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WELCOME BACK TO TERM 5

Welcome back to a new term of Home School!

It is a really difficult time and we totally understand that but we never cease to be amazed at your resilience, engagement and creativity in the way you are approaching teaching your children at home.

It is hard and if it reassures you at all, we as teachers are finding it a challenge to teach our own children at home - give us a class of 30 any day!

Do what you can and if it is hard some days just stick to the basics! Times tables, phonics or spelling and reading.

I hope your children are enjoying working through the Life Skills card.

These can provide a great break from other types of learning and are just as important- if not more so!

DEAR PARENTS

We are constantly reviewing what we are doing in this unusual time and looking to see if there are better ways of doing things as a result we have changed the teaching plans you will receive for next week and hope these are simpler and easier to follow.

They will be sent through OneDrive but there will be fewer attachments to navigate through. So please don't panic that you are missing anything, expect it to look different. As some excellent resources have become available online we thought we would make use of these.

Please, please keep sharing your photos on Twitter- I do see every one of them and love to see the children.

It's keeping us going so please keep it up along with regular communication with your child's class teacher. Seesaw is proving invaluable at this time and it has made the sharing of learning and communication so much easier.

We wanted to show just how much we all miss the children and you so hope you enjoyed the video we put together.

As a staff, we haven't all seen each other during this time so it was lovely for us to compile this.

Thanks for the lovely messages and support you are sending us at this time.

NEXT YEAR

It's hard to even think beyond a few weeks at the moment but we have been looking ahead and preparing not just for a return at the end of lockdown but also to September.

So school places were announced as many of you will know and we are absolutely delighted to have a full intake in September 2020 and really pleased to see lots of familiar names!

There are so many siblings joining us which is lovely. We are thinking very differently about our transition

arrangements this year and plans are in place to ensure that their start to school is just as smooth as other years.

We have official Polegate 2020 Facebook page for this year group so that it gives parents the opportunity to 'virtually' meet each other and start making connections. We embrace change at Polegate and we are seeing this as an opportunity to review how we do things and make them even better.

We have an amazing team and community and I am sure we can come through this stronger than before!

We anticipated that this time might be very hard for some older residents in the area and so we set about creating leaflets offering help with shopping. Armed with bundles of these and the enthusiastic help of some of our prefects we posted them during lunchtimes to houses around the school.

We had several local residents ask for support with their shopping. The prefects that helped to drop 100s of leaflets with us during their lunchbreak will be very pleased to hear that their efforts were worth it and several members of the community needed help and took it up.



Making Victoria Sponge topped with Easter treats as decoration.

Faye learnt how to sew on buttons and then turned it into a cushion



Harry creating tonight's dinner , marinating the chicken



As always we celebrate learning and here is a taste of what has been going on in the homes of children at Polegate School!

Caitlin (6R) had a busy Easter baking all of these wonderful treats.



Ck's practicing a life skills. Soon I can retire Ha!



Joshua making his Dad a cup of tea



After his Victoria Sponge success... today he tackled roast beef.



Alex has been busy cooking a Japanese dish fried rice. It looks delicious Alex.

SCHOOL LIFE

NOT AS WE KNOW IT!

It is very different and we are open and available for Key Workers and Vulnerable Families.

If you have alternative care arrangements we would urge you to use these as we want to minimise any risk to the children and staff as much as possible.

We do continue to have a high number of children attending compared to other local schools and this does make social distancing in school tricky!

Please ring in on **01323 482404** or email via **school.office@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk** to book your place. We are one of the few schools continuing to offer our **Breakfast Club** and **After School Club** for key worker

children. These services also need to be booked in advance (by 09.30am the day before), so that we can arrange for staff to be on site.

Breakfast Club: 07.30 - 09.00am (book in advance.

After School Club: 3.20-4.30pm

Thank you for your patience with the new government food voucher system! It has not been easy for us or you but hopefully in the coming weeks the system will cope with the demand.

TRIPS & VISITS

Thank you for your patience and consideration while we work towards finding solutions for our cancelled trips.

We continue to follow County guidance, which requests schools to cancel school trips and make individual claims per trip to our Insurers, who in turn review each claim on the basis of its own circumstances.

I am sure you can all appreciate that this is a timely process which requires a systematic approach.

