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## Newsletter Autumn Term 2022: **18<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

What a busy few weeks we've had! Half term seems like it was such a long time ago now but we've been busy at school with several themed weeks: Multi-cultural Week, Remembrance and Anti-bullying week.

### Multi-Cultural Week

As part of our Multi-cultural Week, we had some amazing parents and children who volunteer to come into school and share aspects of their cultures with their classes and year groups. A massive thank you to Layne & Marina and their mums, Jacob and his mum and Anisha and her family for coming into school and giving such amazing presentations. We also created a whole school Diversi-Tree.



### Remembrance

Last week was Remembrance and our School Council were selling poppies. We can honestly say that we have never completely filled the money pot to the point that we've had to put the overflow into an envelope for the Royal Legion to collect! Thank you so much for your generosity.

Well done to everyone who entered the PSA Design a Wreath competition; we had lots of entries and the decision was a hard one! Well done to our winners: Olivia (Yr6), Amelie (Yr5), Alexander (Yr4) and Sophie (Yr3). All entries received a poppy but the winners received a Royal Legion slap band and 10 house points.





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## Anti-bullying Week



#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

**Thank you for supporting Odd Socks Day on Monday.** It was good to see so many different colours and styles, and to be able to talk to the children about the importance of valuing and celebrating difference. The teachers have been following up on this theme in class by talking with the children about friendships, and what qualities make someone a good friend. They have also encouraged the children to remember to let someone know if they think they are being bullied. Navigating friendships is difficult for children and part of growing up, but we work hard to support children with managing relationships and recognising what makes a healthy relationship, both in

person and online, and how to manage difficulties safely. The week ends with **Kindness Friday**. The children were asked to nominate someone for being a good friend certificate, and had to say what they have done to show they are a good friend. Please remember to have a look at the information on the school website [www.pixmore.herts.sch.uk](http://www.pixmore.herts.sch.uk) about friendships to keep reminding the children that there is nothing too small or too awful that they cannot talk to someone about it as this is the important message we share at school.



**Parents and carers of children with additional needs are invited to join Mrs Willans on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November from 10:00-11:00am for an informal Parent Forum to share the way we work to support children with additional needs and their families at Pixmore, and to seek your views on what we do well, and what we could do better. We welcome your views, and**

**encourage you to join us as it allows us to make changes and improvements to further support you and your child. Light refreshments will be served.**

## Pixmore Sports Update

**Boys football:** A huge well done to the boy's football team who represented the school at the district football competition. It was their first game together this season and they did really well finishing 3rd overall missing out on top spot by just one point.



**Girl's football:** A very wet and cold day for the girls football team at the district football competition. The team finished 5th with some very good football being played by all the schools. Well done all the girls playing their first match for the school this season.



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**Basketball:** A great district basketball competition for team Pixmore winning 6 and losing just one game in the competition. The team just missed out on top spot by just one basket. Well done to all involved.



**Rapid Fire Cricket:** A huge well done to the year 4 children who represented Pixmore at the district competition this week. We had two teams at the competition with Pixmore purples winning and Pixmore greens coming second. Both teams have qualified for the finals in February. Well done teams!



### Children In Need

This Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November is Children in Need. We have said that children can come into school in non-uniform on this day for a donation of items for the food bank. A message has gone out on ParentMail with details of the items that the food bank need.

### E-safety Concerns

We know that for many children Roblox and Minecraft are great game but as parents, did you know that **anyone** can create a Roblox or Minecraft game? The platform does not filter games. We have had some incidents across the school with children playing Roblox games that involve violence and death. One such game on Roblox that we have been made aware of is a game called 'Doors'. This is a horror game that involves the character trying to open as many doors as they can without being attacked and 'eaten' in quite a graphic way. We have also been informed of a game called 'Piggy', which is similarly distressing.



We are also aware of videos on YouTube and Kids YouTube involving characters called Huggy Wuggy, Cartoon Cat, Cartoon Dog and Sirenhead that promote violence and originate from horror videos and games. The nature of these characters names means that it is incredibly hard for online platforms like YouTube and Kids YouTube to filter them.

We know how difficult it can be to monitor what our children are playing and watching online; however, we are starting to have children playing these games in the playground which has upset several children and caused numerous issues. Please have a conversation with your child around the games/videos they play and watch. Encourage your child to tell you if a game/video is violent or scary. We can't monitor everything but educating your child about the dangers of online games and videos is just as important at home as it is in school.



