

NEWSLETTER

Week beginning 28th September 2020



“Head”lines

Thank you to all the parents and carers who met virtually with your child’s class teacher. I hope it was a productive meeting. I know from our point of view it was invaluable to meet with you all to find out more about your child and your ‘lockdown’ learning experiences as this will shape our ‘remote learning’ offer at Pixmore. We will be offering another opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher later this term so we can report on how their learning is progressing in school. There will then be a full report in the Spring term and then another shorter report in the summer term alongside a parent/ teacher opportunity.

If you haven’t already done so can I remind parents/carers to sign up to Parentmail and MarvellousMe as it our main communication tool with yourselves. We tend to use Parentmail for whole school and group messages. With the MarvellousMe app teachers use to send messages, reminders and praise for their class or year group – it’s only positive news. I also use MarvellousMe to send messages about work I have seen or things children are celebrating! Carers/grandparents can also download the MarvellousMe App to get news about their relative. Last year, we managed 96% sign up for MarvellousMe so let’s aim for a 100% this year

As ever, if you are not sure about accessing these messaging services or have lost the letter please contact the office for help.



The first Parent Forum of the new academic year will be online via ZOOM at 1pm on Friday 15th October 2020, the link will be sent out via Parent Mail and MME for parents/Carers to join the meeting. You are welcome to have a drink and snack handy – sorry we can’t provide it but we are hopeful for 2021 when we can once again provide bacon butties!

At this meeting you’ll be able to meet Mrs Kennedy, our Family Support Worker, one of our school governors, and Mrs Willans, our SENCo to talk about their roles and to offer information and advice.

We would love to hear your views on the your child's experience of transition back to school.

Clubs

Sadly, we are not able to run the clubs we usually do at this time of year. We are hoping to run some year group clubs during lunch times and probably for November only. When these are finalised details of these will come out to parents and children.



Staff News and Staff Information

All the staff have settled in and we have Mr Anderson back on the gates in the morning and evenings, so fingers crossed staff stay well and keep so for the remainder of the term!

We are delighted to announce that Miss Fortune expecting a baby in later in the year but sadly will be taking maternity leave at half term. After half term, we are fortunate (notice the play on words!) that Mrs Thomas will be teaching for an extra day, so will be teaching Monday to Thursday and 5TF will also be taught on Fridays by Mr Smith (who has been teaching recently at a school in Stevenage).



Uniform

The children all looked very smart in their uniform on the first day back and we want children to be proud of their uniform and look after it, so please ensure that they wear the correct uniform and wrap up for PE.

The weather is getting colder, so we are asking that your child wears layers (T shirts/leggings/joggers) in to school under their uniform to keep themselves warm. The heating will be on for the start of school and then for a period in the afternoon but we are anticipating that rooms will get colder more quickly, as our classrooms have to maintain an air flow with windows open.

Having said this please can you **name everything** in permanent marker as even though children are in their Year group, clothing goes astray – we cannot return it to your child unless it is named. **All Year groups have their own lost property box so that will be the first place we will look if something is lost.**

Haircuts - should be short without tramlines, shaved heads or Mohicans styles or are not permitted. Long hair should be tied back and please use hair bands or ties that are in the school colour of **green (preferably)**. We will speak or contact parents if a child arrives to school with an unsuitable hair style and will expect the hair style to be rectified as soon as possible. **If your child has pierced ears only stud earrings should be worn and they will need to be taped up for PE or removed at home before.**

School Uniform is available at school only during school office opening hours (Mon-Thurs) or by arrangement just ring through, pay online and we'll send it home with your child once payment has been made.



School Council

The Pixmore School Council for 2020 has been elected!

Congratulations to Alfie Batt, Sienna Comparetto, Eden Summerville, Lily Cavanagh (Year 3), Jasper Atherton, Eric Dyson, Abigail McConnell, James Kitchener-Reynolds (Year 4), Zakariya Khan, Honey Vincent, Summer Dimmock, Ben Sheldon (Year 5), Thomas Owen, Cleo Baker, Bibi Nicholson, Ethan Swingler-Peet (Year 6) on being elected as the new school councillors for their classes. Due to the wonders of modern technology, we were able to share information to explain the purpose of the school council, and how to self-nominate for the role using a class-based Powerpoint assembly. The children then gave their speeches in class and a vote took place. We have had an initial meeting from classrooms via video call and discussed charities for the year, Golden Ticket prize choices, and asked the children to capture the views of their classes about what it has felt like to be back in school. What a great start to the year for the school council.



Information- Homework

Thank you for sending your child's work through on SeeSaw too there has been some great homework loaded up. It would help teachers tremendously if you could supervise your child marking their maths work clearly – then teachers can see what your child is getting right and what they need to work on in the next lessons. All homework needs to be approved by the class teacher, so they will see the work so please make sure any photos of work or your child appropriate . SeeSaw is a tool for uploading homework. If there are any comments or queries please contact teachers via the schoolteachers@pixmore.herts.sch.uk address.



