

# news

**June 2021**



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## THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**It has been an extremely difficult, turbulent year for everyone with change and restrictions continuing.**

Everyone has been affected by change, isolation and sometimes loss. We can't underestimate this but what I can say is that the Polegate School community has stayed connected and strong throughout it all. I remain so proud and feel privileged to hold the position I do in such a special community.

We have seen countless examples of kindness and have all developed a real understanding of what really matters!

**Once again I want to thank you all for your support as the changes continue!**

# TERM 6

**New arrangements at the start and end of the day seem to be working very well and we will keep this under review as the term progresses.**

**We would like to be able to consider your thoughts in the next few weeks so will be issuing a survey. This will ensure our arrangements are announced ahead of our September start. I am expecting they will remain the same.**

As we go into this term, we are at the point of the year when we begin to look ahead and prepare children for yet another transition and change. This newsletter has all these details included so you are well informed.

The term has got off to a flying start! With all the talk of catch-up in the media we wanted children to catch up on what matters- fun enrichment activities! So we are delighted to be offering a wealth of clubs again this term! We have gone all out with every

teacher running either a club of an intervention each week. They have worked exceptionally hard this year, and continue to go above and beyond right up until the end of this year. I would like to thank them for this commitment.

We have welcomed visitors again this term and I feel immensely proud as I walk around and see the school with fresh eyes.

Swimming has been a total joy to observe! Always such a highlight of the year. Your children's faces have made all the hard work and organisation worthwhile!

We consider ourselves to be incredibly fortunate to have an increasingly diverse school and we place great importance on fostering inclusion and

awareness around these issues. The presence of diversity in our school allows pupils to consider perspectives and opinions beyond those they've already formed. We want children to thrive in an exponentially diverse world and so we celebrate opportunities as they arise and so throughout this month we celebrate gypsy, roma and traveller culture and history. This is close to our hearts as we are proud to have strong connections at Polegate to this community with many generations going through the school. We would welcome any visitors on this theme to share their experiences and culture with the children. Please contact us if you would like to participate or offer your expertise.

## PARKING

**Please be considerate of our neighbours at drop off and collection.**

We are fortunate that there are plenty of parking spaces in the vicinity- it just means you will have a short walk.

Please don't expect to drop off immediately outside school - this is not ok and is an accident waiting to happen. It is also not ok to use the pavement as a parking space and not fair on pedestrians that need to use the path.

**With traffic in Polegate being so horrendous at the moment it may even be quicker to cycle or walk!**

## WARNING

### Supervision of children

A resident of Bexley Court (block of flats opposite the school) contacted school very alarmed to see children climbing on scaffolding!

The main concern was children's safety, and the other was respect for our neighbour's property and privacy.

Please keep your children in sight and uphold to our school rules of respect, responsible and ready.

# STAFFING NEWS

## The Transfer Window has closed!

**With the start of the UEFA European Championship it seems only appropriate to make a connection to football!**

It is that time of year when I can share our staffing plans for next year with class progression. This is a time consuming piece of work which up until the end of May can be subject to change. Teachers have until the 31st May to resign and so, a little like the premier league, with the transfer window now closed I can now announce the teachers your child will have next year!

Our very own super league, and I am delighted to say we are fully staffed and have a fabulous team. We secured some fabulous new additions and were inundated with 70 applications for our teacher vacancies which is simply unheard of!

NEW	CURRENT	TEACHER	EMAIL
<b>R</b>		<b>Libby Hayes</b>	<b>E:</b> l.hayes@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>R</b>		<b>Victoria Miller</b>	<b>E:</b> v.miller@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>R</b>		<b>Bethany Budd</b>	<b>E:</b> b.budd@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>1</b>	<b>RH</b>	<b>Sarah Cullinane</b>	<b>E:</b> s.cullinane@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>1</b>	<b>RM</b>	<b>Sarah Baker</b>	<b>E:</b> s.baker@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>1</b>	<b>RR</b>	<b>Karen Stockdale</b>	<b>E:</b> karen.stockdale@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>2</b>	<b>1S</b>	<b>Clare Marsh</b> <small>Leader of learning Y1&amp;2</small>	<b>E:</b> c.marsh@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>2</b>	<b>1C</b>	<b>Emma Murphy</b>	<b>E:</b> e.murphy@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>2</b>	<b>1B</b>	<b>Jenny Rawlinson</b>	<b>E:</b> j.rawlinson@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>3</b>	<b>2M</b>	<b>Mary McGovern</b>	<b>E:</b> m.mcGovern@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>3</b>	<b>2Mc</b>	<b>Ashleigh Liddell</b>	<b>E:</b> a.liddell@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>3</b>	<b>2Ma</b>	<b>Cathy Young</b>	<b>E:</b> c.young@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>4</b>	<b>3Y</b>	<b>Amy Durbidge</b>	<b>E:</b> a.durbidge@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>4</b>	<b>3G</b>	<b>Gayle Howland</b>	<b>E:</b> g.howland@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>4</b>	<b>3D</b>	<b>Hayley Giggs</b> <small>Leader of learning Y3&amp;4</small>	<b>E:</b> h.giggs@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>5</b>	<b>4DB</b>	<b>Grace Tobin</b>	<b>E:</b> g.tobin@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>5</b>	<b>4E</b>	<b>Ruby Murphy</b>	<b>E:</b> r.murphy@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>5</b>	<b>4H</b>	<b>Maxine Weyland</b>	<b>E:</b> m.veyland@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>6</b>	<b>5M</b>	<b>Heidi Jabbari</b>	<b>E:</b> h.jabbari@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk
<b>6</b>	<b>5T</b>	<b>Max Vigor</b>	<b>E:</b> m.vigor@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