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## Other News

In the coming weeks we have a lot of activities and rehearsals building up to our school Christmas celebrations. Years 3 and 4 are busy learning lines and song words for their Christmas performance on 12<sup>th</sup> December while Years 5 and 6 have started learning the song words for their Christmas Carol Concert at St Pauls Church on 19<sup>th</sup> December. In addition, there are lots of other activities we plan in leading up to Christmas and this year this will include our Christmas podcast, which we hope will be available and on the website for families to listen to on 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Sadly, over half term and the past few weeks we have had some trespassers on the school site on an evening and weekend. There has been sightings of groups of youths on the school grounds and over half term we had Mr Willard's PE shed broken into, equipment damaged or stolen, a netball post damaged and a window broken. In addition, we also found that plant pots from Jack's Garden had been smashed on the Year 6 playground along with other items such as vapes and take out containers. The Police were informed of the incident. The school is looking into getting CCTV to prevent these incidents from happening again.

## **Important Reminder for All Parents**

**This year we have a child in school with a compromised immunity. Please make us aware if your child has been in contact with any contagious illness, including COVID19, or has a contagious illness. It is important we notify the parents as soon as possible so they can act on the information.**

**This need not be the case with coughs and colds.**

**If your child has sickness and diarrhoea, please keep them at home for 48 hours.**

## Reminder about Haircuts and Shoes

We are seeing a more and more children with haircuts that are not appropriate in school including shaved heads under long hair on top and especially amongst our Years 5 and 6 children. **Our uniform policy is clear – hair should be short without tramlines, shaved heads or Mohicans styles which are not permitted. Shaved lines in eyebrows are also against our school uniform policy.** 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.

We are also noticing that some children are starting to come into school wearing brightly coloured trainers again. Our uniform states that children need to wear black shoes or trainers. Some allowance is made for some shoes which are not all black but they should be mostly black.

## Pixmore School Association

The PSA are still collecting donations of Christmas clothing – jumpers, t-shirts – of all sizes for our Christmas Clothing sale on 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December. We are relying on donations so please consider us if you're having a clear-out! Last day for donations is **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**.

We will also be launching our annual Christmas Raffle in the next week. We've had some amazing prizes donated again by local people and businesses including over £200 Amazon vouchers, a



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Nintendo Switch console, almost £300 in supermarket vouchers and many more. We have been overwhelmed by how generous some of our local businesses and residents have been. Tickets will go on sale following the launch next week; they can be bought through ParentPay.

Many thanks to all those parents who have signed up their Amazon accounts to Amazon Smile. Your purchases, once registered, helps to raise money for the PSA. So far since my last newsletter, Amazon has raised **£186** for the PSA. Please do sign up!

Likewise, another way you could support the PSA is by nominating them for a £1000 prize from the Benefact Group's Movement for Good initiative. Parents can log on to the website and nominate the Pixmore School Association. The more votes we receive the better the chance of us receiving the money. The group give away 250 awards of £1000 at points throughout the year so please do support us and nominate the PSA.



<https://movementforgood.com/#nominateACharity>

Such a busy term so far and still lots more to come with Yr6's trip to the Milton Keynes Museum, assemblies for Years 3 and 5, Yr5's Victorian Day as well as all of the build up to our end of term performances!

We look forward to sharing what we've been doing in the next newsletter!

**Mrs Alex Evans & Mrs Sarah Inman**  
Co-Headteachers

#### Dates for the Diary

Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Children In Need – children come in non-school uniform for food bank donation
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 to Milton Keynes Museum County Table Tennis Finals
25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Yr5 Victorian Day
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Start of Decorations Week in school
28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Prospective Parent Tours in preparation for Junior Place applications (Yrs1&2)
1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Yr3 Assembly at 9.30am
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Yr5 Drumming assembly at 2.30pm Last day for PSA Christmas Clothing donations
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Yr3 Christmas Journey at St Paul's Church Last week of after school clubs



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7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Yr5 Family Drumming Workshop – limited places. Letter to come to book a place
9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Performance Club performance to parents 3.45pm PSA Christmas Clothing Sale 3-3.30pm (cash and card accepted)
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Year 3/4 Christmas Performance – letter to follow PSA Christmas Clothing Sale 3-3.30pm
14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Dinner, Jumper and Movie Afternoon
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Yr5 last swimming session
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Whole School Pantomime
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Year 5/6 Christmas Carol Concert at St Paul's Church – letter to follow
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	PSA Christmas Raffle at 9.10am Pixmore Christmas Podcast should go live
21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	End of Term – break up at 12pm. Please ensure your child is collected promptly on this day.
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET DAYS – School is closed to children on these days.
9 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	Children return to school