

# news

**March 2024**



**WELCOME TO TERM 4!**

As with all terms, we have started with a wealth of exciting opportunities and experiences for children and adults alike. This newsletter could have gone on and on... Marvellous Middles, Forest School, after school clubs, sports etc.

Follow us on Twitter [@polegateschool](https://twitter.com/polegateschool)

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I am so proud of all the adults and children in school who make this such an exceptional place to be.

The weather is slowly improving and with it slightly longer days. We may actually have started to see the very first signs of spring in Forest School. With this improved weather the children will be able to experience further outdoor opportunities.

# MAKATON

## SIGN OF THE WEEK

Makaton Sign of the Week

Hello !

friend

Small downward movement twice

# PARKING ADVICE

**Parking outside schools |**  
**Police.uk (www.police.uk)**

**Follow the link above for Police guidance on parking outside schools.**

Could we all please adhere to the advice to ensure our children can attend school safely.

**Safety tips for parking outside schools**

**When picking up or dropping off children at schools, you should do the following:**

- Allow yourself plenty of time as the area is likely to be busy.

- Do not park on yellow zigzag lines and avoid parking opposite them.
- If you decide to park further away, please be considerate of local residents and avoid blocking driveways or accessways.

# WILLINGDON COMMUNITY SCHOOL VISIT

Year 6 were invited to watch a preview performance of Willingdon Community School's production of High School Musical, which included many of our past pupils.

**We had a fantastic morning!**

The show was amazing and the Polegate children were a brilliant audience. In addition to watching the show, the children were also given the opportunity to ask some of the senior pupils questions about secondary school, which will support with their transition work later this year.



## YEAR 2 INCREDIBLE ART

Year 2 have been learning about the abstract artwork of Wassily Kandinsky and have created some stunning final pieces using watercolour paints and fine line pens. As their teacher (and art lead), I am incredibly proud of them all!!



# COOKERY CLUB

Mrs Barnard is thoroughly enjoying hosting cookery club this term!  
I hope I get a treat or 2



# FAMILY MATHS CHALLENGE

**Polegate's family maths challenge was a huge success this term!**

The race was on to solve the clues and be the first team to work out the number code on the padlock. With children from Reception to Year 6 participating everyone had so much fun. Thank you so much to all the families that came and if you were unable to make this event please look out for future fun family challenges.

**Some quotes from families that attended:**

**"There was nothing to be fearful of. The challenges were all on the children not on the Dad."**

**"I'm loving it. I'm so glad that I came."**

**"Maths is fabulous!"**

**"My son had the best time ever."**

**"It wasn't long enough!"**



# OUR HISTORY TEAM



**Hello Polegate School families, let me introduce you to our history team. We are a passionate bunch who love history; especially our own local history!**

I bet you walk along the cuckoo trail. Well, let me tell you that trains ran along there from 1880 and closed in 1968. Fun Fact right! Did you know that the Morrison's shop (which has been many shops before) used to be the old Polegate station. Who knew?

Have you ever wondered what might have been situated in School Lane? Your questions are answered – this school! It was also once situated in Hailsham Road. Wow, so many addresses! So those are fun facts right. Well, we are here to give you the sad news about our wonderful landmarks. A landmark is a property that has a special significance in history and culture. It can be a building, site, structure object or district.

Do you know what a listed building might be? A listed building is a structure of special architectural or historical interest. These buildings are graded as I, II\* or II. Can you think of any?

Polegate Windmill is a grade II\* listed building built in 1817. It was built for milling oats and was operated by wind power until 1942.

Not everyone in history bought ready-made bags of flour, they had to purchase it from the miller at the mill and now it has been put on the AT RISK register.

## **STOP THE PRESS!** **Polegate Windmill needs our help!**

Rainwater has been leaking in from the windmill's cap and caused damage to the timber beams.

