

6 September 2019

A Message from Mrs Fenner

I hope that everyone enjoyed a happy summer holiday. It has been a wonderful to welcome our children back to school. Everyone looks very smart in their uniforms and eager to learn. We look forward to an exciting year ahead. A warm welcome to all our parents and families – old and new!



Staffing news

We also say welcome to Mrs Emma Sexton who joins our Wrens class as teaching assistant. I know that you will want to join me in welcoming her to the Pirton staff team.

Primary & Secondary Admissions 2020

The application process for Secondary School admissions is now open with the deadline on Thursday 31st October 2019.

Online applications can be made on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions.

The application process for Primary admissions for children born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 opens on Monday 4 November 2019 with the closing date deadline of 14 January 2020.

We will be holding an **Open Morning** for prospective parents on Friday 22 November between 9am and 11am.

Orchestra

We are grateful to Mrs Partridge who will continue to run our school orchestra this year.

The date and times have changed from last year and will now take place on Tuesday lunchtimes at 12.20.



Parent Safeguarding Workshop

On Tuesday 8 October from 6.30pm to 8pm we are offering a free safeguarding information evening for parents. The meeting will take place at Hexton JMI School. The workshop will include safeguarding information from the National Crime Agency.



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:

Wrens	(Class 1)	3pm	Monday 9 September
Robins	(Class 2)	3pm	Wednesday 11 September
Swifts	(Class 3)	3pm	Thursday 12 September
Kestrels	(Class 4)	3pm	Tuesday 10 September
Owls	(Class 5)	3pm	Friday 13 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

Our Online Safety policy was renewed at the summer Governors' Meeting and includes updated Acceptable Use Agreements for staff, pupils and volunteers. The new Agreements will be distributed in the next few weeks.

Year 5 Residential Visit to Liddington

A meeting for parents of pupils participating in the residential trip to Liddington in September will take place on Monday 9 September at 3.45pm in Owls classroom. This will be an opportunity for parents to learn more about the visit and to meet with staff 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.



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.

Well Being Award for Schools (WAS)

Pirton School is working towards achieving the Wellbeing Award for Schools. A Change Team has been assembled with Rachel Marsh as Chair.

In order to make sure that we improve the support we offer, we want to understand how well we are currently supporting the emotional wellbeing of our pupils. For this reason, we are inviting pupils, parents and staff at our school to complete an anonymous survey.

The following information is important since it will explain about both the survey process and how the information gathered will be used.

Why we are writing to parents/carers?

We are asking for your permission to invite your child to complete the survey. If you are happy for your child to do this then you do not have to do anything. However, if you do not want your child to complete the questionnaire then please let us know by Friday 13th September. If we do not hear from you, we will assume you are happy for your child to be invited. Please be reassured that by deciding not to take part in the survey will not disadvantage you or your child in any way.

If you are unsure about whether you would like your child to take part and you have some questions about the survey, you are welcome to contact Rachel Marsh via email: senco@pirton.herts.sch.uk or by phoning the school.

Why has my child been asked to take part and what will they do?

The survey has been specially designed for pupils. It is a survey which should take about 15 minutes to complete. The answers your child gives to the questionnaire will not be seen by their friends or teachers - unless your child chooses an adult to help them complete the questions. **It will be completed in school by pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6. The views of children in younger classes will be gathered during circle time discussion in class PSHE lessons.**

Parent Survey

In the next few weeks a parent survey will be sent out via email. The link will be emailed to you from 'AwardPlace by Optimus Education'. Please do not delete it!

What will happen with the information that you and your child gives us?

The information from the survey will help our school to improve its work in providing better provision for emotional wellbeing and mental health. All information collected is anonymous and will be kept confidential.

Thank you in advance for your support.

WAS

Promoting well being
& mental health

Nut and Sesame 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 major 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 20 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 **Respect** which includes looking after ourselves and each other, accepting differences, supporting each other to be the best we can and achieving our own personal goals.

**“Treat people the way
you want to be treated.
Talk to people the way
you want to be talked to.
Respect is Earned,
Not given”**

- Hussein Nishah

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 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.

Sports & Activity Clubs for the Autumn Term

We are still making final arrangements for our Autumn Term clubs and more details will be issued on Monday. Clubs will commence next week unless otherwise stated. Monday's information will include a full timetable of clubs along with sign up details and costs.

