



In This Issue

A Warm Welcome	2
Sports Update	2
Teachers Do Poetry	4
Polegate on Twitter	5
Home Learning	6
Whole School Visit	6
Staff News	7
Life Skills Challenge	8
Support Is Out There	9
School Closure	10
Past Pupils	10
Change of Information	11

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Firstly, thank you. I seem to have said this a lot this year! Your support in tough times is incredible. Recent events have been unprecedented and challenging in the last few weeks.

Announcements made with no guidance, with no advance notice. Decisions left for heads to make that have far reaching consequences and impact on so many.

It is quite surreal to think we are living through a time that will be part of the history curriculum for future pupils!

Read more inside

A WARM WELCOME

Dear Parents,

Firstly, thank you. I seem to have said this a lot this year! Your support in tough times is incredible. Recent events have been unprecedented and challenging in the last few weeks. Announcements made with no guidance, with no advance notice. Decisions left for heads to make that have far reaching consequences and impact on so many.

It is quite surreal to think we are living through a time that will be part of the history curriculum for future pupils!

In a bizarre twist of fate I'm urging parents to keep their children at home rather than send them in to school! I would NEVER have imagined this. In a strange role reversal I've also been yelling at my mum and dad for going out. In my teenage years this is what they would say to me!

It is true to say we are all anxious. We all have our own families and loved ones we care about and despite the fact that Polegate School is closed and we do not know for how long we are still there for each of you.

Friday was tearful and very emotional for everyone. Year 6 feel cheated of their chance for a proper goodbye and a gentle transition possibly to secondary school.

I speak for the whole school community of staff when I say we care. We will always have staff in school and we will be responding to email.

If you need ANY support please, please contact us.

I had an email from an ex pupil who wanted to request 'Leavers hoodies' for Year 6 as she has a sibling in the year now. I am happy to organise this as I know how special and treasured these are. I will arrange special ones for this year and information will follow about how to order these. I also won't allow them to miss out on an event to celebrate and say goodbye to friends.



SPORTS UPDATE

U9 MIXED ALBION CUP QUALIFIER EASTBOURNE BOROUGH FOOTBALL GROUND MARCH 2020

After several weeks of seemingly constant rain, the day of the Albion Cup Under 9s Mixed Football Tournament dawned bright and sunny!

Seven players from Year 3 and 4 represented Polegate in the qualifying competition that would see the top four schools in the South Downs Area go through to a regional final at the Elite Training Centre in Brighton later on in the month. We won this competition last year, so no pressure!!

Our first game against Cradle Hill Primary ended in defeat but we did play well and we were only getting started. Next we played Westfield and beat them 1-0. Another 2-1 win against Seaford followed and then a draw against Glebe put us through to the quarter finals.

Our quarter final game was against Stafford. They are a very strong all-year 4 team and we were thrilled when we scored first. Unfortunately Stafford equalised late in the game and at 1-1 when the final whistle blew, we knew we would have to go to penalties. Cole was incredible in goal, saving two great shots, whilst the first 3 Polegate players took their penalties and scored all of them. It was down to Arianwen to secure us a place in the semi-final against Sandown School. She lined up for a shot, took a short run up...and she scored!!

The semi-final game was a bit of an anti-climax and although we didn't win it, we did secure a place in the Regional Finals at the Elite Training Centre in Lancing later in the year.

Well done Polegate!



KS1 MIXED FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

Two teams from Polegate recently took part in the KS1 Mixed Football Festival.

We had a competitive team and a development team who both represented our school brilliantly. The competitive squad (shown here in the black and green striped kit) came third overall. Well done Team Polegate!



U9 GIRLS ALBION CUP QUALIFIER

EASTBOURNE BOROUGH FOOTBALL GROUND MARCH 2020

It was another lovely bright start to the day of the Girls' U9 Albion Cup qualifier at Eastbourne Borough Football Club on 13th March.

Eight schools from the area took part – with 3 group stage games followed by knockout rounds to a final.

