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Newsletter Spring Term 2024: **22nd March 2024**

How are we nearly at the end of term? It's gone so fast! It's hard to believe that the summer term is almost upon us but what a half term it has been!

Congratulations to the Year 5s on their drumming assembly this week – I'm sure your parents were very proud. Caz, from the Herts Music Service, asked me to circulate a percussion group that she runs in Hitchin should any of the children want to continue with their drumming lessons and join an ensemble. This went out by email yesterday.

Year 6 and Year 3 also did their assemblies this after term and did a great job. It was lovely to be able to share with parents the learning the children have been doing.

Staff Changes

Today marks the last day that Mrs Horner is with Year 3 but I know that 3H will be in the very capable hands of Mrs Johnson and the team moving forward.

We also have another goodbye to say at the end of next week as Mrs Day, who has been working predominantly in Year 6 but has also worked with other children across the school, is leaving to focus on setting up her own business, something she has been working towards for a while now. We will miss her incredibly; she has been a fantastic support to the children in Year 6 with whom she has built some great relationships. We wish her every success in her new venture.

World Book Day and Scholastic Book Fair

We celebrated World Book Day on 8th March with the children coming dressed up as favourite characters. It was lovely to see such a range of characters chosen by the children. During the day, they had to write a description of their character for their class to guess.

We also hosted the Scholastic Book Fair, which was extremely well received. Thank you to everyone who came to the book fair and for your patience as they only sent us one machine so apologies that the queues were long. We have fed this back to them for next year. Thanks to your purchases, the school has been given **£270** towards new books for the school.



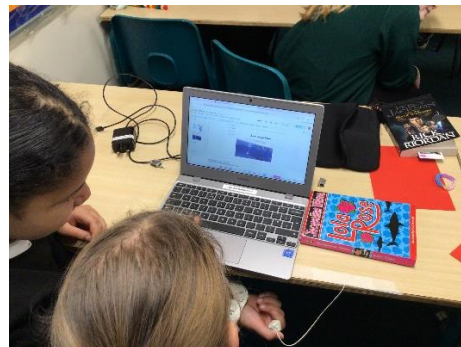


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STEM Week

We celebrated STEM Week last week with the children exploring pendulums. The children learnt some new vocabulary, designed experiments and used the chromebooks to programme microbits to create a counter. These activities were thoroughly enjoyed by the children and one of our Governors who came around during the afternoon to see the children at work. It was so nice to see the activities carefully planned to involve all aspects of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Well done to Miss Dean and Miss Pocock for putting the day together!



Open Afternoon

It was lovely to see so many parents attending our open afternoon this week to view the children's work from the Writing Project and the work on display around the school. Thank you to those who were able to come. It was a great opportunity to chat with your child's teacher and for the Year 6 parents to have some extra information about SATs and the residential visit in June.

We hope to welcome parents into school more often with some further parental engagement opportunities in the summer term.

The Little Princess Performance

This week Years 3 and 4 were treated to a performance by M&M Productions based on the story of the Little Princess. The children were enthralled by the performance, sets, costumes and clever effects as they enjoyed the story which had a heavy anti-bullying theme. Speaking to the children afterwards, they all said they enjoyed the show and were able to link the ideas in the story to our ethos of 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'. One child even linked the ideas to the work we've been doing on the British Values of mutual respect and tolerance!



Year 5 Food Technology



Year 5 have been designing and making a bolognese sauce with Mrs Thomas this week as part of their food technology curriculum. They were given the design brief to make a healthy bolognese sauce! They designed the recipes and the labels for the jars and then presented them to me. I was given the task of taste-testing them and giving my food review for the best sauce. Both myself and Mr Inman thoroughly enjoyed the sauces but as everyone has their own food preferences, I preferred the more tomatoey sauce produced by 5G while Mr Inman loved the sauce made by 5D. Well done to both classes, dinner was delicious!



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Sporting Round-Up

This half term has been a huge term for our sports teams with lots of team and individual successes.

Firstly, our Indoor Athletics Teams went to the County Finals where our boys team won the Gold so remain the County Champions and our girls team, who had a number of last minute injuries, can boast of being the Silver winning team in the county. There were a number of spectacular individual performances and Mr Willard was incredibly proud of their efforts. It takes an entire team to get to the County Finals stages so congratulations too to those children who helped to get the team to the finals but were sadly injured and couldn't take part in that final.



