

news

November 2023



A WET, WINDY & MUDDY START

Well, what a wet, windy and muddy start to term 2! The children and staff took the weather conditions in their stride and continued to learn without limits!

The start of term, despite the, weather has been spectacular - Spooky Disco, Skip to be Fit, marvellous middles, sporting events, visitors I could go on and on...

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RECEPTION - PUMPKIN EXPLORING

Reception have been having the best time exploring pumpkins this week!

We have been describing what pumpkins are like, deciding which were the heaviest and which were the lightest and

have investigated what is inside a pumpkin. The children loved digging into the pumpkin, developing their fine motor skills to scrap out the seeds and use tweezers to pick them up. Such fun, amazing learning!



FOOD & DRINK AT SCHOOL

Please do not send any food items into school that contain nuts - this includes:

- Packs of nuts
- Peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
- Cakes made with nuts

- Any home cooked meals for packed lunches that are made from nuts

Food & Drinks at School

At break times a healthy snack of fruit or raw vegetables may be provided by parents. Alternatively, fresh fruit or a healthy snack can be purchased at morning break.

Sweets and chocolate are NOT allowed at any time - even if included as part of a packed lunch.



SKIP2BFIT

As you may have gathered from the buzz it created, we had a Skip2Bfit workshop in the school on Tuesday 31st October for Years 1 to 4.

Skip2Bfit is a short-burst fitness programme that uses counting skipping ropes to motivate and engage children and adults every day, working up to a weekly 2 minute Skip2Bfit Challenge. We will be re-launching this programme across the school as our daily fitness routine.

The Skip2Bfit ropes are now available to buy at the school office. The ropes are fully adjustable so they are suitable for adults and children and cost from £7 to £9 each. Each rope has a counter on it to record the number of skips you do in a set time.

The idea is to practise regularly and slowly increase the number of skips you can do in 2 minutes. It is a personal challenge as well as a group one!

The Skip2Bfit Web App is also available free of charge. It includes a 2 minute rhythmic track, with motivating voice over, which you can use to time your two minute skip.

To access the web app, please go to app.skip2bfit.com on your phone or pc. This can be added to your home screen on your phone so it runs like a normal app.

As part of an overall workshop about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, the children were also given a box of blueberries and a recipe idea to take home. They were encouraged to re-use these boxes to bring in their daily healthy fruit snack if possible – so well done to those children who managed to recycle those boxes!



Some children received a blueberry bounce ball as a prize during the workshops – but if your child was not a lucky recipient, don't worry, they are available in the office at a cost of £7 each. They are a great way of improving throwing and catching skills without a partner!

We hope that everyone enjoyed the day and the blueberries. And remember – keeeeeeeep skipping!!!



SPORTS STAR OF THE TERM

The winner of last term's Sports Star award is Seb Farley

Seb consistently shows commitment, bravery and determination in every sport he takes part in.

Outside of school he is an experienced rugby player and he brings the qualities he has developed in that sport to everything else he tries.

As part of the school football team, has carved a niche as one of the best goal keepers in the u11 local schools league.

His natural talent and athleticism is commented on wherever we go!

He is also a valuable member of our hockey club, always putting 100% into his play and always showing fairness, courage and team spirit. In the summer term, was part of the amazing Sports Leader crew who hosted EYFS pupils from all over the South Downs Area in a PE Festival.

Well done Seb, you truly deserve this award.



PUMPKIN SCIENCE FUN

Reception fully investigated pumpkin density this week. There was plenty of splashing and laughs on the way!



MATHS WEEK

Maths Week England was set up in 2019 with the goal of ensuring that no children miss out on the opportunities that being a confident competent mathematician can give them.

In 2021 it became the largest national maths festival in the world, thanks to an amazing and hard-working committee and a fantastic bunch of teachers. This year, Polegate School will be taking part in Maths Week England from 13th-18th November, so look out for Maths challenges on Seesaw and remember to talk about Maths with your children.

THE ZOO!

The Zoo has a total of 29 giraffes and penguins. They are all perfect specimens.

They have 84 legs in total.

How many giraffes and how many penguins are there?

