

Pix Brook Academy Press



Issue 7: 7th February 2020

Welcome to this month's PBA Press

It is extraordinary that we are approaching the last week of the half term that will represent the halfway point of the year. I am often told I am obsessed with time, I guess it's because so much of my career has been truncated by the ringing of bells! It's an occupational hazard. For me each half term represents a "chunk" of time that we need to have a plan for and use effectively. We have done the 'getting to know the pupils' part of the year in the first half term, moved on to finding out what they are good and less good at and now begin to address those learning needs.

As I write, the pupils are all undertaking a set of assessments. These are designed to gently lead pupils towards the way in which they will be assessed in the future. Critically, they provide pupils with practice and teachers with information about the progress pupils are making with their learning. Without this information we would be relying on teacher assessment which does not always provide an accurate picture of what pupils can do, particularly when that is going to be measured in a test. As you would expect, it is undertaken in a relaxed if formal way so that pupils can become familiar and confident in this environment.

We seem to have filled the half term with a host of activities, perhaps the most exciting was the Science Day where the Science SLE (Subject Leader in Education) from Samuel Whitbread brought a team of teachers and Sixth Form students to work with our pupils. It was a genuinely exciting day with practical lessons and experiments delivered to our classes. PBA pupils enthusiastically engaged with all elements of the lessons and for colleagues more used to working with Year 10 and Year 11 pupils this was a *really* busy day. My thanks must go to BEST and Samuel Whitbread for organising and releasing staff to do this work.

Other events of note include our visit from the NSPCC to do an assembly and subsequent workshops. This is important work and we are supporting the NSPCC in some fundraising today. We have also had our second meeting of our embryonic parent's group. Pix Brook Parents Association (PBPA) met on Monday 27th January and are starting to put together an event to celebrate the first year at PBA. Please see the events page for the time and date of the next meeting where all parents are welcome to join the group and contribute to the discussions.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who attended the Parents Evening last week. This was really well attended and many positive conversations were had. Having spent the evening speaking to parents, I know that these evenings are important, I also know that it can be frustrating to have appointment times missed. For our next evening in the Summer term, I will ensure that we have a more mindful approach to timings. These appointments are a "snapshot" and should more in-depth discussions be necessary, an individual appointment can always be made.

Two final points to note: Firstly, we have decided on names for the classes. Pupils were given the opportunity to decide on the theme for the class names, the winning category was inspirational people with Year 5 having authors as their theme. Voting was undertaken to determine the three classes with Blyton, Zephaniah and Morpurgo winning the vote. These authors form part of our curriculum and some of their books are studied in Year 5.

Cont'd



Ambitious

Aspirational

Responsible

Finally, we are approaching the time of the year when it is possible that we might have some unpleasant weather. Should this be the case when it is not possible to open the school, a message will be put on the website and a ParentMail message sent. Obviously, I am hopeful that this will not be necessary, but forewarned is forearmed!

Have a super half term break and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 24th February (remember it's our visit from the writer Lou Treleavan on Tuesday and then the visit to the Imperial War Museum in Duxford on Wednesday).

Mr Steve Adams

Principal

Ambitious

Aspirational

Responsible

Teaching and Learning News

Another very busy few weeks for our Year 5's!

History

In preparation for our History trip to the Imperial War Museum in Duxford, the children have been finding out about evacuees so they can write their own diary as if they were really there. The children have been using lots of emotive language, descriptions and ambitious vocabulary in their writing. They are all looking forward to being able to share some of their findings when they have their talk with a veteran after half term. Final details for the trip will be sent out via ParentMail next week.



Citizenship

In Citizenship, we are making sure that everyone is stamping out bullying! In our lessons, the children have been preparing a presentation in small groups to show that they will not stand by and let anyone be bullied. This initiative is part of a Bully Free Form Status meaning all children at Pix Brook Academy with have signed a pledge against bullying. It also allows them to understand the implications of their actions. All presentations will be performed in front of Mr Adams and Mr King-Mand after half term.



