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## **Newsletter Autumn Term 2023:** **20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

What a half term! Wow! So much has happened and we're only half way through this term!

We'd like to thank all of the Year 4 parents who came to watch the year group assembly yesterday. We've had lovely feedback from parents that we saw at the Crystal Maze event last night so well done to our Year 4 children.

### **Crystal Maze STEM Parent Event**

Another massive thank you to everyone who came to our Crystal Maze STEM event last night. We had almost a 1/3 of the school come through the doors and it was great to see parents and siblings taking part in some of the games. Miss Pocock was especially pleased with many of the dads who appeared to be enjoying the coding activities in particular!

Thank you for your support and hopefully everyone had fun whilst exploring the science, technology, maths and engineering activities that were on offer.

We will send out an email with some links for parents to access to some of the activities you saw last night as well as a feedback form. We would be very grateful for any feedback for us to use for future events.

A further congratulations to our raffle winners: Oliver Baldwin, Louis Drake, Gabriella Matrejek, Joyleen Shasha, Livvy Blisset, Ava Warman, Kelsie Tayler-Lee and Bridget Gill.

### **New Pixmore Website**

Our new website – [www.pixmore.herts.sch.uk](http://www.pixmore.herts.sch.uk) - has been live now for the past two weeks. All homework and curriculum information for your child can be found either in the curriculum sections or your child's year group pages. These will be updated weekly with homework and answers so please do keep checking.

Also on the website, you will be able to find copies of all of the most recent letters and newsletter that have been sent out as well as the updated term dates for 2024-25.





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### **Book in a Bag**

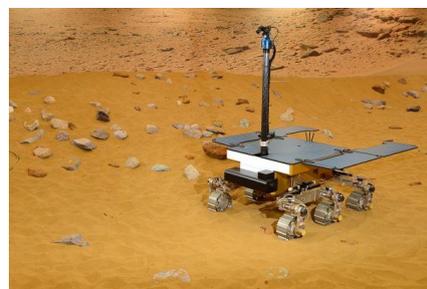
It's been lovely to start getting photos of our children enjoying the 'Book in a Bag'. Below are just some of the photos that have come in so far!

Our aim is to promote reading for pleasure and for your child and you to enjoy a story together. Children can put 5 house points into their books if they send in a photo so please do keep sending them in to [schoolteachers@pixmore.herts.sch.uk](mailto:schoolteachers@pixmore.herts.sch.uk)



### **Year 5 Airbus Discovery Centre Trip**

This week children from Year 5 have visited the Airbus Discovery Centre in Stevenage to find out more about the engineering and science processes that go into space travel. They were able to explore a number of fun science experiments – although as always the plasma ball was a huge hit – as well as seeing the test site and prototype for the ExoMars Rover, which will be launched as part of the European Space Agency's ExoMars program in 2028.



### **Behaviour and Attitudes to Learning Visit**

At the end of September, we have had an external visit by our School Effectiveness Advisor (SEA) with a focus on children's behaviour and attitudes to learning. The visit was planned at the start of term with a view to helping leaders to gauge our current practice in this area against Ofsted criteria and the outcome was extremely positive. We wanted to share some of the report with you.

The School Effectiveness Advisor (SEA) spoke to staff, leaders and children and even spent a bit of time outside on the playground at lunchtime with the children. As always, she spoke very highly of the children, who are always praised for being articulate and well-mannered. She was particularly impressed by how well they described the culture at Pixmore.



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*“It is a testament to the hard work that has taken place that pupils who spent time with the SEA felt that all staff were supportive, kind and helped them. Pupils expressed positive views about all members of the staff team. All pupils felt that bullying did not happen, and one pupil said, “If someone was being mean, it would be sorted out quickly.” Pupils were aware of the definition of bullying and stated that they regularly learned about it in some of their lessons.”*

Constructive feedback was given to support our ongoing practice, much of which leaders were already in the progress of implementing, as we work towards improving the experiences and culture at Pixmore.

**November is Anti-Bullying Month**

As part of our Learning for Life curriculum, November is always Anti-bullying Month. We speak to the children about what bullying is, how to recognise bullying using the STOP acronym, what to do if they feel worried or afraid both in school and at home and promote protective behaviours, particularly that everyone has the right to feel safe at all times.