BARVENBER 2023

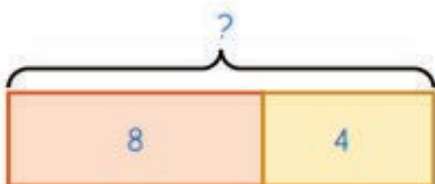
Max has 8 marbles.



Jo has 4 marbles.



How many marbles do they have altogether?



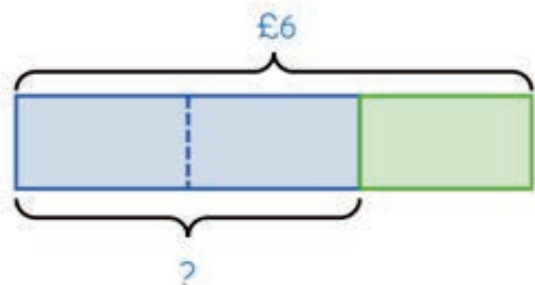
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A cake costs twice as much as a drink.



The total cost of a cake and a drink is £6

How much does a cake cost?



YEAR 2 VISIT FROM A HEDGEHOG

Year 2 had an exciting visit from a hedgehog conservation charity.

We had a very special visitor teaching us all about amazing

hedgehogs. We learnt about their habits, needs and how they hibernate and survive in the British countryside. We were so lucky to see one hedgehog in person! What a brilliant link to our topic Into The Forest!



MORE TO CELEBRATE

Polegate School has achieved the Gilt award for science!

Congratulations to Mrs Giggs, all teachers, support staff and children, a well-deserved award.

PSQM is a comprehensive evidence-based professional development programme that effectively develops science leadership, ensuring teachers have the knowledge, capability and support they need to transform science education and shape future generations.

Helen Sizer, PSQM Co-Director said: "By enabling effective science leadership, PSQM is powering the potential of all children to see the relevance and importance of

science in their lives, now and in the future. Schools that have achieved a Primary Science Quality Mark have demonstrated a significant commitment to science leadership, teaching and learning and the profile and quality of science in each accredited school is very high. Science subject leaders, their colleagues, headteachers, children, parents and governors should be very proud."

It is fabulous to read all about the impacts of re-engaging with PSQM to further raise the profile of science at Polegate; that staff are engaged, and children and families enthused, as well as reigniting the SL's passion for the subject and providing a model of

effective leadership in other curriculum areas. What a triumph!

A strong GILT submission, well done on all the strategic, reflective thought that goes into developing meaningful science teaching and learning for your school community.



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Anti-Bullying Week 2023: Make A Noise About Bullying

Anti-Bullying Week 2023 is coordinated in England, Wales and Northern Ireland by the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

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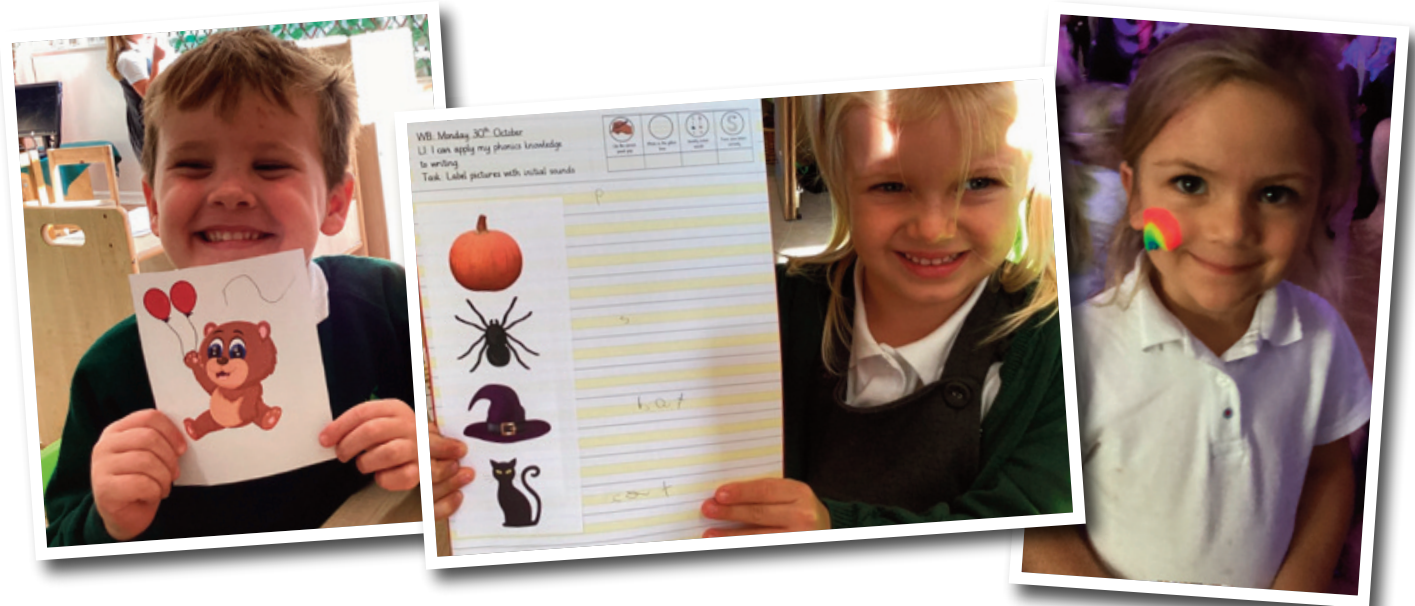
Friday 17th November. The week will be kicked off with Odd Socks Day on Monday 13th November, where adults and children wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

