

7 September 2018

## A Message from Mrs Fenner

I hope that you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer holiday. It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school and they all look smart and ready for an exciting year ahead. A warm welcome also to our new parents and families.

## Welcome Back!

There have been a number of improvements made to the school building during the summer holidays; the EYFS outdoor area has been completed; the access to Kestrels class has been improved; new interactive screens have been fitted to three classes and there has also been a spot of painting. I'd also like to thank staff for all of their hard work in preparing classrooms after the class moves of last term. The school has definitely been a hive of activity in recent weeks!

Please do not hesitate to contact me via the School Office to arrange a meeting with myself if you have any concerns or issues at all. I greatly look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

### Staffing news

Welcome to Grace Reynolds who joins Wrens as teaching assistant. I know that you will want to join me in welcoming her to the staff team.

### Pirton Parent Teacher Association (PPTA)

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 18 September at 7.30pm. Please come along and find out what the committee have in store for the coming year, bring along your own ideas for discussion or just come along to meet other parents and have a chat.

Last year the PPTA helped to raise funds to purchase new Interactive Whiteboards (they are black!!) for our classrooms as well as contributing to the new Early Years and Key Stage 1 outdoor area. There will be an opportunity during the evening to see the whiteboards in action and to meet with Mrs Fenner who will explain the exciting new resources in the outdoor area.

Cakes and a glass of wine will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!



## New Piano Fundraising Concert

Mrs Trost is holding a fundraising concert on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 3.00pm in the School Hall. It will be a multi-instrumental concert by past and present pupils of Pirton School to raise money to cover the shortfall in funding for the new piano in the School Hall.

Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be no admission charge but donations will be warmly welcomed. Refreshments will be on sale at the interval. Offers of help to serve refreshments would be gratefully received as would cakes, biscuits, brownies, etc.



## Information for Parents and Carers

Curriculum information and class timetables are being sent home with this newsletter – these enable parents to see what we will be teaching this term and how the days will be structured. The timetable also allows you to see when the children will need additional equipment such as their PE kits in school.

Please see below for dates of our Parent Information sessions for each class. The purpose of these sessions is to provide parents with more detailed information about the requirements and expectations of the forthcoming year, to be able to share some of the teaching strategies that will be used and to explain how you can help develop this further at home. Pupils are invited to attend the information session with their Parents / Carers. The sessions will be held in the respective classrooms.

The dates and times of the sessions are:

<b>Wrens (Class 1)</b>	3pm	Monday 10 September
<b>Robins (Class 2)</b>	3pm	Wednesday 12 September
<b>Swifts (Class 3)</b>	3pm	Tuesday 11 September
<b>Kestrels (Class 4)</b>	3pm	Thursday 13 September
<b>Owls (Class 5)</b>	3pm	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September

## Online Safety News

The Autumn edition of Herts for Learning's Online Safety News is attached to this newsletter. Although some of the information is aimed at older children, it may be useful for families with older siblings. Please feel free to pass the information on to friends and family who may also find the content useful.

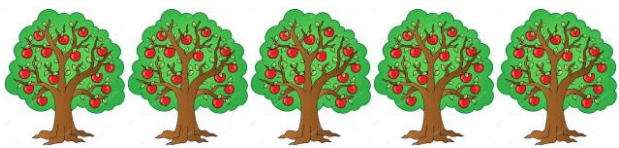
# Online Safety News

## Year 5 Residential Visit to Liddington

A meeting for parents of pupils participating in the residential trip to Liddington will take place on Monday 17 September at 3.45pm in Kestrels classroom (Class 4). This will be an opportunity for parents to learn more about the visit and to meet with Mrs Fenner and Mrs MacKellar 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.

## Apples in the Orchard

There are several apple trees in the orchard area and in the Key Stage 1 outdoor area. Please help yourself and pick the fruit if you wish. It is a shame to see the fruit going to waste.



## Asthma and Allergy Register

Mrs Keech is updating the Asthma and Allergy Register for this academic year.