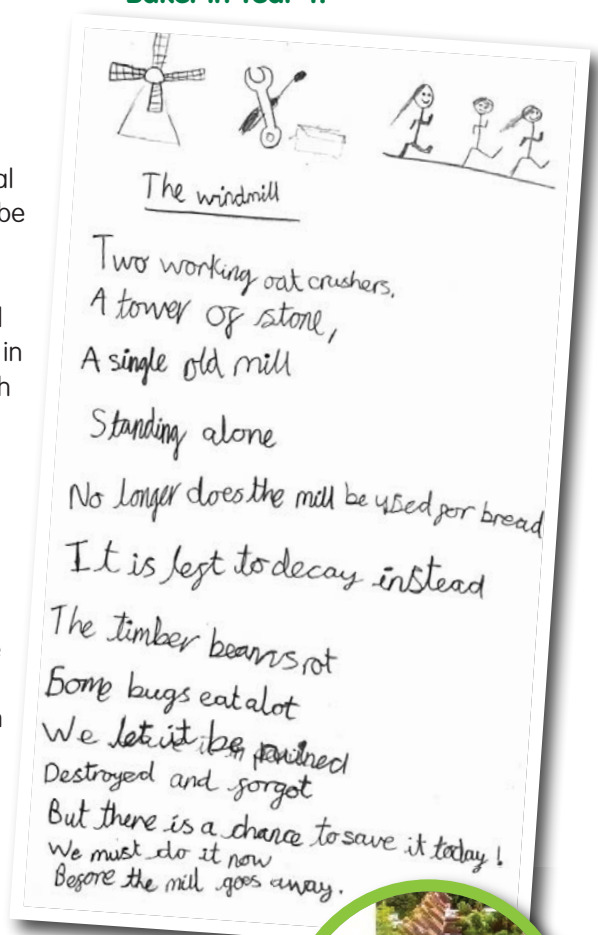
Over the next term we will be working hard to fundraise and raise awareness about our local landmarks and how we might be able to help. The first thing you could do, is take a visit to the windmill and see how beautiful our landmark is. Perhaps send in a photo to the History Team with you beside it!

Another thing you could do is think about ideas and how we could fundraise to support the repair of the building, maybe you are a budding conservationist or have an eye for building restoration and would love to get involved with the project hands on. Maybe you would like to write a letter to the council to share your concerns about the disrepair of our windmill. Whatever you do, share your ideas with the team above.

**Now we have introduced ourselves. Perhaps you could let us know any further ideas you have if you see us around school. Or contact Mrs Weyland by email at [m.veyland@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:m.veyland@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk) and she will pass on the messages.**

## **Written by Polegate History Heroes**

**Please take the time to read the poem below written by Poppy Baker in Year 4.**



The windmill

Two working oat crushers,  
A tower of stone,  
A single old mill

Standing alone

No longer does the mill be used for bread

It is left to decay instead

The timber beams rot

Some bugs eat a lot

We let it be ruined

Destroyed and forgot

But there is a chance to save it today!

We must do it now  
Before the mill goes away.



**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR OUR UPCOMING CHARITY RUN EVENT  
MORE DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA PARENT MAIL.**

# PFA NEWS

## Our wonderful PFA continue to work tirelessly for the children.

Over the half term break a new Trim Trail funded by the PFA was installed. We are just waiting for some dry weather to lay the flooring. The children are incredibly excited to start using the new equipment!

The PFA have also funded Forest School wet weather gear, modelled beautifully below!



If your child forgets kit, do not worry- we have class sets of varying sizes. All children can make use of the kit so please bear this in mind when packing bags or buying Forest School clothing.

Mothers Day/Gift for Loved Ones  
Children to collect in School  
6th & 7th March

Purchase Online  
ONLY

Gift - £2.50  
Cards - 50p

<https://pta-events.co.uk/polegateschoolpfa>  
Registered Charity No. 1177773

## POLEGATE SCHOOL LOTTERY!

Weekly chances to win cash prizes and currently a bonus SUPER DRAW!

Buy tickets here, every normal ticket gets you 1 entry to the superdraw or you can buy specific tickets.