Science Club

In Science Club this week, we have been making butter. The process was actually very simple. All we had to do was pour some double cream into a container and (making sure the lid was securely fastened) give it a good shake for about 10 minutes. Cream is an emulsion and butterfat is suspended in the liquid. The shaking action collapses the butterfat droplets suspended in the cream and reforms into butter. We even taste tested our butter on a slice of bread!



Juice & Biscuit Friday

Well done to the following pupils who were rewarded with juice and biscuits with Mr Adams for their hard work this month:

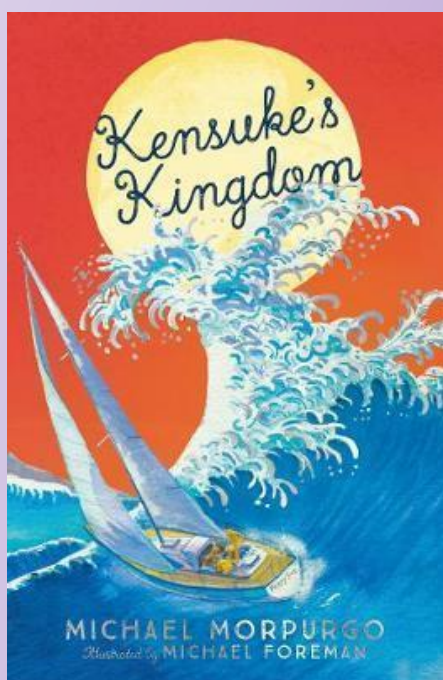
Joshua Shelley
Ollie Satchell
Isabelle Millington
Catherine Devereux
Cole Arbuckle
Georgia Farnsworth
Ollie Wilshere
Tarini Sharma
Harjevan Bachra
Olivia Harris
Dillon Ryan-Thiele
Amy Orrow
Elliott Rutter
Isla Davison
Brody Mercer

Teaching and Learning News Cont'd

Design and Technology

Pupils have started a new DT project this term which is based around Kensuke's Kingdom. This is the book that is being studied in English. Pupils will be learning about shelters and structures and how they can be made strong and secure. This will involve building a range of small-scale structures and learning the elements needed to make structures sturdy and safe. So far this term, pupils have been building bridges using straws, templates and hot glue. Once completed, they will test them to see how much weight they can carry. Towards the end of the term, pupils will use the knowledge they have gained to design and make a structure/shelter that could be used during a natural disaster incident.

In the DT club, pupils have made a range of projects recently. These include elastic band powered rockets, paper launchers and an elastic band powered boat. Pupils continue to show enthusiasm during the club and it is always wonderful to see such a large number of pupils take part.



Art

The art project this term will also be based around Kensuke's Kingdom also. This project involves pupils studying a famous artist (Hokusai) and some of his well known work. We have recently been looking at 'The Great Wave' painting. Pupils will then be asked to create a drawing of a wave in the style of Hokusai. We will look at how to draw a range waves before pupils attempt to draw their own. Pupils will use water colour pencils as the media to colour their drawing(s). The large number of artists within the year group are really beginning to shine and showcase their skills.

Safeguarding at PBA

The NSPCC

The NSPCC delivered their assembly about their 'Speak Out. Stay Safe' programme and the first of their workshops this half term. The NSPCC were very well received by our pupils and they actively took part in the workshop. The NSPCC commented how very well engaged our pupils were about the message they were being given. The second workshop will take place on Tuesday 11th February for the remaining half of the year group. We know that a number of our pupils have been very busy raising money the NSPCC, and we look forward to passing on all the money raised to the NSPCC on the last day of this half term. We know that some of our pupils have gone above and beyond what was asked of them and have raised a large amount of money. A huge thank you to all our pupils.

