

Pix Brook Academy Press



Issue 5: 6th December 2019

Message from Mr Adams

November was once again a busy month with a host of events designed to both engage and excite our growing group of Year 5 pupils.

We held a genuinely moving Remembrance Day assembly. The curate from St Mary's Church, Graham Clark, joined us in our two minutes' silence and took the pupils for assembly. He brought the Stotfold Book of Remembrance and we had an opportunity to consider the impact of war on our town. The pupils responded fantastically and asked a number of telling questions relating to the effect of war. Many of them also chose to wear their uniforms from Brownies, Cubs and Cadets. As ever, the school tries to ensure that events of this nature are given the appropriate level of importance and tries to understand the importance to our society. It is a great opportunity to explore the meaning of one of our key values, "responsibility".

Our Children in Need cake sale was also a resounding success. I will admit, I hugely underestimated the level of support we would receive from parents and pupils. We had such a wealth of sugary riches that I was concerned that we would still be eating them for Christmas! I needn't have worried as the pupils once again surpassed themselves and made every effort to consume their own body weight in confectionary. We raised a good sum and when added to the other charitable fund-raising events bring our yearly total to £274, a truly fantastic response and I greatly appreciate the support of parents.

I'd also like to thank pupils and parents for their support at our open evening. I invited all pupils to join us for the evening and it was fantastic to see so many here. The pupils excelled themselves by contributing to a real buzz around the school starting with the singing to open my first speech and then spending their time in classes to talk to prospective parents – it provided a super atmosphere. It was great to see so many Year 4 parents from all the lower schools. I would also like to thank many of our parents who attended and provided the "outside" view of the school. Overall everyone contributed to a thoroughly enjoyable (if quite tiring) event and I believe gave a rounded picture of what we are trying to build here at Pix Brook Academy.

You will see an image of the collage of the pupil's work undertaken in the summer. I have mentioned in previous communications how I am determined that our first cohort of pupils at the school are able to leave a legacy. We now have some truly exceptional photography of pupils around the school, and we have a professionally produced collage of their work from the summer. Both will move across to the permanent site and provide a fantastic reference back to Year 5 as the pupils grow through the school.

Finally, you will see that the work on the permanent site has really accelerated. Steel work is up and modules are already being installed. In my meeting at the site earlier this week, over 60 workers were on site trying to make the most of the weather. Willmott Dixon have their countdown clock to the opening running in the office which literally ticks off the seconds to the opening of the school! It shows a real commitment from the company to make this work and I cannot realistically ask for any more. I am in discussion with the company to arrange an opportunity for parents and pupils to visit. Hopefully this will be in place after Christmas.



Ambitious

Aspirational

Responsible

Teaching and Learning News

News from Year 5

We are halfway through this half term and we have all been very busy in our classes.

English

It's been an exciting week for the pupils in English. We are approaching the end of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and pupils have had an opportunity to construct their diorama representing their own room in Mr Wonka's factory. As ever the imagination of nine and ten-year old children is a sight to behold, and notwithstanding the glitter all over the floor, was a great success. The sequence of lessons has finished with an evaluation of their work and peer assessment. Using a work of fiction to build the other lessons in the curriculum around has been a great success and we will continue this model next term. Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo is next term's book and will enable us to explore coastlines and the history of WWII in Geography and History.

Maths

In Maths we have been focusing on multiplication skills – keep learning those times tables at home!

Humanities

We have learnt about all the wonderful rainforest plants and the products we can get from them in Geography, while in History we are finding out about the Mayan calendar, numbers and writing systems.

Science

In Science we are learning about the different life cycles of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and insects.

Art

Pupils have been busy designing the front and back of their Charlie and the Chocolate Factory themed chocolate wrappers. They will now move to taking their best idea and turning it in to their final chocolate wrapper design. There have been some very imaginative and creative ideas generated. My favourite name, created by one of our pupils, for the chocolate bar has to be Veruca Salt-ed Caramel.



Design and Technology

Design and Technology are now coming to the end of their first DT project. It must be said that the finished gumball machines they will have will be amazing. Most pupils now have the gumball release mechanism completed and working. They are now working on the final few elements in order to complete their machines. The attitude and effort shown by pupils continues to be of a very high standard.

In the DT club, a number of pupils have finished or are close to finishing their mini cardboard basketball courts. Two pupils have even been practicing their 'hoop' skills by launching their mini basketballs in to the hoops on their completed basketball courts. It is wonderful to see such enthusiasm from the DT club pupils. Many will be brought home by the end of this term so they can be used for some Christmas fun with family and friends.



Conservation Club

Over the past few weeks, Conservation Club has been focusing on wider conservation including palm oil and packaging. The children are creating posters related to these topics to help spread awareness particularly considering the waste packaging from packed lunches.



School Library

The children were very excited to find out that we have requested an additional 100 books from the Schools' Library Service for the Pix Brook Library. Children requested the books they enjoy reading and we are looking forward to receiving those books soon. It is great to see how excited the children are each week to come to the library - they have a clear passion for books.



