



In This Issue

Welcome Back	2
Home School Journals	2
Reading at Home	3
Attendance	4
Stunning Starts	5
3-2-1 Take Off	5
A Visit from a chef!	5
Into the Woods	6
Stand to Attention!	6
Back in Time 7	
Diary Dates	7
Support Family Worker	8
Our Team of Prefects	8
Hindleap Warren	9
Cycle to School Week	10
Healthy Habits	10
Behaviour	11
Staff News	11
PFA News	12
Reading Challenge	13
So Much Going On	14
PE Kits	14
Term Dates	15

A WARM WELCOME BACK!

As you can imagine for me personally this has been a very exciting start back to the year.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the children and families that have been so extremely kind to me.

The children have been incredible, and have 100% accepted me as their Acting Head Teacher.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the beginning of this term and look forward to fulfilling my role with enthusiasm.

WELCOME BACK

I cannot tell you just how happy we are to have all the children back. I would like to especially welcome our new nursery and reception families to the Polegate family.

Your children have been exceptional - they have amazed us with how confidently they have left you at the gate and come in to school or nursery. It is so lovely to see them running in with a HUGE smile.

The beginning of the year has been, as always at Polegate, incredibly busy. We welcomed a number of new staff who were put through their paces immediately during the school inset day. Training truly reflected our ethos here of Learning without Limits with all staff engaging in a raft of opportunities centred around our school vision. All teachers and support staff left smiling and eager to start their careers at Polegate and be part of our wonderful school community. Community is hugely important, as group of children, parents, families and teaching staff we strive to make Polegate exceptional and a special place to work and learn in!

Thank you.

I hope this newsletter reflects the dedication, creativity and passion we have started the year with.



HOME SCHOOL JOURNALS

Please remind your child to look after these as we can only fund one per child as they cost £5 each.

We will only have a limited number of spare copies as well and will need to charge for replacements. The children did brilliantly last year, hardly any were lost which is quite miraculous!

We continue with the reading raffle and have stocked up on exciting books for the children to choose if they win! We do expect all children to read every day and if they do and you have signed each day they are awarded with a raffle ticket from their class teacher. We draw the raffle each Friday in assembly.



These shiny new books will have already made their way home to you and are a great resource. Don't forget it includes term dates, useful information on home learning as well as all staff emails should you need them.

WHY CAN'T I SKIP MY READING AT HOME TONIGHT?

Pupil A

Reads 20 minutes each day
3600 minutes in a school year
1,800,000 words

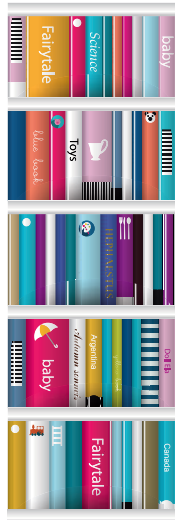
90th Percentile



Pupil B

Reads 5 minutes each day
900 minutes in a school year
282,000 words

50th Percentile



Pupil C

Reads 1 minute each day
180 minutes in a school year

10th Percentile



By the end of Year **Pupil A** will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. **Pupil B** will have read only 12 school days. Which pupil would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which pupil would you expect to be more successful in school? ...and in life?

What about a pupil that doesn't read regularly at home or perhaps not at all?

What are their chances of success? This is why, at Polegate, we place so much importance on reading at home. All research and studies show that children who read every day do better at every stage of their education. We see it in school; the pupils that read at home are making better progress. We are very fortunate at Polegate school to have so many supportive families that promote regular reading and learning at home and this reflects in the results our pupils achieve. The majority of our parents do find time to enjoy books at home with their children and do record this in the home school books.

Thank you for supporting your children and the school's vision and aims!

Remember that when we talk about reading every evening this can include you reading the story to your child. They need to hear vocabulary above their own reading age and sometimes just enjoy listening to a story being read to them.

You can record any type of reading- it does not always need to be their own school book. Any book, magazine, newspaper counts!

Reading to child in an interactive style raises his or her IQ by over 6 Points

Daily reading to children puts them almost 1 YEAR ahead of those who are not being read to

"For the majority of young people, enthusiastic and habitual reading is the single most predictive personal habit for the ability to achieve desirable life outcomes."