We also have two tournament winning Netball teams as our Year 5/6 A, B and C teams represented the school in two separate tournaments this week. Our A team won the tournament on Tuesday with Mrs Bendon; they were dominant throughout the tournament. A spectacular performance by Ella-Mai in particular. Whilst on Thursday, our B and C teams played in a second tournament. Our C team came 4th but our B team came away with the trophy. All of our players played fantastically and made Mrs Bendon and Mr Willard super proud. Again amazing performances by the whole team.



Our Year 3 and 4 Rapid Cricket teams did brilliantly in their tournament earlier this month with the Year 3 team making it to the final of the tournament but sadly losing the final by only 2 runs! It bodes well for the competition next year as the Year 3s move to Year 4. The Year 4 team drew joint 3rd in their side of the competition. Well done to everyone who took part!



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In addition, we've had a number of other matches and tournaments that children across the school have taken part in from football to netball. For some it has been the first time they have represented the school but all of them have put in huge amounts of effort and have done us proud!

School Council

The School Council have designed a new logo for their headed paper which we are very pleased to share. The children were asked to focus on our core themes of being ready, respectful and safe, and to create a clear and bold design. We are proud of the final design. Thank you to Elora, who designed the new logo, and to everyone who submitted an entry for the competition. Each class now has a school council ideas book to record their thoughts and suggestions for the school council to take forward to the next meeting.



From next term, each class will have a Peace plant which they will be asked to look after. The class with the healthiest looking plant at the end of the year will be given a certificate to acknowledge the care they have shown in looking after it. The children are working with their classes to choose some books for an improved well-being section in the school library. These ideas will be collected in their ideas book. Mrs Inman has also been working with the school council and the eco councillors on some shared initiatives – more to follow. The school council will next meet on **Tuesday 26th March at 2pm**. Thank you to all of the councillors for sharing their thoughts and ideas.

SEND Parent Group

Mrs Willans would like to invite parents of children with additional needs to a meeting to discuss setting up a group for parents to meet in an informal way in school on a regular basis to talk about their experiences and share ideas about things that have worked for their own children, or just to enjoy each other's company. The idea is for the meetings to become a half termly event for parents to run themselves using a room in school, with refreshments provided by school. We hope to invite professionals into school to speak with parents regarding common themes defined by the parents in the group. Please join Mrs Willans for the first meeting on **Wednesday 24th April from 9:00-10:00am** to discuss your thoughts about how we can work together to create a supportive group in school for parents to meet regularly over tea and cakes. Please email Mrs Willans at suewillans@pixmore.herts.sch.uk if you would like to attend.



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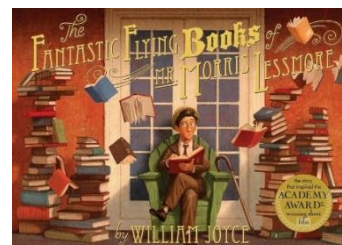
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School Dinners

Just a reminder that from 1st April, the cost of school dinners will increase to £3.10 a meal. This means a rise to £13.75 a week. We have worked with Dolce for the last few years to try and avoid increasing the costs of school dinners but unfortunately due to the rising cost of ingredients, it is unavoidable from next term. Please ensure that your Schools Grid accounts are topped up and that you have ordered your child's meals from 15th April to avoid children not having lunches booked for the first day back.