TikTok

It has come to our attention that a few pupils are using the social media platform 'TikTok'. TikTok is a social networking app that gives users the ability to watch, create and share short video clips. It also allows the user to be followed by other users. We wanted to raise awareness of this app, as it has the potential to cause safeguarding issues and parents may not be fully aware of its possible implications and consequences. Listed below are two useful websites that provide advice and guidance about the app. Two things that are worth noting immediately about the app are:

- TikTok requires users to be at least 13 years old to access its platform
- When signing up on TikTok, user profiles are made 'public' by default. This means anyone can view videos that your children upload, send direct messages to them and access their location information

We strongly advise all our parents to visit the following websites to get further useful information.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>

<https://kidsnclicks.com/tiktok-app/>

Could we also please ask that parents have a conversation with their child about this app and, if they are using it, strongly consider whether their child should be using it.



2020 Site Update



We had opportunity to walk through the new school site last week and get a feel for the scale. Amazing!

The progress made so far has been fantastic. Phase 1 is now complete with 119 modules in place and brick works have begun on the Sports Hall.

The crane is back on site to begin Phase 2 and we will update as things progress, along with news of a future opportunity for pupils to visit the site.

Other News

PBPA



The next PBPA meeting is taking place at The Stag (Brook St) on Monday 24th February at 6.30pm.

All welcome to attend.

Uno Tournament



The children are very excited that there will be an Uno tournament run by Mrs Pearce the week we return from half term.

Keep them practising their skills over the break!

World Book Day



It's time to start thinking about outfits for World Book Day (Thursday 5th March)!

They don't have to be elaborate, expensive costumes, you could get your child to wear their pyjamas and come as a character from David Walliams' 'The Midnight Gang' or make a mask and come as 'The Wimpy Kid'!

Take a look at www.worldbookday.com/dressing-up-ideas-2019 for more ideas.

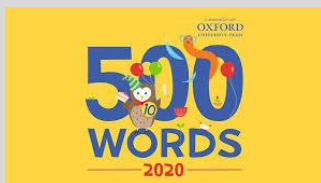
Liftshare Programme



CB Travel Choices Liftshare provides a matching service for all those who live, work and travel in and around Central Bedfordshire as well as for longer journeys to London or other locations outside the County. The site matches you up with potential partners as a driver or passenger. Once matched, you can choose to car share as little or often as you like, with whomever you like!

For more information please visit <https://liftshare.com/uk/community/travelchoicescbc>

500 Words Competition



500 words is BBC2's short story-writing competition for children between the ages of 5 and 13.

Please take a look at their website for further information:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1>

Young Artists Summer Show



The Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young people aged 5 - 19 years, taking place both online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts, that recognises talented young artists.

Please take a look at their website for further information:

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>

Local News and Events



Premier



Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February

Henlow Academy

Church Road, Henlow SG16 6AN

Monday 17th - Multi Activity **OR** Street Dance
Tuesday 18th - Multi Activity **OR** Gymnastics
Wednesday 19th - Multi Activity **OR** Cheerleading
Thursday 20th - Multi Activity **OR** Football
Friday 21st - Multi Activity **OR** Musical Theatre

Normal Day

£15.95

9.00am-3.30pm

With a Presentation at 3.15pm

Extended Day

£19.95

8.00am-5.30pm

This will allow you to drop your child off any time from 8.00am and collect them as late as 5.30pm



Premier

SCHOOL HOLIDAY COURSES



February Half Term 2020

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED



Premier Mid Beds

PRICES - Extended Day = £19.95 Normal Day = £15.95



Premier



MULTI ACTIVITY:

Children will choose from a number of sports on the day, these may include; Tennis, Basketball, Tag Rugby & Athletics, as well as specialist activities such as Archery, Fencing & Nerf. Arts & Craft will also be available. (Please note that the activities offered at our venues may vary on a daily basis)



PERFORMING ARTS:

Street Dance, Cheerleading & Musical Theatre days are available. Children will be able to learn and develop their skills in various activities from; Tricks and Sequencing and increasing their confidence when performing. (A Performance may be shown at the end of the day)



SPORT SPECIFIC:

We also run sport specific courses, including FOOTBALL & GYMNASTICS courses, where children will work on skills specific to that particular sport / activity for the entirety of the day.