It is vital that we provide them with detailed evidence in order to try and secure full refunds for any costs that have been incurred.

In addition, this process is being hindered by many educational trip providers working remotely or currently being closed, this is adding to the delay in communication and subsequent claims being submitted. The current priority is to claim refunds on any cancelled trips that were scheduled to take place during Term 4 and 5.

Once we have received funds back, through either a refund from providers or through insurance claims, we will be able to begin to release funds back to individuals.

Our Finance team will be in contact with parents to arrange for money to be transferred when the funds are available.

Please bear with us at this time and wait to be contacted by the team.

We thank you for your continued patience and support.

DON'T TELL THE CHILDREN!

I have some more ideas to keep us connected as a community during this time.

We are going to do a virtual assembly and I would like to surprise the children. I would like to include photos, short video they don't know has been taken of them at home. These could be anything from messy bedrooms to them working really hard. A little bit like the Saturday Night Takeaway feature - a surprise for the children and they will wonder how on earth we could have got into their home!

You can then use this to your advantage and tell them we see everything!

Please add a little background information, context and what you would like me to say! I will include as many as I can. If we have lots and we get positive feedback then I will do another one.

Try to film landscape and not upside down!

We have issued several computers to families that had no access and we have a few more so if you need a computer for this time please do contact us.

Enjoy the rest of this term.

Please don't share this with them. If you would like to be included please upload the video to this link:

https://polegateschool-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/c_martin-odonoghue_polegate_e-sussex_sch_uk/EtkwZZtphTFNgk0_Jo8DSUABptLf4VTL_o5Qub_UDZTwg?e=HAXuZS

MORE LIFE SKILLS



We have already started to sew as a new life skill.



Sofia doing the washing up!



Reggie helping peel the potatoes.

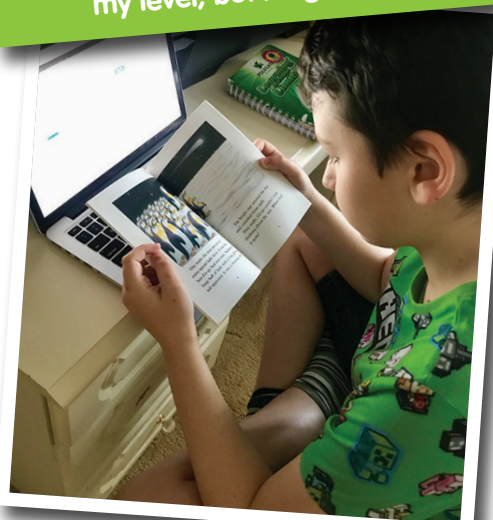


Bringing Lillie's new topic 'Africa' to life!



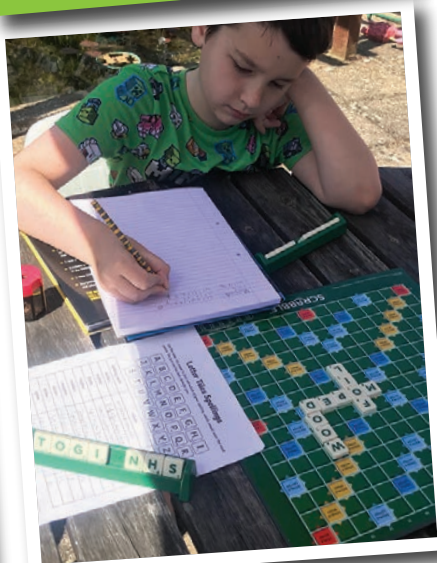
Amelia's stunning home learning task!

"But Mum I've checked on accelerated reader, it's well below my level, but it's good!"



Family pizza night last night

Alfie doing scrabble Maths while doing his 5J homework.



Faye had an extra "inset day" yesterday but she's ready to get back to it today... even dressed in uniform



More rainbow fun!

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT WELL BEING

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/your-mind-plan-quiz/>

<https://woebot.io/>

The mindshift app

<https://www.headspace.com/>

Royal Academy

Crisp packet recycling

Please take your empty crisp packets to the school office



WE NOW RECYCLE BATTERIES

We have small recycling battery boxes in the office.



Diary Dates

Friday 8th May
BANK HOLIDAY

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 1099 followers!