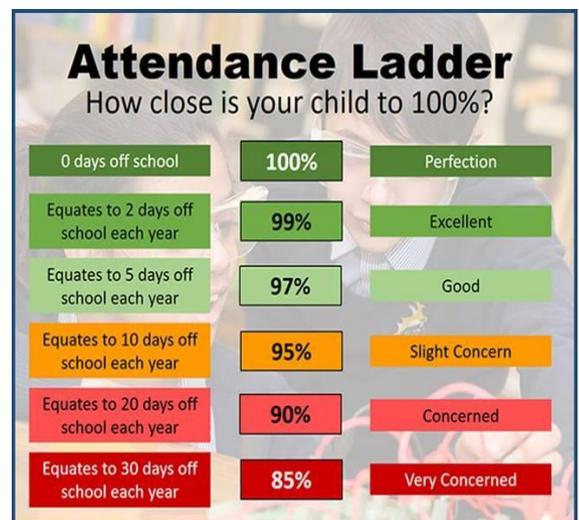


We will be starting the term with a whole school assembly and our Learning for Life lessons in November will be building on this theme. The work we do with the children complements the school ethos of ‘Ready, Respectful, Safe’. We will send out some information for parents to help you to reinforce the messages we teach the children in school at home. Please do come and speak to the school if you’d like to discuss what we teach during Anti-bullying Month.

**Attendance and Punctuality**

Our whole school attendance has improved over the last week! **Our whole school average for the past week is 94.7%.** We want to ensure that children are in school and attending 100% of the time but we appreciate that sometimes your child may be sick. Our target for the year is 96% so please do ensure your child is in school as much as possible.

Holidays are not authorised and we seem to be getting a lot of holiday request forms. Please note that only very





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exceptional circumstances may be authorised. These are defined as “*rare, significant, unavoidable, short*”. By ‘unavoidable’ we mean an event that could not reasonably be scheduled at another time. Exceptional circumstances are one-off events that are unavoidable, such as the death of a close relative, attendance at a funeral, respite care of a looked-after child, a housing crisis that prevents attendance.

We review and monitor attendance regularly and will call to find out why your child is not in school if we have not had a message. **We will be sending an attendance report home at the end of every term to inform you of your child’s attendance. Where attendance dips below 90%, we will be inviting parents in for a meeting to discuss your child’s absence.**

However, we do understand that children get sick sometimes and as parents, you know if your child is **genuinely** unwell and cannot attend school. Please do let us know if this is the case.

**We have a child in school with a compromised immunity. As such, please make us aware if your child has been in contact with any contagious illness, including Strep A, Scarlet Fever, COVID19, or has a contagious illness. It is important we notify the parents as soon as possible so they can act on the information. This need not be the case with coughs and colds.** If your child has sickness and diarrhoea, please keep them at home for 48 hours.

### Pixmore School Association

The PSA have already sent out their flyer asking for donations of Christmas Jumpers for our Christmas Jumper sale so if you’re having a clear out this half term, please do think of us and donate any old Christmas jumpers. They can be all sizes including adult as we will be sharing them out with Hillshott who will also be collecting jumpers.

After half term, the PSA will be planning a Christmas Movie Night on 29<sup>th</sup> November. More details and the poster will be emailed out in the first week after half term.

We hope you all have a happy and safe half term and we look forward to starting the Christmas build up with you after half term!

**Sarah Inman**  
Headteacher



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## Dates for the Diary

<b>21<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> October	Start of Anti-bullying Month in school
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Parent Consultations Evening 3.30-7pm
1 <sup>st</sup> November	Parent Consultations Evening 3.30-5.30pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	9.30am Year 6 Assembly to Parents PSA Meeting at Cultivo Lounge 7pm
13 <sup>th</sup> November	4-5.30pm New Prospective Yr2 to Yr3 Parent Tours – tours will be at 4pm, 4.30pm and 5pm
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony camp 9.45am – 10.30am & 11-11:45am New Prospective Yr2 to Yr3 Parent Tours – tours will be at 9.45am and 11am
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need – non-uniform for children for a food bank donation Year 5 Victorian Day
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	9.30am Year 5 Assembly to Parents
27 <sup>th</sup> Nov – 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Assessment Week – all year groups
29 <sup>th</sup> November	PSA Movie Night 4.45-6.45pm (details to follow)
30 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30am Year 3 Assembly to Parents Year 6 Height and Weight
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 Christmas Journey Trip to St Paul's Church
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Pantomime
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3/4 Christmas performances – details will follow. Usually there is an afternoon performance and one in the evening, which children are expected to come back to school for.
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5/6 Carol Concert at St Paul's Church - details will follow. Usually there is an afternoon performance and one in the evening, which children are expected to come back to school for.
19 <sup>th</sup> December	PSA Christmas Raffle draw (in assembly) Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner
20 <sup>th</sup> December	School finishes at 12pm – lunches will not be provided on this day. Please collect your child from their classroom at 12pm.
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Dec – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2024</b>	<b>Christmas Holidays</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	<b>INSET DAYS – school will be closed to children</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Children return to school for the spring term.