



Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Inman
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Newsletter Autumn Term 2023: **8th December 2023**

It's nearly the end of a very long and busy term. The children are in full Christmas swing learning the lines and songs for their end of term performances. I will be recording the songs, jokes, poems and instrumental performances for our Christmas podcast in the next few days. The podcast will be posted on our website on 19th December for you to share with family and friends.

Christmas Performances

- 🍂 Year 3 and 4's Christmas performance will be held on 14th December with performances at 1.45pm and 5.30pm.
- 🍂 Year 5 and 6 will perform their Carol Concert at St Paul's Church on 18th December with performances at 2pm and 5.30pm.
- 🍂 Please contact the office to book your seats. Due to limited capacity in our school hall, families can book only ONE ticket per performance, whereas we have slightly more room at the church enough for TWO tickets per performance.
- 🍂 We will be collecting donations to support the school and one of the charities supported by the church both in cash and with our card reader.
- 🍂 We will also be selling tea, coffee and hot chocolate at the Year 3 and 4 performances so please do bring some change with you.

School Dinners & Snacks

A quick plea from the school office – can parents ensure that lunches are booked ahead of time for your child and where possible, that you book your child's lunch with them so they have some say over what they are eating. We are having a lot of children complaining that they don't like the choices their parents have selected, which is wasting food and resulting in hungry children. The kitchen only cooks enough for those who have ordered so do not have spare food to swap meals for children. Please book meals alongside your child so they have some choice over what they are eating.

In order to fit everyone through the dining room during lunchtime, we stagger lunches. The older children in Years 5 and 6 are normally called in during the second half of lunch but we have many of them telling us they are hungry. We would encourage parents to provide a snack (fruit or vegetables) for their child to have at break time, which might just keep them going until they are called in for their lunches.

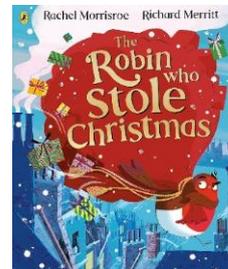


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The Robin who Stole Christmas

It was also lovely to see so many parents and carers coming around the school last Friday to view the decorations linked to the book 'The Robin who stole Christmas'. The children had such a good time making the decorations and it was so nice to see them retelling the story as they showed parents around. Thank you to those of you who were able to come.



Book in a Bag

It is lovely to continue getting photos of our children enjoying the 'Book in a Bag'. Below are just some of the photos that have come in so far! Some classes have changed their books to our Christmas decoration book, 'The Robin who Stole Christmas', over the past few weeks. They really have enjoyed sharing the stories at home!



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



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Year 5 Mini Police

To mark the end of the 7 week Mini Police course, some of our Year 5 children presented what they had learned in an assembly last week to the whole school. The project has focused on numerous areas of community safety including supporting our messages on road safety and the development of the idea of a community. Well done to all of those who presented in assembly.



Year 6 Milton Keynes Museum

Our Year 6s visited Milton Keynes Museum last week where they explored the history of communication. They had great fun exploring how phone exchanges worked and playing with old mobile phones. The children had a great time visiting all of the areas of the museum.



Years 4-6 Broadway Art Gallery

Last week we took children from Years 4 to 6 to the Broadway Art Gallery to view the exhibition 'Landscapes of Letchworth'. The children were beautifully behaved, which was commented on by staff at the gallery. The children explored artists work depicting scenes from early Letchworth and found out about some of the first settlers in the town. They were all really proud to have recognised Pixmore on the map and we even think we have identified the school site!

They then had a workshop exploring artist Sylvia Molloy's work and creating their own work based on the idea of community.



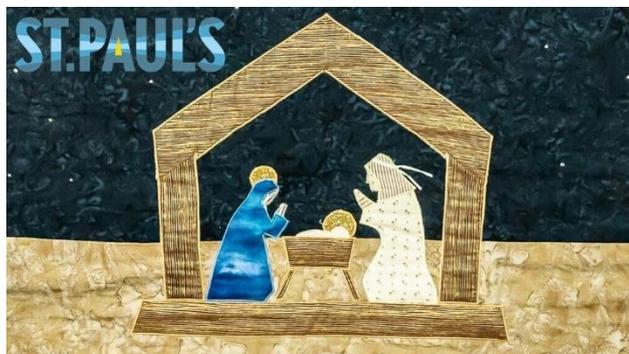


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Year 3 Christmas Journey

On Monday, children in Year 3 were invited to St Paul's Church to take part in the Christmas Journey. They visited Mary, the shepherds, the Kings and got their passports stamped on the way to Bethlehem. The volunteers that run the visit every year were extremely complementary about the behaviour of our children which was so nice to hear. Well done Year 3!



