

# news

July 2022



## WHAT A TERM!

From graduations, to swimming galas, musical concerts, Leavers' Shows to an adventurous residential (beyond the last school day!)... I am not sure what we haven't done this term! I think this newsletter has captured it all. Please take a moment to sit and reflect on just how awesome your children are!

**Phew! Your children will need a holiday and so will the staff!**

**Enjoy the final newsletter of 2021-2022, I am pleased to say it has been a far more normal year for us all.**

**Have a super summer!**

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# A FEW PARTING WORDS!



**This is much more than a casual 'see you later' or a mumbled 'thanks for everything' as I dash off into the distance.**

**No words can capture the moment of leaving after 25 years! I am writing this in the penultimate week in the full knowledge that I will be an emotional mess in my last week but despite the tears that will be shed in bucket loads I want to celebrate the very special memories that I will treasure for ever.**

So within the 25 years there have been many changes - the opening of a nursery, the expansion of Polegate School...as well as seemingly never ending building projects; becoming a Teaching School, achieving National Behaviour Hub status- one of only 6 in the country.

There have also been so many achievements that have reflected everyone's drive, energy, passion and commitment to the community: an outstanding Ofsted judgement, as well as a number of other accreditations- Artsmark, Flagship status; performances galore- Congress Shows to audiences of 1000 and a few challenges along the way, we like a challenge at Polegate!

## **What Challenges?' I hear you ask!**

Well, a seemingly never-ending stream of staff pregnancies.....I think the intention is to ensure that Polegate School is never under subscribed! We are doing well! oh and not forgetting a

global pandemic that brought with it live cooking with Mrs MO'D, now that is one thing I never thought I would be doing. In fact I'm sure that this and plenty more just were not in my job description!

Above all else it is the community that make the school so very special and so I would like to thank the children (I have now taught a few generations! Even a granny in the school- must be time to leave!) Nothing is more special that seeing a past pupil, who I may or may not recognise, that stops me in the street to tell me about their amazing achievements and shares with me how magical their time at Polegate was. I must also thank the entire staff team who work tirelessly and give above and beyond. I feel privileged that my own children benefited from their time at this school. Of course a big thank you to you, as parents, firstly for picking Polegate as the school you want to send your wonderful children to and also for the commitment that you show to the school and your child's education. We are all lucky to have the most incredible PFA that have organised the most incredible events- most recently a wonderful summer fair- the best yet! They have supported all pupils at the school with their fundraising which has resulted in a kitchen for the children, a renovated wildlife garden, a bike store, certificates and awards and more!

## **I feel I should end with some final words for our year 6 leavers 2022.**

We have something in common for both myself and our year 6 pupils an important chapter of our lives is coming to an end. However, there is a whole new chapter of life awaiting us.

The future is not something that we should fear. Instead it is a challenge that we should all embrace and we know like a challenge at Polegate!

.....  
**'If you are brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new hello.'**  
.....

Take a piece of the school with you. (Not literally.) Over time you will have absorbed not only information, knowledge and skills, but also Polegate's values, culture and aspiration. Take that experience and use it to make a difference in the world. Be kind and good to people you meet on your way. I am sure the values of our school have filled you with so much confidence that you can readily take on any challenge. So, walk into your new schools courageously with your head raised high.

.....  
**Dream big and be optimistic about whatever you are doing.**  
.....

# **To infinity and beyond!**

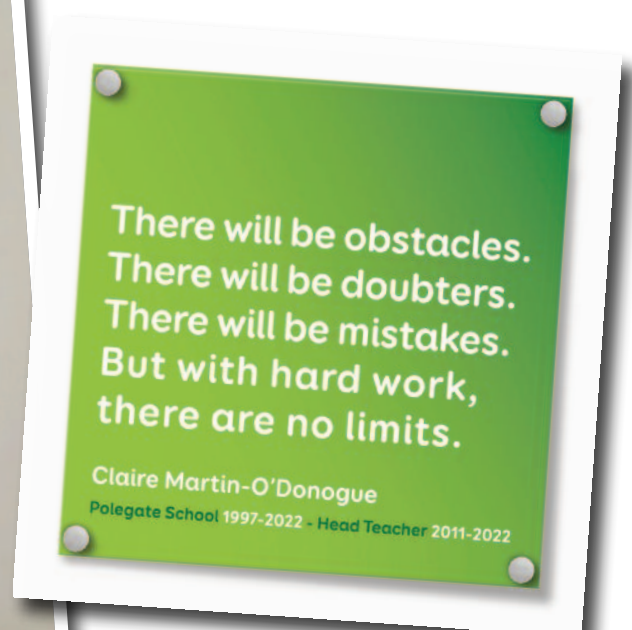
# A PARTING GIFT

Buzz joined the school as an adopted mascot back in 2011 when I became headteacher, embodying our school vision.

