

23 November 2018

## Staffing News

We are delighted to announce the appointment of a new Deputy Head to work alongside Mrs Fenner and the staff. Miss Colette Pidgeon will join us in January and will work across both Pirton and Hexton schools. Miss Pidgeon has been a Deputy Head for 12 years and comes with lots of experience and ideas. The staff and pupils who interviewed her were impressed by her enthusiasm and interest and we look forward to welcoming her to the team.

# Welcome

Miss Maguire, one of our Teaching Assistants, has decided to move to another school to gain further experience and will leave us in mid-December. We thank her for all her hard work in Wrens class and wish her well in her new role.

# Goodbye

## Open Morning for Prospective Parents

Our Open Morning for prospective families will take place next Tuesday, 27 November between 9am and 11am. Our older 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 2019.

  
open day open day

## Seasonal Illnesses

During the winter months, pupil absences resulting from illness understandably increase. A reminder that advice from the Health Protection Agency advises parents to keep children away from school for 48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea to help prevent these illnesses spreading quickly. We would ask for your support in adhering to this guidance.

As you are aware, we operate a First Day Response system which means that if we have not been informed of a pupil being absent from school, we will endeavour to make contact with parents to establish the reason why your child is not in school.

Our phone system makes it very easy for parents to record any absences – phone the main number 01462 712370 and select Option 1 to leave a message. Please note that you do not have to wait to hear all the options before selecting the option you require. This facility to record an absence on the answer phone is available at all times during the day and night so parents do not have to wait until office hours to pass on this information.

01462 712370



## Discovery Zone Reorganisation

Thank you to everyone who came along to help with the Discovery Zone reorganisation. Your help was much appreciated! Thank you!

**Thank You!**

## More Help Needed!

We are always grateful for all the offers of help we receive. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to spend a short time each week in the classrooms helping with reading, times tables, number bonds or just general classroom tasks. You can offer to help in your child's class or any classroom you prefer. Helpers must be DBS checked. Please speak to the school office if you are able to help but do not currently hold a valid DBS certificate.

## Herts County Council - Parent Surveys

Herts County Council would welcome parent views on the following surveys:

Child Health and Wellbeing – <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/11XAJ/>

Childcare options and sufficiency of places across Hertfordshire – <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/JHFVI>

## School Admissions Arrangements 2020/21 – Consultation

Hertfordshire County Council is running a consultation on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2020/21 and is seeking responses from parent/carers, schools and community groups.

The proposed changes are:

1. To amend the definition of 'Rule 2 – Exceptional social and medical reasons to attend a specific school' to include children previously looked after abroad and subsequently adopted.
2. To amend the schemes of coordination to clarify the process for late applications and continuing interest.
3. To reduce the published admission number at four primary schools.

The consultation period runs until 6 January 2018. Please visit

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2020](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2020) for more information and to respond online.

### Primary Admissions 2019

The application process for Primary admissions for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 opened on Monday 5 November 2018.

The closing date deadline is 15 January 2019.

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 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.

### 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 sharing crisps so if you would like to add a packet to your next shop we would be really pleased to receive a donation to pass on to this Appeal.



### Occasional Day

A reminder that Friday 30 November is an Occasional Day and school will be closed.

## School Closure Information – Important Update

Herts County Council's Schools Closure Notification System allows 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 an online system 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 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.



Information about school closures across Hertfordshire will also 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 do not 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.

## Christmas Concerts

This year's Christmas performances are as follows:

### **Classes 1 and 2 – Christmas with the Aliens**

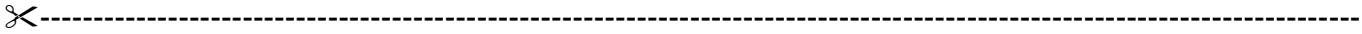
Tuesday 11 December at 2:30pm, School Hall  
Wednesday 12 December at 6:30pm, School Hall

### **Classes 3, 4 and 5 – Carol Concert**

Tuesday 18 December at 2.30pm, St Mary's Church  
Wednesday 19 December at 6:30pm, St Mary's Church

Please see attached letter for information about ordering tickets for these concerts.





## Classroom Helpers

Name .....

I would be happy to help with:

	Please tick as required
Reading	
Times Tables	
Number Bonds	
General help	

Preferred Class in which to work .....

Signed: .....

## Autumn Term Dates 2018

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 St Mary's Church
Wednesday 19 December	Key Stage 2 Carol Concert – 6.30pm St Mary's Church
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	Year 6 Knex Challenge 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

## 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/>