

What a Busy Half Term!!

There have been so many exciting things which have happened this half term!

We have been celebrating each class's learning in assemblies; today Wrens told us all about dinosaurs and last week Robins Class shared their Ancient Egyptian day. Number Day raised a total of £109 for the NSPCC and we also welcomed some important visitors to school!

As mentioned in the letter sent home last week, a report from Ofsted will be available in the next few weeks and we will let parents know when this has been released. There is still so much to look forward to next half term with more wonderful learning opportunities planned and much to be proud of. The staff team hope that you all enjoy a good half term break.



Staffing

After 13 years as a teacher at Pirton School, we said farewell to Mrs Herbaut this week. She has jointly been responsible for teaching our Key Stage 1 children and also making puddings for our staff! As a school, we wish her every success with her future career.

Mrs Shaw, will be the new class teacher for Robins, along with Mrs Sokhi. Mrs Shaw will join us after Easter.

New Website Launch

Our new school website has now launched and we hope that you will like the changes. We would welcome any feedback and suggestions you may have – any errors you may spot, ideas for improvements, additional information you think may be valuable, etc.

www.pirtonschool.org.uk

e-Safety

To mark Safer Internet Day, the children have been set a challenge to design a new school poster outlining the importance of staying safe online. Entries should be in school on Thursday 22nd February and will be judged by staff and school council.

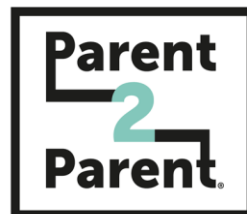
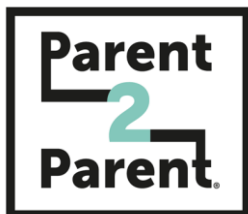
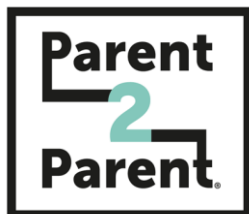
We have also sent home the e-safety agreement which we would like you to share with your child and return a signed copy to school. We will be updating our website with e-safety advice and information for parents.



Parent 2 Parent

Thank you to everyone who chatted with the Parent2Parent representative at Tuesday's Parent Consultation meeting. Those who missed speaking to her can email or phone Mrs Marsh at school for more information – senco@pirton.herts.sch.uk .

We will be running the Parent2Parent sessions in the first half of the Summer Term commencing on Tuesday 17 April at 9.15am. Mrs Marsh will be in touch with those parents who have indicated they would like to be involved after the half term holiday. If you have not already spoken with Mrs Marsh, there is still time to register your interest.



New Classroom

Our new classroom is nearing completion and we hope the handover will take place shortly after the February half term holiday. The contractors are organising the remaining installations and groundworks, and we are busy ordering furniture and ICT equipment. We will take occupation as soon as the new resources have been delivered. The classroom will be the new home for Owls (Class 5) and we are planning an Opening Ceremony – watch out for further details after the February break!

Working It Out Together

A letter was sent home yesterday asking for your interest in the proposed Working It Out Together sessions and preferred times of availability. Please speak to Mrs Fenner or the School Office if you would like further information. We look forward to receiving responses so that we can book the first session.



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.

Tag Rugby Tournament and Young Voices

Our children represented the school in two separate events this week. Our choir attended the O2 as part of Young Voices 2018 where they sang with 7800 other children. A big thank you to Mrs Keech and Mrs Woodhouse for their time and voices. Yesterday we took part in the NHSSP Tag Rugby tournament. Thank you to Mr Dawson for training the team and Miss McDonald for organising our participation in the tournament. We even had a surprise visit from Mr Brunning!



Governor Parent and Carer Survey Update

The Pirton School leadership team (the governors and the school senior leaders) are pleased to bring you up to date with some of the actions that have been taken in response to comments made by respondents to the parent and carer survey carried out last academic year.

- **Homework:** To make homework more varied and interesting for pupils, a topic grid presenting a wide range of activities from which children can select those that appeal to their interests has been introduced for pupils in Year 4 and above. Younger pupils receive optional topic homework from time to time. A new whole-school spelling strategy that encourages children to try a range of learning methods has also been introduced.
- **Reporting on progress and expectations; advice for helping at home:** A maths information session for parents and carers has been held to explain how this subject is taught in class. An open-classroom event is planned so that parents and carers can take part in a maths lesson alongside their children. Mrs Fenner has published the latest KS2 results in a recent newsletter, and has held parents' information sessions to discuss the school's vision, aims and recent progress. An e-safety evening was held to give information on keeping children safe on-line and when using technology.
- **Sports provision and clubs:** Members of Stevenage Borough Football Club are working with pupils to encourage physical activity and engagement in other areas of the curriculum. They hold lunchtime and afternoon clubs once a week. Additional equipment to encourage more active lunchtimes has also been purchased with funds from the Sports Premium Grant. Pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2 have a wide range of lunch-time and after-school clubs to participate in, with many staff members volunteering their time for this.
- **School residential trips:** An additional survey seeking views on the length and type of residential trip has been carried out. Response to this, as well as the existing contract with PGL Boreatton Park coming to an end, has led to a review of the Year 5 trip and a shorter, closer trip will be arranged.
- **Behaviour:** Children have taken part in anti-bullying week activities. Worry boxes have been introduced into classrooms for children to raise any worries they may have.
- **Lost property:** All named items from the lost-property box have been returned to pupils.

Spring Term Dates 2018

Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th February	Half Term holiday – school closed
Tuesday 20 th February	Owls (Class 5) Stone Age Workshop
Wednesday 21 st February	Robins (Class 2) swimming starts
Friday 23 rd February	Owls (Class 5) visit from a Magistrate
Thursday 1 st March	World Book Day – dress as a character 5.15-6.15pm World Book Day – Pyjama Storytime
Monday 5 th March	9-10 Owls (Class 5) Maths Morning – parents invited 6.30pm Year 6 SATS Parent Information Meeting
Tuesday 6 th March	9-10 Kestrels (Class 4) Maths Morning – parents invited Owls (Class 5) Knex Challenge
Wednesday 7 th March	9-10 Swifts (Class 3) Maths Morning – parents invited
Thursday 8 th March	9-10 Robins (Class 2) Maths Morning – parents invited NHSSP Netball Tournament
Friday 9 th March	9-10 Wrens (Class 1) Maths Morning – parents invited
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th March	Science Week Cycle Training – Level 1 and Level 2
Friday 16 th March	Whole school North Herts Sports Partnership Day
Thursday 22 nd March	Swifts & Kestrels (Classes 3 & 4) trip to Verulamium Museum, St Albans
Friday 23 rd March	PSA Bags2School Clothes Collection Sport Relief
Thursday 29 th March	Last day of term

Summer Term Dates 2018

Monday 16 th April	First day of Summer Term
Tuesday 17 th April	Parent2Parent sessions commence
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
Monday 25 th to Friday 29 th June	Year 6 Residential Visit to Isle of Wight
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

Spring Term 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