After School Literacy Brief

"Children who read 3,000 words per day will be in the top 2% of standardised tests."

"Children who read 20 words per day will be in the bottom 2% of standardised tests."

IT ADDS UP!

If you read just 15 minutes a day, in one year you will have read over 1,000,000 words!

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY MATTERS



Here at Polegate we hold high expectations and a strong focus on attendance – not least because we love seeing your children’s faces every single School day and watching them learn and grow.

Attendance is strongly linked to educational achievement and valuable learning time is lost when children are absent. Similarly, lateness is disruptive to an already settled class so please do ensure your child arrives on time:

- KS1 Registration – 8.40 (gates open at 8.25am)
- KS2 Registration – 8.30 (gates open at 8.15am)

Children should be at school, on time, every day the school is open, unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. If your child will be absent you must:

- Report the absence either via Parentmail or via the Attendance line by ringing 01323 482404 before 8.30am
- Absence must also be reported for any consecutive days your child is off, on each day
- If absence extends beyond 3 days, proof that medical advice has been sought must be provided.

If no notification is received, you will be contacted by our Attendance Officer- Natalie Dicker- to ascertain the reason for absence. We have a safeguarding duty to account for any child on roll who is not at school.

Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school for a reason such as illness.

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable. These include:

- parents keeping children off school unnecessarily
- truancy before or during the school day
- absences which have never been properly explained
- children who arrive at school too late to get a mark
- Holidays

Our Attendance Officer monitors each child’s attendance. If there are concerns and attendance falls below 95%, families are invited in for a formal meeting to discuss any barriers to attendance and whether school can support in anyway. If attendance fails to improve there is the potential that a fine will be issued – this is £60 per parent per child.

No holidays during term time will be authorised and fines will be issued to families who take their child out of school for this reason.

We run a termly 100% attendance reward programme where each child who achieves 100% attendance in a term receives a certificate and a gift. The children really value this and there is always a flurry of excitement on reward day!

Promoting positive school attendance is everyone’s responsibility – please support us by encouraging good attendance. If you are experiencing difficulties with attendance or timeliness please do engage with us as soon as possible so that we can offer help & support.

Please refer to our Attendance Policy on our website for further information

Natalie Dicker

Email: n.dicker@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

3, 2, 1...TAKE OFF!

A STUNNING START FOR YEAR 1

Year 1 began the year with astronaut training. Applying lots of areas of the curriculum to create a stunning start to year 1! By all accounts it was a blast! Mrs Barden and Miss Stew eagerly joined the children in astronaut training passing with flying colours!



A VISIT FROM A CHEF!

Right at the start of term a selection of Children across Key Stage Two got an opportunity to work on their cookery skills with Chef James from Chartwells. They learnt how to use knives correctly, about balanced diets and made some delicious pizzas!



INTO THE WOODS

A STUNNING START FOR YEAR 2

On our first day in year two we journeyed into the woods!

We searched for lots of clues about our new topic and discovered lots of fairy tale characters along the way!

We returned to class and created our own map of our journey making our own symbols to show what we found along the way!



STAND TO ATTENTION!

IT'S 1914 AND BRITAIN IS AT WAR!

Year 6 were launched into becoming soldiers preparing for the Front Line in 1914.

They had to complete a traditional recruitment test, pass an assault course (under the watchful eyes of their Sergeant Majors) and sample the traditional ingredients used for cooking in the trenches. They are still debating whether the smell of turnips, corned beef or prunes is the worse! Thankfully, all recruits proved their worth as a soldier and have been successfully recruited into the Polegate Regiment!



BACK IN TIME!

YEAR 5 STARTED 2022-23 IN THE VICTORIAN AGES!

The children returned to school with confusion - will their real teachers return?

I am glad to say that by lunchtime normal service had resumed and the year 5 classrooms returned to September 2022!



