



Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Inman
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Newsletter Autumn Term 2023: **24th November 2023**

Well our Christmas preparations are in full swing; carols and Christmas songs are filling the halls as the children begin to learn the songs for their end of term productions. We will be getting started with our decorations next week linked to a whole school book called 'The Robin who stole Christmas'. Parents will be invited in after school one day next week to allow your child to show you the decorations around the school and use them to retell the story to you all.

Just a few reminders from the School Office:

🌿 **Junior School Applications** – the application period is now open for Year 3 places for September 2024. You should have received information about how to apply, if you've lost the leaflet, please visit our Transitions page of the website - <https://www.pixmore.herts.sch.uk/parents/transition> - where you can find another copy.

Anti-bullying Week

Last week we culminated our work over the month of November with Anti-Bullying Week, which kicked off with our Odd Socks Day. Odd Socks Day is always a great way to promote discussions with the children about our differences and to celebrate our individuality. We spoke to the children in assembly about the British Values of mutual respect and tolerance as well as individual liberty and linking them all into our messages around bullying. We reminded the children of the STOP acronyms to help them remember what bullying is and what to do.



We continued our Acts of Kindness Challenge and recognised those children in school who have been demonstrating their compassion and kindness in our Friday Silver Leaves.

This week, the following children received Silver Leaves for Kindness:



- 🌿 Elliot M & Elliot B
- 🌿 Daisy, Ava & Dylan
- 🌿 Elora & Scarlett C
- 🌿 Poppy & Oliver



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Book in a Bag

It is lovely to continue getting photos of our children enjoying the 'Book in a Bag'. Below are just some of the photos that have come in so far! We will be changing the book shortly to a new one, which we will be theming our Christmas decorations around. 'The Robin who Stole Christmas' is a lovely story and the children will be sharing the story and creating decorations for the school that will allow them to retell the story.



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

Year 3 Celtic Harmony Trip

Our Year 3 children experienced life in the Iron Age last week when they visited Celtic Harmony Camp. They have been learning about the Stone Age and Iron Age in their history units so getting to experience some of what life might have been like is such a valuable experience for them. The weather held and they did Pixmore credit as we had some fabulous feedback from the camp staff and Pixmore staff about the behaviour and engagement of the children. They've come back into school this week to write a diary of a day in the life of an Iron Age child. Some of their work has been fabulous because of the immersive experience they've had. Well done Year 3!





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Year 5 Victorian Day

Last Friday, our Year 5s had a taste of Victorian life linked to their history and literacy work. There were numerous Oliver Twists and Victorian ladies wandering around school as they tried their hands at old-school Victorian handwriting as well as some fabulous green-screen photos of them in costume.

Children in Need

We were so impressed by the amount of food bank donations that came in on Friday for Children in Need. The food bank has expressed their gratitude to Pixmore families for their generosity.

The children had a great time during the day engaging with various Pudsey activities. In the morning they were paired up in their houses for an orienteering Children in Need activity. It was lovely to see the older children working and supporting the younger children during the inter-house competition. In addition, we need to thank parents for helping the school to raise £2597.20 for sponsoring the Pudsey Run event.



Attendance and Punctuality

Our whole school attendance is starting to drop a little as we have had some illnesses across the school! **Our whole school average is at 93.8%.** 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.



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Attendance was discussed with parents at parent consultations, where we have a concern in school. We will continue to review and monitor attendance daily and will call to find out why your child is not in school if we have not had a message. We currently have a large number of children in the school who are classed as persistent absentees – these are children who have been absent from school regularly and whose attendance is at 90% or below. Any child whose attendance drops below 50% is classified as a Severe Absentee and we would be looking to involve the School Attendance Team with these children and families. **A formal attendance report will be sent home at the end of this term to inform you of your child's attendance. Where attendance dips below 90%, we will be asking parents to attend a meeting to discuss your child's absence.**

Attendance Ladder How close is your child to 100%?		
0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned

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 are still asking for donations of Christmas Jumpers and clothing for our Christmas Jumper sale, which will be held after school on 8th December, so if you're having a clear out, please do think of us and donate any old Christmas jumpers or clothing. They can be all sizes including adult as we will be sharing them out with Friends of Hillshott, who will also be collecting jumpers.



The PSA still have a few tickets left for their Christmas Movie Night on 29th November. Tickets are available to purchase through your Arbor shop account. There is a maximum of 150 places and tickets cost £3.00 and includes a drink and some popcorn.

Shortly, the PSA will be selling Christmas Raffle tickets, which is often our biggest fund raiser of the year. We will be announcing some of the prizes and sending





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details out soon to let you know how to buy tickets. If any parents, carers or businesses linked to our Pixmore families are able to donate prizes, they're always extremely welcome. Last year we also had some parents who were able to match fund through the companies they work for. If this is something your company does, please let us know by sending an email to pta@pixmore.herts.sch.uk

We've got lots coming up in the next few weeks including preparation for my Christmas Podcast and Christmas performances. We have year a group assembly to come from Year 3 as well as Years 4-6 visits to the Broadway Gallery, Year 6's trip to the Milton Keynes Museum, Year 3's visit to St Paul's Church for the Christmas Journey as well as a whole school treat on 12th December where we will have Imajica Theatre performing a panto!

S Inman

Sarah Inman
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

27 th Nov – 1 st Dec	Assessment & Decorations Week – all year groups **LAST WEEK FOR ALL SPORTS CLUBS**
28 th November	Year 4 Visit to the Art Gallery in town – in-school visit during the school day
29 th November	Year 5 Visit to the Art Gallery in town – in-school visit during the school day Year 6 Milton Keynes Museum trip PSA Movie Night 4.45-6.45pm – tickets ONLY
30 th November	9.30am Year 3 Assembly to Parents Year 6 Height and Weight Year 6 Visit to the Art Gallery in town – in-school visit during the school day
4 th December *Please note change of day due to request from St Pauls*	**LAST WEEK OF LUNCHTIME CLUBS** Year 3 Christmas Journey Trip to St Paul's Church
6 th December	Miss Rolfe taking a small choir group to the White House Care Home (during school hours – letters have gone out to those who were selected)
8 th December	PSA Christmas Jumper Sale (after school)
11 th December	3.30pm Performance Club performance to parents (letters have been sent out)
12 th December	Whole School Pantomime by Imajica Theatre
14 th December	Year 3/4 Christmas performances – details will follow next week. Performances at 1.45pm and 5.30pm. Only one seat per family per performance. Reserve your seat with the office.
18 th December	Year 5/6 Carol Concert at St Paul's Church - details will follow next week. Performances at 2pm and 5.30pm. Two seats per family per performance. Reserve your seat with the office.
19 th December	PSA Christmas Raffle draw (in assembly)



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	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner – children to wear their uniform with a Christmas Jumper.
20 th December	School finishes at 12pm – lunches will not be provided on this day. Please collect your child from their classroom at 12pm.
21st Dec – 3rd Jan 2024	Christmas Holidays
4th & 5th January 2024	INSET DAYS – school will be closed to children
8 th January	Children return to school for the spring term.