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Newsletter Spring Term 2024: **1st March 2024**

Welcome back after half term everyone! It's been a wet week in school; we're all hoping that the weather starts to improve and it starts to feel a little more like spring now we're in March!

ArtsMark Gold Award

Something extremely positive to start our newsletter this week! Over the past few terms, Mrs Thomas has been working hard to pull together all of the evidence we have to see if we can be awarded the Gold ArtsMark Award. We have previously held the Silver Award for a number of years but have had a real focus on arts opportunities over the last 2 years. We have taken children to local art galleries and museums, increased our musical instrument offer across the school, been involved in a Letchworth-wide project that saw our children's work displayed in a local gallery and has contributed to a scheme of work, which all children in the town can be involved in. Children performing at the Royal Albert Hall and in more local community contexts, such as The White House Care Home before Christmas, has all lead to us being awarded the **Gold Level ArtsMark**.



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

"Arts and culture continue to be values for their own sake and for their wider contribution to wellbeing, personal development and your sense of community at Pixmore Junior School. Every effort is made to ensure all pupils can access the arts opportunities offered and matched to individual needs or of specific groups of pupils' needs such as SEND. There are many opportunities for pupils to be creative through The Future Designers Project, perform in the arts, access culture, create digital arts and take part in creative writing through the Writing Project."

Congratulations and well done to Mrs Thomas for all of her hard work in pulling this altogether!

Behaviour Ladder

We have been speaking to the children in assembly as we do at the start of every half term about our Pixmore Way – our behaviour ladder. In school, we have high expectations of children's behaviour and we expect them to be 'Ready to Learn', 'Respectful' and 'Safe'. Our behaviour ladder sets out our expectations and we request that parents support us in reinforcing these messages with their children to ensure that Pixmore is a positive, happy and safe environment for all of our pupils and staff to work in. We are **TeamPixmore** and we need pupils, parents and staff to work together for the benefit of our whole school community.









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Alongside our behaviour ladder structure for managing poor behaviour, we also recognise when children have gone above and beyond our expectations. We recognise 'Role Models', those children 'Showing Pride' and for those 'Superstars' who always go above and beyond.

It is important you follow the Pixmore Way (rule of law) at all times so that you are ready to learn, you can show respect and keep yourself and other people safe. We will know you are ready, respectful and safe if you:







Ready

-  Arrive to school and lessons on time
-  Stop and line up when the whistle goes
-  Complete homework well and on time
-  Take pride in your appearance & wear correct uniform
-  Always try your best to use Pixmore Learning Powers
-  Show positive listening and learning behaviours in class




Respectful

-  Respond appropriately, politely and kindly to everyone
-  Show Pixmore listening
-  Have good manners
-  Show tolerance for the views of other people (mutual respect)
-  Look after property and the school environment
-  Take ownership of regulating your emotions and actions
-  Take pride in your work and other peoples work
-  Always ask permission to leave the classroom
-  Show patience, share and wait your turn
-  Are helpful and offer to do jobs for your teacher
-  Tell the truth
-  Keep to your own personal space











Safe

-  Know how to keep yourself and others safe
-  Walk around school in the Pixmore Way
-  Wear correct uniform
-  Show Pixmore sitting
-  Speak to an adult about worries or concerns
-  Follow Pixmore e-safety rules in school and out

Following these rules will enable us to:

-  **Include** everyone
-  **Achieve** goals
-  **Inspire** others

The positive rewards might include:

-  Feeling happy and secure
-  Improved confidence
-  Improve self-esteem and respect
-  Verbal praise from your teachers
-  Marvellous Me messages
-  Stickers
-  Golden Tickets
-  House points
-  Silver leaves
-  Representing the school





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<p>Have you tried extra hard to be ready, respectful and safe?</p> <p>Your teacher has noticed you have excelled in a particular area showing other people how to behave and learn effectively.</p>	<p>You are a role model to others</p>
<p>Your teacher has noticed you are putting an improved effort into being ready, respectful and safe.</p>	<p>You are showing pride</p>
<p>Your teacher has noticed on multiple occasions that you are striving to follow all the rules all the time.</p>	<p>You are a superstar</p>

World Book Day – Friday 8th March

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 8th March in school with a range of activities including the Scholastic Book Fair. We are giving children the option of coming to school dressed as a character from their favourite book but keeping who they are a secret as we will be playing a Guess Who? Game during the day. If children do not want to dress up, we are asking that they bring in a clue as to who their favourite character is e.g. Harry Potter – they could come with a lightning scar drawn on their foreheads.

We will be holding the Scholastic Book Fair after school on Wednesday 6th – Friday 8th March in the dining room. The children will get their World Book Day vouchers on Thursday which they can put towards the cost of a book at the book fair.

Parent Questionnaire 2023-24

We will shortly be sending out our annual parent questionnaire to request parents' views on issues such as barriers to attendance and engagement, curriculum opportunities and enrichment. We would very much value your feedback on these topics as it helps us to review and develop our curriculum and school offer for our children.

Parents will be sent a link to this questionnaire through their email addresses. We will be giving House Points out for children if they can encourage their parents to complete the survey!