Praise Postcard Winners

Well done to the 7 pupils that created the winning designs for the praise postcards. All the entries were amazing and it was very hard for pupils and staff to pick the eventual winners. The winners will have their designs turned into postcards. These postcards will be sent home when a pupil needs to be recognised and praised for something exceptional they have done in school. Thank you to all the pupils that took the time and effort to submit an entry.



PiXL Times Tables app

To help our pupils practise and improve their times tables, we are getting them to use a specially designed app. This is a free to use app that many schools and pupils around the country are using. It is free to download and can be downloaded on to phones, tablets and computers. We would encourage our parents to download the app at home and ask their child to use it as much as possible. Parents are able to login and see how well their child is doing and to also encourage them on what they need to focus on. Pupils have been given unique login details which we will send out to parents over the coming week.

The app can be found on: <https://timestable.pixl.org.uk>



Focus on Learning

Maths

Pupils have been exploring the process of long multiplication. This is a classic lesson and builds upon the pupil's ability to do their timetables. Knowing this is a crucial skill and we regularly test pupils in this area. It is simply about practice and by regular review, pupils will begin to "know" their timetables.

Next week we begin the journey towards long division, the infamous bus stop method will be taught and again the need for pupils to know their tables will be paramount. Pupils are working fantastically in Maths and are developing some really solid foundations.

Safeguarding at PBA

The SafeToNet Foundation produce free podcasts that focus on safeguarding children in the online world we all now live in. Many topics are discussed to help keep parents up to date on many relevant and topical issues. You will find many numerous topics such as cyber abuse, bullying, well-being and so much more. You will also find podcasts from organisations involved in protecting children such as the NSPCC.

<https://safetonetfoundation.libsyn.com>

We hope you find these podcasts useful, informative and as a way of keeping abreast of the latest issues that children may face if they go online. Please do feel free to come and talk to us about anything related to safeguarding.



Pix Brook Academy SAFEGUARDING TEAM

We are here to keep you safe

Who can you speak to if you feel worried?

You can speak to **any adult** that works in our school about **anything** that is worrying you or making you feel upset at any time.

There are also 3 adults who have the really special job of keeping you safe. They are known as the **Designated Safeguarding Lead** and **Deputy Safeguarding Leads**. Their special job is to listen, support and help you at any time of the school day.



Mr King-Mand
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Smyth
Deputy
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Pearce
Deputy
Safeguarding Lead

Tell us if you feel worried or upset about anything. For example, you should speak to us:

- If you feel upset or worried about anything at all (even if you think it is not important)
- If someone has hurt you physically, emotionally or mentally
- If you are being threatened or forced to do things
- If someone has done something to you without your permission
- If you feel unsafe in school, at home or when you are out and about
- If you feel uncomfortable in any way
- If you know of another pupil who is worried, upset or being hurt (even if they have told you to keep it secret)
- If you are scared or worried about going home

There are special organisations you can contact if you need to speak to someone when you are not at school. Their job is to also listen, support and help you.



Other News

Christmas Card Post Box



The Christmas Card Post Box has arrived at Pix Brook (located outside the office)!

Collection/delivery will be every Friday until the end of term.

Charity



It's Christmas Jumper Day in aid of 'Save the Children' next Friday (13th December) so don't forget to wear your best festive jumper in return for £1!

We have raised money for some terrific charities since the start of September, THANK YOU... £57 for Genes for Jeans * £61 for Wear It Pink Day * £52 for the Poppy Appeal * £104 for Children In Need

Christmas Tree Festival



Pix Brook Academy will be taking part in the annual Christmas Tree Festival held at St Mary's Church in Stotfold.

Please do pop along and see our 'Pix Brook Academy Purple Perfection' tree over the weekend of Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th December.

Pantomime Trip



We are all looking forward to seeing 'Beauty and The Beast' at The Gordon Craig Theatre in Stevenage (oh yes we are!) on Tuesday 17th December.

A final details letter will be sent out via ParentMail next week but please note that as we will be leaving school at 12pm, we will be having an early lunch break therefore can all pupils bring a packed lunch in that day.

The coach is due back at school at approximately 4.30pm.

Christmas Lunch



On Wednesday 18th December the staff of Pix Brook Academy will be serving Christmas Lunch to the pupils.

This will be a traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings including crackers and festive music!

End of Term Assembly



Our end of term assembly is taking place at St Mary's Church, Stotfold on Thursday 19th December.

Parents are invited to join us for carols and mince pies from 2:30pm. Please collect pupils from the church (not school) at the end of the service at 3:05pm unless they are attending PBA Extra.

Miss Broadbent



As most of you are aware by now, Miss Broadbent has announced that she is due to have a baby in March!

We are all very excited and wish her well over the forthcoming months. Plans to cover her maternity leave have already started.

Mrs Pearce



Mrs Pearce will be raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital on Sunday by running with her son in the Santa Dash 5K dressed as Santa.