Age Specific Courses

All of our courses are designed to suit the needs and development of specific age groups.

Aiming to create **FUN & ENGAGING** activities for **ALL**

Juniors - Ages 5 - 8

Seniors - Ages 9-12

DON'T FORGET...

- A packed lunch
- Plenty of water or fruit juice
- Weather-appropriate clothing
- A change of footwear
- Shin pads (for contact sports)
- ...and loads of energy!

BOOK NOW: www.premier-education.com

EMAIL : astevenson@premier-education.com

February Half Term Holiday Club!

**Derwent Lower School
Hitchin Road, Henlow
SG16 6BA**

Foundation Sports Holiday club is available for 5 to 12 year olds. 4 year olds are welcome to attend for a half day session only (a morning or afternoon).

Price List

Full Day (9am-4pm)	£18
Morning (9am - 12.30pm)	£15
Afternoon (12.30pm - 4pm)	£15
Late Pick-up (5.30pm)	£4.50
Early Drop off (8am)	£4.50

Dates

**Monday 17th February
to
Friday 23rd February**

QUOTE CODE
"VVO514" TO RECEIVE
A 40% DISCOUNT!

To confirm your place or for more information please contact:
 ☎ 07882046372 ✉ Bedfordshire@foundation-sports.com
 💻 www.foundation-sports.com



February Half Term Soccer Camp



£13

PER DAY
IF YOU BOOK ON
BEFORE
7th of February £15 AFTER




VENUE: LANGFORD FOOTBALL CLUB **AGE: 5 TO 14 YEARS**
4 YEAR OLDS HALF DAY FROM 9:30AM TO 12:30PM FOR £8 FOR HALF DAY
TIME: 9:30AM TO 3:30PM **ADDRESS: LANGFORD ROAD HENLOW SG16 6AF**


DATES 18th 19th 20th
PIZZA THURSDAY






TO CONFIRM YOU PLACE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
 07882046372 EMAIL: Bedfordshire@foundation-sports.com
 ABOUT US
 ALL OUR COACHES ARE FA QUALIFIED, HOLD A FIRST AID, HAVEN BEEN D.B.S CHECKED AND HAVE ATTENDED A CHILD PROTECTION WORK SHOP

 @Foundation Sports Bedfordshire
 


BE PART OF THE MAGIC.



 **AS ROMA CAMP**
The Arena, Baldock, Herts
Easter Holiday 14th - 16th April 2020
 Email: info@gkwsports.com

Diary & Term Dates

February	Tuesday 11 th Friday 14 th Friday 14 th Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st Monday 24 th Tuesday 25 th Wednesday 26 th	- Safer Internet Day - NSPCC thank you assembly - NO Homework Club - Half Term - PBPA Meeting, 6.30pm at The Stag - Author (Lou Treleven) visit - History Trip to Duxford (NO after school clubs)
March	Wednesday 4 th Thursday 5 th Friday 6 th Friday 13 th Friday 13 th	- After school Drama club starts - World Book Day (Non-uniform - costumes) - PBA Press Issue 8 - STEM Day - Non-uniform Day (Sports Relief– sports-wear £1)
April	Thursday 2 nd Friday 3 rd Monday 6 th - Friday 17 th	- Easter Concert at St Mary's Church - PBA Press Issue 9 - Easter Holidays
May	Date TBC Thursday 7 th Date TBC Friday 8 th Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th	- Trip to the Houses of Parliament - PBA Press Issue 10 - Parents Evening - Bank Holiday - Bikeability Course - 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 Thursday 16 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 - Trip to Gulliver's Land Theme Park - Last Day of Term, finish at 3.05pm (NO after school clubs) - Summer Holidays

September	Thursday 3 rd Friday 4 th Monday 7 th	- Staff Training Day (no school) - Staff Training Day (no school) - Start of Autumn Term
October	Monday 6 th – Friday 30 th	- Half Term
November	Date TBC	- PBA Open Evening
December	Saturday 13 th & Sunday 14 th	- Christmas Tree Festival at St Marys Church