



Headteacher: Mrs Alex Evans
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Headteacher Update 4th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

The school will be closed to all pupils including critical worker and vulnerable children tomorrow - **Friday 5th March 2021**, so we can re-organise classrooms and do a deep clean of the school prior to everyone's return on Monday 8th March.

However, there will still be a 'live' assembly – invitation below, so we can share 'World Book Day' and celebrate children's learning via the Seesaw posts for that week.

Mrs Evans 'Live' Assembly Friday 5th March 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78566899551?pwd=NHlzc095RXpyaXV6TE9UZE9JWmItZDZ09>

Meeting ID: 785 6689 9551

Passcode: vyVD2h

This is Mister G going to nursery today in his space suit – holding the Earth his favourite planet. At the moment he is heavily into space so all his books are non-fiction and about planets. Not that he can read them he just recognises the sizes and the colours! However, it is very apt as next week in school is **Science Week!** We are planning to do Science or Science related activities and lessons in the afternoons so look out for pictures next week!



What will you dress up as for World Book Day? Don't forget you can share your pictures dressed up via SeeSaw or show me in assembly.

Helping us all Get Back

We are busy preparing for the return of all children and know that there will be some anxiety around coming back from both parents and children; as well as some of the staff.

As I said in last week's letter, the first week back we will be using some of the time to 're-settle' the children and allay some of their fears as well as acknowledge what has happened to them and their families.



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Leaving parents and carers may be a big wrench for some children as they have had an intensive period of being with you in the family home and certainly might 'resent' having to leave you and their 'home comforts.'

Hopefully, as parents you may have already alerted school staff to your concerns, if you haven't please do so, so we can pre-empt and support your child's return to school. Here are a couple of resources one of which I will be doing tomorrow as part of the assembly.

The first one is: Back to School After Coronavirus (updated for March 2021)

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/back-to-school-after-coronavirus-story/>

The second one that might be helpful for our younger children is: The Invisible String by Patrice Karst. We appreciate getting hold of the book might be tricky so here is a link to it being read aloud (an American voice - it is an American book)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rZNTff35Aw>

Attached to this newsletter is the longer version of 'Here We Go Again' with some added detail that you might like to read through.

Lateral Flow Test for Families

According to the Department of Education, Families can now order or pick up lateral flow tests so they can test the adults in the family.

Currently, Pixmore staff are being asked to test twice a week (Sunday and Wednesdays). The Lateral flow tests identifies asymptomatic cases (ie. where people are not showing any signs of illness) and enables us to isolate that person, therefore break the chain of infection (this may mean we may ask a class or Year group to self-isolate for 10 days).

The school is **not giving tests out to families** but I have attached further information about where you can pick up or order your Lateral Flow Tests should you wish to participate, as a family. There are no plans to test primary aged children at the present time.

Before and After School Care

A number of parents have queried about wrap around care at Pixmore.

Unfortunately due to the way in which we are using school staff and buildings for the remainder of this term, we are not able to run any before or after school clubs this side of the Easter Break.

However, if there is the demand (**and please let the school office know by 19th March 2021**); it is our intention to run a daily before school '**Morning Club**' in the summer term using a mixture of school staff and our outside provider '**Stevenage Borough Football Club**' in order to create Year group bubbles. The morning club charge will be £2.50 as before (although children in receipt of FSM would be exempt from this).

In the summer term the plan is to also offer all the children in a year group, access to a club after school on their PE days. There would be a limited range of sports based clubs in the first instance to get us all physically and mentally fit. There would be a small fee to ensure commitment to attend – approx. £1.00 a week (although children in receipt of FSM would be exempt from this). So watch this space!



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School Uniform

Just a reminder that children will be expected to be in **school uniform** (layers will be needed if the temperature drops – as the windows will be open!), bring a full water bottle, coat and wellies if needed. We understand that children will have grown, so we won't be cross if children aren't exactly wearing complete uniform but this should be **an exception not the norm** and if this does apply to your child please message the staff via teachers@pixmore.herts.sch.uk in the subject line please put your child's class teacher name. **The children should continue to wear their PE kits on PE days, but will need warm layers on these days too.**

IT equipment

Please return any equipment that was loaned from the school (ie. Chromebooks) so we can check them and re-assign them to children that might be asked to do 'home learning' if they have to isolate.

Home Learning

Thank you to all the parents /carers who responded to the verbal questions around the The 'Pixmore Remote Learning' offer during this lockdown. As a school we will look at this feedback to develop our offer in the summer term 2021.

From Monday 8th March, we are expecting the vast majority of children to be in school so information will revert back to the autumn term's content of core lessons in maths and English, a topic grid plus the weekly homework. However, please post any home learning to your child's SeeSaw account as this will continue.

MarvellousMe

Hopefully you have already noted that we have made some useful quick lines in MarvellousMe to enable you to quickly –

- Message the Teacher
- Access Home-Learning
- Access our Newsletters
- Reading Log - It would be helpful if you could complete your child's reading log at the end of each week on a Sunday, so we can see how well your child is reading at home.

School Office Reminders

School Meals - Please remember to order your child's school meal via your SchoolGrid account, we advise to get back in the habit of ordering the forthcoming week of meals on a Sunday evening. If your child is absent from school please also remember to cancel their meal to limited food wastage. You also pay for school meals via your account.

ParentMail – all other payments, ie. trips, uniform, clubs etc are paid online via your ParentMail account or the school is able to take card payments only. Remember the school does not accept cash/cheque payments, we are a CASHLESS school.

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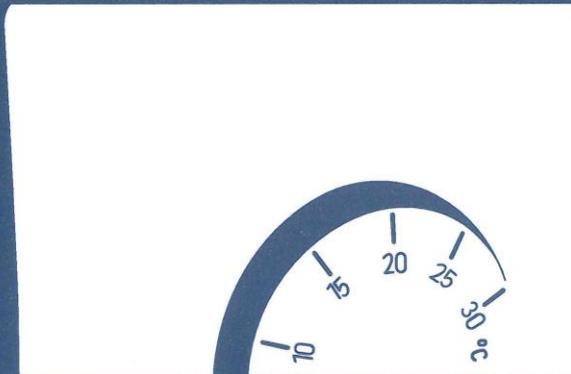
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When did you last switch energy supplier?

Call 01462 689801 & ask for an energy appointment or email hogant@nhdcab.org.uk

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We want to help you save money!



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