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Newsletter Spring Term 2024: **12th January 2024**

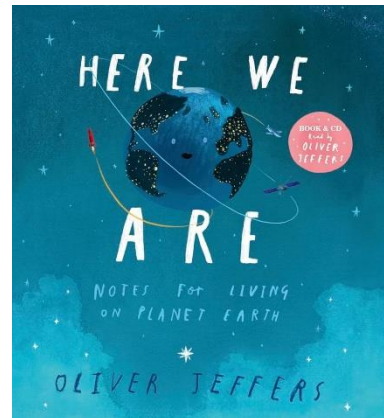


Happy New Year and welcome back to all! It's been lovely to see the children back after Christmas and they have settled back into the new term really well this week. There's lots going on this term despite being the shortest term of the school year. Diary dates are at the end of this newsletter with dates for year group assemblies as well as other events coming up.

I'd like to start by welcoming Mr Wright, Mrs Silman and Mrs O'Gorman to our Pixmore team. They equally have settled within the team and are busy getting to know the children and the way we work in school.

The Writing Project

The Writing Project, which has been a feature at Pixmore for 7 years now, has begun again in school this week. The book the project focuses on this year is 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers – a really lovely book about Planet Earth, which celebrates the beauty and diversity of our planet. The children will be exploring the language and ideas behind the book to help them build up to writing a poem. Best Writers, Progress and Endeavour awards will be handed out in a special assembly in school on 2nd February and some lucky children will go on to represent Pixmore at the Stevenage and North Herts Writing Project Awards held at the Broadway Theatre on 8th February. The Writing Awards celebrates the work of the children from all 18 of the schools involved in the project and is a real highlight of the year for those who get to represent us.



We also look forward to welcoming parents into school to view some of the displays and work linked to the Writing Project towards the end of term.

School Dinners

Just a reminder from the School Office, please ensure that your child's lunches are booked for the days they need them and that you keep your account topped up to ensure lunches are paid for on time. You need to order these through your Schools Grid account, the link for which can be found at the bottom the school home page on the website or click on the link below and login: <https://app.schoolgrid.co.uk/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2F>

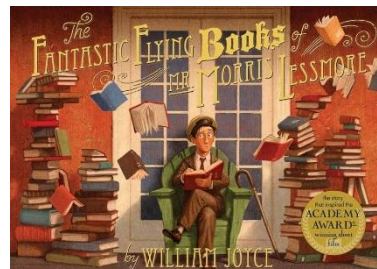


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Book in a Bag

Book in a Bag has started again today with the introduction of a new book – 'The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Morris Lessmore'. The author also worked with an animation company to turn the book into a short animated film, which you can find on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ad3CMri3hOs>



Our aim is to promote reading for pleasure and for your child and you to enjoy a story together. Please do send photos of your child reading the book and enjoying their hot chocolate as every photo sent in will earn 5 House Points for your child's house. Photos need to be sent in to schoolteachers@pixmore.herts.sch.uk

Eco Explorer Awards

The Eco Council have been busy creating a new initiative for our children and families at Pixmore. With the aim of getting people outside and enjoying nature in the beautiful surroundings of Letchworth, they have created the Eco Explorer Awards. They launched the awards in assembly today. Your child will be coming home this evening with an Eco Explorer Award leaflet with the tasks on.

