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In This Issue

## IT'S BEEN A GREAT YEAR!

As this is the final newsletter of this academic year I would like to start by thanking everyone: staff, pupils, parents, volunteers, our committed PFA and governors for the ongoing support and hard work.

The success of our school is a real team effort and the school is surrounded by a fabulous community and I certainly feel very lucky to be part of it!

# A GOOD TIME TO REFLECT

### This is a really good time to reflect on the year and celebrate many of the achievements and there have been many (we really don't stop!)

- Attendance improving for all groups across the school at different rates but it is an improving picture. I am very grateful for those families that have told me they deliberately didn't plan their usual family holiday in term time as they normally would because they realise the impact this has on their child's learning.
- An amazing Ofsted, so good we will have another one very soon!
- Gaining Teaching School status and becoming a National Support School- this means we can continue to attract the very best teachers to Polegate School because of our reputation. We also became a National Support School and so will be involved in many projects that will benefit your children.
- Gaining Sportsmark Gold for the incredible sporting opportunities we provide the children.
- Another successful Inclusion Quality Mark inspection which sees us maintain Flagship School Status. We are one of the only schools in Sussex to hold this award! To read the report in full please click on this link. https://polegateschool.co.uk/public/data/chalk/file/9/6/Polegate%20Primary%20School%20Review%20-%20June%202018.pdf

These are each big achievements in their own right but of course what is even more important is what happens on a daily basis across the whole school and the progress that children make in all aspects of their learning. It is your children's enjoyment and engagement each and every day; the smiles on their faces that have made the year for me, it's what makes my job so special!

### The end of the era for me

This is the end of the era for me and whilst there is no denying that I am looking forward to a holiday, I also don't want this year to end because the last of my own children is taking the next step in their education and moving on to secondary. I know I am biased, but I am so pleased my own children joined Polegate School. Not quite in reception class but after spending a few INSET days at Polegate each year my daughter pleaded (she did a good job, there were tears as well - for days!) with me to join our school! She joined in when she was in Year 3.

My son was not quite so lucky, he had to join the waiting list for Year 1! I can honestly say it was the best thing I ever did and I have absolutely no regrets. My son joined unable to read, finding it very challenging and leaves an avid reader who achieved greater depth! I could not be prouder and I join the many parents who have sent emails, letters and cards with words of gratitude for the dedication the team at Polegate show to our children. I know for sure that I will struggle to hold back the tears at their leavers' show because they are a very special year group who have achieved incredible things throughout their time at the school!

### **Key Stage 2 data**

#### So, hot off the press is this year's Key Stage 2 data!

I'm delighted to tell you that we exceeded national data in all areas. Some of these figures reach the top 5% of schools in the country! Congratulations to our year 6 pupils, this really is an exceptional set of results which reflects their drive, determination and ambition to be the best they can be.

Combined Reading,	% of pupils reaching the e	xpected standard in all subjects
writing and maths	Polegate School	National results
2017-2018	78%	64%

Results have increased since last year and in reading and maths we reached a very high target - to achieve results above the top 5% of schools in the country.

Subject	% of pupils achieving the expected standard	Previous year 2017	% of pupils achieving the greater depth	Previous year 2017
English grammar, punctuation & spelling	87%	83%	45%	27%
<b>English reading</b>	85%	68%	42%	25%
<b>English writing</b>	87%	82%	30%	22%
mathematics	92%	87%	27%	16%

# SCHOOL TRIPS

Learning continues to be enhanced right up until the last day!

Hopefully all of these experiences make learning irresistible - that's our plan!



Year 6 have recently attended the country fair at Ardingly



Year 5 experienced the magic of Harry Potter!



into pirates.

Year 2 have been busy learning the skills required for interviews!

They are looking quite intimidating!



Year 1 have recently visited Paradise Park

## **STAFFING NEWS**

I am delighted to share we now have all the teachers we need now for September! All enthusiastic and excited about teaching at Polegate!

#### Gayle Howland in year 2

Hi, my name is Gayle and I was lucky enough to be placed at Polegate School as part of my PGCE teacher training course.

I am really excited to be coming back in September to join the staff team. I am passionate about children's learning and committed to making a difference, I cannot wait for the start of term and the start of a new adventure!

