

Staffing News

After many years' service at Pirton School Miss Banks has taken the decision to resign. It is thanks to her particular enthusiasm for music and gardening that we have had many successful past productions and our allotments were established. Gardening Club goes from strength to strength and we hope we have 'grown' some budding horticulturists of the future. We send Miss Banks every good wish for the future and we will say our goodbyes at the end of this term.

We are pleased that Mrs MacKellar will remain teaching in Class 4 until Christmas and that Mrs Lay has been appointed to teach in Class 5 to cover Mrs Fenner's Acting Head appointment for the remainder of the academic year. Mrs Lay will teach in Class 5 from Monday to Thursday each week and Mrs Fenner on Fridays. Mrs MacKellar and Mrs Lay are both well known to the children and we are delighted that they are part of our teaching team.

Good Bye

Hello!

Ex-Pupil Oli White visits Pirton School

Former pupil and celebrated Vlogger Oli White visited us in school this week. He spoke to the children in Assembly and spent time answering questions in each class. We hope his visit will inspire our current pupils to follow their dreams and achieve their aims. Oli will hopefully be visiting us again in the near future. Oli has fond memories of his time at Pirton School and is still in touch with some of his old classmates. Here he is with pupils at morning break.



PSA AGM

A reminder that Pirton School Association are holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 14th November in the school hall at 7.30pm. New members are needed to ensure the successful running of the charity and this year they are specifically looking for volunteers to take on the role of Treasurer as well as new Committee members.

The PSA had a very successful year last year with a range of events and they hope to replicate their success to ensure that the school benefits from additional educational resources and activities secured by their fundraising activities.

So if you would like to be involved or simply to hear about the work of the PSA, come along on the 14th to find out more. For further information please contact the current Chair of the PSA Jo Brown via the school office.

Halloween Disco

The PSA are holding a children's Halloween Disco in the School Hall on Sunday 29th October between 3pm and 5pm. Lots of activities for all to enjoy. Information has already been sent home and is attached to this newsletter.



Healthy Snacks

Can we please remind parents that snacks being sent into school for break time must be healthy. We do not allow crisps and chocolate.

Please also avoid snacks which contain nuts as we have several children with severe allergies.

Thank you for helping to keep the school a healthy and safe place for our pupils.

Bags 2 School Collections

Collections for this year have been scheduled for the following dates:

Tuesday 5th December 2017
Friday 23rd March 2018

Blue bags will be distributed in mid-November so if you are sorting out your wardrobes and cupboards ready for winter, please remember these dates and donate any unwanted clothes to this collection.

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported the annual Scholastic Book Fair. We managed to raise over £600 which means we can 'spend' £300 in commission on new books for the classrooms and library.



PSA Christmas Cards Project

We are once again enabling families to produce professionally printed Christmas cards through a company called APfS. After half term, the children will produce their designs in school and these will be sent direct to APfS. Parents will then be able to view the cards online and make an order. This is a slightly different process to previous years.

Last year we experienced major problems in ordering cards but we are reassured that this new process along with the news that APfS have increased the number of servers facilitating the ordering process from one to 32, that these issues will not be repeated. The Christmas Card project has always been a successful fundraiser for the PSA and we hope families will support the project again this year.

Codes for making online orders will be issued on 22nd November with an ordering deadline of 29th November and delivery of cards to school by 7th December. Watch out for further information in forthcoming newsletters.



Primary & Secondary Admissions 2018

The closing date for Secondary School applications is Tuesday 31st October 2017. Don't forget this important date!

Online applications can be made on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions.

The application process for Primary admissions for children born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 opens on Monday 6th November 2017 with the closing date deadline of 15th January 2018.

We will be holding an **Open Morning** for prospective parents on Friday 24th November between 9am and 11am.

Autumn and Winter Lunch Menu

New Autumn / Winter menus from Herts Catering Ltd are being sent home with this newsletter. The new menu will start after the half term holiday.