I had many sleepless nights about what to leave for the whole school as a gift, I wanted it to be meaningful, a legacy, something to remind everyone at Polegate what the vision and aspiration is... to infinity and beyond with some words of encouragement from me!



THE BIG REVEAL!





# ACCELERATED READER

Izzy Bond has reached 3 million words this year! Wow, what an achievement!



## YEAR 3 SCHOOL TRIP

We watched some incredibly excited year 3 pupils depart for their first school trip since reception. They had the most amazing time in London!



# STAFF LEAVERS 2022!

**Before I announce the lucky staff joining Polegate I need to recognise and thank the staff that are leaving this year.**

**Sarah Cullinane, Cathy Young, Max Vigor, Heidi Jabbari, Rebecca Vinson, Zoe Eyre, Aidan Keeley.**

Each have lived the Polegate vision and contributed hugely in the time they have worked at Polegate School. It has been a joy to work with them all and I know I speak for everyone when I wish them every success.

**Who knows some may return after their travels! We miss you already!**



## AMAZING CHARITY WORK

Dylan Morrison cut his hair Saturday to donate to the Princess Trust and raise money to donate towards a defibrillator to be put at school. For anyone that would like to sponsor him please use the link below. Well done Dylan!





# A HUGE WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF



## **Miss Kay Metcalfe** Teaching Assistant

Hello, my name is Miss Metcalfe, I am very excited to be joining Polegate School and becoming part of a fabulous team. I have worked in schools for the past 5 years supporting children in Reception through to Year 6. I love watching children progress and develop, supporting their journey is highly rewarding and something I am very passionate about. To see happy faces every day and capture their achievements amazes me and I cannot wait to start this new journey in September.

I have 2 young children who keep me smile daily and keep me busy. When time allows me to, I like to go cycling, swimming and spend time with friends. I shall look forward to meeting you all and wish you all a restful, enjoyable & fun summer holidays.



## **Miss Chloe Wicks** Teaching Assistant

My name is Chloe Wicks, I have 3 children 2 boys and a girl who keep me very busy. I love being a teaching assistant, I have been in this role for many years. I find working with children so rewarding. I am very excited to be starting at polegate in September and becoming part of the amazing team.

In my spare time I love to visit the beach and to be outdoors, I think we are so fortunate living here with so many wonderful places on our doorstep.



## **Siân Gurney** Year 1 Teacher

Hello! I am currently finishing my PGCE at Brighton University. I am thrilled to have my own class and very excited to be joining the team at Polegate School in September. Prior to this I was a temporary teaching assistant (INA) during the COVID lockdown and this is where I decided to further my training and become a teacher. My undergraduate degree was at a drama school in London where I gained skills and understanding of different ways to use drama and theatre techniques to evoke change, learning and creative teaching. I am passionate about children's learning and how to stretch children to learn to the best of their abilities as well as being mindful for those who may be struggling, as I understand how they feel being dyslexic and dyspraxic myself. In my spare time I like to go to the theatre, walks or rollerblading on the seafront, visiting friends and relaxing watching films with the family.



## **Mrs Sarah Grace** Year 1 Teacher

Hello, I'm Mrs. Grace and I am so excited to be teaching at Polegate in September! Before my career in education, I worked in retail banking for ten years. It was whilst supporting my children's school that I realised that I wanted to work in education. Since then, I have been a parent volunteer, a teaching assistant, I have completed my degree in Primary Education with the Open University, and I have now completed my PGCE to finally achieve teacher status! In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, walking my dogs in the beautiful south downs or reading a good novel



## **Mrs Shania Blake** Teaching Assistant

My name is Shania Blake and I am 22 years old. I have been an INA for the past 2 years and have worked with children in other roles since the age of 15. I am very passionate that children should all receive equal opportunities in their academic lives and I am thrilled to be able to be a part of this at Polegate School. My favourite subjects are English and Geography- these are particular interests of mine- and I also like languages. I speak a small amount of Spanish, which I studied to A Level.

Outside of work I like to bake and cook, read, and get out for walks in nature (preferably with a dog).



### **Laura Stew Year 1 Teacher**

I can't wait to join the team at Polegate School and start my teaching career. I love learning and I'm passionate about children having the best learning opportunities. I'm excited to create a fun, engaging and inspiring classroom where the children can reach their full potential.

In my spare time I enjoy playing football for my local team, walking my dog Bruno and spending time socialising with friends.



### **Rachel Coleman Year 2 Teacher**

I am so excited to begin my teaching career with Polegate School! I have always had a huge passion for teaching and I am very much looking forward to having my own class in September. I believe learning should be active, fun and engaging, and I cannot wait to support all children to achieve their best!

When I'm not at school you'll often find me with my head in a good book, playing a variety of sports, enjoying time with my friends and family or at the theatre!



