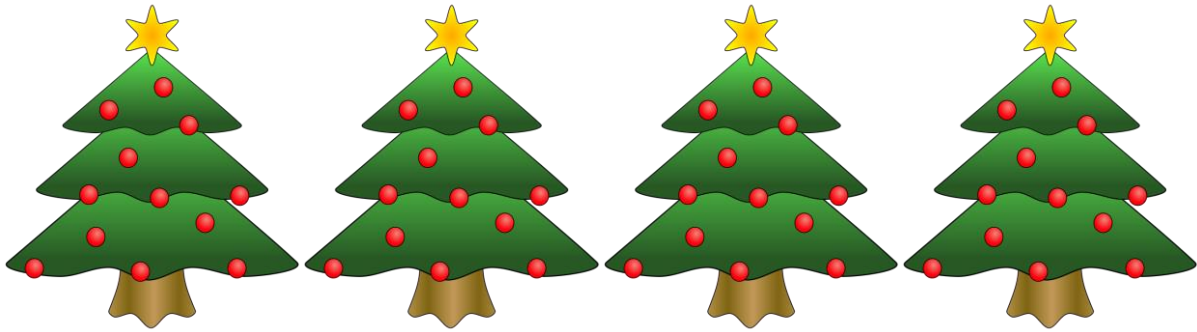




8<sup>th</sup> December 2017

## Christmas Festivities



We are now in the midst of our exciting Christmas activities.

We started our Christmas celebrations this week with the Nativity performance of 'Lights, Camel, Action!' performed by our Key Stage 1 pupils. Didn't they do well?! Well done Years Reception, 1 and 2.

We continued our festivities with our Crafts Afternoon today. A big, big thank you to all our parent helpers! We have never had so many offers of help.

Next week it is the turn of Key Stage 2 who will give a Christmas Carol Concert at St Mary's Church. We look forward to another wonderful concert.

Our whole school Christmas Lunch is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December and we end the Christmas season with the discos on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you to the PSA for organising the discos again this year.

## Staffing News

We are delighted to announce that Mrs MacKellar will continue to teach Class 4 next term.

After working at Pirton School for twelve years having joined us as a newly qualified teacher, Mrs Herbaut will be moving on to a new position in Hertfordshire after February half term. We are actively seeking the best quality replacement and will keep you informed of progress when we have further news.

Miss McDonald has been appointed Senior Teacher from January until the end of the academic year to support leadership across the school.

## PSA Children's Christmas Discos

The Christmas discos will take place in the School Hall on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3	4pm to 5.15pm
Years 4, 5 and 6	5.30pm to 7pm

Entry will cost £1.50 per child. Snacks and drinks can also be purchased for a small charge. Many thanks to the PSA for organising the discos again this year.

## Rural Football Tournament

We took part in the Rural Sports Football Tournament again this year and although we didn't win, we enjoyed taking part. A big thank you to parents who came along and supported us and especially to Mrs Budd who accompanied us to the event and to Mr Abrook for his photography. Here is a photo of this year's team.



## SEND News

A reminder that free online news and information about inclusive sports, courses, support for parents, carers and young people and much more is produced by HAND (Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database). Their regular newsletter can be found on their website at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/handnews/](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/handnews/)

## Pirton Boxing Day Run

Entries for the Pirton Boxing Day Run are open on their website. House points will be awarded to any pupil taking part in this year's event. It is a real family occasion with runs for all abilities and ages. Don't forget to bring your participant's badge into school after the Christmas holidays.

**Run off your turkey at the  
Pirton Boxing Day Run**  
Kids, walkers, 2.5 and 3.2 mile events

**Method** **Buff** Book now to guarantee your place.  
Functional Safety Every Day Lower prices before December.

## Primary Admissions 2018

The application process for Primary admissions for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 opened on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017 with the closing date deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Online applications can be made on [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions).

## 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 pupils should wear school shoes in the classroom.

## Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas lunch takes place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. We are inviting pupils to come to school in a Christmas jumper or hat. We would welcome a £1 donation towards our chosen charities for this year – Blue Cross, NSPCC and WaterAid.



## Snow Clearance

In the event of icy or snowy weather we need to spread rock salt on the playground and car park before staff and children arrive at school. This is a major task for our premises staff and we would appreciate any help parents are able to offer. If you would like to help or would like more information, please speak to Mrs Bailey in the school office. Thank you!

## Christmas Hamper Appeal

Schools in the Hitchin area have agreed to support the Christmas Hamper Appeal being organised by Hitchin Foodbank.

