

“Nothing that we despise in other people is inherently absent from ourselves. We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or don't do, and more in light of what they suffer”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer | German Theologian



Value of the month | Compassion

Compassion has not been an easy value to think through but has worked well with one eye on Christmas, reflecting on how much we have compared to others locally and around the world. We took time to explore the definition of compassion: *‘Deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it’*. Following the Christmas Service, I went through the meaning of this definition again to help children really understand the words and ways in which we can be compassionate to others around us. I was really touched to hear of how Charlotte Farmer had recently cut her hair short to donate for the use of producing wigs for children living with cancer – A true example of living out this value and because of this, she was the recipient of the values mug for this month.

Our value of the month for January is a new value for Pixies, we are all looking forward to exploring **Resourcefulness**.

Martin Smith

Headteacher

Christmas Service

A big thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas service. It is the only time in the year where we are all able to meet together under one roof to celebrate Christmas with the community we are fortunate enough to enjoy.

We are also really grateful for our continuing relationship with Carole Lewis who led our service. As an ex-teacher, Carole always finds a way of relating to the children in a really meaningful way and knows many of them well as she volunteers by helping in school. The ‘compassion’ balloon is standing tall and proud in the school hall to remind everyone of this year’s message.

Many parents were keen to see the school tree. If you missed it, we’ve printed a large shot on the right. This year’s theme was ‘charity’ which of course fits perfectly with our value of the month.



Upcoming events

Fri 21st Dec | 2pm

End of Term

Mon 7th Jan

Staff Inset Day

Tues 8th Jan

Children start back

Wed 9th Jan | 9am

Reception Parent Tour

Thurs 17th Jan | 3.30-5pm

Careers Fair

Mon 21st Jan | 7pm

Governor Resources Committee

Thurs 24th Jan | 9.15am

Year 4 Class Assembly

Mon 28th Jan | 4pm

Governor School Improvement Committee

Fri 1st Feb

Young Voices

See you there!

School will resume on Tuesday 8th January at the usual time



KS1 Christmas Production



Once again, the KS1 team did a wonderful job of putting together this year's Christmas Production. Children have always loved singing at Pixies and the catchy tunes and funny script inspired some memorable performances. A shout out to the Reception Class in particular for supporting the singing as this was their first experience of putting on a production and they were very ably supported by the Year 1 class.

Mrs Porter

It is with sadness that I inform you that Mrs Porter (nee Scales) is leaving the school at Christmas. Mrs Porter has been a fantastic teaching assistant and has served the school with great dedication, integrity and thoughtfulness for 4 years and her skills and artistic flair will be greatly missed. We have an advert placed for a new TA and hope to shortlist in the New Year.

PE & Arts Mark News

We are very proud to have had our PE Mark reaccredited and will now hold the award for a further 3 years. The award is DfE approved and demonstrates how positive our sports provision and teaching is. Very few schools hold the award and credit must go to the staff ably led by Miss Best in ensuring that our practice remains amongst the best in Hertfordshire.

We have also started work on the Arts Mark. This will be a 2 year process where we will need to prove high quality teaching, learning and vision in music, drama and art. We are going for the 'gold' standard as we already feel we could pass a 'silver' award and are keen to rise to the additional challenge this would present.

News in Brief

- Thank you to all parents who helped with the Christmas Panto this year. The children had a wonderful time and returned to school buzzing about their experiences.
- We have recently held an assessment week which we typically do at the end of each term. As part of the week, the children sit informal tests and teachers put forward their professional assessments. This information is used to give us a health check and ensure the children are progressing well academically. We then hold pupil progress meetings to ensure no child is left behind and will put in place intervention where required or activities which will stretch those children who are capable of more. The overall picture looks really positive!

Stars of the week



Top job everyone!

Week of 02/11/18

- Rec ★ Nyla Sarosh-White
Y1 ★ Whole Class
Y2 ★ Whole Class
Y3 ★ Maison Sanders
Y4 ★ Oliver Carroll
Y5 ★ Izzy Hall
Y6 ★ Seb White

Week of 09/11/18

- Rec ★ Marni Emery-Bates
Y1 ★ Zara Tredoux
Y2 ★ Ralph Giles
Y3 ★ Jamie Gubbins
Y4 ★ Samuel Lilley
Y5 ★ Ryan Jackson
Y6 ★ Isabelle Parrott

Thank you!



Live, Camera, Action...

On Values Day, we made a film about what it is like to work, learn and be in a Values based Education environment. We have now managed to upload this film to our school website and can be seen at the following link... www.pixieshill.herts.sch.uk/about/vision-and-aims/

The whole film is around 10mins long which includes a gag reel of poor Mrs Anderson being rather lost for words. The children really enjoyed this project, but more importantly, the video gives the wider public and understanding of Values-based Education and a snap shot of what this looks like.