Polegate School
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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



FREE sports and activities through 'Youtube'.

Why not try something different

Keep fit during the lockdown

Local Sussex providers

Active Sussex have teamed up with REBOOT, providing young people and their families access to local sports and activities, directly into your homes. The below schedule of activities are free to access. We encourage everyone across Sussex to get involved, keep active and improve your mental well-being.

This guide provides access to the funded provisions available to you during the COVID19 pandemic.



Monday: One Session available

Defiant Sports

Time: 11:00 - 11:30

What is being provided?

‘Mellow Mondays’:

30 minute session for 12 weeks. To incorporate sensory circuits, yoga, relaxation, mindfulness etc. Providing varied content over 12 weeks, with extra explanation and time allowed to ensure those less able can fully participate.

Equipment required will be found around the home eg. Water bottle instead of hand weights. All home based exercise.



CLICK HERE TO ACCESS
YOUTUBE

<http://defiantsports.org.uk>

Tuesday: Session One

Fit and Fab Families

Time: 09:00-09:30

What is being provided?

Sessions aimed at families, teaching basic boxing techniques and standing core exercises. The sessions will also provide you with equipment free HIIT/conditioning classes.



[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS
YOUTUBE](#)

Tuesday: Session Two

Marina Studios Y.E.S: Street Dance

Time: 12:00 - 12:30

What is being provided?

Providing online street dance tutorials to young people across Sussex. If you are new to Street dance, or want to expand on the skills you have already developed then please join us on our Youtube channel every Tuesday lunchtime.



[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS
YOUTUBE](#)

Wednesday: One Session available

Defiant Sports: Sports and family fun

Time: 11:00 - 11:30

What is being provided?

Wednesdays – ‘welcoming Wednesdays’ 30 minute session for 12 weeks. Introducing you to adapted sports, encompassing gameplay and skill building. Fun for all the family.

Equipment required will be found around the home eg. Water bottle instead of hand weights. All home based exercise.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS
YOUTUBE](#)

Thursday: One session available

Fit and Fab Families

Time: 09:00-09:30

What is being provided?



Sessions aimed at families, teaching basic boxing techniques and standing core exercises. The sessions will also provide you with equipment free HIIT/conditioning classes.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS
YOUTUBE](#)

Friday: Session One

Up-Grade Training and Therapy Ltd: Kickboxing, Mixed Martial arts and Fitness

Time: 10:00 - 10:30

What is being provided?

Kickboxing, fitness and Mixed Martial Arts lessons. Young people would need a clear space of no less than 3x3 metres, loose fitting clothes and plenty of water. Given the nature of the online, non-contact service, equipment would not be necessary.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS
YOUTUBE](#)

Friday: Session Two

Marina Studios Y.E.S.: Street Dance

Time: 12:00 - 12:30

What is being provided?

Providing online street dance tutorials to young people across Sussex. If you are new to Street dance, or want to expand on the skills you have already developed then please join us on our Youtube channel every Tuesday lunchtime.



[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS
YOUTUBE](#)

Saturday: Session One

Storm Basketball: Basketball

Time: 14:00 - 14:30

What is being provided?

Providing 30 minutes of Basketball skills and topics of the game. These exciting online basketball sessions will provide access to learning new life long skills required, giving you a head start to join the largest Basketball provider in Sussex post lockdown.



[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS
YOUTUBE](#)

Saturday: Session Two

Tic Tac Skate school: Skateboarding skills

Time: 16:00 - 16:30

What is being provided?

Providing comprehensive courses in skateboarding, from the complete beginner to expert we can cover an agenda to suit any budding skaeboarder. The sessions will cover warm up basic abilities needed learning tricks and having fun while staying indoors.

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS
YOUTUBE](#)

Sunday: Only session available

Storm Basketball: Basketball

Time: 15:00 - 15:30

What is being provided?

Providing 30 minutes of Basketball skills and topics of the game. These exciting online basketball sessions will provide access to learning new life long skills required, giving you a head start to join the largest Basketball provider in Sussex post lockdown.



[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS
YOUTUBE](#)

If you are an organisation operating in Sussex and believe that you could add to the services provided during the pandemic, please contact Active Sussex through Andy Wright: awright@activesussex.org