dove:
Ian.Dove@southeastmultisports.co.uk

GREAT WORK!



Our Young Enterprise apprentices have just returned from their challenge! They came 3rd!



2 marvellous inventions: revolutionary roller skates and an electronic pen that does all the hard work for you! Just look at the handwriting too!

NEW TEACHER



**We welcome
Roberta Sutton our
new Year 5 teacher.**

Since qualifying as a teacher 20 years ago, I've enjoyed adventures both in and out of education!

Having lived and worked in New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the US, from coaching swimming to managing restaurants, kayaking to half-marathon running, I like to think I'm making the most of my time on our precious planet.

Now happily nesting in Bexhill, despite roots in London, you're more likely to find me tending our bee-friendly glade, walking the hound in the woods or driving my husband batty as I learn to play the harmonica.

That said, I am thoroughly looking forward to joining the Polegate team next term, hoping to put something of a Sutton spin on things in Year 5.

Class 5W will become 5S

EASTBOURNE BASKETBALL

We came first in the Eastbourne Basketball Tournament!

Year 2 Basketball Festival was held at Stafford School. Our young team did really well and finished in 1st place!

Tyler Sims was so inspired by the event he wrote an explanation for the newsletter!

I went on the mini-bus to Stafford School to play the basketball. We had to get the ball in a net.
By Tyler Simms



LETTERS

It is always lovely to get feedback from parents, friends and family. We welcome feedback both positive and negative. I received a lovely letter from a grandmother in school after she watched a recent assembly.

Well done Year 6!

34 Goring Rd
Eastbourne
15th Sept. 2018

Dear Mrs O'Donahue,

I just wanted to say how impressed I was with the assembly on WWI on Friday afternoon.

Well done Miss Murphy, the children did a sterling job at portraying the daily life of soldiers in the trenches and Gettin was amazing!

Regards.

Tricia Axell

(Izzy Gunters grandmother)

PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW

It is a great honour for the second year in a row to be invited to contribute to 'The Parliamentary Review.'

THE RT HON DAVID CURRY

195-197 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 5NE
chiefeditor@theparliamentaryreview.co.uk
Telephone 020 7428 6787

Mrs Claire Martin-O'Donoghue
Headteacher
Polegate Primary School
Oakleaf Drive
Polegate
East Sussex
South East
BN26 6PT

5 Oct 2018

Dear *Claire*,

I am writing regarding *The Parliamentary Review*, a series of documents that are based around individual industry sectors. The 2018 Education *Parliamentary Review* was introduced by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education. You should have received a copy last month.

It also contained articles from a range of schools, wherein the headteachers discussed the challenges faced and how they have responded to them. The idea is to share knowledge and best practice in an attempt to raise standards in education.

I would like Polegate Primary School to be one of the representatives for 2019, writing 1,000 words with my guidance and that of our editorial team.

The Review's Chairman, Lord Blunkett, who served as Education Secretary from 1997-2001, would also invite you to our annual gala in September 2019, when the document is released, for an evening to celebrate hard work and leadership. In the past, the guest speakers and attendees have included figures such as Nick Clegg, Ed Balls, George Osborne, Frank Lampard and Jonny Wilkinson.

For the moment, please call my colleague Devina Snow on 020 7428 6787. She will be able to explain the whole process to you.

I would be grateful for a prompt response.

Kind regards,



The Rt Hon David Curry
Chief Editor | The Parliamentary Review

The Parliamentary Review, Westminster Publications
www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk

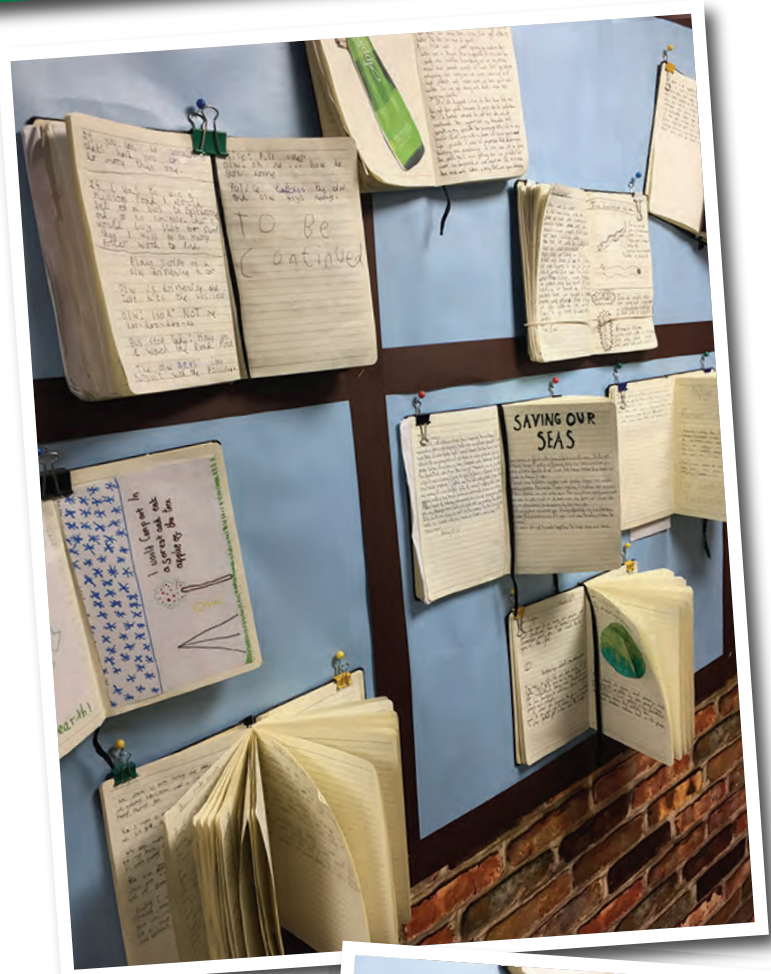
WRITING JOURNALS

The competition that ran throughout the summer was a big success.

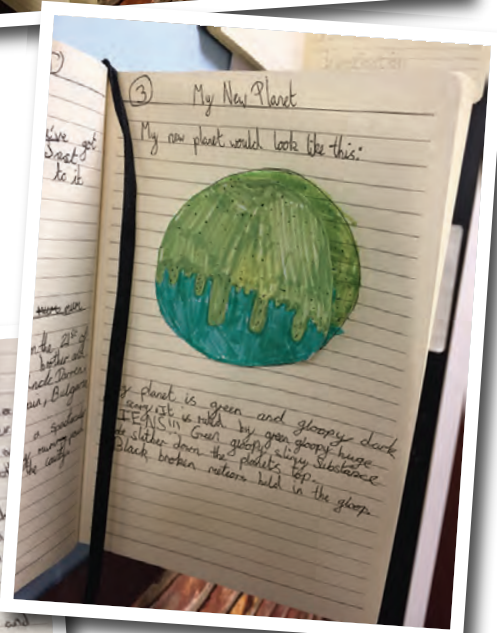
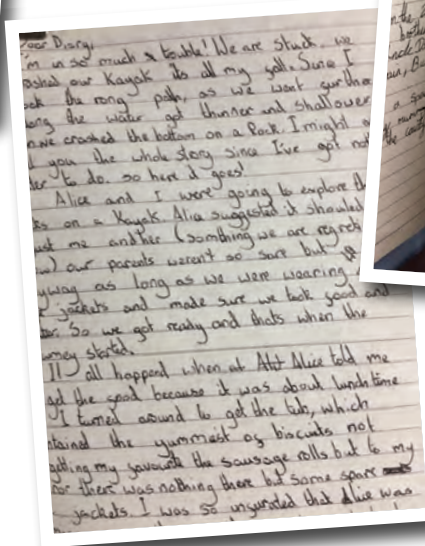
We were thrilled to see how many children took up the challenge to write at least 3 pieces in their writing journal. Images, photos, prompts and even some of my adventures on holiday were shared on Twitter giving some inspiration to writing tasks.

We drew the winning writer out of the hat this term, congratulations Cody Evenden who won a basket full of Smiggles goodies!

The writing journals are such a special book and it is really clear that pupils are taking such a pride in these journals. I think you will agree they look stunning. They are celebrated across the school on displays and in the classrooms. Something for the children to treasure for years to come!



Well done Cody!



E-SAFETY TIPS


CEOP

THINK
U
KNOW
your internet

Keeping your child safe online - A checklist for parents and carers

As a parent you'll probably know how important the internet is to children and young people. They use it to learn, play, socialise and express themselves in all types of creative ways. This may be through sharing photos and videos, blogging, gaming, or even developing their own apps. It is a place of amazing opportunities.

The technology children use in their daily lives can seem daunting. You might worry about the risks they can face online, such as bullying, contact from strangers, as well as the possibility of access to inappropriate or illegal content. To help them stay safe, it's important that you understand how your child uses the internet.

By following this simple checklist, you can start to protect them and decrease the risks they face: 



I have asked my child to show me sites they use – By doing so, your child is including you in their online life and social activity. Show an interest and take note of the names of their favourite sites. You can then re-visit these when you are alone. Take your time and explore the space, find out how to set the safety features and learn how to report any issues directly to the site.



I have asked my child to set their profile settings to private – Social networking sites, such as Facebook, are used by children to share information, photos and just about everything they do! Encourage your child to set their privacy settings to private. They need to think about the information they post online as it could be copied and pasted anywhere, without their permission. If it got into the wrong hands, somebody may wish to use it against them or worst of all try to locate them in the real world.