**Please bear in mind that new teachers will not be picking up emails routinely yet as they have not started.**



# STAFFING TRANSFERS!

At the end of last term Mr Evans secured his own transfer deal and will be leaving Polegate to start a new adventure, still teaching but at a different school. We wish Mr Evans all the very best.

## Miss Liddell has been our new signing!



Miss Liddell

Hello everyone, my name is Miss Liddell and I am over the moon to say that I will be joining Polegate school this September to join the year 3 team.

I graduated from University last year and I can't wait to start my career at Polegate School. I love everything creative, as art is a passion of mine.

I also used to be a swimming teacher, swimming is something else I'm very passionate about and I can't wait to pass that passion onto the children.

Some things you may like to know? I'm currently reading Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, my favourite colour is baby blue and my favourite musical is Hamilton.

**I can't wait to meet you all soon!**

**We are so pleased that we are clearly inspiring, not putting off, the next generation of teachers here at Polegate.**

We see a number of our teaching assistants embarking on their teacher training qualification next year. We hope at some point in the future we will be able to welcome them home!

Miss Worrell, has successfully secured a place at university as have Miss Timms and Mrs Grace. We are really pleased to be supporting both Miss Timms and Mrs Grace at Polegate as they complete their initial teaching training so they will be staying with us just in a different capacity.

## Opportunity: Midday supervisors wanted

**We would love applications for this role as the school grows we seem to be forever interviewing but this does mean it creates some really exciting opportunities to join the Polegate Team.**

**Are you energetic, positive and creative?**

This role is to promote physical activity, play and social development at lunchtimes. This is for an hour a day, 12-1 pm, five days a week in term time only.

The successful applicant will have experience of working with children; will be able to quickly form positive relationships and promote our caring school ethos.

**Contact us for an application form if this sounds like you!**

## SPORTS WEEK

**Sports Week will take place but in line with guidance sadly we will not be able to welcome parents in to watch. This year we will film events and races that take place in order that you can still enjoy watching your children participate. I can promise you we will do all the cheering on your behalf!**

**Sadly, that does mean no parents' races in 2021!**

# HOLIDAY REQUESTS

**I was hoping it wouldn't happen but unfortunately it is! With lockdown easing the requests for holidays have started and we have suddenly had a flurry of these arriving in the office!**

Now more than ever before children need to be in school – there has been so much lost learning! I want to explain our stance on this now so there is real clarity and make no apologies for our position on this. We want the best for your children. In recent years, the government has cracked down on school absences and all schools have tightened their policies on requests for authority to take a child on holiday.

Given the disruption over the last two years and limited time children have spent in school we are not in a position to approve any further absence for any child.

Taking holidays in term time will affect a child's schooling as much as any other absence and we expect parents to help us by not taking children away in school time.

There is no automatic entitlement in law to time off in school time to go on holiday.

Amendments to the 2006 regulations make clear that the Headteacher may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

## **So what is considered exceptional?**

I hope that by sharing this guidance it will make the restrictions we work under clear and transparent. All parents have been saying that their circumstances are exceptional and the leave is exceptional when it is not. The criteria is high and I hope these examples will demonstrate this.

## **Examples of any exceptional circumstances where leave may be granted during term time are as follows:**

- If a parent is service personnel and is returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays.
- Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child's rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue.
- Out of school programmes such as music, arts or sport operating at a high standard of achievement. Documentary evidence of this event will be required.

