

# news

**November 2017**

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## FANTASTIC FIREWORKS!

**Firstly, I would like to congratulate Rachel Keen as chair and the whole PFA team for organising such an ambitious first event!**

I would like to thank everyone for the support they offered from baking cakes to filling bags to donating coins to carving pumpkins and so much more!

We all absolutely love this event because it is such a community event. The children were all so excited during the day.

I would like to thank the school kitchen. Lorraine, our school cook, kindly made and donated 40 biscuits to the school council to sell on the night.

See  
all the  
photos  
inside



# MORE FANTASTIC FIREWORKS!

Twitter was inundated with lovely comments and I also received this lovely email - thanks.

Hi, Just wanted to say what a fabulous firework night last night! The food, fireworks and entertainment we all agree was the best night we've been to so far!

Well done and thanks to all the organisers, teachers and PFA for all their hard work.

From Alberta Thompson, and all her family



The Live Band



Musical Fun



Our Fantastic PFA Team!



Our Fireworks go off with a bang!



Pumpkin Carving!



# SPORTS NEWS

## EASTBOURNE COLLEGE SWIMMING GALA

On Thursday 12th October we took our team of Polegate swimmers to the Sovereign Centre for the annual Eastbourne schools gala. I felt very proud of all of our swimmers! They did so well.

Most schools take pupils in year 5 and 6 only. We took two of our exceptional year 3s (Hollie and Ezra) to give them opportunity to experience this type of competition. They excelled and swam really confidently against much older swimmers. Sasha Clitheroe bravely stepped in at the minute.

The boys came 2nd overall which is brilliant! Congratulations.

I would like to thank Layla Biblioni, a past pupil (year 7) who joined our swimmers at the starting block throughout the whole event to offer encouragement and support!



Layla found it really hard not participating because she was a regular team member for us. (I did think about entering her as a year 6!) I have also just heard that she has just gained a county time for the 200m breast stroke which is fantastic!

### The team included:

Hollie Biblioni, Alex Gunter, Sasha Clitheroe, Annabel Wood, Ezra Hartland, Curtis Lynham, Hattie Clark & Cavan Martin-O'Donoghue

## OCKLYNGE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



Two proud coaches: Mr Keeley and Mark Potter!

Team Polegate made it all the way to the semi final at the recent Ocklynge School Football Tournament. Well done!

# THINK TANK

**In our first meeting of the year I shared a sneak preview of our new website and we discussed what you all find most useful.**

**We also spoke about the new attendance policy and it has been agreed that for most parents the new expectations do not cause any problems or concern.**

I have received one email raising concern about doctors' workload and this being an additional pressure for

them. I have been liaising with surgeries and they did not share this view. Over the course of the year hardly any children have 3 days off in a row and in all these cases the children did visit the doctors.

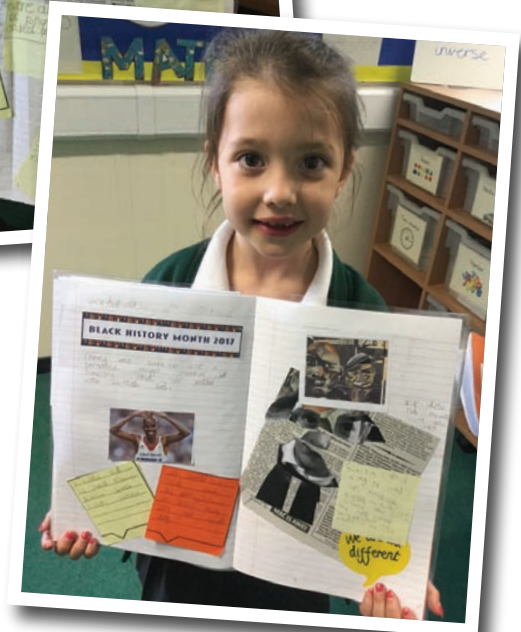
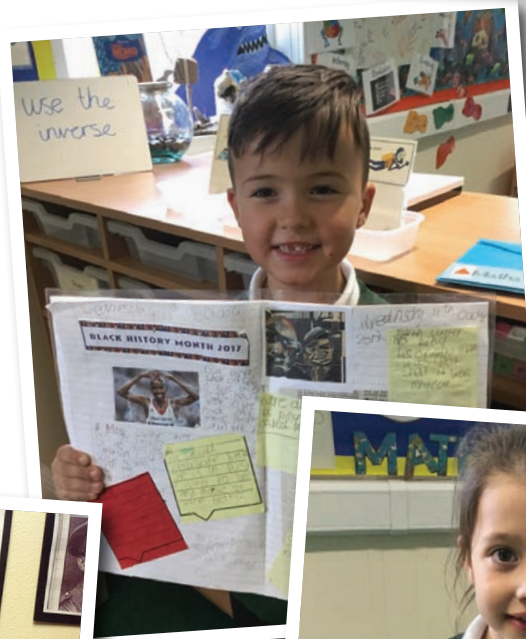
Regarding the 48 hour rule this applies if your child has a virus and or condition that is contagious. There are