Staff Changes in Years 3 and 4

Year 3 and 4 parents will already be aware that Mrs Horner will be leaving us on 22nd March to take up a SENCO post at a school closer to home in Bedfordshire. Mrs Horner has previous experience as a SENCO and this is a role we know that she will excel in. We will be extremely sad to see her leave us but I am pleased to say that Mrs Johnson, who has been working in Year 4 this year, will be moving



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down to take over 3H from 18th March. Parents will have the opportunity to meet Mrs Johnson and say goodbye to Mrs Horner at our open afternoon on 19th March.

However, we won't be leaving Year 4 bereft as Mrs Walters will be joining our team to support the children in those classes from 11th March as she gets a little time to work alongside Mrs Johnson to get to know the children and the team better. These handovers are crucial to ensuring the smooth transition of staff for the benefit of the children.

The rest of the Year 3 and 4 teams, including support staff, will be staying the same in order to maintain consistency for the children.

We hope parents join us in wishing Mrs Horner the very best in her new role.

School Dinners

We have worked with Dolce for the last few years to try and avoid increasing the costs of school dinners but unfortunately from 1st April 2024, we will need to increase the cost of a school dinner to £3.10. This will be the equivalent to £1.75 increase over the course of a week; approximately 35p per meal. This means that a week of dinners will cost £15.50 a week from 1st April instead of £13.75.

Arrival times and Registration

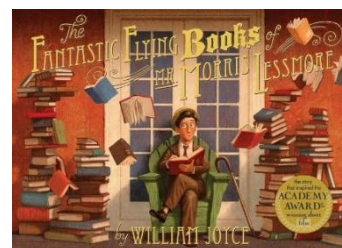
Just a reminder that the school gates open at 8.30am. Your child needs to be in the classroom between 8.40-8.50am as **the registers close at 8.50am**. We are having a number of children arrive last minute just before the gates close and as a result are either being marked as not in school (largely because 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.

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>





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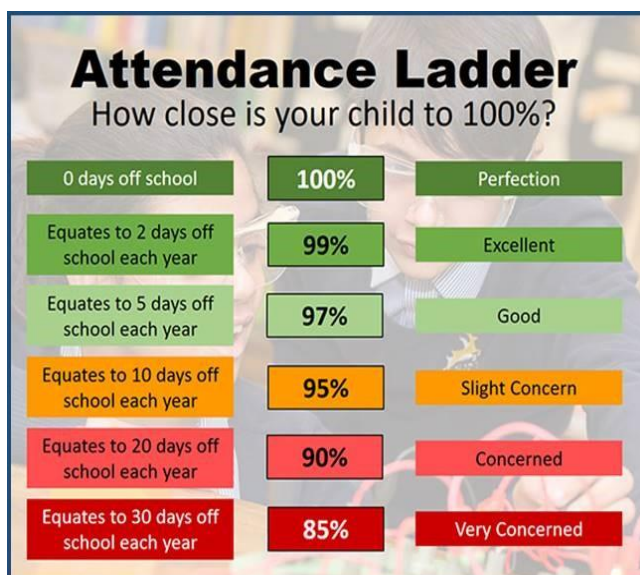


Our aim is to promote reading for pleasure and for your child and you to enjoy a story together. Please do send photos of your child reading the book and enjoying their hot chocolate as every photo sent in will earn 5 House Points for your child's house. Photos need to be sent in to schoolteachers@pixmore.herts.sch.uk

Attendance and Punctuality

Our current attendance for the whole school has stayed at 92.7% for the last few weeks.

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.**



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.**

We will be sending out our end of spring term attendance reports at the end of this term and where we have concerns, parents will be invited into school to create an attendance improvement plan for their child.

Pixmore School Association

The PSA will be sending out tickets for the Spring Rainbow Raffle on Monday 4th March. Raffle tickets can be brought via your Arbor account and counterfoils will need to be returned to school by Monday



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25th March. We will be holding a non-uniform day for colour-themed raffle donations on Friday 15th March (more details will follow shortly).

We've got lots planned for this half term including year group assemblies by Years 3, 5 & 6, World Book Day, STEM Week, mid-year reports, our Open Afternoon on 19th March and our Easter (RE Curriculum) Day.

S Inman

Sarah Inman
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

4 th March	PSA Spring Rainbow Raffle tickets will go on sale
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
11 th March	Mrs Walters will be joining Year 4 as part of their handover
11 th – 15 th March	STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) Week in school 12 th March – Maths Day
14 th March	9.30am Year 6 Assembly to parents
15 th March	Mid Year Reports go out (attendance reports will go separately on 22 nd March) Year 4 Vikings Workshop Non-Uniform Day for PSA Spring Raffle donations
18 th March	Mrs Johnson will be joining the Year 3 team ahead of her move to the year group
19 th March	Open Afternoon for parents 3.15-4.30pm
21 st March	9.30am Year 5 Assembly to parents
22 nd March	Mrs Horner's last day with 3H End of term attendance reports to go home
25 th March	All counterfoils for PSA Raffle tickets to be in the school office
27 th March	PSA Spring Rainbow Raffle End of term whole school activity afternoon
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