More Polegate anti bullying week news to follow

Diary Date
Friday 10th
November
INSET DAY

RECEPTION LEARNING

First time writing in our books, maths learning and the school disco!



YEAR 5 DETECTIVES

Year 5 were alerted that the resource cupboard had been ransacked and the lodge was looking suspicious.

When they arrived, they found a crime scene that needed investigating! Someone had used the stationary to write the words 'Catch Me If You Can'! All the children studied the clues and the evidence and all fingers pointed to Mr Jeffrey!

This was the introduction to our writing unit all about Sherlock!

Year 5 have proven themselves to be excellent detectives!!



KEEPING SAFE ONLINE

ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.



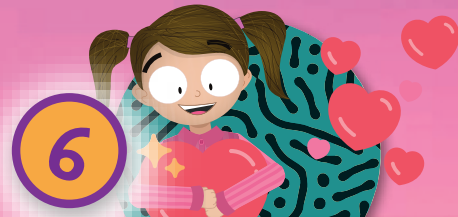
4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



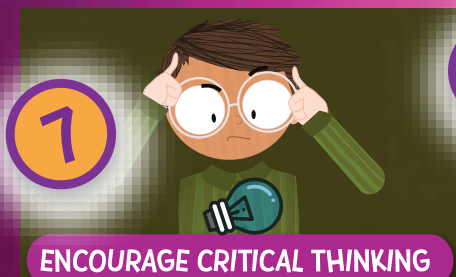
5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.




9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online; listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.



10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

**National Online Safety**
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 16.09.2020

YEAR 1 HERSTMONCEUX SCIENCE CENTRE

The children had an amazing day exploring the discovery park, huge telescope and watching the fantastic science show full of experiments.



YEAR 1 HEDGEHOG VISIT

We were lucky to have a visit from Henry the hedgehog this week. The children loved watching Henry curl up into a tiny ball.



ATTENDANCE

RA	97.9%	2D	98%	4S	97.7%
RB	94%	2K	96.5%	5D	95.4 %
RH	97.7%	3JS	97.9 %	5MD	95.9%
1F	93.1%	3L	96.3%	5K	92.8%
1G	96.7%	3T	95.8%	6M	95.5 %
1S	95.4 %	4H	95.4 %	6MU	92.3%
2C	96.7 %	4EH	94.2%	6W	94.4%

Important information:

Attendance - a more focussed approach

We have always taken attendance seriously here at Polegate.

East Sussex County Council have now introduced a more targeted approach placing further expectation on schools to monitor and analyse attendance and deliver intervention and support to pupils and families to address low attendance.

Tiers have been introduced (see below). Within each tier there are specific responsibilities we as a school have to adhere to and work together with families to identify blockages to attendance and address these in a supportive way.

These include attendance support plans, targeted support meetings and the use of parenting contracts.