Harvest Festival

As part of Harvest Festival, Pixmore School will be collecting food items for donation to the foodbank, which supports individuals and families in our community with the provision of emergency food. The foodbank is centrally organised by The Trussell Trust, a charitable organisation involved in setting up foodbanks within the UK.

There will be a box by the entry gate each morning week beginning 5th October for any donations for the foodbank. We will collecting for The Letchworth Foodbank every day next week and celebrating with a harvest assembly put together by Fiona Owen from St Paul's Church on Friday 9th October. Please donate if you can, a number of our families used the service over Lockdown and continue to use it so we want to support our community as best we can so please donate. Each year group will decorate boxes and the food will be collected by the Food Bank on Friday after the assembly.

We would like your support in this venture and ask for donations of any of the following items:

Milk [Longlife UHT] Dried milk 500g Sugar Fruit Juice [Longlife] Tinned Fruit Cereals Custard [Tinned] Sponge puddings	Meat/fish [Tinned] Dried potato Rice Pudding [Tinned] Tea Bags/Coffee Pasta Sauce Rice/Pasta/Noodles Tomatoes [Tinned] Potatoes [Tinned]	Biscuits Soup Baked Beans Jam Vegetables [Tinned] Ladies Deodorant Toilet rolls Size 6 Nappies Strong carrier bags
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Any donations should be brought to school by the morning of Friday, 9th October, this is to enable each class to put together a decorated display box for the harvest festival the following Monday.

If you would like more information on the charity The Trussell Trust, please take a look at their website: www.trusselltrust.org



PSA

PSA virtual AGM – next Wednesday 7.30pm 7th October- the PSA hope you will be able to join them for their annual AGM. The virtual link to be sent out by ParentMail next week, please look out for it.



Information

A traffic plea!!

Please do not pull up and drop off outside the gates as all the traffic is held up and it causes Mr Anderson in his unofficial traffic warden role, a nightmare! Equally do not let your child out or into a car on the roadside. Your children are precious and the road outside our school is busy at the start and end of the day.

Please find a space or park away from the school and walk down to the school. If you do come by car you can drop off using the **Methodist Church** Carpark on the roundabout of Norton Way South / Pixmore Avenue or at **St Paul's Church** and walk down. **We have an unofficial one way system which is IN at the Pixmore Avenue end and OUT at the Baldock Road end of Rushby Mead.**

It is great to see people coming to school by foot, bicycle and scooter. I will be giving out badges next week for those children that have managed to walk to school at least once a week during September!

If you come in to the school grounds to collect your child please wait at a social distance and leave by the exit gate.

We will always wait with your child if you are running late. Staff now carry Walkie Talkies so if you need to contact the school via the school office to say that you have been held up they can get a message to gate staff so they know you are running late. If it is raining we will wait in the covered areas in Year 3 and 4 and under the cycle rack for Year 5 and 6.



Regular Reminders



School Office

- The school office opens at 8.00 AM and remains open until 4.00 PM.
- The office gets very busy at the beginning and ends of the school day, so messages may go to the answerphone as the office staff are dealing with face-to-face or telephone enquiries.
- You can contact the school office to report absences by email at admin@pixmore.herts.sch.uk, via your ParentMail account or by phone on 01462 620555. Please give full explanation of illness or other reason for absence



Medication

If your child needs to take any medication during school hours, please ensure:

- Any adult brings any medication to the school office and collects it at the end of the day
- The adult completes a medication form
- **DO NOT** send any medication in with your child. This ensures that everyone is kept safe, to avoid any allergies or lose.

Ways to contact us



Pixmore Junior School, Rushby Mead,
Letchworth Garden City, SG6 1RS



admin@pixmore.herts.sch.uk



01462 620555



<http://www.pixmore.herts.sch.uk/>

Calendar Dates for year 2020

* Year Group Assemblies

Academic Year 2020-21

AUTUMN TERM 2020

05/10/20	Hot meal choice starts available from Dolce Catering – Please book via SchoolGrid
09/10/20	Harvest Assembly - donations for the Letchworth FoodBank please!
15/10/20	Parent Forum – pm – Link and times to be sent via Parentmail
22/10/20	Children's Flu Jabs
23/10/20	Children's Flu Jabs Year 5 VR Space Workshop
26/10/20-01/11/20	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
31/10/20	Secondary School Application Deadline
14/12/20	Christmas productions (online)
16/12/20	Christmas Lunch
18/12/20	Last Day of Term – Early Finish at 12 noon – NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

SPRING TERM 2021

04/01/21	INSET Day (School Closed)
05/01/21	Children return to School
15/02/20-19/02/20	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
26/03/20	Last Day of Term – normal finish at 3.15pm

SUMMER TERM 2021

12/04/21	Children return to School
03/05/21	BANK Holiday (School Closed)
31/05/21-04/06/21	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
16/07/21	Last Day of Term – Early Finish at 2pm
19/07/21	INSET Day (School Closed)
20/07/21	INSET Day (School Closed)
21/07/21	Occasional Day (School Closed)
22/07/21	INSET Day (School Closed)