DIARY DATES

23rd September
6W class assembly

27th September
INSET day

28th September
Year 6 National
Childhood Measurement
Programme

30th September
5M class assembly

6th October
Census Day

6th October
'Stepping into the
Juniors' workshop for
Year 3 parents

7th October
2R assembly

7th October
PFA Quiz Night

13th October
'Secondary Ready'
workshop Year 6
parents

14th October
1B assembly

17th October
Parents Consultation

18th October
Individual School
Photos

19th October
Parents Consultation

21st October
Last Day of term

24th -28th October
Half term

SUPPORT FAMILY WORKER

AND THRIVE/EMOTIONAL WELLBEING PRACTITIONER

Some of you will already be familiar with Amanda Nippard, our Family Support Worker and Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner. She works every Tuesday, delivering the Thrive programme and every Thursday as a Family Support Advisor.

Amanda has worked with our school for the past 9 years in a Keyworking, Parenting Support role and although now recently leaving employment with East Sussex is bringing her experience to work at Polegate. She also has over 10

years of counselling experience.

She delivers support to our children and families. This can be with 1-1 work with the children, supporting parents at home and some group work with different children.

Amanda will be on the gates some Tuesday's and Thursday's and will be running coffee mornings on a termly basis so we will send further details of this, alternatively speak to Una Holbrook.

OUR TEAM OF PREFECTS

As always in September I would like to introduce our new prefect team!

They have started exceptionally well!

They all wrote an incredible application with some having to sit a gruelling interview hosted by last year's head boy and girl. They have started duties with gusto and I am sure will continue to represent Polegate School with pride.

Head - Alaya Johnson & Will Mileman

Deputy - Aeryn Noakes & Edward Donald

A welcome from our Head Girl and Head Boy:

I'm Alaya and I have been lucky enough to have been selected to be your Head Girl this year. I love being at Polegate School as it's fun and exciting and it has given me the courage to try new things - like being Head Girl!

I like being active and I have participated in several dance competitions and I am currently a blue belt in karate - that's only 4 before a black belt. My favourite subject is Art as I find it helps me express my creativity and I love experimenting using different mediums. I have a younger sister called Taylee and we have also recently got a dog named Louie who is an ex-racing greyhound - they can reach up to speeds of 45mph in less than 6 seconds!

I hope I will be a great role model and friend to the school and I look forward to meeting more of you and helping

keep Polegate a brilliant place to learn.

My name is William Mileman and I am Polegate School's Head Boy.

Hello and welcome back everyone to a new school year! I'm excited for the year ahead and I hope you are as well. I thought I would share with you a few things about me. I have three cats called Apple, Griffin and Jasper. I enjoy all sports but my top three favourites are American football, tennis and football. I can't wait to be your Head Boy for the year and am always here to help you. Remember, all our prefects will be around to help and you can easily find us at playtime or lunchtime. Something very helpful about this school is that the teachers will listen to what you say and will try their best to help so do make sure that you speak to staff if you need their help too.

To all our new reception children: welcome to Polegate School! You will make friends to play with, there are fun games to play, exciting lessons and all the staff are extremely kind. In all my years here, Polegate School has really helped me with every subject, to read longer books, to think on the spot, and helped me grow as a person. Don't worry, it's really fun and exciting. I've enjoyed it for the entire time ever since I joined reception, all those years ago!

Congratulations to our 2022-2023 team of prefects, buddies and dinner hall heroes.

HINDLEAP WARREN

If the staff didn't need a holiday before this trip, they certainly did at the end!

It was totally worth it though to see the children embrace mud, water and adventure overcoming challenges they never thought they would face (including making their own beds!)

I would like to thank the staff that gave their time so freely including, a day of their own holiday (truly going above and beyond!), leaving their own families behind in order to plan and join the children on this trip- Miss Jabbari, Mr Vigor, Mrs Barnard, Mr Barber.

I would also like to thank Miss Jones (yes my daughter!!) for joining the team. I can assure you she thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



No children were harmed and we returned them all safely home!



The trip got a massive thumbs up!

We all agree that the climbing wall was fun!

CYCLE TO SCHOOL WEEK

Cycle to School Week is taking place 3 to 7 October 2022

Bike to School Week is a great opportunity to promote the positive impact that an active lifestyle can have on pupils' wellbeing and health.

It's free, there's no need to register, and it's a fantastic way to get warmed up ready for Sustrans

Big Pedal in the spring. Organised and supported by the Bikeability Trust, Bike to School Week celebrates cycling to school and the benefits of travelling actively for children.