If anyone would like to sponsor her that would be very much appreciated.

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/IzzyandElija?utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_fundraiser_page_launched&utm_content=131c0718-2c9a-4543-aa4c-7d4f4bc5e158&utm_medium=email&utm_source=postoffice&utm_term=1575115081916

Pix Brook Academy Parent Association (PBAPA)



Are you interested in being part of the Parent Association at Pix Brook Academy?

If you would, please email the office at pixbrook@bestacademies.org.uk

Local News and Events

Stotfold Methodists
CHRISTMAS FAYRE
 Saturday 7th December
 9.30am- 12.30

Gifts, Jewellery,
 Childrens Stall, Cakes,
 Preserves, Raffle,
 Festive Tombola

Space to sit and chat
 while enjoying a cup
 of tea, coffee & cake

BOOK NOW

THE PUPPET WORKSHOP

ONLY 22 PLACES AVAILABLE
 Please book early to avoid disappointment

Join our weekly club for aspiring young puppeteers!

This creative workshop is specially developed for children aged 7-11 years old. They get to explore a variety of different puppet forms and learn the basics of puppet making and manipulation over our 12-week course.

This term's workshop is inspired by Jules Verne's classic science fiction adventure *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea: A World Tour Underwater*. Children will create their own Japanese bunraku underwater puppet and develop a play for a stunning finale performing with their puppets to their family and friends. They will also get to take home their puppets!

Every Friday: 4.30-6.30pm
 £15 per week (£7.50 per hour)
 STMA Sports & Social Club,
 Stotfold, SG17 5JA

12 sessions: 10 January - 3 April 2020
 (with a break on 21 February for half term)

BOOKING NOW

For more information and to book your place go to:
www.thepuppetworkshop.co.uk
 Or email: bookings@thepuppetworkshop.co.uk

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT
 Greenacre Centre, Stotfold Sunday 15th December 4pm

Lots to see and enjoy including
 local schools, groups and choirs.
 For further information
 contact John Street
 07860 282868 or john.street1@gmail.com

SuperCamps

THE UK'S NO.1 FOR CHILDCARE
 DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

MULTI-ACTIVE Courses running in the school holidays.
HOLIDAY COURSES WWW.MULTI-ACTIVE.CO.UK

Multi-Activity Day, The Detective Academy, THE ADVENTURE EXPEDITION, Secret Agent Academy, MONSTER THEMED DAY, Superhero Academy, PIRATE THEMED DAY

Satchells

The BIG Christmas Carol Sing

All welcome
 Wednesday 11th Dec
 2pm - 3pm
 St. Mary's Church
 Stotfold

Festive headgear optional! Refreshments available.

JOIN US AT STOTFOLD SALVATION ARMY FOR...

The Big Christmas Sing

festive music & songs followed by festive refreshments

SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER AT 5.30pm
 [Christmas Jumpers Welcome]

The Salvation Army

Diary & Term Dates

| | | |
|-----------------|--|---|
| December | Friday 6 th Friday 13 th Saturday 14 th & Sunday 15 th Tuesday 17 th Wednesday 18 th Thursday 19 th Date TBC Friday 20 th Monday 21 st - Friday 3 rd Jan | - PBA Press Issue 5 - Christmas Jumper Day for Save The Children - Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church - Pantomime Trip to the Gordan Craig Theatre - Christmas Lunch - End of Term Assembly at St Mary's Church (period 5) - Class Christmas Party - Last Day of Term, finish at 3.05pm (NO after school clubs) - Christmas Holidays |
|-----------------|--|---|

2020

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| January | Monday 6 th Tuesday 7 th Friday 10 th Thursday 16 th or 23 rd (TBC) | - Staff Training Day (no school) - Start of Spring Term - PBA Press Issue 6 - Parents Evening |
| February | Friday 6 th Thursday 13 th Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st Wednesday 26 th | - PBA Press Issue 7 - Parents Visit (afternoon) - Half Term - History Trip to Duxford |
| March | Thursday 5 th Friday 6 th Friday 13 th Friday 13 th | - World Book Day (Non-uniform) - PBA Press Issue 8 - STEM Day - Sport Relief (Non-uniform Day) |
| April | Friday 3 rd Monday 6 th - Friday 17 th | - PBA Press Issue 9 - Easter Holidays |
| May | Thursday 7 th Friday 8 th Monday 11 th Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th | - PBA Press Issue 10 - Bank Holiday - Bikeability Course (TBC) - Half Term |
| June | Friday 12 th Friday 26 th | - PBA Press Issue 11 - Sports Day |
| July | Friday 3 rd Wednesday 8 th Friday 10 th Monday 13 th Friday 17 th Monday 20 th - Friday 4 th Sept | - Step Up Day - Awards Afternoon - PBA Press Issue 12 - New Year 5's Visit - Last Day of Term, finish at 3.05pm (NO after school clubs) - Summer Holidays |