Polegate girls started well with a solid win over our opposition. One win led to another and at the end of the group stages we had won all our games and were top of the group.

The quarter-final game was another great performance and I actually lost count of the goals scored. I think it was 6-1! Following that we

had a much tougher game against Stafford in the semi-final that ended in a 1-1 draw so, just like the mixed competition the week beforehand, we had to take penalties!

After 5 normal penalties we were still equal so the goal keepers had to take penalties against each other. They both scored – so we went to sudden death penalties. Arghhhhhh! After a brilliant save by Leah it was Lydia's turn to shoot. She took a short run up... and scored! We were through to the final!



The final against Harbour school was tough and despite beating them in our opening game, the emotions of the previous game had drained us. We played lovely football were out-run in the end and had

to make do with the runner-up spot.

However we did make it to the area finals at Lancing whenever that might be now!

TEACHERS DO POETRY

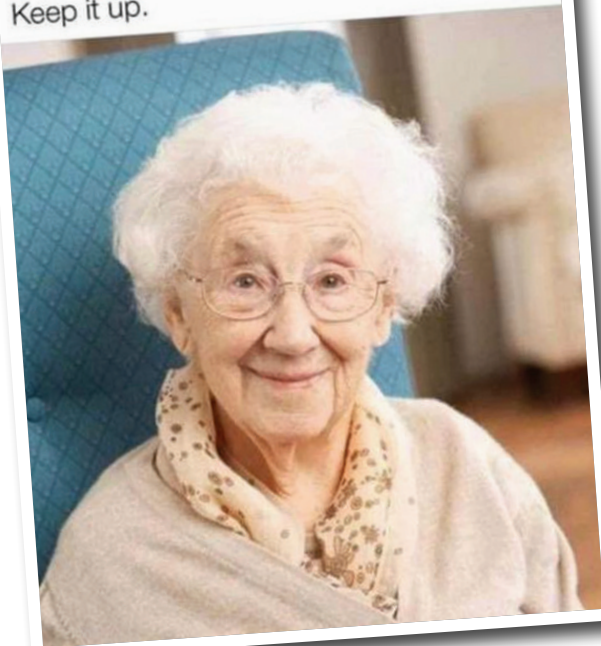
Mrs Weyland has been forced into self-isolation as she suffers from chronic asthma. She was devastated but in true Mrs Weyland style she is thinking of the children even when she can't be in school and has started a trend and a challenge of her own. Listen to her poem on Twitter...more to come.



POLEGATE ON TWITTER

Even in times of worry it is great to see Polegate has a sense of humour. Your Twitter posts have made me laugh out loud on several occasions! Keep them coming!

Here's Sue. 31 years old, home schooling her kids for the last 5 days. Great job Sue. Keep it up.



STAFF ROOM

DO NOT DISTURB
UNLESS

- 1) YOU ARE BLEEDING
- 2) YOU CAN SEE A BONE
- 3) TOM HARDY IS AT THE DOOR ASKING FOR ME

Perfectly reasonable I'd say! I think we may just adopt the staffroom guidance when we re-open!



↻ Polegate School Retweeted

Sarah Purdey @spurdles1 · Mar 21

@PolegateSchool if mine carry on like they are at the moment, they're going to be expelled.

💬 1

↻ 1

❤️ 7



You just made me laugh out loud- maybe we need to introduce a parent helpline!

HOME LEARNING

Teachers will continue each week to send learning home.

The overview will be emailed on a Friday at around 4pm. We can no longer provide a paper pack for collection as we should not be encouraging people to leave their homes and we should be reducing social contact for everyone's safety. There will be sufficient work to do at home that does not require internet access or a printer.

WHOLE SCHOOL VISIT

Each week we will have a 'whole school visit' to a location – no expense spared!

Our first trip this week has been to Central Park in New York. I am adding these weekly to prompt questions and possibly mini projects. Join us as we travel first class- its not too late!