If your child suffers from asthma and has an inhaler, we need to place them on our Asthma Register. Any child suffering from an allergy should also be recorded on our files. Those pupils with EpiPens will need to update their Health Care Plans. Please liaise with the school office.

## 2018 Cook Awards

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Cook Awards – Skye in Key Stage 2 and Sofia in Key Stage 1.



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 their annual award is very much appreciated by the school.

## School Uniform

It is wonderful to see everyone looking so smart in our school uniform as we start the new year.

A reminder that all pupils should wear shoes, **not trainers**, in black, brown or blue. During the summer months children may also wear sandals, with socks, within this colour scheme and with the additional option of white. Sandals must be sturdy, low heeled and securely fitted around the ankle and the toe. 'Croc' style shoes and flip flops are not considered suitable. If pupils wear boots in the winter weather, please remember that they will need to bring school shoes to wear whilst in school. We recommend children come to school with a coat even in the nice weather as when it rains we still have outdoor playtimes. All children will need a pair of trainers for outside PE and may be encouraged to use these if playing on the field at break and lunchtimes, particularly if the ground is muddy.

A reminder too that jewellery is not allowed, other than watches and stud earrings which must be removed or taped up for PE. The school cannot take any responsibility for any lost items.

We would recommend that PE kit to be left in school at the end of the week but taken home occasionally for washing.

## Food Allergies

We have several children with severe food allergies which necessitate having EpiPens in school in case of medical emergencies. Can we please ask parents to avoid sending nut products into school in your child's snack box or lunch box. Allergies also include sesame so foods such as hummus can be dangerous. Food from lunch boxes can easily be dropped on tables or transferred by sticky fingers, which then creates a hazard for some of our pupils. Please bear this in mind when packing lunch boxes and help us to keep the school a safe environment for all our pupils.

Please can you remind children that their snacks should not be shared with other children due to possible allergies.

## Playground Equipment

Can we politely remind parents that the school field and play equipment are out of bounds to school children and younger siblings both before and after school.

Can parents please make sure their children remain on the tarmac area of the playground before being welcomed into school by their class teachers in the morning and again at home time.

We value your support in helping to keep the school a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone.

## Summer Reading Challenge

A reminder for anyone who completed the Library Service Summer Reading Challenge to bring their completed certificates in to school ready for our Assembly on Friday 21 September.



## 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.

Our value in September is **Achievement** which includes our plans for the new school year, working hard at our curriculum topics as well as achieving our own personal goals.

# Achievement

## Primary & Secondary Admissions 2019

The application process for Secondary School admissions is now open with the deadline on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

Online applications can be made on [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) .

The application process for Primary admissions for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 opens on Monday 5 November 2018 with the closing date deadline of 15 January 2019.

We will be holding an **Open Morning** for prospective parents on Tuesday 27 November between 9am and 11am.

## Noticeboard

The noticeboard near the main school entrance displays information about local events and clubs which may be of interest to families. The notices are changed on a regular basis so please take the opportunity to have a look every now and then.

Please note that by displaying these notices, the school should not be perceived as promoting or recommending any of the activities advertised. We are, however, happy to act as a point of information for village families.



## Pupil Premium Funding and Free School Meals

Since the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals for Key Stage 1 pupils, there has been a significant reduction in the number of families applying for Pupil Premium/Free School Meals funding. If you have a child who has moved into Year 3, school meals are now chargeable. Therefore if you think you might be eligible to apply for Free School Meals, please visit the following website: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) or click on the following link [Free schools meals](#)

As a school we also benefit financially from funding for Pupil Premium pupils so even if your child is in Key Stage 1 we would encourage you to apply. Not only will the school receive additional funds, it also saves you having to remember to apply when your child moves into Year 3. If you need any additional information, please speak to Mrs Fenner or Mrs Bailey in confidence.

