



Pixies news



Upcoming events

Thurs 1st Feb

Young Voices

Tues 6th Feb

Pupil Progress Meetings

Thurs 8th Feb | 9.15am

Reception Class Assembly

Fri 9th Feb (normal finish time)

End of Half Term

Mon 19th Feb

Children Return to School

Thurs 22nd Feb

Y6 Class Assembly

Fri 23rd Feb

New School Council Elections

Fri 23rd Feb

FOPHS Disco

Mon 26th Feb

Ian Rose Paralympian Visit

Thurs 1st March

World Book Day

Fri 2nd March | 8.45am

HT Parent Briefing (by the outdoor hut)



Value of the month

Following the weeks of Christmas and New Year, many find the month of January a difficult experience and children are no different to adults in this respect so it was good to talk about **Positivity** as a way of starting the year. The children were shown a contrasting picture of two people on a bus, one thinking positively and the other thinking negatively whilst the bus represented a journey towards something (an exam, a dentist appointment, etc). We explored the different feelings that the bus passengers must be feeling and their mental approach towards life. I then taught the children how to visualise a positive experience before attempting to do something they might feel negative about and the children have been practicing this around school. At a time when there is a great deal of media coverage on children's mental health, teaching children to view things in a positive light can make all the difference and it is helpful that next month's value is **Perseverance** which will allow us to explore the determination and grit side of a positive mental attitude

Martin Smith, Headteacher

Maths Workshop

If your answer to the question 'What is 38×72 ?' is 'very big', then you should definitely attend our maths workshop. We have had a number of parents and parent forum members telling us that they would really value another maths workshop alongside sentiments that parents don't always understand the latest teaching methods.

The workshop is going to take place on Wednesday 14th March from 4.30pm till 6.30pm. We have decided to do a 'buffet' style workshop this time where you will be able to select from a timetable of a maths demonstrations led by different teachers. Each mini workshop will be 20 mins: 10mins of teachers showing and modelling a maths method and another 10 mins to allow for questions.

A crèche will be provided for school age children. Can't make the event? Not to worry, we are going to film some of it and put it on our 'workshops' page of the school website. In the meantime, do take a look at our Calculations Policy on the school website.



Payment Plan

We know that money is tight for many of our families, particularly at this time of year. Some of the additional activities at school are often heavily subsidised or paid for completely by the school such as the Apex sports clubs or Ian Rose's visit (see later in the newsletter). However, we also have to balance this with parental contributions for school trips and special events from time to time. We can only make these events happen with your support. If you are struggling to find the money for a contribution, come and speak with the Office Staff. It might be that we can explore other avenues of payment such as a payment plan over a few weeks or months to help ease the burden. For some trips, the companies/providers themselves have a bursary we might be able to access.

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**We love to learn
and learn to love!**

E-Safety News



On our school website, we have an E-Safety page with information about acceptable use agreements and our policy. We also post a link to the termly Herts produced parent newsletter which helps keep parents informed of the latest developments which can be a real eye opener.

A number of children returned to school in the new year talking about new games they've been given for Christmas. Please can you check that your child is not playing games inappropriate for their age range. We have approached some parents to inform them that games such as Call of Duty carry an 18 certificate and in the interests of safeguarding, children should not have access to these kinds of games.

Ian Rose

We are very excited about our pending visit from medal winning paralympian, Ian Rose on Monday

26th Feb. Ian will be running a series of growth mindset workshops for the children throughout the day.

At 3.30pm, he will also be conducting a 45min talk for parents, sharing his inspiring story and how he uses a growth mindset in his everyday life.



Parent Forum

The Parent Forum met on 23rd Jan to talk about ways in which we could improve school communication systems. We are already doing a lot in this area such as emails/text messages, newsletters, the website, etc but there is always room for improvement. Off the back of this meeting, I have spoken with staff about ensuring that communications for trips and events are sent out well in advance of when they are supposed to happen (typically 2 weeks). We are also going to do the following:

- Produce a jargon buster
- Introduce a comm slip in each bag – If there is a queue to see a teacher on the morning and you want to communicate something simply, the children will make the teacher aware of the slip
- Trial a new HT parent briefing

See Parent Forum minutes and recent letter for further details

Facebook

Please help us set a good example to our school community by using Facebook responsibly. I have had a number of recent complaints from parents complaining about a small minority of other parents and their postings. If you're not happy with an aspect of school, respectfully come and talk to us about it. Airing frustrations on Facebook won't resolve issues and leaves the school with no voice and sometimes no knowledge of issues. I have also had to speak with some parents individually for posting comments that are either factually incorrect or not supportive of our values ethos communicated in home-school agreements.

Pupil Questionnaires

We have concluded our annual round of pupil questionnaires seeking the children's views on a range of issues and I am pleased to share some of the findings with you.

Most years when we do the questionnaires, the answers are remarkably similar within a 5% difference year on year. This year however, there has been more variability. For example, the number of children responding 'All of the time' to the question 'I know how well I am doing?' has shot up by 23% which validates the extra work we have been doing in this area over the last year. Also on a positive front, the number of children responding 'All of the time' to the question 'Teachers are interested in my views?' has gone up by 18%. One area which we will be exploring with the children is behaviour as there has been a 15% drop in the number of children responding to 'Behaviour in my school is good?' from 'All of the time' to 'Sometimes'. We will explore what the negative behaviours are and how we set about putting them right.

Stars of the week

Week of 12/01/18

Reception: **Joshua Hardaker**

Year 1: **Olivia Blackburn**

Year 2: **Charlotte Barnes**

Year 3: **Whole Class**

Year 4: **Millie Lucas**

Year 5: **Raphael Diaconu**

Year 6: **Gregory Harpley**

Week of 19/01/18

Reception: **Layla Cooper**

Year 1: **Tristan Stevens**

Year 2: **Connor Tomlinson**

Year 3: **Noah Tomlinson**

Year 4: **Malachy Heneghan**

Year 5: **Emily Simpson**

Year 6: **Jacob Smith**

Week of 26/01/18

Reception: **Joshua West**

Year 1: **Whole Class**

Year 2: **Ella Louise-Howard**

Year 3: **William Deane**

Year 4: **Owen Campbell**

Year 5: **Mia Lillywhite**

Year 6: **Harrison Leeks**

Target Bookmarks

You may have seen or the children may have talked about our new target setting bookmarks in maths and literacy books. These are designed to help the children achieve their next step on their learning journey. They are dated, signed off, put in a class box and a new target is given. It's a handy way of showing children a key achievement whilst helping the staff identify what each child needs to do next to improve further.

Well done
to everyone!