So our 'school trip' next week is to New York! We are joining a guide who talks us through events in Central Park's history as we "travel" from the West 72nd entrance. Write a fact file, design a poster, create your own park.....
where will we go next?



<https://www.youvisit.com/tour/centralpark>

Twitter @PolegateSchool Follow us!

SEPTEMBER STAFFING

We had an astounding 32 applications for the teacher vacancies for September.

These were scheduled for a couple of weeks' time but in anticipation of what might happen we brought them forward to... can you believe it, Friday 20th March! We shortlisted to 13 exceptional candidates and have appointed which means we will be fully staffed in September! I can't wait to share their introductions with you in the next newsletter.

Goodbyes

It is also going to be a very sad end to Mrs Hadley's and Mrs Hicks' time at Polegate. They have not had the opportunity for a proper goodbye from their colleagues or classes and this caused a lot of tears.



MRS HADLEY



MRS HICKS

WELL DONE EZRA

Congratulations to Ezra Hartland who has been selected for the Sussex Development Pathway for 2020 based on his amazing swim at the County Championships.

**A terrific achievement
Ezra- well done!**



EZRA HARTLAND

Polegate School Retweeted
Tasha Aamer
@TashaAamer

I have hired a new teacher @PolegateSchool so far she is amazing may have to employ her full-time! 😊



Kate, you must have missed the deadline for our recent recruitment at Polegate School? It's wonderful to see you helping your younger brother!

SCHOOL TRIPS

As yet we have received no further information on the Hindleap Warren or French trip.

I cannot imagine these will go ahead but we do need to be instructed NOT to go ahead in order to qualify for insurance at which time we will refund your money.

LIFE SKILLS CHALLENGE

Watch out for home learning tasks with a difference!

We appreciate that completing the school work is not always easy at home but there are some really valuable skills you can teach your child from home that don't rely on the work pack from teachers and they are guaranteed to help your child throughout their life.

Watch out for the challenge pack coming your way soon.

It includes things like: tie your shoe laces, make your bed, make a cup of tea, boil an egg...

It's great to see so many families doing these at home already with their children.

I am so impressed with how you are all embracing home schooling! Just don't enjoy it too much- we want to have your children back as soon as possible!



CONGRESS SHOW

After all the preparation for congress 2020 this also looks highly unlikely to be taking place.

Again we are waiting for further information but if cancelled tickets will be refunded and we will look to take to the stage in 2021 instead if this is the case.

RECYCLING

WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES

We have small recycling battery boxes in the office.



SUPPORT IS OUT THERE

We appreciate these are worrying times for everyone. I have included a link to various groups, agencies and organisations that may need or who may be able to offer support. We are also here for you!

Childline gives confidential advice to under-19s.
Tel: 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk

Eastbourne Volunteers

Telephone befriending service for people who are self-isolating – eastbournevolunteers@gmail.com

Family Lockdown tips and ideas

Facebook group with tips on entertaining the family whilst self-isolating

ELSA website

Various resources re emotional well-being, lots are free to download. Several free coronavirus leaflets explaining about school being closed, handwashing etc

www.elsa-support.co.uk

Eastbourne Foodbank is still operating as normal for food parcels, but no face-to-face welfare benefits advice. A phone line is operating instead Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoon between 2:00 & 4:00pm – **call 01323 409925**

Financial advice Some info and links on benefits and sick pay on CAB website
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/>

Domestic abuse

National Domestic Abuse Helpline **08082000247**

Women's aid by their Live chat, email and forum support:

www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/

Make safety plan and practice escape with children safely.

www.womensaid.org.uk/the-survivors-handbook/making-a-safety-plan/

Understand what domestic abuse is:

www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/what-is-domestic-abuse/

how to spot it: www.victimsupport.org.uk/crime-info/types-crime/domestic-abuse/recognising-signs-domestic-abuse

www.moneysavingexpert.com

ENERGY SUPPLIERS

Advise to speak to their provider for emergency support.