Carol Singing at the White House

On Wednesday this week, Miss Rolfe and Miss Dean took a group of children from across the school to visit the White House Care Home to bring a little bit of Christmas joy to some of the residents. The children sang a number of carols and songs and were delighted when some of the residents joined in. It was such a lovely thing for the children to do and we hope it helped the residents and staff to feel a little more Christmassy!

St Paul's School Christmas Celebration Service

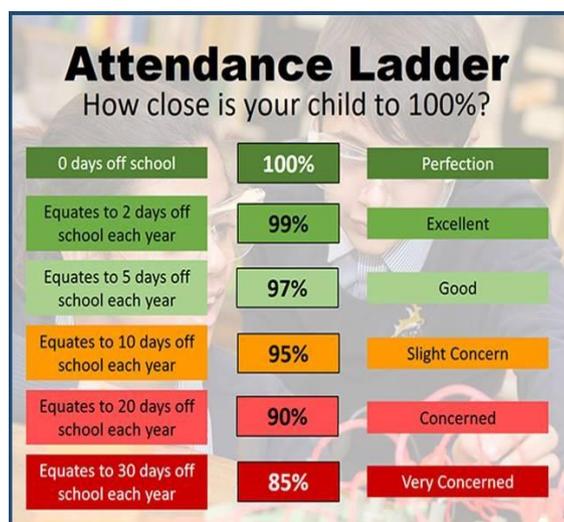
This Sunday 10th December, a group of Pixmore singers will be performing in the School Christmas Celebration Service at St Paul's Church. This is an annual event attended by singers from lots of different local schools and is a real community highlight for us. The service starts at 3.30pm but we are asking the children and parents to meet at school at 3pm and we will walk to the church. We look forward to finding out how they got on next week. Good luck and make us proud!

Attendance and Punctuality

Our whole school attendance has struggled a bit this last fortnight as we have been hit by illnesses across the school!

Our whole school average is at 93.4%. 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.

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





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50% is classified as a Severe Absentee and we would be looking to involve the School Attendance Team with these children and families. **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 held their Christmas Jumper Sale after school today and we look forward to finding out how much they have raised.

The PSA sold over 100 tickets to the Movie Night on 29th November and it was lovely to get into the Christmas spirit with the film, Arthur Christmas. The children enjoyed their popcorn and many arrived dressed for the occasions. Thank you to those parents who were able to come and help run the event. Without parent volunteers, the PSA cannot run events like these so we are very grateful.

We are now selling Christmas Raffle tickets for £1 a ticket. Your child should have come home with two books of tickets last week. Tickets can be paid for via your Arbor shop account and all money raised goes towards the school's goal to develop a sensory garden for our outdoor area. **Please ensure that all completed counterfoils are returned to school by Monday 18th December as these are what we will be drawing on the day.** Our collection of prizes have now increased to include chocolate hampers, supermarket vouchers, and days out for the family in addition to our main prize of an Xbox S series. The raffle draw will take place during assembly on Tuesday 19th December.

We are still collecting donations of prizes for the raffle so if any parents, carers or businesses linked to our Pixmore families are able to donate prizes, they're always extremely welcome. Last year we also had some parents who were able to match fund through the companies they work for. If this is something your company does, please let us know by sending an email to pta@pixmore.herts.sch.uk





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We've got lots coming up in the last week or so of term including our whole school pantomime on Tuesday 12th December, Years 3 & 4's Christmas play, Year 5 and 6's Carol Concert as well as our Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day.

S Inman

Sarah Inman
 Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

10 th December	St Paul's School Christmas Celebration Service 3.30-4.30pm at St Pauls Church
11 th December	3.30pm Performance Club performance to parents (letters have been sent out)
12 th December	Whole School Pantomime by Imajica Theatre
13 th December	2pm Parent Forum – tea and biscuits will be provided.
14 th December	Year 3/4 Christmas performances - Performances at 1.45pm and 5.30pm. Only one seat per family per performance. Reserve your seat with the office.
18 th December	Year 5/6 Carol Concert at St Paul's Church - Performances at 2pm and 5.30pm. Two seats per family per performance. Reserve your seat with the office.
19 th December	PSA Christmas Raffle draw (in assembly) Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner – children can wear festive non-uniform.
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.