## New Reward and Behaviour system

Following consultation with parents, pupils and staff, the children have been introduced to our Pirton 6Rs – a promise to be reflective, respectful, ready, resourceful, resilient and responsible. These are our learning behaviours and children will be rewarded for demonstrating this in and out of class.

We have also introduced a golden ticket award, whereby children will be awarded for 'going above and beyond'. The golden ticket, which the holder will be able to keep, will also be an invitation to the Headteacher's tea party on a Monday afternoon! They will also have their photo displayed as part of our 'Value Tree' outside the Headteacher's office.

In addition, we have introduced a new House Merit award system across school. Children will be able to collect House Merits for demonstrating the 6Rs and house points will be shared weekly in assembly. The winning house of each half term will be allowed a 'House Treat', for example, come to school dressed in their house colour or a games afternoon altogether.

The behaviour policy will be updated to reflect these changes and a parent information meeting will be arranged in the next few weeks to explain the system further.



## Sports & Activity Clubs for the Autumn Term

We are still making final arrangements for our Autumn Term clubs and further information will be issued on Monday. Some clubs will commence next week (highlighted yellow) whilst other will start the following week (highlighted green). Monday's information will include a full timetable of clubs along with sign up details and costs.

**Please note that Rising Stars' Dodgeball Club may change days from Wednesday which has already been advertised (information was sent home earlier this week) and this will also be confirmed in Monday's letter.**

Monday	Library Club – Key Stage 2	lunchtime
	Activity club - to be confirmed – all ages	after school
Tuesday	Football Club – Key Stage 2	lunchtime
	Netball Club – Key Stage 2	lunchtime
	Recorder Club – Years 1 & 2	lunchtime
	Speed Stacks and Table Tennis - all ages	lunchtime
	Code Club Years 5 & 6	after school
	Art Club – Key Stage 2	after school
Wednesday	Rising Stars Dodgeball all ages	after school
Thursday	Tennis Club – all ages	lunchtime
	Pom Pom Club – all ages	lunchtime
	Gardening Club – Years 4, 5 & 6	after school
	IckleDrama – all ages	after school
Friday	Football Club – Key Stage 1	lunchtime
	Tag Rugby Club – Key Stage 2	lunchtime
	Homework Club – all ages	lunchtime

Clubs may vary from term to term so watch out for any new clubs which may start further into the year.



## Football Team

We are holding another Football Trial after school on Wednesday 12 September for anyone in Years 5 and 6 who is interested in being considered for the Pirton School Football Team. Matches have been arranged with other schools and the first match will take place on Saturday 15 September in Hitchin. Further information will be sent home to those pupils selected for the team following the trial on Wednesday.



# Term Dates 2018-2019

## Autumn Term 2018

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018

Half Term: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

**INSET Day: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

**OCCASIONAL Day: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

## Spring Term 2019

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Half Term: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

**INSET Day: Monday.7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

## Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Half Term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019

**Bank Holiday: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**INSET Day: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**School Term Dates for 2019-20 can also be found on the following link:**