British Gas **Tel: 03332029802**

EDF **Tel: 03332005100**

E.on **Tel: 0345052000**

Npower **Tel: 08000733000**

Scottish Power **Tel: 08000270072**

SSE **Tel: 03450262658**

Bulb **Tel: 03003030635**

Co op energy **Tel: 08000937547**

E energy **Tel: 03331039575**

Green Network Energy **Tel: 08005200202**

Green star Energy **Tel: 08000124510**

Omni Energy **Tel: 01134573219**

Ovo (2) **Tel: 03301027517**

Robin Hood Energy **Tel: 08000304567**

Utilita **Tel: 03452072000**

The utility warehouse **Tel: 0333 7770777**

SPOA **Tel: 01323 464222**

HELPLINES

Samaritans **Tel: 116123**

Sussex Mental Healthline **Tel: 0300 5000 101**

Shout (for support in a crisis) **Text: 85258**

LGBT Helpline **Tel: 0300 3300630**

CALM (Helpline for men) **Tel: 0800 585858**

HOPELINE UK (for U35s) **Tel: 0800 168 4141**
Text: 07786 209697

SCHOOL CLOSURE

NHS and critical frontline staff we are proud to be continuing to teach and care for your children.

It's hard, lots of staff are already ringing in sick or self-isolating because of conditions they or family members have and I need to keep them safe as well. It is very hard to make this work.

I have had to make really difficult decisions. Please only use the school for childcare if you absolutely have to because your work is critical to our COVID-19 response. If you are able to keep your child at home, you should.

We are open for those children who **ABSOLUTELY** need to attend. The fewer children making the journey to

school and the fewer children in school, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

If you have a partner at home or teenage siblings, or their father is not a key worker please keep your child at home, reserve spaces for the most essential pupils.

Please only send your child in if you have no other choice!

The safest place for your child really is at home. If there is a responsible adult at home then that is where your children should be. We have really struggled with the vague definition of key worker and if your situation has changed and you are no longer

needed please don't send your child in. There were many more parents requesting places than we have been able to provide and even then we have 71 on our register which is too many!

This was a refreshing message to see online.

20/03/2020, 06:52

I'm a key worker but I'm not sending my child to school. We really need to reserve these places for the most essential pupils and 2 parents who are key workers. We must all make every effort to keep those at school safe. The children and staff attending school need to be safe too

PAST PUPILS

Dear Mrs M-O-D,

I bet you never thought you'd hear from me again, sorry to disappoint you. It's been 3 years since I left Polegate School, and despite everybody's best attempts to prepare me for going up to senior school, I have to admit that I did struggle with the transition for almost the whole of year 7 right up until I started to make new friends and I missed Polegate like mad.

I still look back on my time with fondness, everything was so much easier then and the teachers were so much nicer, but I guess that was before we turned into horrible teenagers! A part of me still misses Polegate, and those days, which is why I thought I would ask you whether you'd be willing to have me back for 5 days from the 29th of June to the 3rd of July as part of my year 10 work placement.

I would love to be a classroom assistant for Miss Murphy or even help Mrs Richardson (who seems a lot less scary compared to my current Science teacher!) I would even be happy to help the Janitor or in the kitchens, maybe even in the office.

Of course if you wanted to take 5 days off I would happily take your place as headteacher while you were off.

Please give my best wishes to anyone who remembers me.

Yours Sincerely,
Xander White

It's lovely to hear from our past pupils and this letter made us all laugh! We all remember Xander and it's so nice to see that being a 'horrible teenager' doesn't necessarily mean they lose their sense of humour!

Little does Xander know I'm definitely taking up his offer of taking my place as headteacher!

When can you start Xander?

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

Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



Diary Date

Start of Term 1
2020-21
Friday 4th
September
2020

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
1,080 followers!



Polegate School
Oakleaf Drive
Polegate
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

Designed by Proworx: www.proworx.co.uk