occasions when children are sick but it is not contagious for example if a child has a severe migraine, has eaten too much! In these cases it is not a virus and so it may not be necessary to follow the 48 hour rule. I am sure parents will be happy to apply their judgement and common sense if their children are ill.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH POLEGATE'S GOT SOUL!

**Throughout the month of October the whole school has been celebrating Black History Month with our very own 'Polegate's Got Soul!'**

Each class has got stuck into their individual projects and created some amazing artwork to go alongside their PSHE learning. We also, very excitingly, have a gospel singing workshop taking place on Monday to bring our celebrations to a fantastic finish! If you would like to see what your child has been learning throughout Black History Month, each class will have a 'wonderful work' for their 'Polegate's got Soul' projects on Monday straight after school in classrooms, please come in to see it!





# STAND UP FOR EAST SUSSEX

## The people of East Sussex are not getting a fair deal.

**You may have already seen that East Sussex County Council has launched a fairer funding campaign – Stand Up For East Sussex.**

Years of funding cuts mean many people in our county are at risk of real hardship. The resources East Sussex needs to care for the vulnerable, to help children reach their potential, to grow the economy and to build good transport links are dwindling away. The county has made savings of £112 million since the start of the decade. That money would have been enough to pay for the annual care of 5,600 vulnerable people or to fix 2 million potholes.

We're urging people across East Sussex to stand up for their county by calling on the Government to give them a fairer deal.

We're asking residents and businesses to sign a petition to the Prime Minister which calls for an urgent rethink on the resources the county receives. In 2014 Ofsted rated 64 per cent of primary schools in East Sussex as good or outstanding. In 2017 its 91 per cent and we want the Government to give us a long-term funding plan to maintain that success. The campaign also highlights how adult social care, transport, and jobs and the economy would benefit from a fairer funding deal.

**If you could sign the petition.**

**Here's the link to the petition:**

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultation/stand-up-for-east-sussex>

**And here's a link to the education specific video:**

<https://youtu.be/nweelkZTNOM>



## PARENT CONSULTATIONS

**We have our first parent consultation evenings on the 6th and 8th November. I know all the teachers are really looking forward to meeting you.**

We are once again opening up the hall as a refreshment stop! The PFA have kindly offered to make teas and coffees and will have a selection of cakes available for a donation. Remember to bring along some change. Myself and Mrs Jones will also be in the hall so if you would like to speak to us you know where to find us!

Your child's books will be placed outside the classroom for you to have a good look through before your appointment. You are very welcome to take these to the hall and have a

coffee while you look at them. On the evening please enter through the main entrance and make your way to the hall or your child's classroom. Pop into the hall if you are unsure of where to go!

