



Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Inman
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Newsletter Autumn Term 2023: **10th November 2023**

What an eventful fortnight since half term! The weather has now definitely taken on a wintery feel. Please do ensure your child has a suitable coat and shoes for school as the weather gets worse and the nights get darker. It's not quite hats, scarves and gloves yet but I don't think it will be far away!

Just a few reminders from the School Office:

- 🍂 **Christmas Dinner slips** – please return the orange slip whether your child would like Christmas Dinner OR NOT. We need the slips back ASAP please. The office will be chasing people if we haven't received a response.
- 🍂 **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.
- 🍂 **New to Year 3 Prospective Parent Tours** – we will be holding prospective parent tours on Monday 13th November at 4pm, 4.30pm and 5pm and on Tuesday 14th November at 9.45am and 11am. There is no need to book, just turn up at the school office at one of those times.

Remembrance Day

In school today we have been marking Remembrance both in assembly and through the work the children have been doing. It was lovely to see those children who are also in Guides, Brownies and Scouts come into school in their uniforms to mark the occasion. At 11am the whole school observed a 2 minute silence.



The children have been doing some Remembrance linked activities over the course of the week to create a Remembrance display.

Acts Of Kindness Challenge

Linked to Remembrance and recognising acts of kindness we spoke about the joys of doing something nice for someone else without needing anything back in return. I sent out an Acts of Kindness challenge at the start of the week and we linked our Silver Leaf awards to the theme of Kindness this week.

Well done to the following children for being nominated by their teachers (and by some parents) for acts of kindness they have done both in school and out:

- 🍂 Gabriellus, Ilithya, Kelsie and Joey
- 🍂 Neyan, Theo, Orson, Marina, Genevieve and Harry



🍁 Jasmine, Liyla and Leah
 🍁 Charlie, Ciara, Molly, Poppy and Lily

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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! We will be changing the book shortly to a new one, which I will announce in the next newsletter.

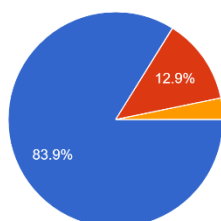
Our aim is to promote reading for pleasure and for your child and you to enjoy a story together. Children can put 5 house points into their books if they send in a photo so please do keep sending them in to schoolteachers@pixmore.herts.sch.uk



Parent Consultations

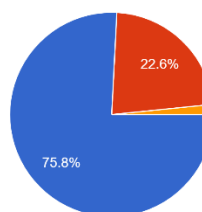
It was so nice to see so many parents and carers attending Parent Consultations last week. Amazingly 78% of the school had appointments with staff to discuss their child's learning, which is amazing. We had some great feedback from parents as well through the parent view questionnaire – your comments at the end were particularly lovely reading. We thought we'd share these with you:

My child is happy at school.
 62 responses



My child feels safe at school.
 62 responses

● Yes
 ● Partly
 ● No



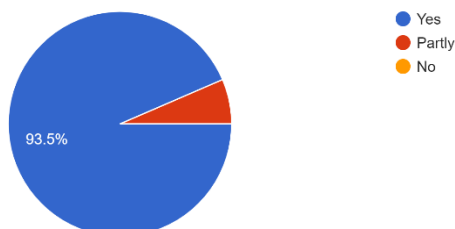
● All of the time
 ● Most of the time
 ● Partly
 ● No



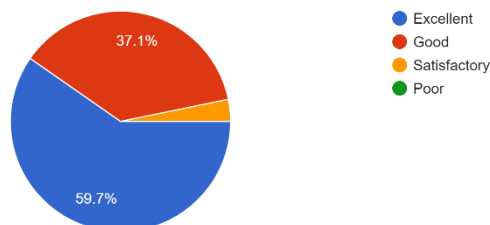
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I am pleased with the progress my child is making.
62 responses



Overall, I would describe the support my child receives in school as
62 responses



Year 6 Assembly

Last week Year 6 delivered their assembly to the whole school and to Parents. It was lovely to see lots of parents at the assembly and the children, as always, enjoyed sharing their learning with you.

Sporting Events

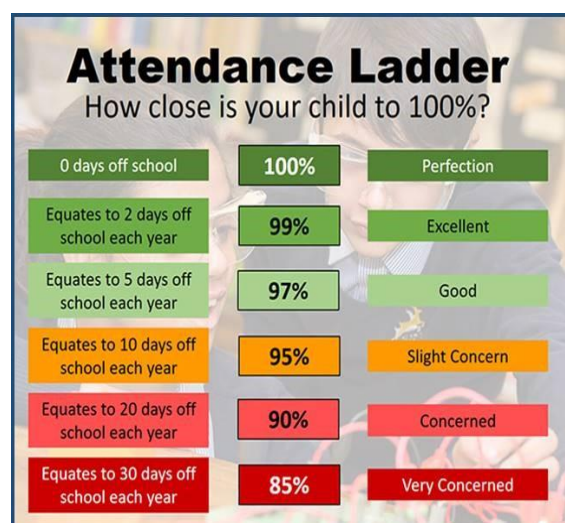
Over the last two weeks we've had children attending a netball tournament and a girls football tournament. They all performed extremely well and the improvement of the girls football team especially was noted by staff at another school, whom the girls had played against earlier this season. Well done to all who took part!

Mr Willard has also said the lunchtime changes to football have been having a really positive impact since the start of half term and we are seeing better attitudes to play and team work and a reduction in football related arguments and incidents. Long may it continue!

Attendance and Punctuality

Our whole school attendance is holding steady over the last two weeks! **Our whole school average for the past week is 94.0%.** 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





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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.

Attendance was discussed with parents at parent consultations, where we have a concern in school. In the next week, we will be sending letters to those parents whose child's attendance is less than 90% to remind you of the need for your child to be in school and to invite you to discuss what the barriers are to getting your child into 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. **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.**

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 so if you're having a clear out, please do think of us and donate any old Christmas jumpers. 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 are also holding a Christmas Movie Night on 29th November. Tickets are available to purchase through your Arbor shop account. There is a maximum of 150 places and **I believe there's only a few tickets left!** Tickets cost £3.00 and includes a drink and some popcorn.

We've got lots coming up in the next few weeks including preparation for my Christmas Podcast (I'm holding a competition for the 20 best Christmas jokes and 10 best Christmas poems this year) and Christmas performances. We have year group assemblies to come from Years 3 and 5 as well as Yr6 Pirate Day, Year 5 Victorian Day, Year 3 Celtic Harmony trip and lots more!

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Dates for the Diary

13 th November	Start of Anti-Bullying Week Odd Socks Day – children can come into school wearing normal uniform but odd socks to celebrate all of our differences. Year 6 Pirate Day 4-5.30pm New Prospective Yr2 to Yr3 Parent Tours – tours will be at 4pm, 4.30pm and 5pm
14 th November	Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony camp 9.45am – 10.30am & 11-11:45am New Prospective Yr2 to Yr3 Parent Tours – tours will be at 9.45am and 11am
16 th November	Year 5 Victorian Day **Please note the date change due to Children In Need on 17th November**
17 th November	Children in Need – non-uniform for children for a food bank donation
23 rd November	9.30am Year 5 Assembly to Parents
24 th November	Flu Vaccinations for children 8-12pm **Please follow the link in your emails to register your child for this. Only those children registered will be given the vaccination**
27 th Nov – 1 st Dec	Assessment Week – all year groups
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
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.
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.