Monday	Rising Stars Dodgeball – all ages	after school
Tuesday	Orchestra – Key Stage 2 Football Club – Key Stage 2	lunchtime lunchtime
Wednesday	Young Voices Choir – Years 4, 5 and 6 Rising Stars Gymnastics all ages	lunchtime after school
Thursday	Code Club Years 4, 5 & 6 Gardening Club – Years 4, 5 & 6 IckleDrama – all ages	after school after school after school
Friday	Football Club – Key Stage 1 Tag Rugby Club – Key Stage 2 Homework Club – all ages	lunchtime lunchtime lunchtime

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



Autumn Term Dates 2019

Monday 9 September	Reception pupils stay all day Wrens Parent Information Session 3.00pm Y5 Liddington Parent Meeting 3.45pm Owls classroom
Tuesday 10 September	Kestrels Parent Information Session 3.00pm
Wednesday 11 September	Owls swimming starts Robins Parent Information Session 3.00pm
Thursday 12 September	Swifts Parent Information Session 3.00pm
Friday 13 September	Owls Parent Information Session 3.00pm
Wednesday 18 September	NHSSP Legacy Event – No swimming (Owls)
Monday 23 to Wednesday 25 Sept	Year 5 residential visit to Liddington
Tuesday 8 October	Safeguarding Workshop for Parents at Hexton School 6.30pm
Tuesday 15 October	Individual and Family Photos
Tuesday 22 October	Parent Consultation Meetings 5pm to 7.30pm
Wednesday 23 October	Flu Jabs for all pupils
Thursday 24 October	Parent Consultation Meetings 3.30pm to 5.30
Thursday 31 October	Secondary School Admission Application deadline
28 October to 1 November	Half term holiday
Wednesday 6 November	Kestrels swimming starts
Friday 22 November	Open Morning for prospective parents
Friday 29 November	Occasional Day – school closed
Friday 6 December	Christmas Crafts Afternoon
Wednesday 11 December	KS1 Nativity 2.15pm School Hall
Thursday 12 December	KS1 Nativity 6pm School Hall
Tuesday 17 December	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 18 December	KS2 Carol Concert 2.15 and 6.30pm St Mary's Church
Thursday 19 December	School discos
Friday 20 December	End of Term

Term Dates 2019-2020

Autumn Term 2019

Monday 2 September - Friday 20 December 2019

Half Term: Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November 2019

INSET Day: Monday 2 September 2019

OCCASIONAL Day: Friday 29 November 2019

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6 January – Friday 3 April 2020

Half Term: Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February 2020

INSET Day: Monday 6 January 2020

Summer Term 2020

Monday 20 April – Tuesday 21 July 2020

Half Term: Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May 2020

Bank Holiday: Friday 8 May 2020

INSET Day: Friday 22 May 2020

INSET Day: Monday 20 July 2020

INSET Day: Tuesday 21 July 2020

Spring Term Dates 2020

Monday 6 January	INSET Day – school closed for pupils
Tuesday 7 January	Spring Term begins
Wednesday 8 January	Swifts swimming starts
Thursday 9 January	Whole school trip to the panto – Gordon Craig Theatre
Tuesday 14 January	Primary School Admissions application deadline
Tuesday 4 February	Young Voices – O2 Arena
Tuesday 11 February	Parent Consultation Meetings – 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Thursday 13 February	Parent Consultation Meetings – 5.00pm – 7.30pm
Monday 17 to Friday 21 February	Half Term holiday – school closed
Wednesday 26 February	Robins swimming starts
Friday 28 February	Swifts Assembly – 9am
Thursday 5 March	World Book Day
Friday 6 March	Kestrels Assembly – 9am
Monday 9 March	Sport Relief
Friday 13 March	Owls Assembly – 9am
Friday 20 March	Robins Assembly – 9am
Friday 27 March	Wrens Assembly – 9am
Thursday 2 April	Year 3 & 4 Performance – 2pm and 6.30pm
Friday 3 April	End of term

Summer Term Dates 2020

Monday 20 April	Summer Term begins
Wednesday 22 April	Wrens swimming starts
Friday 8 May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Monday 11 to Friday 14 May	Year 6 SATS Week
Friday 22 May	Inset Day – school closed
Monday 25 to Friday 29 May	Half Term holiday – school closed
Monday 8 to Friday 12 June	Year 1 Phonics Testing
Friday 12 June	Class photographs
w/c 15 June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables tests
Thursday 25 June	Year 5 & 6 Performance 2pm and 6.30pm
Monday 29 June to Friday 3 July	Year 6 Residential to the Isle of Wight
Monday 6 to Friday 10 July	Transition Week
Tuesday 7 July	Sports Afternoon
Thursday 9 July	Secondary Transfer Day
Friday 10 July	Reports to Parents
Monday 13 July	Open Session for Parents re Reports – 3.30 – 5pm
Tuesday 14 July	Reserve Sports Afternoon
Friday 17 July	Leavers' Assembly – 9am End of term
Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 July	Inset Days – school closed