HEALTHY HABITS



If you would like support to eat well and get more active as a family, come and join us for a free, fun 8 week programme running at a venue near you as well as online.

Interested?

Want to find out more?

Give us a call or visit our website for further details: Tel: 0300 123 4062

Website:

<https://www.eastsussexchildren.nhs.uk/healthy-habits/>

Twitter

Be the first to hear the news.
Follow us on Twitter.
We now have
1,329 followers!

NHS
East Sussex School Health and
Children's Integrated Therapy Services

Healthy lifestyle club
Eat well and get active together
for children aged 4 to 11

Eight fun one-hour
interactive sessions suitable
for the whole family.
Virtual and face-to-face sessions available

Healthy habits

Please contact 0300 123 4062 or visit
www.eastsussexchildren.nhs.uk/healthy-habits

we care

BEHAVIOUR

September is a great time to revisit some of our school policies and remind everyone of these: children, staff and parents. Behaviour is not something that is taught once, it is revisited constantly.

Our overarching ambition is to create an inclusive school where children's behaviour is not only managed but is changed so that they become citizens that contribute positively to the communities they live in.

We adopt a therapeutic approach to understand barriers children may have and empower them to take responsibility and find solutions with everyone's support.

Every day, in lots of different ways, our pupils ask: do I matter to you, do you notice me, do I belong here?

Yes, they do matter. Yes, we do notice them each and Yes, they do belong and we aim to show it every day.

Our school rules apply equally to everyone involved in our school: staff, pupils, parents and visitors.

They are reinforced continuously by example and by a conscious policy of praise, thanks and encouragement.



STAFF NEWS

More baby news!

Congratulations to the Addems family! Mrs Addems gave birth to a beautiful baby boy named Dougie!



Congratulations to Mrs Miller too, who also gave birth to a gorgeous baby boy – Sebastian!



Miss Regan, class teacher to 3GR is expecting her second child and will be starting her maternity next term.

PARKING ON YELLOW LINES

We have had a number of very worried parents sharing their concerns of cars parked illegally on double yellow lines outside of school.

Some cars even park on the sharp corner resulting in multiple blind spots! I cannot share strongly enough my frustration that this is still happen. Please park responsibly and with the safety of all our children in mind.

We have informed the local police force to assist in this matter.

LATEST PFA NEWS

Welcome back everyone!



Rachel Keen

For those of you that don't know I'm Rachel Keen, the Chair of the Polegate School PFA.

PFA stands for Parents and Friends Association. The PFA is run by volunteer parents and friends of Polegate Primary School. We organise events to provide vital funds for school projects that wouldn't otherwise go ahead. All those extras that benefit the whole school. Just a couple of the things the PFA have recently provided include The Hub Childrens Kitchen, which children across the school use, the junior bike shed, and The Wildlife Garden was transformed thanks to the fundraising efforts of the PFA. These are just a couple of the incredible things our fundraising efforts have provided.

HELP NEEDED!!!

So what can you do to help?

Well, why not join up to our **school lottery** and be in with a chance to win some money for yourself, whilst supporting us at the same time.



Amazon Smile

You can also link your amazon account to support us through **amazon smile**, this will cost you nothing but generate amazing funds for us. Both links for these are attached in the pictures.

Or what about seeing if your child wanted to do a sponsored walk or similar to raise funds for the PFA.

As well as all these things we are in desperate need of volunteers to help at our events. Please remember every little helps and there is never any pressure to do loads. If every parent gave up 15 minutes of their time a year the PFA would never struggle to put an event on due to lack of volunteers.

If you would like to get involved and doing something amazing for your child and their school please email pfa@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

Defibrillator and Mini First Aid

We are so excited to announce that the PFA will be providing a defibrillator for the school grounds, as the school has become so large we intend to have this as well as the one the government will hopefully be providing at some point. Alongside this the PFA have also booked for all the children in school to have first aid training with the incredible Mini First Aid Sussex. This will be taking place in November. Thank you so much to everyone that supported our fundraising efforts for this.

Turn on AmazonSmile in the Amazon app to generate donations.
smile.amazon.co.uk



LATEST PFA NEWS

Here are some dates for your diary...