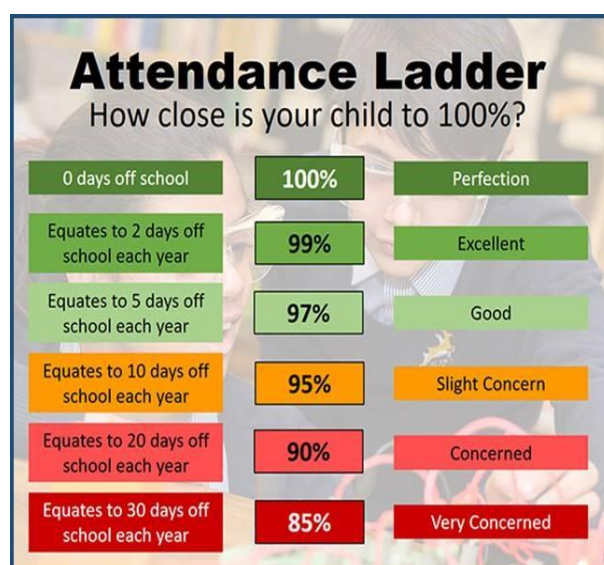


Our aim is for EVERY child to have achieved the Level 1 award by the end of the year. Children need to complete 3 of the Level 1 tasks to achieve their Bronze Award. Once they have completed their 3 tasks, send any photos or evidence to the schoolteachers@pixmore.herts.sch.uk address or send them in with your child and they will receive their certificate in assembly on a Friday. Once they have completed the Bronze Level 1 award, they can then start working on the Level 2 award.

Attendance and Punctuality

There have been lots of illnesses going around over the holidays and our overall attendance has been hit significantly by these. We hope everyone stays well. Our currently attendance for the whole school has dropped to 92.7%; I hope it will improve as the weather does and we manage to get rid of these awful coughs, colds and chest infections that are circulating.

We want to ensure that children are in school are attending regularly as our target for the year is 96% for the whole school so please do ensure your child is in school as much as possible.





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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.

Following the end of term attendance reports, I will be contacting parents whose child's attendance was below 90% last term to discuss how we can support them in ensuring their child is in school and that attendance improves over the next week.

However, as we continue to have some of these nasty bugs going around, we do understand that children get sick 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 another 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.

Cold Weather

As the weather remains cold and we have lots of illnesses going around, please ensure that your child comes to school with the appropriate clothing. Coats are essential and hats/gloves/scarves are recommended to help keep your child warm during break and lunch time. On occasions, where children do not have the right clothing in school, we have kept them inside.

Paths and the playground are gritted during icy conditions but there have been occasions where we have not let the children outside during cold weather due to conditions and a health and safety consideration. Should there be a need to close the school for any reason, parents will be informed via email through Arbor and Marvellous Me so please ensure that your correct email address is up to date and that the Arbor and Marvellous Me apps have been updated on your phones.

I don't know about you all but I'm done with cold weather already this term! Thankfully we have lots on to keep ourselves busy with this term.

Sarah Inman
Headteacher



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Dates for the Diary

15 th January	Launch of the 'Be Bright, Be Seen' campaign in school – Be Bright, Be Seen competition will be launched and the children will come home with a reflector for their coats or bags.
15 th January	Clubs start this week
24 th & 25 th January	Year 6 Health Questionnaire in school
31 st January	Year 5 and 6 NSPCC Workshops all day
2 nd February	Writing Project In-School Awards Assembly
5 th February	Wellbeing Week
6 th February	Safer Internet Day
8 th February	Stevenage and North Herts Schools Writing Project Awards Evening at Broadway Theatre – selected children only to attend at 5.30pm
12 th – 16 th February	Year 6 Assessment Week
15 th February	9.30am Year 4 Assembly to parents
17th – 25th February	Half Term – school closed to children *There will be a Next Education Computing Holiday Camp in school as well as Rising Stars – watch out for details*
4 th – 8 th March	Years 3-5 Assessment Week
7 th March	9.30am Year 3 Assembly to parents
8 th March	World Book Day (details to be confirmed)
11 th – 15 th March	STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) Week in school
14 th March	9.30am Year 6 Assembly to parents
15 th March	Mid Year Reports go out
19 th March	Writing Project Open Afternoon for parents 3.15-4.30pm
21 st March	9.30am Year 5 Assembly to parents
28 th March	Easter Day End of Term at 3.15pm
29th March – 14th April	Easter Holidays – school closed to children
15th April	Children return to school