When I get some spare time I love to spend it with my family and we really love the great outdoors; camping, walking, rock pooling and picnics!

### Alma Scales in year 4

Job share with Sally Barnard

I am very excited to be joining the teaching team here at Polegate School.

I have been teaching for many years and feel very lucky as I still think it is the best job in the world. When not in school, I am at my happiest surrounded by friends and family. I have three young children who keep me very busy in the best of ways.

I have always loved to travel, seeing new places and meeting new people. At the moment, our holidays tend to be camping trips rather than jet-setting around the world although we are planning a road trip to Bosnia this summer. Am hoping that I will finally get to read some of the books on my ever growing list of 'must reads' too.

### **PARENT MAIL**

change your email address or mobile number you must edit your details on ParentMail. The office can do this for you but you have to confirm the changes but if this is not done within 7 days it reverts back to your old numbers.

### **SCOOTERS**

We have been told by staff members at the Community Centre that children are scooting very fast down the slope and that they are knocking people as they go by. Please ask your child to walk down.

# CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL

It is always wonderful to hear about adventures outside school and this term I have been inundated!



Emily completed a Race for Life and everyone was so proud - a fantastic achievement!

### Today, Sofia took part in her 2nd Race for Life event.

She has been training over the last few months as well as recently using the opportunity to Beat the Streets!

Despite finding the last 1k tiring, Sofia persevered and finished the 5k run in 37mins - beating her time from last year by 7mins.

Sofia has helped to raise £365 for Cancer research UK!



# MILLIONAIRE READERS!

### We have some millionaire readers in school!

How do you become a Millionaire? Read one million words! Polegate pupils who have read over a million words this school year belong to a select group of Accelerated Reader Millionaires.

A word count is generated each time a pupil reads a book and then takes a reading practice quiz online using our Accelerated Reader software.

These pupils are word rich and if we stop to think about the role that vocabulary plays in people's lives then we realise how important it is. A large and rich vocabulary is strongly linked to success in school, success in interview and success in life in general!

The benefits of this are vast The ability to read opens countless doors of exploration and learning. Reading can also boost imagination and creativity in both children and adults. It allows the reader to explore new worlds, people and experiences. Through reading, the reader may begin to see the world in a fresher, more creative light.

#### **Focus & Concentration**

When you are reading, you are focusing and concentrating on one thing. By sitting still and reading, you are training your body/mind and your child's too slow down, relax, and focus on what you are reading. This helps you/your child focus and concentrate on other activities because you are used to doing it.

### Reading Improves your memory

When you read a book, you are taking in all that the book is about. People, places, things... When you read you are using your memory muscle which lies in the Cerebrum part of your brain. Using this muscle helps your memory long term.

### Reading helps with communication

Reading to your children helps build a bond and open up communication. It's always important to be able to talk with your kids especially when they get into their teenage years. Start reading to them and communicating when they are young so they have that connection and comfort with talking to you.

#### **Language Development**

Babies and children learn to talk by hearing words. The more they hear, the more likely they are to talk and understand what's being said. Your child's language skills and literacy depend on you talking and reading to them.

Please don't stop reading to your children when they become confident readers as this then slows their progress. Allow your child to read their book but have another longer book that you read together. This means they can access more challenging texts because you are there to explain and model reading words they may skim over. It means they can just enjoy

listening to a story without having to do the hard work of decoding. It means they can enjoy chapter books while in the infants and it means that year 6 can be exposed to books they may not chose themselves.

### **Summer library Challenge**

The summer library challenge is a brilliant way to encourage reading throughout the summer holiday and make sure they do not fall back over the six week holiday.

THE READING AGENCY AND LIBRARIES PRESENT

THIS CLIEF

### What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge takes place every year during the summer holidays. You can sign up at your local library, then read six library books of your choice to complete the Challenge. There are exclusive rewards to collect along the way, and it's FREE to take part!

The Summer Reading Challenge website helps you keep track of your reading all year round: find new books to read, take part in competitions and play games.

