

## NEWSLETTER 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020



### “Head”lines

**What lovely autumn weather we had at the weekend to end a rather dismal start to the week.** What’s made it also lovely is being uplifted by classes’ enthusiasm and engagement in their learning on returning from half term. Last week, I have been reading year 6 English work where they have been trying to write in Shakespearian English linked to ‘Macbeth’ with great success and Year 5 re-telling the story of ‘The Highwayman’. Year 4 have been making 3D shapes with playdoh and cocktail sticks with me and practised French greetings and numbers with Year 3. We also completed a fire drill getting everyone out in under 3 minutes yesterday spreading out the class lines across the playground at a safe social distance!

### COVID-19

These next few weeks will be challenging for many of you and your families, we will support you the best we can. Please be assured that rates among primary aged children are lower and we do our utmost to make sure that we are COVID secure as a school.

We will always follow Public Health Guidelines and protocols for reporting cases. Action in regard to positive cases only takes place if these cases **are directly amongst staff or pupils, not a family member** and we will contact parents/carers if this is the case.

We have been extremely fortunate and long may that continue that we have not had any positive cases in our setting and I am sure like me we would want to keep it that way, so please err on the side of caution if your child or yourself has any symptoms do not come into school.

This is the link to the Parent/Carer Guidance as from 5/11/20:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Parents and carers may also want to check whether they are included in the key/critical worker Category as well:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision>

**If you know of anyone or families who might struggle to get support please contact Herts Help on 0300 123 4044. They arrange collecting medicines and food packages. If you are not sure we can access the local Accessing Support for medications and food packages.**



## Staffing Arrangements

Mrs Walters has joined the Year 3 team for the foreseeable future to provide additional teaching support in this year group. She will be working with individual children and in classrooms; as well as covering teacher/staff absences.

Mr Smith has started with 5TF on Fridays, covering Miss Fortune who has gone on maternity leave, and Mrs Wakefield has joined the Year 5 team again for the foreseeable future to provide additional support.

Inevitably, we will have some staff absences as a result of this lockdown and this time of year. Specific year group's parents/carers will be told about staffing arrangements when required. Where we can, we will try to cover absences internally without moving staff too much around school but this isn't always possible however, we will ensure that supply teachers are safe to be in school.

## Wrap Around Care

At present we are not running any before or after school care but I know that there may be some parents who are keyworkers and shifts may have been changed during this lockdown period and I have had a couple of enquiries. At present we will focus on **BEFORE** school care ONLY.

If you think you will need access to **BEFORE** school care only please can you email the school office: [admin@pixmore.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@pixmore.herts.sch.uk) by the **13<sup>th</sup> November 2020**. If it does go ahead the provision will be from Monday 23/11/20 until the end of term. **The cost will be £2.50 per child**. The club would run between 0800-0830/0845 and children would then go from the room around to their year group area.



It is **Armistice Day** on Wednesday, if your child is a member of the following organisations (Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Guides) they may come in their uniform on Wednesday as a mark of respect. We will be holding a 2 minute silence at 11 am in school.

**Children in Need** is this Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Children can come in Non-school Uniform by making a donation of either £1 via ParentMail or can bring in a non-perishable food item for the foodbank in support of this worthwhile cause. It is entirely optional to participate.



## Parent/Teacher Consultations

At the start of term I did confirm that there would be an additional opportunity to meet (virtually) with your child's teacher at the end of this term to talk about their learning and attitudes so far this term.

These appointments will be 10 minutes maximum and will take place during the week of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Appointments on offer will be a combination of daytime and after school slots depending on teacher availability.

If your child has an additional SEND needs then Mrs Willans will be liaising with your child's teacher and yourselves to do a mutually convenient meeting before the end of term and this will be your parent/teacher consultation.

Information and appointment booking will be sent out in the last week of November so please look out for it.



## Regular Reminders



### School Office

- The school office opens at 8.00 AM and remains open until 4.00 PM.
- The office gets very busy at the beginning and ends of the school day, so messages may go to the answerphone as the office staff are dealing with face-to-face or other telephone enquiries.
- You can contact the school office to report absences by email at [admin@pixmore.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@pixmore.herts.sch.uk), via your ParentMail account or by phone on 01462 620555 and leave a message on the absence option. Please give full explanation of illness or other reason for absence for our reporting.



### Medication

If your child needs to take any medication during school hours, please ensure:

- Any adult brings any medication to the school office and collects it at the end of the day
- The adult completes a medication form
- **DO NOT** send any medication in with your child. This ensures that everyone is kept safe, to avoid any allergies or lose.

## Ways to contact us



Pixmore Junior School, Rushby Mead,  
Letchworth Garden City, SG6 1RS



[admin@pixmore.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@pixmore.herts.sch.uk)



01462 620555



<http://www.pixmore.herts.sch.uk/>

## Calendar Dates for year 2020

### Academic Year 2020-21

#### AUTUMN TERM 2020

11/11/20	Armistice Day
13/11/20	Children in Need – Non School Uniform min donation 50p
26/11/20	Year 5 – Victorian Day
27/11/20	Year 6 – Treasure Island Day
03/12/20	Year 4 – Egyptian Day
14/12/20	Christmas productions (online)
16/12/20	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day for an optional donation for our School Council's choice of Charity £1.00 via ParentMail
18/12/20	Last Day of Term – Early Finish at 12 noon

#### SPRING TERM 2021

04/01/21	INSET Day (School Closed)
05/01/21	Children return to School
15/02/20-19/02/20	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
04/03/21	World Book Day
26/03/20	Last Day of Term – normal finish at 3.15pm

#### SUMMER TERM 2021

12/04/21	Children return to School
03/05/21	BANK Holiday (School Closed)
18/05/21	Class Group Photographs
31/05/21-04/06/21	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
21-25/06/21	Yr6 Residential Trip to Butlins, Skegness
16/07/21	Last Day of Term – Early Finish at 2pm
19/07/21	INSET Day (School Closed)
20/07/21	INSET Day (School Closed)
21/07/21	Occasional Day (School Closed)
22/07/21	INSET Day (School Closed)