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

## Autumn Term Dates 2018

Monday 10 September	3pm Parent Information Session – Wrens (Class 1) Sports and After School Clubs start this week
Tuesday 11 September	Parent Information Session – Swifts (Class 3)
Wednesday 12 September	Class 5 swimming starts Parent Information Session – Robins (Class 2) Year 5 & 6 Football Team Trials 3.30pm
Thursday 13 September	Parent Information Session – Kestrels (Class 4)
Friday 14 September	Parent Information Session – Owls (Class 5)
Sunday 16 September	Piano Fundraising Concert – School Hall 3.00pm
Monday 17 September	Liddington parent meeting 3.45pm Class 4
Tuesday 18 September	PPTA AGM 7.30pm
24 - 26 September	Year 5 residential visit to Liddington
Monday 1 October	Phonics Information Evening 6pm
Tuesday 2 October	VR Workshops Key Stage 2
Wednesday 3 October	Skipping Workshops
Thursday 11 – Wednesday 17 Oct	Book Fair in the School Hall – 3.15pm
Thursday 11 October	Tag Rugby Festival
Monday 15 October	Swifts Stone Age Day
Tuesday 16 October	Individual School Photographs Cross Country Event
Tuesday 23 October	Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30 – 6pm
Thursday 25 October	Table Tennis Competition Parent Consultation Meetings 5pm – 8pm
Monday 29 Oct to Friday 2 Nov	Half Term holiday – school closed
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Secondary School application deadline
5-9 November	WW1 Workshop Week
Wednesday 7 November	Class 4 swimming starts
Thursday 8 November	KS1 Sports Festival
Friday 9 November	WW1 Celebratory Assembly
Monday 12 November	Nasal Flu Vaccines YR, 1, 2, 3, 4 ,5
Tuesday 13 November	NSPCC Assemblies
Thursday 22 November	Working It Out Together – School Website - 9am NSPCC Workshops
Tuesday 27 November	Open Morning for Prospective Parents 9am – 11am Rural Football
Friday 30 November	Occasional Day – school closed
Friday 7 December	Christmas Crafts Afternoon
Tuesday 11 December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance – 2.30pm in the School Hall
Wednesday 12 December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance – 6.30pm in the School Hall
Tuesday 18 December	Christmas Lunch Key Stage 2 Carol Concert – 2.30pm
Wednesday 19 December	Key Stage 2 Carol Concert – 6.30pm
Thursday 20 December	Whole School Panto visit – Gordon Craig Theatre Children’s Christmas discos 4pm to 7.30pm
Friday 21 December	End of term



## Spring Term Dates 2019

Monday 7 January	INSET Day – school closed for pupils
Tuesday 8 January	Spring Term begins
Wednesday 9 January	Class 3 swimming starts
Tuesday 15 January	Primary School Admissions application deadline
Thursday 24 January	Y6 SATS Parent Information Evening
Monday 28 January	Writing Parent Information Evening (at Hexton School)
Wednesday 13 February	Working It Out Together – SEN – 2pm
Monday 18 to Friday 22 February	Half Term holiday – school closed
Tuesday 26 February	Parent Consultation Meetings – 5pm – 8pm
Wednesday 27 February	Class 2 swimming starts
Thursday 28 February	Parent Consultation Meetings – 3.30pm – 6.00pm
Thursday 7 March	World Book Day KS2 Netball competition
Friday 8 March	Class 3 Assembly – 9am
Friday 15 March	Class 4 Assembly – 9am
Friday 22 March	Class 5 Assembly – 9am
Friday 29 March	Class 2 Assembly – 9am
Wednesday 3 April	Year 3 & 4 Performance – 2pm
Thursday 4 April	Year 3 & 4 Performance – 6.30pm
Friday 5 April	Class 1 Assembly End of term

## Summer Term Dates 2019

Tuesday 23 April	First day of Summer Term
Wednesday 24 April	Class 1 swimming starts
Monday 6 May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Monday 13 to Friday 17 May	Year 6 SATS Week
Friday 24 May	Inset Day – school closed
Monday 27 to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half Term holiday – school closed
Saturday 8 June	Pirtonfest
Monday 10 to Friday 14 June	Year 1 Phonics Testing
Tuesday 11 June	Rural Athletics
Friday 14 June	Class photographs
Monday 1 to Friday 5 July	Year 6 Residential to the Isle of Wight
Monday 8 July	Year 5 & 6 Performance 2pm
Tuesday 9 July	Year 5 & 6 Performance 6.30pm
Monday 8 to Friday 12 July	Transition Week
Thursday 11 July	Secondary Transfer Day (to be confirmed)
Wednesday 10 July	Sports Afternoon
Friday 12 July	Reports to Parents
Monday 15 July	Open Session for Parents re Reports – 3.30 – 5pm
Wednesday 17 July	Reserve Sports Afternoon
Wednesday 24 July	Leavers' Assembly – 9am End of term