At Pirton School we have offered to supply packets of stuffing so if you would like to add a box of Paxo or similar to your next shop we would be really pleased to receive a donation to pass on to this Appeal.

## Parent View

Parent View gives parents the opportunity to tell Ofsted what they think about their child's school. Surveys can be completed at any time. With this newsletter we are distributing the web address to Parent View along with a username and password to access the short survey. Please take a minute to visit Parent View to answer the 12 short questions. Many thanks.

## Parent Information Meetings

The times and dates of Parent Information sessions for the Spring Term are set out below. These sessions provide parents with information about the expectations for the class, share some of the teaching strategies that will be used and explain how you can help develop these further at home. The sessions will be held in the respective classrooms.

<b>Class 1</b> - 3pm	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Class 2</b> - 3pm	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Class 3</b> - 3pm	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Class 4</b> - 3pm	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Class 5</b> - 3pm	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January

## Class Assemblies

Class Assemblies will take place in the New Year.

Parents are invited to attend the assembly of the class in which their children are taking part.

All assemblies will start at 9am in the School Hall.

Class 5	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January
Class 4	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January
Class 3	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January
Class 2	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February
Class 1	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February

## School Closure Information – Important Update

A reminder that last year Herts County Council launched a new Schools Closure Notification System which will allow parents to receive a text or email if the school closes. In order to receive a text or email parents will need to register with the new system which is hosted by a company called Everbridge.

To register, please visit <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489> where you will be directed to the 'Sign Up' page. Click on the 'sign up' button located at the top right hand corner of the page on the grey strip and from there follow the instructions. It should take no more than a few minutes to register and you will be able to edit your information at any time, eg change of mobile number or email address. If you have children at more than one Hertfordshire school, you can register for those schools in a single registration process. Once signed up, you will receive messages relating to the status of schools during severe winter weather. This new system allows you to receive this information automatically and so saving parents the need to listen to radio stations or wait for a telephone call.



We will also continue to use the Cascade system and up to date cascade lists have recently been distributed. Please destroy any old cascades as phone numbers may have changed and keep this information to hand over the winter months.

Information about school closures across Hertfordshire will continue to be broadcast on BBC Three Counties Radio and announcements made on 106.7 and 106.9 BOBfm, Heart 96.9 Home Counties and Heart 97.6 Home Counties. If you don't have access to a radio, links to school closure information can be found on the following website: [www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties](http://www.bbc.co.uk/threecounties)

A decision to close the school is never taken lightly. Once a decision has been made, the school answer phone will announce if school is closed and a Parentmail message will also be sent out.

## Parent Evenings – Change of Date

Please note a change of date for our spring Parent Evenings. They will now take place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February from 3.30pm to 6pm and on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February from 5pm to 8pm.

## Door Entry System

We are still getting used to our new door entry system. The new system has a camera so that we can see who is at the door. There is also a speaking facility. Can we please ask parents to try to stand in front of the camera and also to state their name if asked for clarification. This will enable us to ensure we only allow authorised personnel on to the school premises.

## Autumn Term Dates 2017

Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 2 Lessons & Carols – 2pm at St Mary's
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 2 Lessons & Carols – 6.30pm at St Mary's
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	PSA Children's Christmas discos
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term

## Spring Term Dates 2018

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	INSET Day – school closed for pupils
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Spring Term begins
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Whole school panto trip to Stevenage
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 1 Parent Information Meeting – 3pm
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 5 Parent Information Meeting – 3pm
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 3 swimming starts Class 2 Parent Information Meeting – 3pm
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 3 Parent Information Meeting – 3pm
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 5 Assembly – 9am School Hall Class 4 Parent Information Meeting – 3pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 4 Assembly
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Class 3 Assembly
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Class 2 Assembly
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Young Voices Concert (Years 4, 5 & 6), O2 Arena
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultation Meetings – 3.30pm – 6.00pm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultation Meetings – 5pm – 8pm
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Class 1 Assembly
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term holiday – school closed
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Class 2 swimming starts
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Whole school Workshop with Gordon Craig Theatre
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	World Book Day
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Knex Challenge
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Cycle Training – Level 1 and Level 2
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	PSA Bags2School Clothes Collection Sport Relief
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	End of term

## Summer Term Dates 2018

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

## Term Dates 2017-2018

### Spring Term 2018

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018  
 Half Term: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
**INSET Day: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018**

### Summer Term 2018

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
 Half Term: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018  
**Bank Holiday: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018**  
**INSET days: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018**  
**Occasional Days: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018**