Outdoor PE Kit and Uniform

As the colder winter weather commences, a reminder that pupils should have jogging bottoms in their PE kits. PE takes place outside whenever possible over the winter months.

A reminder too that although boots can be worn on the journey to school and in the playground, pupils should change into school shoes in the classroom. Thank you for your support.

Operation Christmas Child – Shoebox Appeal

Operation Christmas Child is the largest children's Christmas project sending gifts in shoe boxes to children in hospitals, orphanages, homeless shelters and impoverished neighbourhoods in the poorest parts of the world and has been well supported by pupils and parents in recent years. The children heard about the scheme in one of our assemblies and information leaflets were sent home last week.

The collection of shoe boxes in Pirton is being kindly organised by St Mary's Church. The last day for returning filled shoe boxes is **Monday 8th November**.

This year pre-wrapped boxes are available from the school office costing 50p each.

Thank you in advance for your support for this village project.



Parent Consultation Evenings

Appointment times for this term's Parent Consultation Meetings are being sent home today.

Mrs Fenner will be leading the Class 5 parent meetings and therefore will be unavailable as Acting Head to meet with parents on these evenings. However, she is happy to make a separate appointment if you would like to meet with her – please contact the school office who will book a convenient slot in the diary.

Maths Evening for Parents

We are holding a Numeracy Information Evening on Thursday 9th November to inform parents of current maths strategies so that parents can understand and help their children with maths being taught in school.

Please complete and return the slip at the end of this newsletter to let us know whether you will be attending. We look forward to seeing you there!



Harvest Assembly

Thank you to all our families who generously donated gifts of food at this week's Harvest Assembly which took place on Tuesday afternoon. We have now passed the food donations on to the Hitchin Food Bank who provide emergency food for local people in crisis.



Thank you also to Rev Mary de Salis from St Mary's Church who visited school to conduct the Harvest Assembly.

Open Morning for Prospective Parents

Our Open Morning for prospective families will take place on Friday 24th November between 9am and 11am. Our Year 6 pupils will escort families around school and there will be the opportunity to talk to Mrs Fenner at the end of the tour to answer any questions you may have. There is no need to book – just turn up on the morning.

Please pass this information onto family, friends and neighbours who have children due to start school in September 2018.

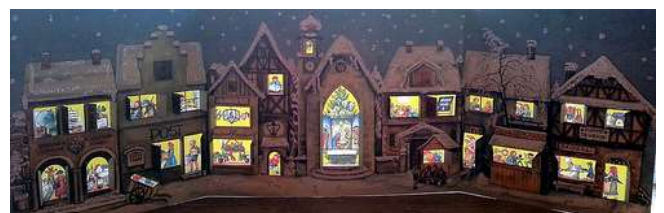
Royal British Legion Poppy Day Appeal

After the half term holiday we will be selling poppies on behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The collection box will be taken round all the classes each morning and will also be available at the office for parents to contribute.



Advent Windows

Information about a giant village advent calendar being organised by St Mary's Church is attached to this newsletter for information. If you would like to take part, please contact Rev Mary.



Our Values

The DfE (Department for Education) requires schools to promote the fundamental values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Each month we launch a topic linked to one of these values in a school assembly and this feeds into our PHSCE lessons as well as other areas of our curriculum and are embedded in our daily practice.

In November our value will be
CONSIDERATION



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Maths Information Evening – Thursday 9th November

Name (s).....

I / We will / will not be able to attend the Maths Information Evening.

Signed

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E-Safety Information Evening – Monday 27th November

Name (s).....

I / We will / will not be able to attend the E-Safety Information Evening.