We would love as many parents as possible to complete Ofsted Parentview and so on both evenings we will have laptops all ready to go in the hall and the governors will be on hand to help if needed. This is an excellent way for us to gather feedback on your views which really matters to us. We also send out our own survey. It really only takes a couple of minutes to complete.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

You see this screen when you start. You can register before the evening which makes it a little quicker as you will already be set up. You will need to know your email and be able to access it to complete the survey on the evening if you are not already set up.



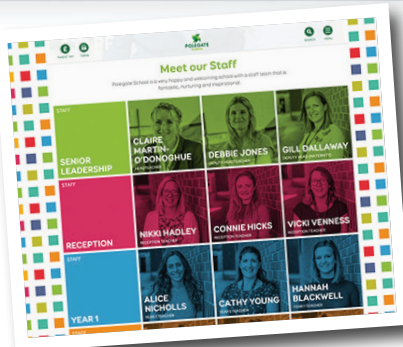
**As an incentive every parent that completes the survey on the evenings will be entered into a raffle to win two tickets to a luxury cinema!**

**Good luck!**



# Please take a look at the new website

It has been updated with lots of photos from around the school.



The photographer has captured some really special moments and there are some stunning photographs of your children! Take a look and see if your child is on it.

**We welcome your Feedback**

**I would really welcome some feedback...**

- Is the information you want to see on there?
- Can you find it quickly?
- Please let us know if anything is missing.

## Newsletter

**If you are reading this it is probably a good sign!**

Again, I am seeking feedback on the news you receive twice a term. Is there anything you would like included in the newsletter that isn't already?

**Just let us know.**

# [www.polegateschool.co.uk](http://www.polegateschool.co.uk)

## Thank You to parents of children in 2A!

In a recent Pupil Progress meeting Miss Ashdown shared her class's achievements with us and within our discussions she mentioned how supportive the parents in her class are.

She had recognised that some children needed a little bit of extra support and so prepared 15 packs of extra work that went home. She was thrilled to discover that all the children completed this work and as a result have made huge progress! **Thank you**



# READING

## DAVID WALLIAM'S NEW BOOK COMES TO POLEGATE SCHOOL!

**As you know reading is a whole school priority for us and to inspire the whole school community to read we are all going to read the same book!**

Next week we will begin reading the new David Walliam's book which we are sure they are going to love! We hope it will get all the children talking about the story from reception to year 6.

### Did you know?

Good reading at the age of 10 is a predictor of the number of GCSEs children will achieve and beyond that it can even predict future earnings at 42! Needless to say this is a positive correlation!

### Did you know?

At age 7 the best readers, those in the top 25% of the country have on average a knowledge of 7100 words. Children that are in the bottom 25% have only 3000 words. This difference is huge and

the impact is far reaching. Research tells us the main influence on this is parents. At the age of 7, your influence is 6 times greater than school!

I would like to congratulate the parents and pupils in 5GK because the whole class consistently get raffle tickets and the children are passionate readers! It is also no surprise that they are doing well in all their other subjects as well!

Every single child at Polegate should be either listening to stories and/ or reading every evening. We are all busy I completely understand that however even 5 minutes of reading just before bedtime will make a difference and is really special!

### Did you know?

Your child does not always need to read an AR book? AR is only a tiny part of what we do to support and promote reading at Polegate.

The most important thing is that your child enjoys reading and becomes a confident skilled reader. Sometimes having a break from AR can be helpful for many reasons. Alternating AR and other books, magazines, newspapers, non fiction can maintain an excitement about reading. As long as they are reading we are happy! If you are experiencing any difficulties or you think your child is lacking motivation to read then please do speak to your child's class teacher. We are very happy to help.