### **Miss Kenny Year 5 Teacher**

Hello! I'm Miss Kenny, and I'm very excited to start at Polegate School in September. Since a very early age, I knew that I wanted to be a teacher and the passion I felt at the start of my career is still very much alive even after over 15 years of teaching! The school's motto, "Learning without Limits," perfectly captures my attitude towards teaching. It is all about assisting every child in realising their full potential while appreciating their unique abilities and skills.

When I am not busy teaching, I enjoy the benefits of living by the coast and taking walks along the beach or just unwinding with a good book. I like to keep busy and always have an art project on the go, usually restoring or upcycling a vintage treasure that I have found!



### **Miss Helen Timms Year 3 Teacher**

Hello, my name is Miss Timms. I have worked in a variety of schools in East Sussex for over 10 years as a Teaching Assistant before finding myself at Polegate School in 2018. I'm so pleased I did because last year I decided it was time to fulfil my childhood dream and make the leap from TA to teacher.

I have three grown up children - my daughter is 22 and I have two sons who are 18 and 16. (Surely, I don't look old enough?!)

During my free time, I am often found singing with a local choir or on sunny evenings, down the beach kayaking, paddleboarding, swimming or just enjoying watching the sunset.



### **Jade Dicerbo Year 4 Teacher**

Hello, I am so excited to be joining the Polegate School family in September. I am so inspired by our school motto of 'learning without limits' and I can't wait to see what we will achieve this year inside and out of the classroom.

When I am not at school, I love to be outdoors paddleboarding, walking or swimming in the sea. I also love to read and I'm a huge fan of Harry Potter. Sloths are my favourite animal and I have adopted one at Drusillas Park where I sometimes volunteer during weekends and holidays.

I can't wait to meet my new class and get to know all the things they love doing.



# THE BRILLIANT CLUB

**The aim of the Brilliant Club is to create a society in which a young person's life chances are not limited by their background. Totally in line with our school vision.**

This is structured around seven tutorials, and pupils also attend two trips to the most competitive universities to speak with current undergraduates and learn about university life. Twelve pupils are in one placement, taught in two smaller groups of six. They work towards completing a challenging final assignment which is marked and moderated using university grades.

**'This was an amazing opportunity for my son, from a single-parent, low-income-family he feels he can achieve so much more now. Thank you for this experience and the opportunity you gave him. Because of this he will go on to do great things and I have been inspired to sign up to do a degree programme too.'**

Parent, Scholars Programme participant

**The programme ended with a graduation at Sussex University!**





# OUTREACH WORK

## Outreach work with schools across the country

As you know we are a National Behaviour Hub school and so support other schools in developing systems, policies and approaches to behaviour to raise standards. We have hosted many visits from far and wide across the year.

This was lovely feedback to receive from one such visit.



## 100% ATTENDANCE AWARDS

100% attendance awards will be celebrated next week, we are delighted to see a huge increase in the number of children achieving this.

**Congratulations to you all!**



# STAR OF THE YEAR

These individuals were celebrated in a final Monday assembly of this year. They look very pleased with themselves and so they should!



## SPORTS STARS OF THE YEAR

Cole Lavender and Lydia Verth  
are our Sports Stars of the Year





# PFA SUMMER FAIR

We could not have asked for better weather for this event!



I would like to thank the PFA for organising one of the best summer fairs ever! We await the final total but it sure to be a very impressive amount.



Well, it beats being gunked!

.....

## The PFA also organised a final Leaver's Party for Year 6 which the children LOVED!

One final residential to go for our year 6 classes of 2022. They will be enjoying the Hindleap residential they never had due to Covid- leaving on Wednesday this week and returning on Friday. Literally ending their time on a high! Quite possibly a high rope!





# SPORTS WEEK

A Wake and Shake session to warm up before the big event! The Race for Life saw every child in the school run a mile to raise funds for Cancer Research. Thank you for supporting this event and donating to such a worthwhile cause.

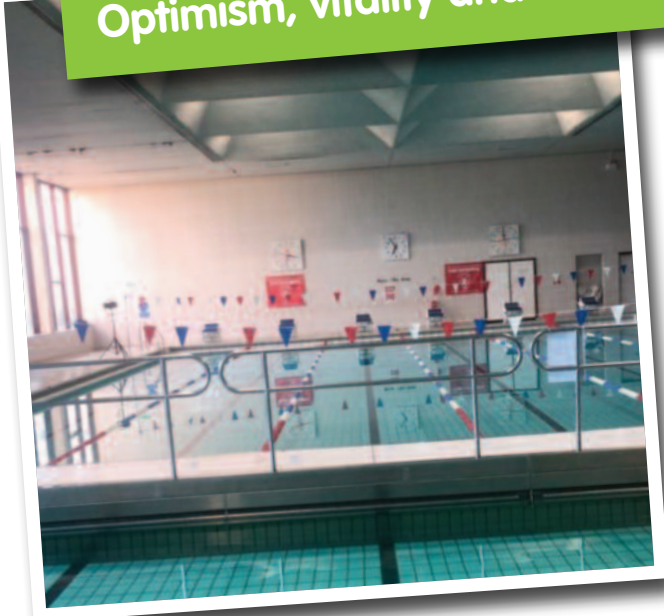
We were blessed with the most glorious weather for the entire week!