<https://t.co/NmKZxCKbxJ>

Enter our  
**Super Draw**

Win a £1,000 Sainsbury's Voucher  
OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE

# BOX TO BE FIT

Box to Be fit has returned! The session is led by our incredible Y6 Sports Leaders. All the children are fully participating and thoroughly enjoying the sessions.



# NEW DINING EXPERIENCE

The children are thoroughly enjoying their new dining experience! Table cloths and centre pieces have been added to the lunchtime tables. The hall is now a hub of discussion and fine dining.



# DIARY DATES

6th – 7th March  
PFA Mother's Day Gifts

7th March  
World BookDay

8th March  
3T class assembly

15th March  
4S class assembly

22nd March  
1S class assembly

28th March  
Last day of term 4

29th March - 14th April  
Easter Holiday

15th April 2024  
INSET Day

16th April  
Start of Term 5

26th April  
RB class assembly

1st-3rd May  
Year 5 Hindleap Warren  
Residential

3rd May  
3DS class assembly

9th May  
Class Photo Session

17th May  
1F Class Assembly

20th – 24th May  
Sports Week

27th – 31st May  
Half term

3rd June  
Start of Term 6

# FAMILY MATHS CHALLENGE

**Polegate's family maths challenge was a huge success this term!**

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**Some quotes from families that attended:**

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**"It wasn't long enough!"**





# BEDES SPORTING MASTER CLASS

A group of year 5 children had an excellent morning at Bedes participating in a number of sporting events. The children represented Polegate School brilliantly!



## CODING IN FULL SWING!

The children thoroughly enjoyed challenging themselves exploring different coding scenarios.



# FOREST SCHOOL FUN



**There has been a lot of digging, worm hotels, mud milkshakes and some amazing maintenance going on!**

The pupils have totally embraced everything that Mother Nature has thrown at them in the last few weeks from wind to rain to ice and we have explored all of it as much as we could.

The finders keepers table has been blown around a lot in recent weeks so fingers crossed the storms start to ease and we can get back to gathering all of the interesting things on the forest floor to share in the future.



**A very wet gardening club, but fun was had by all! We cannot wait to see the stunning display as recognition of all their hard work.**



# RUN, RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN

**Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I've been in RH, RA and RB!**

Reception had a visit from a kind gingerbread man who delivered us ingredients to make our very own gingerbread! We mixed the ingredients together and then each had a turn at kneading the dough. We squashed the dough flat and cut out a gingerbread person shape. We then got to decorate the gingerbread and then the best part... we got to eat it!

**We have been learning the story of the gingerbread man and taking part in lots of activities linked to this fairytale. We are having so much fun with this story!**



## WE NEED YOU

**We are looking for more amazing reading heroes to join our community of readers!**

If you, or a member of your family, have some spare time which you would like to dedicate to reading with our children at Polegate School we would love to hear from you!

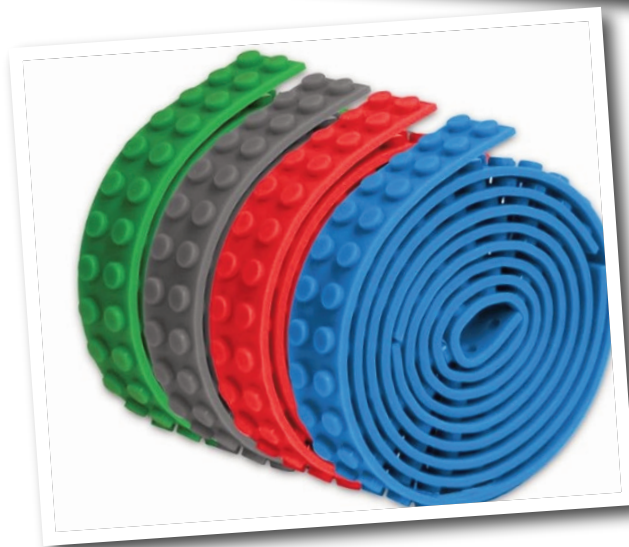
**If you can help, please contact Mrs Barnard.**

# FIDDLE TOYS

To support children, we are investing in sensory strips under all pupil work tables.

