



Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Inman
Assistant Headteachers: Mrs Sue Willans & Miss Charlotte Pocock

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Newsletter Autumn Term 2023: **6th October 2023**

Autumn finally seems to have arrived! Thank you to everyone who donated food for our Harvest Festival. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of our Pixmore community and I know that your donations will be very gratefully received by families in our area that are struggling at this time.



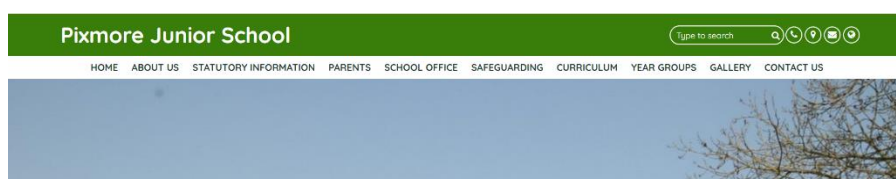
Secondly, I'd like to thank all of those who made or donated cakes for our Macmillan Coffee Morning and to those who came. It was lovely to see so many people at the coffee morning and then after school buying the remaining cakes. We made **£90** in cash on the day but I know many people made donations online as well. Once I have the final figure for Pixmore, I will let you all know.

New Pixmore Website

I am very excited to announce that we have now launched our new website. This is a new look for us as a school and hopefully it will be more useful and easy to navigate for parents. From the home page, parents can find links to Arbor, Marvellous Me and Schools Grid as well as see the latest calendar dates and newsletters.

Visit the curriculum pages to find out about our Key Stage 2 curriculum and visit the Year Group pages for information about your child's year group, homework, PE days and other important information. We aim to keep the website updated with photos, information and useful links for parents.

You can visit and check out our new website at www.pixmore.herts.sch.uk





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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



Tag Rugby Festivals

This week children from Years 4 and 6 have taken part in a Tag Rugby festival. Mr Willard took the older children on Tuesday and Year 4s on Thursday. They all had a fantastic time and showed amazing team work. It made us very proud to see them all cheering each other on.

Road Safety Week

Last week, we had a Road Safety Week across the school where the children were taught safe pedestrian skills. They practiced on the playground and then went for a walk around the local area to practice their road safety skills. The children followed their Pupil Code of Conduct, which they created in assembly last Monday, and the positive comments we have had from local residents and from staff when they were out has been lovely to hear. Please help us to reinforce this learning by talking to your child and practicing these skills when out.



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Year 5 Mini Police

Year 5 have now started their 7 week Mini Police programme and were learning about online safety yesterday in their session. They discussed age ratings on games and what they might mean and what they might be exposed to should they play them; how to report a concern and general strategies for keeping themselves safe.



Healthy Snacks

We would like to remind parents that if your child would like to bring in a snack to eat at break time this should be **yoghurt tubes, cheeses such as Babybel (not cheese strings), fruit, dried fruit or vegetables** such as vegetable sticks. Recently, we have noticed children coming in with crisps, chocolate biscuits and fruit winders to eat at break time. Please note these are not allowed.

We do not allow cereal bars or chocolate biscuits as often these contain nuts and we are a NUT FREE school. Similarly, we are noticing some children coming in with chocolate spread sandwiches at lunchtime. Often chocolate spread also contains nuts so we ask parents to refrain from sending children into school with these items.

Birthday Sweets

We have received some guidance from Hertfordshire County Council regarding children bringing in sweets to celebrate their birthdays with their classes. HCC is advising that where possible schools should not encourage the bringing in of sweets as it conflicts with the ideas of Healthy Eating that schools promote. They are advocating that should parents wish to bring in sweets that they have the permission of other parents in the class, be aware of all ingredients and possible allergens in the sweets they are providing and be aware of alternatives for those children who may not be able to partake. For example, children with certain religious or cultural beliefs cannot eat food with gelatin in (e.g. Haribo) and those children with food allergies may not be able to have anything with nuts, eggs or dairy in. These children would not be able to be included and this goes against the inclusive nature of schools.

Ultimately, it is the decision of myself and the Governors as to whether we continue to allow sweets to be brought in to celebrate birthdays. This is something I will be discussing with my Senior Leadership Team over the course of the next week and will update parents accordingly before half term.



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Attendance and Punctuality

Our whole school attendance has crept downwards over the last two weeks! **Our whole school average is now 93.7% for the year so far.** 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 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.**

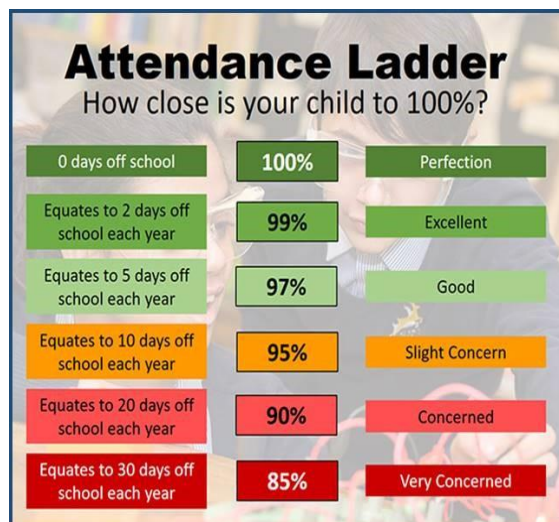
However, we do understand that children get sick sometimes and as parents, you know if your child is **genuinely** unwell and cannot attend school. Please do let us know if this is the case.

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

Following our Annual General Meeting, I am extremely pleased to say that we now have a PSA Committee who will be planning and organising events to raise money for the school this year. Our new PSA Committee are:

Chair of PSA – Chelsea Upton-Green (Yr5 parent)
Vice-Chair of PSA – Lindsey Demant (Yr5 parent)
Secretary – Sarah Inman (Head)





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Treasurer – Jessica West (Yr5 parent)

We will be sharing information with you shortly about events for next half term including a Christmas Movie Night, our annual Christmas Raffle and our Christmas Jumper Sale in conjunction with Friends of Hillshott.

We've got lots planned for the rest of this half term so keep a look out in our next newsletter!

Sarah Inman
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

11 th October	Photograph Day (individual photos and siblings)
16 th October	NSPCC Online Safety Parent Workshop (virtual) 6-7pm
17 th October	Year 5 STEM trip to British Aerospace Discovery Centre
19 th October	9.30am Year 4 Assembly to Parents
19 th October	5-7pm Crystal Maze STEM evening – an evening where parents and children are invited into school to take part in science, engineering, technology and maths activities. All attendees will be entered into a raffle.
20th October	INSET DAY – school closed to children
21st – 29th October	Half Term
31 st October	Parent Consultations Evening 3.30-7pm
1 st November	Parent Consultations Evening 3.30-5.30pm
2 nd November	9.30am Year 6 Assembly to Parents PSA Meeting at Cultivo Lounge 7pm
14 th November	Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony camp
17 th November	Children in Need – non-uniform for children for a food bank donation Year 5 Victorian Day
23 rd November	9.30am Year 5 Assembly to Parents
27 th Nov – 1 st Dec	Assessment Week – all year groups
29 th November	PSA Movie Night 4-6pm
30 th November	9.30am Year 3 Assembly to Parents Year 6 Height and Weight
5 th December	Year 3 Christmas Journey Trip to St Paul's Church
12 th December	Whole School Pantomime
14 th 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.



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18 th 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 th December	PSA Christmas Raffle draw (in assembly) Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner
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.