# SWIMMING GALA

Optimism, vitality and self-determination, we saw plenty of this!



Without doubt one of our favourite events of the year. This was our first swimming gala since 2019. Hard to believe.

It is always so exciting to watch the close run heat or the speed of a swimmer that leaves everyone else behind. We celebrate not only those that take a first place but the cheers and support that the swimmers get that come in last is always so moving.

We saw incredible determination and resilience this year. Resilience is a very important skill in life generally. Our swimmers had to deal with the stress of the competition itself, spectators, a pool that they have possibly never swum in before and the pressure of winning a medal, quite remarkable when you consider how little some of them are. I am so proud of each of them!

These faces say it all and make everything worthwhile. The pride, belief and success is clear to see!



We are all very excited to see Imogen win a gold at a future Olympics!

# FREESTYLE FUN

## The sports ended with an inspiring assembly with Ash Randall!

Learning his football freestyle skills growing up in Cardiff, Ash Randall has refined them and put together an amazing, unique football freestyle display.

Ash first decided to try football freestyle at the age of 16 after seeing a TV commercial where professional footballer Edgar Davids was performing football skills while talking on the phone, this moment caught Ash's imagination and inspired him to teach himself the skills.

After a year of training Ash was offered the chance to showcase his skills at a local talent show in Cardiff, he performed his skills on stage for the first time in front of a live audience of 350 people. Ash realised after this he could take his talent further than just a hobby so he started training up to 5 hours per day and making contacts in the local community.



If you want to find out more:  
<https://ashfreestyle.com/>

# EPIC SCHOOL CONCERT

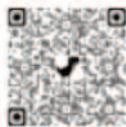
A brilliant opportunity to showcase some of our pupils' musical talents!

Massive thanks to the staff for organising. All the kids were incredible. What a talented bunch!





# SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



Join this year's Summer Reading Challenge  
at [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/src](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/src)

**Starts 9 July 2022 Ends 10 September 2022**

The Reading Agency and libraries are excited to introduce Gadgets, Summer Reading Challenge 2022; a celebration of science and innovation, in partnership with the Science Museum Group.

The Reading Agency, along with the UK public library network, delivers the Summer Reading Challenge across the country every year. It is the UK's biggest annual reading promotion for children aged four to eleven. Throughout the Summer Reading Challenge, library staff, along with volunteers, help children to discover new authors and explore a wide range of different types of books, giving them a positive experience of reading for pleasure.

Sign your child up at [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/src](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/src). If you don't have a smartphone, computer or tablet, you can sign up using a computer in the library. You can ask a one of our volunteers or a member of staff for help if you need it.

The Challenge will begin in [East Sussex libraries](#) on Saturday 9th July and end on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

The Challenge is to read any six books borrowed from the library or downloaded from our [ebook library](#). For children under 4 we have the Pre-school Challenge, where you can collect stickers for each book shared and a special medal sticker at the end.

Children signing up for the Challenge get a character sticker and a Reader Record. Children will be able to collect a prize for each of the six books they have read. When they finish the Challenge they will get a certificate which they can receive in school or at the library. The Challenge is for all children, whatever their reading ability. Children who are not reading independently can share their books with a family member or friend, or they might prefer to listen to audio books.

To take part in Gadgets, children need to have their own library card and PIN. It is easy and free to become a member of the library. Take something with your name, address and signature on it (a driving licence is ideal as it has all of these) to the library and you can join the whole family, or you can [join online](#) and have your cards posted to you. You can [reset your child's PIN online](#) if you can't remember it or ask in the library for a new one.

Visit <http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>  
for fun games, author interviews and book  
recommendations.

# CHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO YOUR CHILD

We just wanted to let you know that due to the new GDPR regulations we will not be sending out data collection sheets any more. We do still need to know if there are any changes to information relating to your child.

## Changes we need to know about are:

- Medical details (any new allergies, asthma etc)
- Change of address, telephone numbers or email address

## Keep us informed

It will be up to you to keep us informed and you can do this by emailing the school office at:

[office@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk)

with any changes or by completing the form which you can find on the download section on our website

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

# WE WISH YOU ALL A FABULOUS SUMMER HOLIDAY

## See you in September

## Diary Date

20-22nd July  
Year 6  
Hindleap  
Warren Trip

## 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  
1,326 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 Proworx : [www.proworx.co.uk](http://www.proworx.co.uk)