This will provide all children with a sensory resource. Any further sensory resources or fiddle toys required by children will be provided by the SEN team.

Only school provided fiddle toys will be allowed in class. This will allow children to keep their amazing fiddle toys at home, safe and sound.



## THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON EXPERIENCE

Year 2 had an incredible morning experiencing a theatre workshop exploring the events of the Great Fire of London!

The actors taught us so much about the key events and significant people. We learnt a historical song and dance and even re-enacted filling up buckets of water to save the city.



# CHEWY THE THERAPY DOG

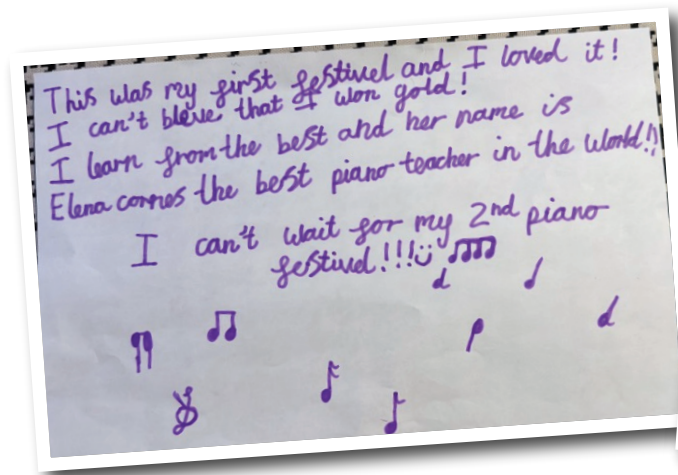
Recently Chewy the therapy dog came to visit year 4. Much fun and cuddles were had by one all. Chewy will be visiting other classes soon.



# MUSICAL MASTER

Arabella received 3 trophies at the Eastbourne music & arts festival

The first trophy was for piano solo, Arabella was awarded a certificate of distinction in her age category. The second trophy was for the highest marks awarded at the festival. The 3rd trophy was awarded for outstanding performance and demonstrating the most potential at the festival.



# ATTENDANCE

As you are all aware, attendance at school is not only a legal requirement but is also essential for your child's development socially, emotionally and academically.

Attendance data and alerts are now emailed to all families termly where attendance falls below 95%.

We are aware that attendance data can be a sensitive subject however we do have a statutory obligation to regularly provide parents/carers with their child's attendance.

Our Family Liaison and Attendance Officer works closely with our Senior Leadership Team, Inclusion Team & Pastoral team and between us we can offer a great deal of support including referrals and signposting to benefit and help your child and yourselves.

**We want to work with our families to achieve the best possible outcome for all of our children here at Polegate.**

## Latest Attendance Figures

RA =	96.2%
RB =	91%
RH =	94.4%
1F =	95.8%
1G =	96.3%
1S =	95.4%
2C =	96.6%
2D =	97.2%
2K =	96.6%
3DS =	97.8%
3L =	95.8%
3T =	95.5%
4H =	95.2%
4EH =	94.3%
4S =	96.4%
5D =	95.8%
5M =	95.6%
5K =	92.1%
6M =	95.4%
6MU =	95%
6W =	95.6%

## TO LAST A LIFE TIME SKILLS

Your second challenge!

### BECOME A WASH WARRIOR

- 1 Add a load to the machine- sort the colours first
- 2 Measure and add detergent
- 3 Choose the right setting
- 4 Pick the right temperature
- 5 Start the machine
- 6 Hang out to dry
- 7 Fold!



## Diary Date

**28TH MARCH  
LAST DAY OF  
TERM 4**

## 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  
**1,370 followers!**



Polegate School  
Oakleaf Drive  
Polegate  
East Sussex BN26 6PT  
Tel: 01323 482404  
Email: [info@polegateschool.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.polegateschool.co.uk)

Designed by Prowarx: [www.prowarx.co.uk](http://www.prowarx.co.uk)