**We are reviewing AR at the moment and would welcome your views.**

**On our website in the class pages we have a list of recommended books for each year group. These will be given out at parent consultation evening as well.**



**A giant pumpkin made from your coins!**

## Well done Scarlett

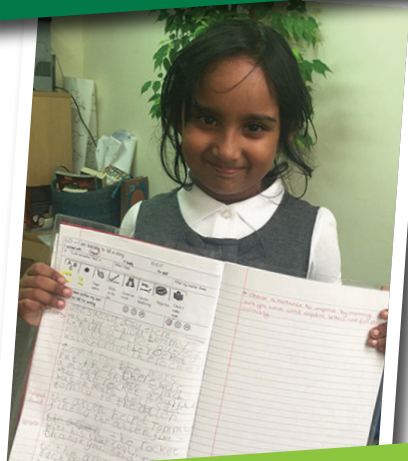
**Big congratulations and well done to Scarlett Lester Murphy**

**She was selected as one of the South East of England Winners for the Summer Reading Challenge Kobo eReader.**

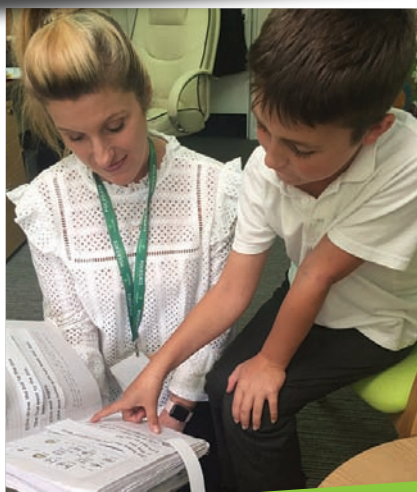
**Dad says it just goes to show, Summer Reading does pay off  
It certainly does!**



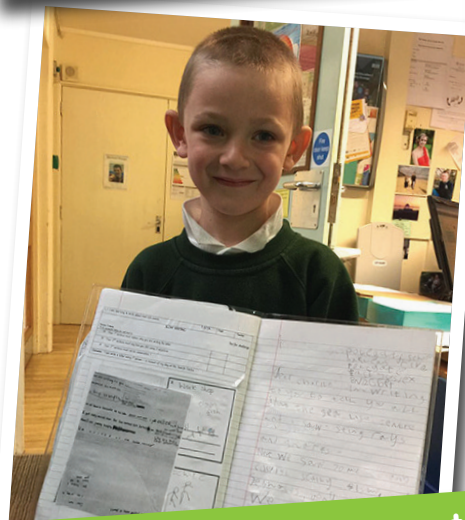
# GREAT WORK!



An out of this world story by Leia in Year 1!



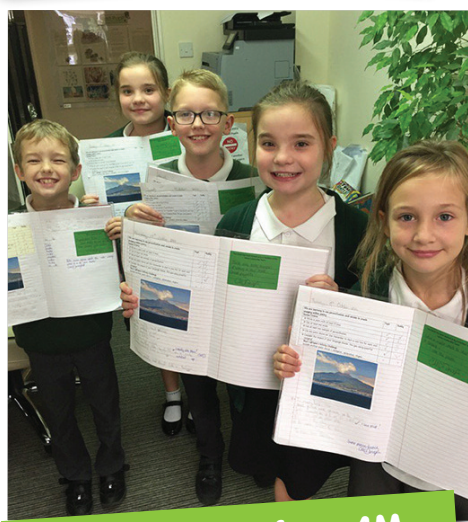
Finlay sharing his amazing story with Mrs Jones!



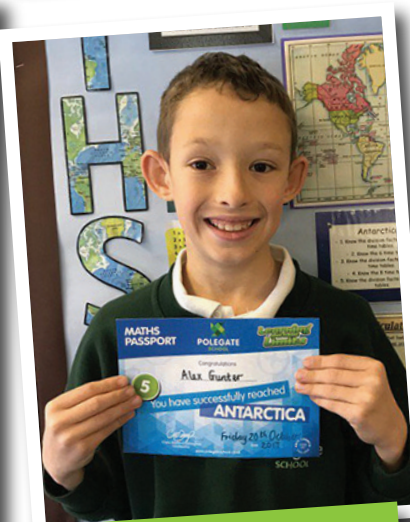
James and his terrific account of the Sealife Centre visit!