Signed

Autumn Term Dates 2017

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Sunday 29 th October | PSA Halloween Disco – 3pm to 5pm School Hall |
| Tuesday 31 st October | Secondary School application deadline PSA Halloween Cake Sale – 3.15pm on playground |
| Wednesday 1 st November | Class 4 swimming starts Parent Consultation Meetings – 5pm – 8pm |
| Thursday 2 nd November | Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm-6pm |
| Friday 3 rd November | Nasal Flu Vaccines |
| Saturday 4 th November | PSA Food Stall at Village Bonfire Night |
| Thursday 9 th November | Maths Information Evening 6.30pm School Hall |
| Tuesday 14 th November | Children In Need visit from Pudsey Bear PSA AGM 7.30pm School Hall |
| Friday 17 th November | Class 5 trip to Bletchley Park |
| Friday 24 th November | Open Morning for Prospective Parents 9am – 11am |
| Saturday 25 th November | PSA Christmas Fair 12.30pm Village Hall |
| Monday 27 th November | E-Safety Parent Information Evening 7pm (new date) |
| Tuesday 28 th November | Football Rally |
| Friday 1 st December | Occasional Day – school closed |
| Tuesday 5 th December | PSA Bags2School Clothes Collection |
| Wednesday 6 th December | Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance – 2pm in the School Hall |
| Thursday 7 th December | Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance – 6.30pm in the School Hall |
| Friday 8 th December | Christmas Crafts Afternoon |
| Tuesday 12 th December | Christmas Lunch (change of date) |
| Wednesday 13 th December | Key Stage 2 Lessons & Carols – 2pm at St Mary's |
| Thursday 14 th December | Key Stage 2 Lessons & Carols – 6.30pm at St Mary's |
| Monday 18 th December | PSA Children's Christmas discos 4pm to 7.30pm |
| Tuesday 19 th December | End of term |

Spring Term Dates 2018

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| Wednesday 3 rd January | INSET Day – school closed for pupils |
| Thursday 4 th January | Spring Term begins |
| Friday 5 th January | Whole school panto trip to Stevenage |
| Wednesday 10 th January | Class 3 swimming starts |
| Friday 12 th January | Class 5 Assembly – 9am School Hall |
| Friday 19 th January | Class 4 Assembly |
| Wednesday 26 th January | Class 3 Assembly |
| Friday 2 nd February | Class 2 Assembly |
| Monday 5 th February | Young Voices Concert (Years 4, 5 & 6), O2 Arena |
| Friday 9 th February | Class 1 Assembly |
| Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th February | Half Term holiday – school closed |
| Tuesday 20 th February | Parent Consultation Meetings – 3.30pm – 6.00pm |
| Wednesday 21 st February | Class 2 swimming starts Parent Consultation Meetings – 5pm – 8pm |
| Thursday 1 st March | World Book Day |
| Friday 23 rd March | PSA Bags2School Clothes Collection |
| Thursday 29 th March | End of term |

Summer Term Dates 2018

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| Monday 16 th April | First day of Summer Term |
| Wednesday 18 th April | Class 1 swimming starts |
| Monday 7 th May | Bank Holiday – school closed |
| Monday 14 th to Friday 18 th May | Year 6 SATS Week |
| Friday 25 th May | Inset Day – school closed |
| Monday 28 th May to Friday 1 st June | Half Term holiday – school closed |
| Monday 4 th June | Inset Day – school closed |
| Monday 11 th to Friday 15 th June | Year 1 Phonics Testing |
| Tuesday 12 th June | Athletics Rally |
| Friday 15 th June | Class photographs |
| Wednesday 4 th July | Key Stage 2 Performance 2pm and 6.30 pm |
| Thursday 5 th July | Key Stage 2 Performance 6.30pm |
| Friday 6 th July | Reports to Parents |
| Wednesday 11 th July | Sports Afternoon |
| Thursday 12 th July | Secondary Transfer Day (to be confirmed) |
| Monday 16 th July | Open Session for Parents re Reports – 3.30 – 5pm |
| Wednesday 18 th July | Reserve Sports Afternoon |
| Tuesday 24 th July | Leavers' Assembly – 9am End of term |

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/>