



Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Inman
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Newsletter Spring Term 2024: **9th February 2024**

I've just realised that I had written a newsletter for the 26th January but didn't remember to send it out! Apologies for those of you who avidly read our newsletters!

The Writing Project

It's been a wonderful start to the term with lots of work going into the Writing Project. The children have explored the beautiful book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers and have worked hard on creating images for the reader through their poetry. Last week we announced the winners of our in-school Writing Awards. Children received awards for their efforts (Endeavour Award), the progress they have made in their writing (Progress Award) and their compositions (shortlisted Best Writers). Some of our Governors came into school last Thursday to judge the winners and we announced them in assembly last Friday.



Big congratulations to:

Endeavour Award winners – Esther, Marcelina, Gabriella, Alanah, Evie, Joshua, Amman, Amelie, Ava and Emily N.

Progress Award winners – William, Ollie W, Luiza, Reuben, Marina, Iyla-Mae, Alannah, Charlie, Ted and Emily P.

Shortlisted Best Writers – Year 3: Paula, Amrit, Remy & Ksaveras. Year 4: Kaysen, Layne, Genevieve, Bridget & Max. Year 5: Luke, Olivia, Summer & Lucy. Year 6: Sam, Roma, Eden, Lily, Alfie & Molly.

Winners of the Best Writer awards: Year 3: Remy. Year 4: Genevieve. Year 5: Olivia & Year 6: Sam.

In addition to this, some children represented Pixmore at the Stevenage and North Herts Schools Writing Awards last night. With 18 schools represented and taking part in the competition (about 5,500 children in total), the quality of the writing produced by all of the children in the project this year was incredible so there was some very, very tough competition. While none of our Pixmore children won the overall Best Writers for the competition, I was exceptionally proud of them nonetheless.



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We would really love to hear feedback from you as parents and from your children about the project. If you'd like to give us some feedback to help us to improve the project for next year, please scan the QR code and complete the short questionnaire.



Be Bright, Be Seen

We started the term by reminding the children of the Road Safety work we did back in the Autumn term and launched our 'Be Bright, Be Seen' campaign. All of the children came home with a reflector and were told about our 'Be Bright, Be Seen' backpack competition. We had over 60 entries to the competition and we announced the winners in Monday's assembly. The winners all got 10 house points for their houses and their work is going up in the hall on display.

Congratulations to: Marcelina, Martha & Advika (Year 3), Sophie, Ruby & Emma (Year 4), Olive, Scarlott & Zara (Year 5), Sienna C, Amelie & Poppy (Year 6).

Arrival times and Registration

Just a reminder that the school gates open at 8.30am. Your child needs to be in the classroom between 8.40-8.50am as **the registers close at 8.50am**. We are having a number of children arrive last minute just before the gates close and as a result are either being marked as not in school (largely because they're still walking to their classes or putting their things in the cloakrooms) or late. **Please ensure your child is at school and in the classroom by 8.45 in order for them to have time to put their things away and be sat down for the registers.**

Car Parking

Just a reminder that only those parents with 'Pixmore Parking Passes' or those with a Blue Disabled Badge should be parking in the school car park. Pixmore Parking Passes are issued by the school office at the discretion of the Headteacher.

The beginning and ends of the day are extremely busy with children and families entering the school site. Staff parking takes priority within the school grounds but we know we have some families with children who have mobility or medical conditions that cannot walk far who also need to be able to drop off in the car park. In addition, on occasion we also have taxis booked to collect children. For safeguarding reasons, these taxis need to be able to enter the car park so staff can ensure that the children are safely put into the taxis.

Our car park risk assessment does not allow for more than a set amount of vehicles within it for health and safety reasons. Hence, **if you do not have a Pixmore Parking Pass or a Blue Badge displayed, Mr Anderson will ask you to park along the road from Monday 12th February.**

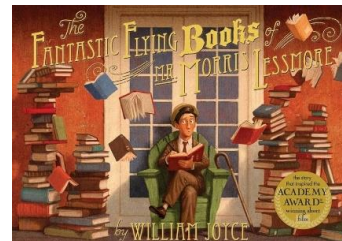


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Book in a Bag

Our Book in a Bag for this half term is '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>



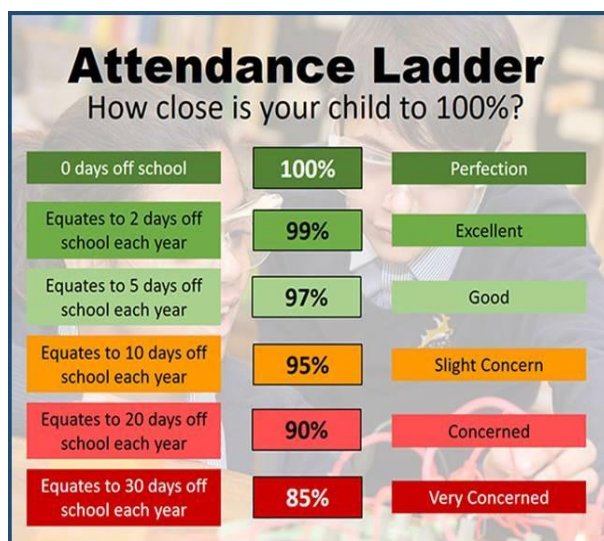
Our aim is to promote reading for pleasure and for your child and you to enjoy a story together. Please do send photos of your child reading the book and enjoying their hot chocolate as every photo sent in will earn 5 House Points for your child's house. Photos need to be sent in to schoolteachers@pixmore.herts.sch.uk



Attendance and Punctuality

Our currently attendance for the whole school has stayed at 92.7% as a result of the winter bugs we've experienced over the last month or so.

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. Our termly visit by the County Attendance Office is on 19th March where they will be asking us questions about pupil attendance and supporting us in considering referrals for some of our families.





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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.

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.

Pixmore School Association

The PSA have lots of events planned for the rest of the year. Thanks to those who met last week to help plan the events for this term.

After half term, we will be holding an Easter Raffle this year instead of the Easter Egg Hunt. Over the past two years, the PSA have not raised much money from the Egg Hunt so we will be holding a House Colour themed raffle. More details will follow closer to half term.

Still to come before half term, Year 6 will be doing their assessment practice for SATS next week and our Year 4's will perform their assembly to parents on Thursday 15th February.

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Dates for the Diary

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 Holiday camps: Next Education Computing Holiday Camp in school all week. 20 th February - Rising Stars will be running a one day sport 23 rd February - Mr Willard will also be running a sports holiday camp on – please see the flyer to book and pay. SOLD OUT
29 th February	Year 5 Maths Challenge
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 Year 4 Vikings Workshop
19 th March	Writing Project Open Afternoon for parents 3.15-4.30pm
21 st March	9.30am Year 5 Assembly to parents
27 th March	PSA Easter Raffle
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