Click here to find out more: https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

## Not sure what to read?

Click on this link to find a full range of mischief maker books for all ages to recommend to your child.

https://readingagency.org.uk/children/news/mischief-makersbook-collection-announced.html



## LOVELY LETTERS

This time of year is always so emotional and letters of gratitude have been flooding in to recognise the very special teachers we have at Polegate. I would really like to thank those parents that take the time to share their feelings with me and staff. I can't tell you how much it means to the very dedicated teachers at Polegate when they are told the difference they make! I know they will treasure these kind words.

I have just received my son's school report and whilst I'm obviously proud of his achievements, I also feel it is important to express how pleased I am with his teacher. His teacher has been an amazing teacher to my son and his whole class.

My son has learnt an incredible amount this year and although in part due to him, a great teacher inspires, encourages and supports this need to learn. She displays all these characteristics and more. She has inspired my son with reading in particular, challenged him with his maths and everyday feed his need to learn, helping him reach his potential.

I feel when someone goes the extra mile and displays 110% it is important to recognise it. Great teachers are so important and we are lucky to have so many at Polegate school.

Many thanks to the school and all the hard work you all do, our daughter is a different child in one year – far much more confidence, writing/numbers etc – a lot of credit has to go to the school and her teacher for that.

Dear Claire,

We would like to say a massive thank you, to you and all your wonderful teachers for all the help and support you have given our son over the years he has been at Polegate. He has had a wonderful time at Polegate and has grown in confidence and ability under everybody's expert care and guidance. He is extremely sad to be leaving you all. Thank you for the wonderful opportunities and experiences you have given him . we will miss you all at the school and remain eternally grateful for all you have done.

You have gone above and beyond the role of his teacher and the journey we have all been on together this year, I will never forget. You've been there for the good times.. the bad times and like me, have always tried to see the positives and celebrate the progress our son has made. He will never be able to express himself how far he has come this year and the impact both you and the teaching assistant have had, but I know when he is older and looks back, he will always remember you both with genuine love.

Firstly, I don't think I have ever read a school report and burst into tears before! Your paragraph about how proud you are of our son brought both my husband and I to tears and your genuine care for him just permeates through your writing. I have said this before, but I genuinely could not have wished for a better teacher for our son this year.

My daughter was never meant to go to Polegate School. She didn't get any of her choices for primary school but, by what I now believe to be our very great fortune, Polegate had plenty of spaces for the start of 2011 (very hard to believe now!). I am a great believer in fate and looking back, this was meant to be. Our daughter has gone from strength to strength at Polegate with everything coming to an amazing climax in Year 6 under your incredible enthusiasm, passion, care, no nonsense approach and watchful eye.

Whenever I open a school report for my daughter, I have always been spoilt and naturally expect good things from her. But this latest one made me cry. A distinction in debating, greater depth for all SATs and an absolutely shining (and very amusing) report from you, made my Friday afternoon. Thank you so much.

I will speak for all teachers when I say it is our pleasure. We all love the job we have and consider ourselves very lucky to work with your very special childrenthank you for sending them to Polegate!

# BMX VISIT FROM A WORLD CHAMPION

As we did so well in Walk to School week with so many children not travelling by cars Sustrans the organisers have rewarded us with a visit from BMX world champion Matti Hemmings.

The whole school got out on the playground to watch in awe at his stunts then he delivered workshops to some of our older pupils. Let's hope we win it next year as well!





## SELECTION PROCESS FOR PREFECTS

## You may not be aware but our headboy and headgirl carry out interviews to help us select our next headboy and headgirl!

This is a brilliant learning opportunity for everyone involved and a role they take very seriously. This year Sam Hamilton and Kiera Boniface have done this exceptionally well. They put candidates at ease, reframed questions and were very mature and sensitive.

They were particularly kind at the end when they thanked the candidates and gave them plenty of praise- Alan Sugar could learn a lot!

We want to thank all the candidates that came along really well prepared, even with files! Good luck to you all!

The initiatives in school that set us apart, such as Philosophy for Children and debate are really becoming visible in the children's skills and confidence now. Extra opportunities like this give them the chance to apply these skills.

## **PFA NEWS**

### WOW! What a year we've had...

From Fireworks Night to the Christmas Fair, Eyes down at Bingo to showing Mums and Dads we care, Brains engaged at our annual quiz night, To busting our moves at the Disco and giving everyone a fright!