Alfie completed 10 Mymaths tasks and caught up on all outstanding tasks!



Lots of visitors from 4M with brilliant poems!



Amazing progress in maths Alex!

## DIARY DATES

**Saturday 11th November**  
**Remembrance Day Service**  
At The War Memorial on Wannock Road. You are welcome to attend.

**Thursday 16th November**  
**Individual photographs all day**

**Tuesday 21st November**  
**5.30pm Year 6 SATs evening**

**Wednesday 22nd**  
**10am and 5.30pm**  
**Prospective new parent meeting in the hall**

**Tuesday 28th November**  
**7pm PFA meeting in the staffroom- all welcome**

**Tuesday 5th December**  
**Reception Show**

**Tuesday 6th December**  
**Reception Show**

**Tuesday 7th December**  
**Reception Show**

**Thursday 14th December**  
**Our Wonderful Work at 3.30pm**

**Monday 18th December**  
**Reception Party**

**Tuesday 19th December**  
**Key Stage 2 Party**

**Wednesday 20th December**  
**Key Stage 1 party**

**Wednesday 20th December**  
**Last day of term**

**Tuesday 2nd January**  
**INSET day**

**Wednesday 3rd January**  
**Start of term 3**

# WHO TO CONTACT IN SCHOOL

**We all welcome contact with parents and value communication between home and school at Polegate and place great importance on this.**

**One of my highlights every day is seeing the children arrive and talking to parents in the morning.**

Teachers are available after school every day except a Monday or a day they may be running an after school club.

Please don't try and discuss matters with teachers before school because this is when they are preparing for the day. If you have any questions or concerns please do pop in – this is much better than letting worries build. You don't need to wait until Parent Consultation.

**1.** Your first point of contact should always be with your child's class teacher, they know your child the best and issues can be resolved quickly.

**2.** Your next point of contact should be with a Leader of Learning. These teachers are part of the schools leadership team and have responsibility for certain year groups

**3.** The schools deputy headteacher **Mrs Jones** leads the Early years and year 1, **Miss Ashdown** for year 2 and year 3 and **Miss Regan** for years 4, 5 and 6

If you have tried all these channels and concerns remain then please do contact me. If you have any feedback at all about any aspect of the school then we would love to hear it as we are always aspiring to do better.

## **Morning drop off**

Please write any messages you have down and post these in the box by the side of the main door. Members of staff can sometimes be inundated with verbal messages, the danger of this is they may forget to pass a message on. They are really there to welcome the children, not to take messages.

## **REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE**

**This year it falls on a Saturday. We would normally take our Year 6 pupils to the service.**

We have once again been invited to join and so a number of staff will attend to represent the school with our head boy and head girl but if any family members would like to join us they would be most welcome.



## **NEW ADDITIONS**

### **Welcome Harry Dallaway**

Huge congratulations to **Mr & Mrs Dallaway** who welcomed their beautiful new baby on the last day of term. We think Harry looks gorgeous and are all looking forward to cuddles when he visits us.



### **Welcome Mae Satchell**

Miss Huggett also had a beautiful baby girl in the holidays weighing 7lb 14oz. We are thrilled for the family and looking forward to her first visit.





# STAYING SAFE ONLINE

**The internet is amazing. Children can play, learn, create and connect - opening up a whole world of exciting possibilities.**

But with the digital world changing all the time, how can you make sure your child's staying safe?

There are a range of resources on our website and the NSPCC have provided some very useful resources for parents.

Whether you want to set up parental controls, adjust privacy settings or get advice on social networks, experts from the free O2 & NSPCC helpline are here to help. **0808 800 5002**



## 5 ways to help children play safe

### What are the risks of online games?

- Children may view inappropriate or upsetting content if they play games that aren't suitable for their age. This could include sexual or violent material. It might be in-game content or produced by other players.
- Some players can be abusive towards others or try to exclude them from the game. Some players may also hack another user's account or try to steal and destroy their virtual possessions. This can be as upsetting for a young person as if it happened in real life.
- Children may play with adults they don't know. People of all ages play games. Some adults may exploit this and try to build an emotional connection with a child for the purpose of grooming.
- Some children may find it hard to stop playing games or find that gaming is getting the way of them doing other activities.