- Religious observance – The Education Act 1996 S444(3) (c), states "on any day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which his/her parent belongs"

Where there are exceptional and unforeseen circumstances that fall outside of the above, the Headteacher agrees to consult with the governing body prior to any authorisation being given to the parent.

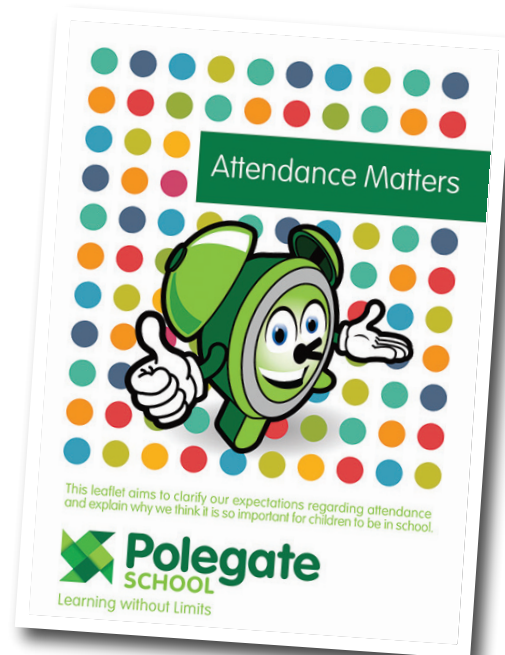
## **Evidence would be required in each case.**

If a request meets the above exceptional circumstances we would still need to be convinced that the leave could not be taken at another time, for example in the school holidays.

Sadly, children have lost so much time in school recently and we all keep our fingers crossed that we are seeing a return to normal when we can focus on what is going to make a difference to your child's attainment and progress without distraction. We have all been through an exceptional time, including teachers who have been

We are looking forward to a term 6 where we can be aspirational for your children and expect the best. Attendance and punctuality are an important part of good behaviour and such an important life skill. They may miss valuable experiences such as the transition week if they take holidays now.

**Our expectation is 100% which pre Covid was normal for children at Polegate. We are optimistic we will return to this in term 6. Please do contact us if you are having any difficulties or face challenges we may not be aware of.**





# MAKING A SPLASH!

We moved heaven and earth to get the pool open for the children this year and we are so pleased we did! If we were able to offer swimming in line with Covid guidance then we were determined to do so.

Not only are we passionate about ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to learn to swim but the joy that it brings the children at this time of year is so wonderful to see and we felt they all deserved this at what is the end of a very challenging few years!

Thank you to our many parent volunteers and our commitment lifeguards for supporting this.



How lovely does this look?

## MARVELLOUS MIDDLES

Not wanting to lose the momentum with the children's motivation to learning we continue to offer irresistible learning opportunities.

As part of the London topic year 3 created their own art gallery and they spent time appreciating each other's artwork.



# TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

## 5th-9th July transition week within school

With the announcement of new classes comes a lot of excitement and nerves. We recognise for some children this brings anxiety and so carefully plan a range of events and activities to support this.

The week beginning Monday 5th July is the start of our transition week.

Every morning each class will work with their new teacher. On the Wednesday they spend the full day with them.

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

## Meet for the Move

You have the opportunity to book a five minute slot with your child's new teacher on Friday 9th July. This is a great opportunity to share anything specific about your child, own circumstances or any worries you have or simply to say hello to the teacher and get to know them. They really value the chance to meet you as it means we can get off to a quick start in September if we have built relationships now. Please do take this opportunity.

## GYPSY, ROMA & TRAVELLER HISTORY MONTH

**Did you know that being settled and living in one place is actually a recent development?**

For 99% of our history, humans were nomadic. Up until around 10,000 years ago, our ancestors moved around in large family groups, moving with their food supplies and available resources. This was a survival strategy and people only owned what they could easily transport.

**"We all have different upbringings and cultures but we are all human."**

**To find out more:**

<https://www.travellerstimes.org.uk/sites/default/files/paragraphs/filelink/Gypsies%20and%20Travellers%20Lifestyle%20History%20and%20Culture%20FAQs.pdf>



## DIARY DATES

**5th July**

**Transition week within school**

Every morning each class will work with their new teacher. On the Wednesday they spend the full day

**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

**1st September**

**INSET Day**

**2nd September**

**INSET Day**

**27th September**

**INSET Day**

**8th November**

**INSET Day**

**17th December**

**INSET Day**



# OUR CLUBS

These have been a huge hit for our final term. I can't tell you how lovely it has been to get back to some kind of normal again!

Exploring the outdoor environment - just what everyone needs at the moment!



