



Acting Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Inman
Assistant Headteachers: Mrs Sue Willans & Miss Charlotte Pocock

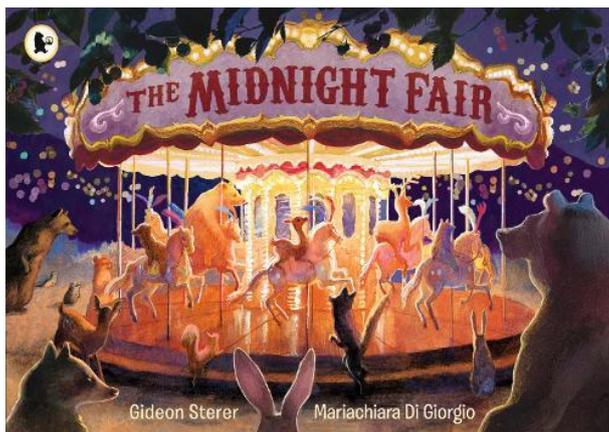
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Newsletter Spring Term 2023: **20th January 2023**

Happy New Year to all of our Pixmore families!

The Writing Project

It's been a very busy start to the term as we start the Writing Project focusing on a beautiful wordless picture book by Gideon Sterer called 'The Midnight Fair'. The children have been busy exploring the images, using drama to pretend we're at the fair, making inferences about the animal characters and beginning to plan their diary entries. As usual, we will be recognising and celebrating the efforts of our children in the Writing Awards in-school competition in a few weeks with a special assembly.



Some of the children will receive a special invitation to attend the Stevenage and North Herts Schools Writing Project Awards Evening at the Broadway Theatre on 9th February, where they will be competing against 17 other schools! Fingers crossed we come away with some trophies again this year!

Parents and carers will have an opportunity to come into school on 10th February at 2.45pm to view your child's writing project work in their book and on display around the school. We look forward to sharing their work with you then!

Peter Pan at St Francis School

On Thursday 2nd February, Years 5 & 6 have been invited to watch a performance of Peter Pan performed by pupils at St Francis. This is during the school day and the children will walk to and from the school for the performance. We've enjoyed their performances before and we know the children are in for a treat!



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Celebrating Achievements

We love celebrating the talents of our children: Carl in Year 5, who had spent a whole week completing it, brought this beautiful picture to me this week.

What an amazing talent! Well done Carl!

Ava in Year 5, who wrote a card to King Charles, sending condolences for the death of the Queen and a message of support for his new reign, also visited me. She had a lovely letter back from Buckingham Palace from the King's Personal Secretary!

Definitely something to keep and treasure, Ava!



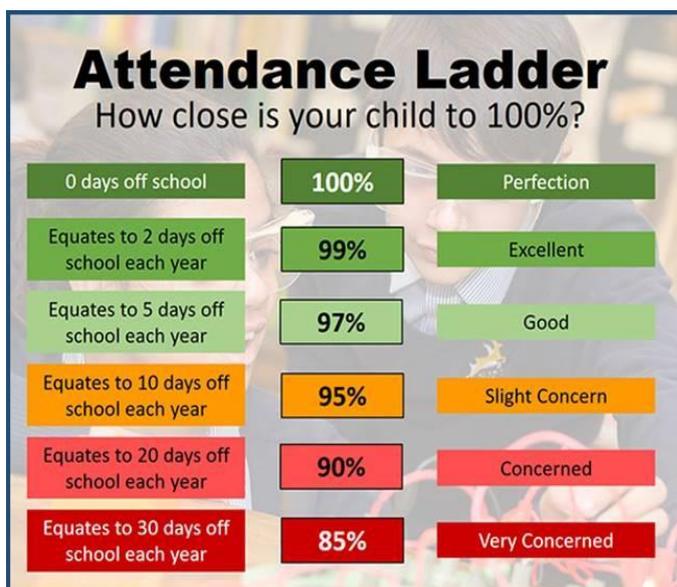
Parents and carers are invited to join Mrs Connor on Tuesday 7th February from 2-3pm for an informal Parent Forum to share the way we work to support and engage parents to help their children at Pixmore, and to seek your views on what we do well, and what we could do better. We welcome your views, and 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.

Attendance and Punctuality

As you know, low attendance at school can have a devastating impact on a child's future prospects, development and self-esteem. This also applies to lost time in the mornings, where children are arriving at school late as they miss important learning such as times tables, spelling, phonics and reading. Teaching today builds on previous learning; where children regularly miss lessons, they miss the crucial learning on which they are trying to build. As such, we would ask that every effort is made to ensure that your child attends school regularly and that they arrive on time.

During COVID, the school's attendance was adapted in line with HCC's advice, but with the continuing decline of COVID's effect on us, we are now returning to Hertfordshire's County Council recommended approach of **100% attendance**.





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This will involve careful monitoring of attendance and lateness and, where necessary, the writing of a letter home to alert parents of the situation. Regrettably, it may be necessary to take matters further if there is no willingness to work with us or no improvement in the child's attendance or lateness.

In our experience, when parents and school work together, all issues can be overcome, and we shall continue to try our best to support our families as best we can. Obviously, if there are concerns about your child's medical condition, you should take all necessary steps and use your best judgement as to whether they should attend school. **As 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 Strep A, Scarlet Fever, 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. 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



Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets, Christmas jumpers or teas/coffees at the Year 3/4 performance before Christmas. Added to the Amazon Smile contributions and the donations made by parents at both the Year 3/4 performance and the Year 5/6 Carol Concert, we have raised **£1909.27**. There is also a possibility that a local company may be able to match this funding, which is fantastic!

The PSA met on this week to begin planning events for this term and to begin thinking about the summer term as well. Keep an eye out for more details!

We've got such a lot lined up for later this term including our year group assemblies, the Writing Project open afternoon, Safer Internet Day, World Book Day, the Scholastic Book Fair, STEM Week and our Easter day!

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

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Academic Year 2022-23

SPRING TERM 2023

30 January	Yr4 Anglo-Saxon Workshop
2 February	Yrs 5 & 6 St Francis to watch Peter Pan
3 February	In-School Writing Awards Assembly
7 February	Safer Internet Week
9 February	Stevenage and North Herts Schools Writing Project Awards Eventing at the Broadway Theatre
10 February	Year 4 Assembly to parents 2.20pm Writing Project Open Afternoon from 2.45pm
13 – 17 February	HALF TERM
1-3 March	Book Fair (3.30-4.30pm in school dining room)
2 March	Year 6 Assembly to parents (TBC) World Book Day
13-17 March	STEM Week
20 March	Year 5 Easter Journey at St Paul's Church
23 March	Year 5 Assembly to parents (TBC)
24 March	Academic Spring Term Report
28 March	Parent Consultations (details to follow)
30 March	Parent Consultations (details to follow)
31 March	End of Term (NORMAL FINISH AT 3.15pm)

SUMMER TERM 2023

17 March	Children return to school
1 May	BANK Holiday – School Closed
8 May	BANK Holiday – School Closed
9-12 May	SATs week
26 May	Occasional Day – School Closed
29 May – 2 June	HALF TERM
19-23 June	Yr6 Residential to JCA Activity Centre
13 July	Transition Day
21 July	End of Term (EARLY FINISH AT 2PM)