### 1. Check the game's content

Always check age ratings but remember they don't cover everything. It's important to check the game out yourself before letting a young child play it.

If you want extra information about the content of a boxed console or computer game, take a look at the Video Standard's Council's Additional Consumer Information (ACI).

### 2. Know how to mute, block and report

Help children understand that people they meet online may not always be who they claim to be. Some games let you mute, block and report other users.

Make sure your child knows how to do this if someone in the game upsets them or makes them feel uncomfortable. Childline has online gaming advice to help them do this. Remind your child they can come to you if they're ever worried.

### 3. Be Share Aware

Remind your child not to give out any personal information, photos or videos to anyone online, even if they know them. If your child plays games with people they don't know, remind them not to take the conversation off the game, onto other social networks or into a private chat. **Find out more about being Share Aware.**

### 4. Activate safety settings

Turn on parental controls on gaming consoles to help prevent children from downloading age inappropriate games or seeing harmful material.

The Apple App Store lets you turn off in-app purchases on iPads and iPhones. And The Apple App Store and Google Play let you create a pin code that must be entered before you buy.

You can also turn on privacy settings on some games to control what other users can see about you and stop strangers from contacting you.

**Contact the O2 & NSPCC Online Safety Helpline for free on 0808 800 5002 for advice on how to do this.**



# YEAR 5 EXHIBITION

Year 5 Hosted an exhibition of their own photographs taken as part of their Victorian topic. It was a brilliant showcase of their incredible skills and very thoughtfully displayed.



What talented artists and photographers we have! Inspired by the Victorians.



# Letter from David Curry

**THE RT HON DAVID CURRY**

195-197 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5NE

editor@theparliamentaryreview.co.uk

Telephone 020 7428 6787

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

30 October 2017

Dear *Claire*,

I am writing regarding The Parliamentary Review, a document I sent you last month, which was headed-up by The Prime Minister, the Schools Minister and Lucy Powell MP, one of the Labour Party's representatives on the education select committee.

I would like Polegate Primary School to be one of the representatives for 2018, sharing your best practice as a learning tool to individuals within education. If you do choose to be involved, the chairman of The Parliamentary Review, Sir Eric Pickles, will also invite you to parliament as his guest in September next year, when the document is released, for an evening to celebrate hard work and leadership. Last year, the guest speakers and attendees included Nick Clegg, Frank Lampard, Andrew Neil and David Blunkett.

Kind regards,



The Rt Hon David Curry  
Chief Editor | The Parliamentary Review

The Parliamentary Review, Westminster Publications  
[www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk](http://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk)

# ATTENDANCE

**We recognise that sometimes children will be ill over the course of a year.**

We know that just one day means they have not reached the magical 100% for some this is a huge disappointment because they strive to earn the 'Attendance Miles' and the special reward at the end of the year. To overcome this and keep motivation we have decided that any attendance at or above our target of 97.5% will be entered into a prize draw for a very special something!

We will continue with the termly rewards for 100% each term. The children absolutely love these!

We will also continue to reward the class with the highest attendance each term. In the past these have included roller discos and Forest School mornings.



## Attendance

**Overall school attendance is currently at our school target this year of 97.2%.**

RHi = 98%	3M = 97%
RH = 96%	3Mc = 97%
RV = 96%	4D = 97%
1B = 98%	4M = 97%
1Y = 97%	5GK = 98%
1N = 98%	5W = 97%
2B = 97%	6M = 97%
2A = 98%	6R = 97%

## Keep it up!

**Class 2B congratulations!**  
You have won the attendance award last term for 97.5%!

## Diary Date

**Thursday 16th  
November**  
**Individual school  
photographs**

## 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 808  
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)**