2022 Dates

22nd September - Second hand uniform sale

4th October - PFA meeting

7th October - Quiz night

1st November - Bags 2 School

17th November - Second hand uniform sale

25th November - Fireworks

1st December - Wreath Making

2023 Dates

12th January - Second hand uniform sale

7th January - Family games night

20th January - School Disco

7th February - PFA meeting

23rd March - Second hand uniform sale

15-16th March - Mothers Day Gifts

31st March - Smarties Challenge

28th April - Bags 2 School

11th May - Second hand uniform sale

6th June - PFA meeting

16th June - Disco

16th June - Freeze Pop Fridays start (Weather permitting)

14-15th June - Fathers Day Gifts

22nd June - Second hand uniform sale

13th July 2023 - Bags 2 School

15th July 2023 - Summer Fair

Please note that all events are subject to change/cancellation where necessary. Extras may be added throughout the year.

I am sure you would all agree that the PFA are outstanding and offer a wide range of exciting opportunities!

This year they have already funded new forest school clothing. I am sure you will all be delighted to hear this and will celebrate the fact that there will be one less bag to carry to school! I will inform you as soon as we receive the Forest School clothing. With this exciting purchase the children will only need to bring a pair of wellington boots.

If you have any ideas of events we could run to fundraise please send them our way. We love a challenge and to try new things.

We look forward to another fun filled year.

Rachel and The PFA Team

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Almost 5000 children signed up with East Sussex Libraries to take part in this year's, Summer Reading Challenge 2023 delivered by libraries across the country.

To date we have had almost 3000 children complete the Challenge, although this may increase with late finishers.

We will hopefully receive the certificates in the week beginning 10th October. We will then do our school draw for a box of gadgeteers goodies!

Last year's winner Jasmine Rejeb and her brother Jude had a fabulous time at Port Lyme Zoo!



SO MUCH GOING ON...

Swimming in September!

Swimming has been a huge hit this term with all children from year 1 to year 6 participating in swimming lessons. It is hugely important that the children have an opportunity to learn such an important life skill.



Forest School

The children are thoroughly enjoying Forest School - "Forest school is such fun; I wish we started it last year!" Chloe Year 3

Forest School provides a unique way of building confidence and self-esteem, learning new life skills and promoting

independence through hands-on learning experiences. It promotes –

Healthier Bodies

- increased frequency of physical exercise
- a challenging environment that helps to develop motor skills
- fresh open air allows dispersal of viruses
- learning to prepare and cook healthy food

Healthier Minds

- space and resources are naturally available, allowing individuals or groups to investigate and problem solve
- an opportunity to be sociable and also to have time alone
- time to just be, where individuals can relax and explore interests
- personal motivation
- a willingness to try new tasks
- the ability to persist at tasks increases

Throughout the year the children will be planting, growing, caring for crops, harvesting and using crops to plan and cook a healthy meal. This is incredibly exciting and adds to the wealth of engaging activities offered here at Polegate School.

PE KITS

These have been a HUGE hit, thank you for your support is ensuring the child are dressed in the correct kit on the correct days.

I cannot tell you how clear the locker areas are now, and lots less lost property! All children look incredibly smart and can participate in PE sessions with no delay.

I do believe that you may also see teachers in the new black Polegate Hoodie!



TERM DATES 2022-23

Start of Term 1 - 2022-23	Friday 2nd September 2022
INSET Day	Tuesday 27th September 2022
End of Term 1 - 2022-23	Friday 21st October 2022
Start of Term 2 - 2022-23	Monday 31st October 2022
INSET Day	Monday 14th November 2022
End of Term 2 - 2022-23	Friday 16th December 2022
Start of Term 3 - 2022-23	Tuesday 3rd January 2023
End of Term 3 - 2022-23	Friday 10th February 2023
Start of Term 4 - 2022-23	Monday 20th February 2023
INSET Day	Monday 20th February 2023
End of Term 4 - 2022-23	Friday 31st March 2023
INSET Day	Monday 17th April 2023
Start of Term 5 - 2022-23	Monday 17th April 2023
End of Term 5 - 2022-23	Friday 26th May 2023
Start of Term 6 - 2022-23	Monday 5th June 2023
End of Term 6 - 2022-23	Friday 21st July 2023

Diary Date

INSET Day
Tuesday 27th
September
2022

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
1,329 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