

21st July 2017

Sports Afternoon 2017

Congratulations to Team Peacock who raised the trophy at Wednesday's Sports Afternoon.



House Captains for Team Peacock – Charlie, Jenny and Albert.

Happy Summer Holidays!

All the staff at Pirton School would like to say a very big well done to all the children for working so hard this year. We would also like to thank to all our parents and carers for their continued support.

As we say goodbye to all our Year 6 children, we wish them all the very best as they move on to the next stage of their school life – we will miss you but we know you will be great at your new schools. Keep up the good work!

Finally, we wish you all a very happy and safe summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 5th September.



A Message from the PSA

Jo, Lizzie, Bharathi, Lindsey and Vicky of the PSA committee would like to say a very big Thank You to all individuals who have supported fundraising events over the year.

Our fundraising activities this year have helped to achieve our goals of:

1. Providing each class with a cash donation to spend on additional learning materials of the teacher/pupils choice.
2. Funding an external London theatre company to run a whole school drama day.
3. Enabling the whole school annual panto trip by funding the cost of coaches.
4. Supporting the cost of the annual Christmas School Disco.
5. Ensuring our school leavers leave with a lasting souvenir...their school leaving hoodies!

Summer BBQ

With particular thanks to Richard Easterbrook, Matt Brown, Tom Henry, Darren Goldsmith, Matt Robbins and Mario Varadi, who managed to chef our BBQ on what was an exceptionally hot and sunny day. Thank you to all involved on the day. Our fundraising efforts at the fair raised £750 for the school.

Sponsored Walk/Run

Also a massive Thank You to all those families who participated in the sponsored walk/ride in aid of meningitis and the PSA fundraising. This event helped raise a total of £1400. Particular thanks to Jothi and his family. A lovely afternoon which hopefully we can repeat in the next school year.

Have a great summer break. Please look out for events running in the new term and continue to lend your support in whichever way you can.
PSA committee

Update from the Governors

As the school year comes to an end, I wanted to update you on some of the recent activities of the Governors at Pirton School.

Firstly, we are all really pleased to see Mrs Webb back at school. A huge thank you to all the teachers, TAs and support staff, especially to Mrs Fenner and Mrs Bailey for keeping the show on the road during her absence earlier this term.

We have welcomed a number of new governors this year – Lorna Sexton, Bharathi Brown, Helen Park and Alison Sugden. Thank you for volunteering for this important role!

Governors hold the school to account for the progress and achievement of our children. We do this by:

- Being involved in putting together the School Development Plan each year – this plan outlines the priorities for the school in order for it to improve.
- Regularly monitoring progress of the actions in this Plan through discussion in meetings, looking at data and visiting the school regularly.

This year governors have:

- Worked closely with the senior leadership team to manage staff absences to make sure that all the children have consistent, good quality education.
- Visited the school to monitor progress on phonics, safeguarding, maths, marking and pupil feedback. The reports from these visits are circulated to all staff and are also subject to further scrutiny by the curriculum committee and the full Governing Body.
- Conducted our annual staff survey as part of our staff wellbeing responsibility.
- Been involved with discussions with Hertfordshire County Council over possible school expansion, particularly in light of the potential new development in Pirton.
- Discussed, set and balanced an increasingly tight budget.
- Heard feedback from external reviews of safeguarding and school progress.
- Analysed and discussed termly data reports so that we can keep track of school improvement and areas for extra focus.
- Run a parent survey so we can get a complete picture of what you think the school does well and where we need to improve.

Finally, I will be stepping down at the end of this term after seven years as a Governor and four as Chair. Thank you to all the parents, staff and governors for your support over these years! I leave the Governing Body in the capable hands of Neil Ireland, who has been a Governor at Pirton for 4 years and will be an excellent Chair to take the school forward.

Have a great summer break.

Nicola Robbins, Chair of Governors

If you have any feedback or comments please contact us using our email address governor@pirton.herts.sch.uk (this goes directly to the Chair of Governors) or do speak to one of us directly.

Cook Awards

The Cook family kindly present a Key Stage 1 and a Key Stage 2 Award at the end of each academic year to celebrate the achievements made by two pupils over the course of each key stage. The Cook family have a long association with Pirton School and it is always a pleasure to welcome them to our Leavers' Assembly to make the presentation. At the Leavers' Assembly this morning, Daisy was presented with the Key Stage 2 Award and Elijah was presented with the Key Stage 1 Award.



Consultation - Future of Children's Centres, Health Visiting and School Nursing Services in Hertfordshire

For more information and to respond to Hertfordshire's consultation, please use the following link:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/familycentrecommissioning

The consultation closes on Wednesday 20th September 2017. There is also an open meeting on Wednesday 16 August from 5pm to 7pm at Shephall Children's Centre in Stevenage SG2 9SD.

School Meals – Price Increase

As announced in a previous newsletter, school meals charges for pupils in Years 3 to 6 will cost £2.40 per meal from September. This increase is due to the introduction of the National Living Wage and Apprenticeship Levy as well as pension cost increases.

Meals for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 continue to be fully funded and there is no cost to parents.



Parent Information Meetings – Autumn Term

The times and dates of Parent Information sessions for the start of the Autumn Term are set out below. The purpose of these sessions is to provide parents and carers with more detailed information about the requirements and expectations for the class, to be able to share some of the teaching strategies that will be used and to explain how you can help develop these further at home. The sessions will be held in the respective classrooms at 3pm on the selected day.