Tier 1 - 100% - 93% - school to maintain by monitoring and tracking

Tier 2 - 92% - 80% - schools to hold parent-school meetings to discuss targeted interventions

Tier 3 - 79% - 51% - If attendance hasn't improved with suitable intervention school to liaise with ESCC Attendance leads

Tier 4 - 50% and below

(School will already be fully engaged in these circumstances and working with families and multi-agencies)

Targeting Support Meetings - to identify, discuss, and agree joint targeted actions for pupils who are persistently or severely absent and those at risk of becoming so

Parenting Contracts - a formal written agreement between a parent and the school to work to secure engagement with support.

You will be aware from the latest attendance data sent home which tier your child currently sits in.

In the coming weeks we will be making contact with families where we have concern around attendance and arranging meetings to engage and support.

Please know that, first and foremost, our approach is to work with you not against you.

We want to seek to understand and support to remove any barriers to attendance by building strong and trusting relationships and working together to put the right support in place.

Natalie Dicker
Attendance Officer

DIARY DATES

10th November
INSET Day

15-16th November
Reception NCMP
screening

17th November
2C Class Assembly

24th November
INSET Day

1st December – PFA
Christmas Extravaganza

1st December
1G class assembly

1st December
Flu Vaccination

4th December – Year 5
Victorian Workshop

11th December
RB Christmas Show

12th December
RA Christmas Show

13th December
RH Christmas Show

15th December
Last Day of Term 2

18th Dec – 1st Jan 2024
Christmas Holiday

2nd January 2024
Term 3 first day

2nd February 2024
INSET Day

15th April 2024
INSET Day

POLEGATE LIONESSES

On Friday 3rd November Polegate Lionesses participated in the under 11's Albion cup held in Lancing. The team were incredible winning 3 out of 5 matches-Miss Stew was incredibly proud of all the girls-they were a credit to the school, incredibly kind and sporting!



NURSERY LEARNING - AUTUMN TREASURES

The children have loved finding and using Autumn treasures in their learning. These natural loose parts have provided lots of opportunity for building vocabulary and mathematical skills as they describe, investigate, predict and create.



PFA NEWS

Thank you the PFA for hosting an amazing Spooky Disco.
The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves on a very wet and windy evening.

Next: Our Winter Extravaganza



FESTIVAL DIWALI

Yeisha and Yatika gave a presentation on the upcoming festival Diwali.

They explained how it is an important festival that Hindu's celebrate every year that lasts 5 days. It is the festival of light and it is used to remember good triumphing over evil.

They went above and beyond, presenting and answering questions from their classmates.



**TIMES TABLES
ROCK STARS**

PRESENTS



ENGLAND ROCKS

14TH - 16TH NOVEMBER 2023
7:30AM TO 7:30PM (GMT)

**PLAY IN ANY
GAME TYPE!**

**1HR TIME LIMIT
PER PERSON!**

**WINNING CLASS WILL HAVE THE HIGHEST
NUMBER OF CORRECT ANSWERS PER PUPIL!**

[TTROCKSTARS.COM/ONLINE-EVENTS](https://www.ttrockstars.com/online-events)

BOOK FAIR



Dear parents, carers and grandparents,

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIRS



Celebrate reading at our Book Fair!

The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be arriving in school, with hundreds of new children's books to browse and buy... perhaps an opportunity to pick some Christmas presents!

There are some amazing titles!

Please come and join us!

WHEN: Monday 13TH November - Thursday 16th November 2023

WHERE: Polegate School - Small Hall

TIMINGS: 8:00 - 8:15am and 3:05 - 3:30pm

There are **over 200 titles** for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from **only £2.99**, there's sure to be a book for everyone.

Remember - you can pay by cash or card!

Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get **FREE BOOKS** for our school!

Miss Howland and the Year 5/6 Team
Book Fair Organisers



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

SAFETY IN SCHOOL

I would like to remind all parents and carers that there is no access to the school building before, during or after school hours without signing in at the office first.

For both safeguarding and health and safety reasons we need to know exactly who is on site at any given time.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Sally Barnard

Diary Date

Friday 15th
December
Last Day of
Term 2

Diary Date

Friday 24th
November
INSET DAY

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
1,369 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

Designed by Prowork: www.prowork.co.uk