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>

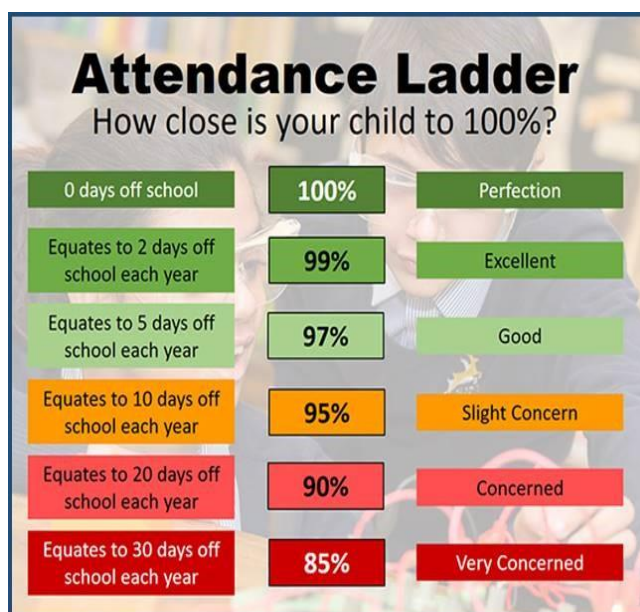


Our aim is to promote reading for pleasure and for your child and you to enjoy a story together. Please do send photos of your child reading the book and enjoying their hot chocolate as every photo sent in will earn 5 House Points for your child's house. Photos need to be sent in to schoolteachers@pixmore.herts.sch.uk

We will be launching a new Book in the Bag next term so keep an eye out for the new title!

Attendance and Punctuality

After Easter, we will be having a whole school push on attendance with the aim of reaching the 96% national target by the end of the summer term. We will be working on creating a stronger culture of good attendance for positive outcomes across the school with children and parents. We intend to do this through developing better lines of communications with parents, whole school assemblies focusing on what children miss out on when they're not at school, weekly class attendance awards with prizes and a year group prizes for 100% attendance, daily phone calls home when a child is absent to discuss the missed learning that day with parents. We will even be creating a school video on the importance of good attendance.





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For now, 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.**

Parents will have received their child's attendance report alongside their mid-year reports last week. Where we have concerns, school will work with parents to put an Attendance Improvement Plan in place and will be discussing in our meeting with our County Attendance Office on 25th March.

Pixmore School Association

The PSA Spring Rainbow Raffle will take place next Wednesday 27th March and winners will be contacted to collect their prizes that day. **Please ensure that all tickets are paid for on your Arbor account and counterfoils and remaining tickets sent back into school on Monday 25th March.** Any that are sent in after this date will NOT be entered into the raffle.

We've got lots planned for next term and will send out a newsletter in that first week back giving you all of the information you will need. For now though, we've got some lovely activities planned for next week including an Easter Orienteering Trail and our Easter Day on Thursday. Have a lovely last week of term and keep yourselves safe and well over the Easter Break.

Happy Easter!

Sarah Inman
Headteacher



Dates for the Diary

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 PSA Sponsored Event (more details to come)
18 th April	4H start swimming



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29 th April	Year 10 Work Experience pupils from Highfield join us for the week
2 nd May	Year 4 Drumming taster workshop Year 4/5 Family Drumming workshop after school 3.30-4.30 (limited to 30 places)
7 th May	Year 4 Maths Challenge
13 th May – 16 th May	Year 6 SATS Week – SATs breakfast will be offered from 8.15-8.30am Monday to Thursday that week.
15 th May	Year 4 Activity Day
20 th May	Walk to School Week (more information to follow)
23 rd May	PSA Disco (details to follow)
24 th May	Class Photo Day
25th May – 2nd June	Half Term – School Closed to Pupils
3 rd June	Year 4 Multiplication Check window opens for the next 2 weeks Year 10 Work Experience Pupil in
6 th June	Year 3 Maths Challenge 3.30pm 4P start swimming
10 th June	Year 3-5 Assessment Week
11 th June	Year 5 Greek Workshop
14 th June	World Views Day
17 th – 21 st June	Year 6 Residential to Conover Hall
20 th June	Clean Air Day
26 th June	Year 6 Crucial Crew Day
1 st – 5 th July	Arts and Sports Week including the 10 Day Active Challenge begins Year 10 Work Experience students from Knights Templar
2 nd July	Sports Morning (not open to parents) Year 6 Maths Challenge (pm)
4 th July	Sports Afternoon (parents invited to attend) No swimming for 4P on this day
10 th July	End of Year Reports (including SATs results) out to parents
11 th July	Transition Day – children spend the morning in their new classes
15 th July	Year 5/6 Leavers Play performances
17 th July	Year 6 Sports Awards (evening event – details to follow)
18 th July	9.30am Year 6 Leavers Assembly
19th July	End of Term Year 6 leave at 1.30pm Rest of school leave at 2pm
22nd & 23rd July	Occasional Day and INSET
24th July – 1st September	Summer Holidays – School closed to pupils **Keep an eye out for Holiday Camp details**
2nd September	INSET Day – School closed to pupils
3rd September	Children return to school