

## New Website Launch

We have refurbished our school website and hope that you will like the changes. We would welcome any feedback and suggestions you may have to improve it further. The address remains the same and should be available for you to see early next week.

[www.pirtonschool.org.uk](http://www.pirtonschool.org.uk)

## Parent2Parent

As mentioned in the last newsletter Parent2Parent® will soon be available for parents at Pirton School. The programme has been developed by Herts for Learning in response to national research which has repeatedly demonstrated that parents and carers are the most influential factor in the long-term academic success of their children.

The Parent2Parent® programme is not designed to challenge or promote any parenting style but shares a number of simple, proven and effective ideas that can be adopted to help your child be the best learner they can be. Parents and carers are offered manageable and practical ways of supporting learning through family life and are shown how making small adjustments to your approach at home could have a huge impact on your child's learning and long-term achievement. It is not focused on the curriculum and homework but on generic learning themes.

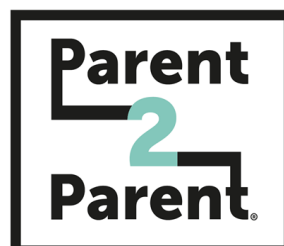
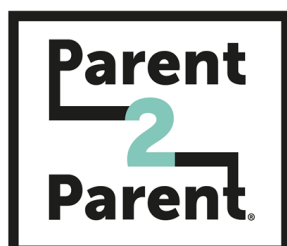
The programme runs over a six week period with modules focused on:

- Understanding how our minds work
- Understanding how confidence affects our learning
- Exploring how to model and build positive relationships
- Understanding how we learn and why this is important
- Developing ways to support the growth of our child's talents and skills
- Understanding the importance of thinking

A representative from Parent2Parent will be holding a stall at our Parent Consultation meeting on Tuesday 6th February from 3.15 pm in the School Hall. Alternatively you can email or phone Mrs Marsh at school for more information – [senco@pirton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:senco@pirton.herts.sch.uk) .

We are looking at running the sessions in the first half of the Summer Term. Please note that spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

If successful, we will try to arrange a further series of sessions so make sure you register your interest with Mrs Marsh so that we can build this into our future planning.



## Online Safety News

The Spring Term edition of Online Safety News from Herts for Learning is attached to this newsletter. Articles include updates on the use of Snapchat, Sarahah (an anonymous messaging app) and cyberbullying. Some of the information may be relevant to older children so please feel free to pass on to other families and friends who may find the information useful.

## Mad Science and Affinity Water H<sub>2</sub>O Assembly

The children enjoyed an inspirational and rather wet assembly this week thanks to Mad Science and Affinity Water. We all learnt about valuable ways of saving water and great facts about the water cycle. Did you know that it takes two months for rainwater to reach us as drinking water?



## Working It Out Together

At the recent Parent Information Meetings, it was mentioned that Mrs Fenner aims to invite parents to 'Working It Out Together' sessions in order for parents to support and share their thoughts regarding various aspects of school, for example, homework, SEN, the school website, etc. A separate letter asking for your interest in these sessions and preferred time of availability will be sent home next week. Please let Mrs Fenner or the School Office know if you have any questions regarding this.

## 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.

As February approaches our value will change to TRUST. Some of our discussions in school will focus on Safer Internet Day, NSPCC Number Day and the work of the NSPCC charity, kindness to others, etc. Each month we will have a different focus so watch out for the notice on the entrance door and please discuss these changing values with your children.



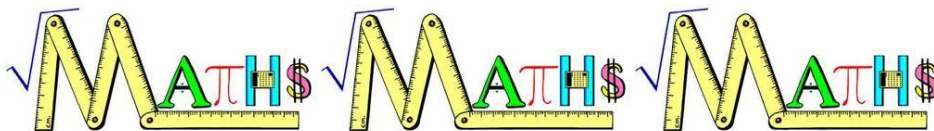
## Parent Evenings - Change of Date

Please note a change of date for Parent Evenings which will 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.

## A Plea from Wrens

If any of our families have any spare children's socks they no longer need, Wrens (Class 1) would be pleased to receive any donations.

## Maths Mornings



Our diary dates at the end of this newsletter show a schedule of Maths Mornings which will take place in March. This follows feedback from the Parents Maths Evenings held in the Autumn Term. The sessions will give parents the opportunity to come into school to learn about the maths currently being studied and also experience a maths lesson with their child.

## Big School's Birdwatch

To mark the renaming of our classes, each class will take part in the RSPB's Big School's Birdwatch before half term. It's not too late for families at home to sign up at [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch) and join in the count! You don't even have to leave the comfort of your home as the count can be completed from a view from the window. The Big Garden Birdwatch takes place this weekend and more information can be found on the RSPB website as mentioned above.

**Wrens**   **Robins**   **Swifts**   **Kestrels**   **Owls**

## Residential Visits 2018

This year's residential trips have now been confirmed as follows:

Year 6 will visit the Isle of Wight in June as a celebration of their time at Pirton School.

Our current Year 4 (Year 5 in September) will visit the PGL activity centre in Liddington, near Swindon to take part in a range of outdoor activities.

## Class Assemblies

We have enjoyed some great class assemblies so far this term. We still have Wrens and Robins to look forward to! 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 2      Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February  
Class 1      Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

## Spring Term Dates 2018

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	NSPCC Number Day
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	Safer Internet Day Parent Consultation Meetings – 3.30pm – 6.00pm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Tag Rugby Festival 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
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Class 5 Stone Age Day
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Class 2 swimming starts
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Class 5 visit from a Magistrate
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	World Book Day
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	9-10 Class 5 Maths Morning – parents invited 6.30pm Year 6 SATS Parent Information Meeting
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	9-10 Class 4 Maths Morning – parents invited Class 5 Knex Challenge
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	9-10 Class 3 Maths Morning – parents invited
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	9-10 Class 2 Maths Morning – parents invited
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	9-10 Class 1 Maths Morning – parents invited
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Cycle Training – Level 1 and Level 2
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Whole school North Herts Sports Partnership Day
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Classes 3 & 4 trip to Verulamium Museum, St Albans
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	PSA Bags2School Clothes Collection Sport Relief
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day 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
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Residential Visit to Isle of Wight
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**