



Pixies news



Upcoming events

Thurs 2nd March | 5.30pm
Parent Forum

Mon 6th March
Governor Resources Committee

Mon 13th March
Start of Spring Term Assessment Week

Tues 14th March | 5-7.30pm
Reception Parents Consultation

Wed 15th March | 3.30-6.30pm
Reception Parents Consultation

Thurs 16th March | 9.15am
Year 6 Class Assembly

Mon 20th March | 7pm
Full Governing Body Meeting

Tues 21st March
Pupil Progress Meetings

Fri 24th March
Comic Relief

Wed 29th March | 2.15pm
Lower KS2 Production

Thurs 30th March | 6.30pm
Lower KS2 Production

Thurs 30th March | 2.15pm
FOPHS Easter Egg Hunt

Fri 31st March | 2pm
End of Term and reports to go home

**There is only one
happiness in life,
to love and be loved.**

George Sand (Novelist)



Value of the month

Love is in many ways the most complex and simultaneously the most straight forward value we have in school. By popular demand (from the children), I told the story of St Valentine which is quite a gruesome story with love as the central character. The children were able to identify this and understand that love comes in many forms, ways and actions. This week, the children enjoyed talking about their favourite superheroes and their special powers when we came across a revelation – love can be a superpower! Finally, we looked at the famous Bible passage read at many weddings in 1 Corinthians 13 to help us have a bigger definition of love and what this might look like around school and at home.

Our value of the month for March is **Quality**.

Martin Smith, Headteacher

Stay & Read

Each week since December, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been enjoying our read and stay initiative where parents join their child to listen to them read for 20 mins of the day. We are passionate about promoting opportunities for our children to enjoy their reading and there has been a great deal of research showing the link between reading and all round successful outcomes for children at the end of primary school. Thank you to everyone who is supporting this and we hope you enjoy the time with your children in a moment of what I'm sure is a busy day. You may well enjoy this article from Pie Corbett extolling the virtues of reading and linking this to the quality of writing. http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2011/10/Good_Writers1.pdf

Library Redesign

In recent months, we have been thinking about redesigning our library area which is old and tired. It's not always used as well as we'd like it to be though the table is very well used for group work. Having contacted the local library, they no longer do consultation visits. We are currently looking at external options though this will be price dependant.

If you have an artistic flair, enjoy reading and can visit with the aim of giving suggestions for how we might improve this area, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the school office if you feel you can help. We do have a budget set aside but need a more concrete plan first.



Defibrillator Training

Just a reminder that Mr Smith, Mr Lawrence, Mrs Egerton, Mrs Smiles and Mrs Whittaker are now all trained to use the school defibrillator meaning survival rates for any heart attacks improve from 6% to 74-76%. Hopefully, we'll never need to use the training. However, if there is ever a need, particularly before or after school, then please shout.

Pixies Hill Primary School, Hemel Hempstead

Hazeldell Road | Hemel Hempstead | Hertfordshire | HP1 2BY

☎ 01442 251793 ✉ admin@pixieshill.herts.sch.uk

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



Guest Readers

You may have guessed from the first page of our newsletter that we're working hard to enhance reading across the school. Promoting a love of reading is most important with our youngest readers and research shows by the age of 5, children have already made their mind up as to whether they enjoy reading or not. Once set, the pattern is difficult to break. Reception class are therefore having mystery readers (thank you parents) once a week to come in and read their favourite short story to the children. The feedback from the children has been tremendous and this in turn is inspiring them to read.



Stars of the week



Week of 03/02/17

Reception: **George Peacock**
Year 1: **Elliot Giles**
Year 2: **Dervla Grimes**
Year 3: **Malachy Heneghan**
Year 4: **Malachi Hardy**
Year 5: **Ben Beale**
Year 6: **Matthew Conlon**

Week of 10/02/17

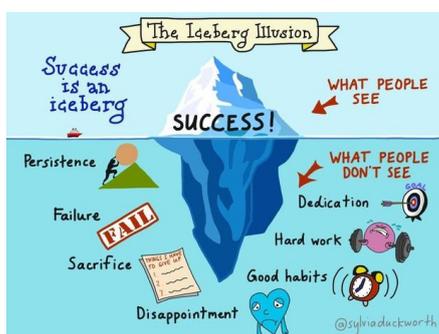
Reception: **Whole Class**
Year 1: **Casey Corcoran**
Year 2: **Oliver Godfrey**
Year 3: **Freddie Farr**
Year 4: **Freya Derham**
Year 5: **Gregory Harpley**
Year 6: **Elliot Su**

Week of 24/02/17

Reception: **Ralph Giles**
Year 1: **Daisy Kingsbury**
Year 2: **Alexander Arnett**
Year 3: **Jayden Eyles**
Year 4: **Lila Rance**
Year 5: **Harry Wright**
Year 6: **Honey Laird**

Growth Mindsets

At school, we talk to the children often about growth and fixed mindsets but what does this mean? Over the next couple of newsletters (space permitting), I thought it would be useful to explain the concepts. We are also likely to have a workshop on this either in the summer or autumn term. The basic idea is that children (and adults) do not have a static brain. It is growing all the time. Have you ever caught yourself saying something along the lines of, 'I can't do that!' or, 'He's no good at maths because I was no good at maths.' Don't worry, I've said similar things as well but this is a fixed mindset, a fixed way of thinking. The growth mindset approach is to exercise and grow your brain with the understanding that it takes time, patience, perseverance, failure and hard work to develop. As an example, Mozart is often cited as a child prodigy who had natural talent and a special gift. The work of Carol Dweck challenges this notion. No doubt, Mozart was born into a musical family. His father was an ambitious music teacher but the story didn't end there.



Mozart's abilities were not innate, he wasn't born with his abilities. By the age of 6, Mozart had already spent 3,500 hours practicing on the piano and by the time he was a young adult, he had 10,000 hours of practice. Therefore, it's hardly surprising he became a musical genius!

School Council Behaviour Review

The School Council recently conducted their own behaviour review which concluded that behaviour is generally very good across the school (solid 8/10 ratings). However, we have been exploring where the children feel behaviour could be improved and football on the playground has been cited as an issue in terms of space and arguments. We have therefore made some changes and football is now on a rota system. This means less access to football in the interests of tweaking more positive behaviour outcomes and is welcomed by the majority of children. Once we have access to the field, all classes will be able to play football simultaneously.

Attendance

Our overall attendance is currently below the national average and it is vitally important that this improves. Understandably, children are ill from time to time. However, we have put a new system in place whereby we are chasing children who fall below 95% attendance more rigorously. Often, there can be good reasons for this so we typically start this process with a phone call from Mrs Whittaker to see if there is anything we need to know or can do to help. However, we will continue to pursue lower attendance in the best interests of the children.

Open Day

Look out for details of an upcoming parent Open Day. Ever wondered what a typical lesson in school is like or how the children learn? We are going to be throwing the doors open for a day where parents can come in and join a lesson to see what happens. Will we shortly send a letter with further details.

Well done
to everyone!