## SUN SAFETY

Please don't forget that a key part of our school uniform is our Polegate School cap. Please send your child in with one every day this term because we never know in our great British summer when the sun will make an appearance!



# EMAIL COMMUNICATION

**Since lockdown began we have relied increasingly on email communication and this has enabled communication to remain strong between home and school.**

We really value this and it has been so important during the time parents have not been able to come into school. Please continue to email as the office remains closed and actually we have got into some really good habits but I would just like to take this opportunity to set expectations so that we can manage these successfully.

The volume of emails that teachers receive directly has increased immensely. Generally, their days start at around 7.30am when they will be busy preparing and setting up their classrooms. At the end of the day they may be running clubs or be in meetings until 5pm. During the day they have a full teaching timetable which does not leave a huge amount of

time for them to respond. We always aim to respond and the expectation is within 48 hours.

Whilst you may not get a response immediately, I can guarantee that will have been seen and acted upon immediately. I know teachers are feeling increasingly anxious about trying to keep on top of the emails and finding time to respond. Please be patient and understanding. We care so much and often go over and above but it is important this is not taken for granted.

If you are expecting a response please do say so the expectation is made clear. Teachers may feel it is not required if you are simply sharing information.

Teachers are instructed not to respond to emails after 6pm so if you send them late in the evening I would not be expecting them to respond at this time.

## GREAT FEEDBACK

# WASTE EDUCATION VISIT

**Given what an unsettled year the children have had I have never felt more proud.**

**The feedback we have had from visitors to the school has been confirmation of how fabulous they are!**

**Hot off the press, this morning I received this lovely email from Veolia, who came into the school to talk to each class about reducing waste and the environment.**

Hi Claire,

Please pass on our thanks to the amazing pupils of all the year groups. So fantastic to have such an engaged group of children from reception to year 6. Each year group was a credit to the teachers and school with how well behaved they were and how interested they were in the subject matter. They made the day so fulfilling for Matt and I with their energy, enthusiasm and questions and knowledge !!.

They made us both feel incredibly welcome and I can genuinely say I haven't enjoyed a day as much as that in my role for a long time.

Thanks to all the teachers too who ensured each class was ready to be engaged and for their support.

Kind Regards

**Mark Hastings**

**Area Account Executive, Veolia, United Kingdom**

# PFA UPDATE

**Wow...we can't believe we are into the last part of another school year!**

**From all of us on the PFA, thank you for all of the support you have given us with our fundraising events this year.**

Even though we have had to do things very differently, we are thrilled that we have still managed to raise almost as much for the school than in previous years with the events we have run, over £8000 profit has been made to support projects that benefit every child in the school. The wildlife garden project has been so well received by the children and staff, which makes every event and all of your support so worthwhile.

**The Smarties Challenge this year raised 3x more than previously so thank you so much for your support with this!**

**Our most recent Bags2School collection earned us £102- so that is £237 this year, just for clearing out some wardrobes!**

We have had some really positive feedback from you about being able to use the online payment system for PFA events, and we will be looking to try and keep as many of our events cashless as possible going forwards.

## Upcoming Events

### Circus Tickets

Don't forget to book your circus tickets for the Summer holidays at a discounted rate just for Polegate School families - information was sent out via Parentmail, tickets are on sale until the end of June!

### Fathers Day

Gifts for Loved Ones (Fathers Day) will be happening soon- watch out for information about payment and dates

### Summer Fair

We are hoping, road map allowing, that we will be holding an amazing Summer Fair on Saturday 10th July... put the date in your diary and join us for lots of family fun.

## Get involved

Finally, if you would like to get involved in joining us or have any ideas for fundraisers you would like to see happening, please do get in touch. You can contact us on [pfa@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:pfa@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk)

## Why not join our School Lottery?

There is a guaranteed winner every week from our school, as well as the chance to win £25,000! The more players we have the bigger our school winner's prize will be!!

### Sign up at...

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

**Raise Donations for Polegate School PFA whenever you shop online**

**Turn your everyday online shopping and free donations**



Using this link and signing up to the easyfundraising site also earns us money...just for you doing your shopping!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/polegateschoolpfa/>



## Amazon Smile

You could also link your amazon account and support us by using Amazon Smile! It costs you nothing, but generates funds for us! Win win!

Simply shop at [smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1177773-0](https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1177773-0) or with AmazonSmile ON in the App and AmazonSmile donates to us!

**Join our school lottery today**

**All funds raised go to a school  
A chance to win 325,000 jackpot  
Guaranteed winner every week**



# 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  
23rd July  
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  
1168 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)