I have asked my child about their online friends – We know that people lie online about who they are and may create fake identities. It is very important children understand this. Whether they are visiting a social network or a gaming site, the safety messages are the same. Children and young people must never give out personal information and only be "friends" with people they know and trust in the real world.



I have set appropriate parental controls on my child's computer, mobile and games console – Filters on computers and mobiles can prevent your child from viewing inappropriate and possibly illegal content. You can activate and change levels depending on your child's age and abilities. You can also set time restrictions for using the internet or games. They can be free and easy to install. Call your service provider who will be happy to assist or visit CEOP's parents' site for further information. Explain to your child why you are setting parental controls when you talk to them about their internet use.



My child has agreed to tell me if they are worried about something online – Sometimes children get into situations online where they don't feel comfortable or see something they don't want to see. By opening up the communication channels and talking to your child about the internet, their favourite sites and the risks they may encounter, they are more likely to turn to you if they are concerned about something.



I know where to get help if I'm concerned about my child – The CEOP Safety Centre provides access to a range of services. If you are concerned that an adult has made inappropriate contact with your child you can report this directly to CEOP. You can also find help if you think your child is being bullied, or if you've come across something on the internet which you think may be illegal.

Visit the Safety Centre at www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre or by clicking on this button:



For further help and guidance on all the information mentioned please visit

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

OUR YOUNG SPORTS LEADERS

A group of our Year 5 Sports Leaders went for training at Hailsham Community College where they took part in a variety of activities to encourage healthy, active lifestyles..



MORE GREAT WORK!



2M's fantastic poetry for the competition!



Painting for poetry competition. These poems will look incredible!

Polegate School

Oakleaf Drive, Polegate, BN26 6PT

Firework Night

12th October
6pm - 8pm

Adults - £5

Children - £4

Family Ticket - £15 (2 adults & 3 children)

Children Under 4 - FREE

Display by Frontier Fireworks

Fun Fair, Stalls, Games,
Food & Drink, and much more!

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

CHILDRENS

PUMPKIN CARVING

COMPETITION

***** FREE ENTRY *****

**WINNER RECEIVES:
DAY PASS FOR 2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN
TO TREASURE ISLAND!!!**

**Entries must be outside of the
office by 9am, Friday 12th October**

your school lottery

POLEGATE SCHOOL

BACK TO SCHOOL GIFT EXPERIENCE GIVEAWAY!

Buy Your Lottery Ticket this term, for a chance to **WIN** a £50 Virgin Gift Experience.

- Start the New School Year by joining our lottery & be part of our community!
- Tickets cost just £1 per ticket, per week and 40% of all ticket sales are donated to our school.
- Guaranteed Cash Prizes every week.
- Chance to WIN a £25,000 Jackpot every week.
- Draws are every Saturday at 8pm and results are posted online.
- The easiest and quickest way to join our lottery is online where you can set up your payment either by Direct Debit or Debit Card.

To start supporting, Visit:
www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

And Search For:
Polegate Primary School

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. Sign up before 28th October 2018
Terms and conditions apply – see website.

FREE 4 WEEK COURSE!

STREET Learning

Maths4Parents

**PLACES ARE LIMITED
PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT**

Would you like to be able to support your children with their learning? Would you like to improve your own maths skills?


Come along to this welcoming, friendly and free course!

- Keep one step ahead of your children
- Learn more about the maths curriculum
- Led by an experienced instructor and primary school teacher

This is a 4 week course taking place on the following Thursdays:
15th, 22nd, 29th November and 6th December 2018
10:00 – 12:00
at Sussex Downs College, Cross Levels Way, Eastbourne, BN21 2UF

To find out more or to book:
call: 030 300 38212
email: community.info@sussexdowns.ac.uk





Diary Date

**Friday 19th
October
LAST DAY
OF TERM**

Archive

Polegate news

A Day with the

Goodbye & good luck to our year 6 pupils

My French Trip

This week this term and the Inclusion Mark visit

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 914 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 Proworx: www.proworx.co.uk



EAST SUSSEX
MUSIC

30 MINUTE SESSIONS!

SATURDAY MORNINGS!

YOUNG MUSIC MAKERS

ONLY £20 PER TERM!

FIRST 2 SESSIONS FREE!

If your child is 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 years old then come to our Saturday morning sessions at your local Area Music Centre.

Offered at the four area music centres in Crowborough, Eastbourne, Lewes and Hastings.

Through a wide range of activities, including games, songs, music and movement and percussion children develop aural awareness, co-ordination, memory, spatial awareness and concentration in addition to musical skills.

Apply online!

eastsussex.gov.uk/music-centres

£5 registration fee
(Concessionary fees available)

Supported using public funding by



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East Sussex
County Council