Class 1 - 3pm	Tuesday 12 th September
Class 2 - 3pm	Wednesday 13 th September
Class 3 - 3pm	Friday 15 th September
Class 4 - 3pm	Monday 11 th September
Class 5 - 3pm	Thursday 14 th September



Staffing News

We are sorry to say goodbye to three members of staff as the summer term comes to a close – to Mr Humphries as he moves to a new school in Norfolk, to Mr Brunning as he starts his university studies and to Mr Stewart as he leaves at the end of his fixed term contract. The children presented gifts to our departing staff in this morning's assembly and we wish them all the very best for the future.

Good Bye

At the start of the Autumn Term we look forward to welcoming Mrs Burgess as Class 1 teacher. Mrs Burgess has already been in school this term to meet with our new Reception pupils.

HELLO

Summer Reading Challenge

Hertfordshire Libraries have launched their National Summer Reading Challenge and we know that several of our pupils have already commenced the challenge. This year's theme is entitled 'Animal Agents'.

Pupils are challenged to read six library books or eBooks of their choice during the holidays.

Animal Agent packs are available in Hertfordshire libraries (while stocks last) and will end on Saturday 9th September. Challenge certificates should be brought into school and will be celebrated at one of our assemblies in September.



Museum Explorer Passport

Museums in Herts and Beds have teamed up to offer a free passport for children and families to take part in a series of challenges and free craft activities.

Children will get a stamp for each challenge they complete which goes towards an Arts Award Discover certificate.

You can collect your free passport from any participating museum in the two counties. More information is available at <https://museumexplorerpassport.com/>

September Inset Day

Monday 4th September is an Inset Day. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 5th September.

Families Feeling Safe – Autumn Programme

We have received information about the programme of events from Families Feeling Safe for the Autumn Term. These meetings are funded by the Herts County Council Targeted Parent Fund and are therefore free to attend. Meetings take place in Stevenage and Letchworth.

Sessions include Protective Behaviours for Mums, Dads and Carers of children aged 5-19 and a separate series of meetings especially for Dads. The programme of meetings aims to give practical ideas and strategies to parents to help their children build confidence, deal with new situations, improve communication and ways to keep children feeling safe.

Further information is attached to this newsletter and displayed on our noticeboard at the main entrance to the school or visit www.familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk

SEND Working Party

Mrs Marsh, our SENCo (Special Needs Coordinator) is interested in hearing from any parents who would like to be part of an SEND working party in September. The commitment would be one hour, once each term to review the school's information report and to look at our policies and approach to SEND. Coffee and treats will be provided!!

If you are interested please speak to Mrs Marsh or the school office letting us know what times and days suit you best. Alternatively, please email Mrs Marsh on senco@pirton.herts.sch.uk



Year 5 Residential Visit to Boreatton Park

A meeting for parents of pupils participating in the residential trip to Boreatton Park in September will take place on Monday 18th September at 3.45pm in Class 4. This will be an opportunity for parents to learn more about the visit and to meet with staff to talk about any concerns relating to their child. There will also be the opportunity to complete any medication forms which will be needed for the trip.

Clubs for September

The following Clubs will take place in September:

Monday	Book Club – Key Stage 2 Rising Stars Activity Club – all ages Orchestra – Key Stage 2
Tuesday	Football Club – Key Stage 2 Feel Good Club – all ages Choir – all ages
Wednesday	Chess Club – all ages Lego Club – all ages
Thursday	Pom Pom Club – all ages Tennis Club – all ages Gardening Club – Classes 4 & 5 Ickle Drama – all ages Code Club – Classes 4 & 5
Friday	Football Club – Key Stage 1 Homework Club – Key Stage 2



Further information and booking forms will be sent out at the start of the Autumn Term. Clubs may change throughout the year.

School's Out School's Out School's Out For Summer!!! For Summer!!! For Summer!!!

Autumn Term 2017

Monday 4 th September	Inset Day – school closed for pupils
Tuesday 5 th September	Autumn Term starts for pupils
Monday 11 th September	Class 4 Parent Information Session 3.00pm
Tuesday 12 th September	Class 1 Parent Information Session 3.00pm
Wednesday 13 th September	Class 5 swimming starts Class 2 Parent Information Session 3.00pm
Thursday 14 th September	Class 5 Parent Information Session 3.00pm
Friday 15 th September	Class 3 Parent Information Session 3.00pm
Monday 18 th September	Year 5 Boreatton Park Parent Meeting 3.45pm Class 4
Monday 25 th to Friday 28 th Sept	Year 5 residential visit to Boreatton Park
Thursday 5 th October	Street Food themed Lunch available (details to follow)
Wednesday 11 th October	School Book Fair
Tuesday 17 th October	Individual Photos

Term Dates 2017-2018

Autumn Term 2017

Wednesday 30th August – Tuesday 19th December 2017

Half Term: Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October 2017

Occasional Days: Wednesday 30th August, Thursday 31st August, Friday 1st September 2017

INSET Day: Monday 4th September 2017

Occasional Day: Friday 1st December 2017

Spring Term 2018

Wednesday 3rd January – Thursday 29th March 2018

Half Term: Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February 2018

INSET Day: Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Summer Term 2018

Monday 16th April – Friday 27th July 2018

Half Term: Monday 28th May – Friday 1st June 2018

Bank Holiday: Monday 7th May 2018

INSET days: Friday 25th May, Monday 4th June, Wednesday 25th July 2018

Occasional Days: Thursday 26th July, Friday 27th July 2018

School Term Dates for 2018-19 can also be found on the following link:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/schlfe/termdates/>