Easter Eggs, Table Sales, Lottery and Refreshments too, The Year 6 Leavers bash where we'll say toodle-oo, A scorching summer fair was a whole lot of fun,

#### Thanks for supporting us to each and everyone!!!

Since the last meeting we have held our Summer Fair- what an amazing day it was, we hope those of you that came along enjoyed it as much as we did! It was a scorcher of a day and took over £3000, the profit made will be revealed soon!

Every penny of profit we make goes into supporting the school to fund all the little extras that make Polegate School an even more exciting and fun place to be. At the moment we are trying to raise money for the school's wildlife project.

Thank you so much to you for supporting the events and especially to those of you who have come along and offered your time and hands when we've needed them! Those few minutes of time that you can give us every once in a while really do make a BIG difference...you don't have to be on the committee or give up hours every week to help! Please do come and talk to one of us if you would like to know more or get involved.

Thanks also to all of the committee, we are a great team! Rachel Keen, our chair, has had a brilliant first year as our leader so a HUGE thank you to her. We also say a MASSIVE THANK YOU to Sue Bateman, who has been our Vice Chair, but is now hanging up her PFA hat after lots of years of service whilst her children attended Polegate School. Thank you for all you have done, your knowledge, hard work and enthusiasm- we will really miss her!!

Don't forget you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date with all of our events... we look forward to seeing you next year!

Have a wonderful summer!

## DEBATE TEAM

Some of our ambitious Year 6 pupils were entered into the English Speaking Board debate exam! I say ambitious because the target year group is Year 6-8 so to do this at this age is impressive!

All pupils learn debating skills throughout the school and every child is invited to participate in the exam at the end of Year 6.

ESB Level 1 Award in Debating gives late primary and early secondary school pupils an opportunity to endorse their talent for debating and improve their skills. Debating is an essential life skill and an aid to develop soft skills such as critical thinking, teamwork and leadership. All of ESB's schools qualifications are mapped to the UK National Curriculum and are proven to increase attainment and confidence in speaking and listening.



## ATTENDANCE

I received a wonderful email from a parent who felt her son's remarkable attendance was worth a mention - I agreed!

'Following today's email about the 100% attendance, I thought I would drop you a line as I think it's quite an achievement that Matthew has only ever been off sick one day in his 5 years of school life (year 2 if I remember correctly) and we have never considered taking him out for holidays etc - something we disagree with anyway!!

Please feel free to mention Matthew in the newsletter -I think it teaches children responsibilities and the importance of working hard! I appreciate all the hard work that teachers put in). The least we can do as parents is for our kids to turn up at school!

Very proud of you Matthew and thank you for taking school so seriously!

### 100% Attendance is possible! School Attendance

Whole school is now: 96.35%. A little way off our target of 97%.

RV	= 95%	3M = 96%
RH	= 96%	3Mc = 97%
RHi	= 96%	4M = 96%
1N	= 97%	4D = 96%
1B	= 96%	5GK = 97%
1Y	= 96%	5W = 96%
2A	= 97%	6M = 97%
2B	= 97%	6R = 96%

The 100% prize draw for a brand new bike will be held on Friday morning at 9.30am. It will be announced on Twitter and in the first newsletter next year. My fingers are crossed Matthew!

## ATTENDANCE AWARD

It was film and ice cream for the two classes with the highest attendance last term 5GK and RHI both loved getting an ice cream and watching a film. They selected their reward and what a good choice it was in such hot weather!



## ONLINE SAFETY

The national online safety team have created a free guide for parents & carers to share about 'Playerunknown's Battlegrounds' (PUBG) – a game played by millions of children and young people worldwide.

Our guide is designed to inform parents and carers about the dangers and risks of letting their children play PUBG and how they can help keep their children safe online.

Find the guide here: https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety/status/1006924770657611776



# END OF TERM FUN



It's not ever day we have a pet duck in school!



## **Diary Date**

First Day of Term Tuesday 4th September

# Polegate Polegate Polegate

A Day with the Goodbye & good luck our your of Pupils

My French Trip

My Fren

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 907 followers!



## **Polegate**

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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

## NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Do you get stuck with what to do at New Year with your family? Well why not book tickets to the party of the year at the Community Centre. A percentage of the takings will be donated back to the school to go towards the wildlife project!!!



