

Pix Brook Academy Press



Issue 8: 6th March 2020

Welcome to March's PBA Press!

As is always the case, there has been a huge amount of activity over the last month and much more to come. Hopefully we will begin to see the start of spring over the next few weeks, frankly the wind and the rain are becoming tiresome and are not ideal for construction!

We were fortunate in that the rain held off for our sponsored walk/run in aid of the NSPCC. Pupils took the opportunity to raise money in a variety of ways. We had a non-uniform day and asked pupils to get sponsorship for the number of laps around the 4G pitch. All pupils were fully involved and some pupils put in a brilliant effort, walking for the entire hour. Pupils raised over £1,000, a superb effort for a worthy cause.

This half term started with a bang! On Tuesday, we had a visit from Lou Treleven, a children's author. She provided a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to hear about and work on fiction writing. We were very lucky to have Lou with us all day along with Amy Morris, Director of English for BEST, Alison Wilshaw, Director of Education for BEST and Alex Blink-Horn, an SLE in English from SWA. Pupils spent the day considering how to structure a plot, developing characters and generally had a great time talking and writing about books. A really great way to start the term.

The following day we were off to Duxford Air Museum. Again, this was a fantastic learning experience. Not only did we look at the artefacts from the Second World War, important because we are studying this as part of our History lessons (related to our English text of Kensuke's Kingdom), we also had a truly remarkable opportunity to ask questions and listen to two veterans from the forces: one who had been a child during the blitz and subsequently undertaken national service in the Middle East, the other a pilot in the Royal Navy. Both spoke about their experiences and responded to the wealth of questions posed by pupils. This was a genuinely moving experience and an opportunity that will not always be there. Pupils were fantastic: respectful, interested and polite at all times. A real credit to the school.

We finished the first week back with an assembly delivered by the Local Authority on road safety. This is a serious matter and one that the pupils understand is potentially life-saving. As a school we will be appointing junior road safety officers to act as advocates for road safety and taking advantage of the Local Authority's support in this area.

The next few weeks will continue to be extremely busy. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Miss Broadbent best wishes for the safe arrival of her baby. Miss Broadbent has continued with us for as long as possible before undertaking her maternity leave. We are extremely fortunate to have her lessons covered by Miss Aksoy until Easter, when Mr Brooks will be joining the school and taking the class. Mr Brooks will be continuing with us in September, taking the role of Head of Humanities.

We also have the full range of activities one would expect from PBA including World Book Day, Sport Relief, British Science Week, the Easter concert at St Mary's and a number of other events related to the development of the school. More of this in future editions. As always, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their support of the school. There is a huge amount to be done in our development as a school but with your support we are making great progress.

Mr Steve Adams
Principal



Ambitious

Aspirational

Responsible

Teaching and Learning News

History

Last week we enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Imperial War Museum, Duxford. The highlight of the trip was the children having the opportunity to speak with Robert and Mike (both veterans of war); one of them being an eyewitness to World War 2. The children were fascinated by their stories especially the scorpion tied to the bed! All of the staff were impressed with the maturity and the sensitivity of the children when asking questions. It was certainly an awe and wonder moment!



Please could the children bring in some **bubble wrap** and **cellophane** next week so that we can make gas masks in their History lessons - Thank you.

World Book Day

World Book Day is celebrated by schools across the country, this year was Thursday 5th March. We saw some fabulous fancy-dress costumes, some very inventive and clever, a lot of effort was put into various outfits. During the day the children took part in a range of activities linked to World Book Day. In English children were asked to finish a story from a story starter. There were some lovely creative stories and a variety of ways of presenting their stories besides writing. Maths looked at a range of books that had mathematical information presented pictorially, children then had to design their own info grams to present given information. In addition, we had an escape room challenge, puzzles and quizzes. A great day was had by all.
<https://www.worldbookday.com/>



Lou Treleavan Visit

We had an exciting day last Tuesday with children's author Lou Treleavan! She took the children through the process of writing a book, to getting the book published and on the shelves in a shop. The children were surprised that there are so many people involved in the process and it took till Lou turned 44 to get her first book published. Alongside this, she discussed the various methods that have inspired her in developing her creative writing when she was at school.

The children then had the opportunity to put the various skills in to practice, writing their own short stories. They shared their stories with the whole school, Lou was impressed with the skills and ideas the children had come up with. The day was completed with a book sale where Lou generously signed books for the children as well as writing a postcard to add to our PBA time capsule.



Science

British Science Week runs from 6th-15th March 2020 and the theme this year is 'Our Diverse Planet'. We will be taking part by completing some of the recommended activities instead of our usual Science topic lessons

There is a poster competition for children who wish to take part (full details page 5).



Teaching and Learning News Cont'd

Citizenship

In our Citizenship lessons, we have been preparing anti-bullying presentations which were shown to Mr Adams over the last few days. As a school we are pledging our promise to stamp out bullying and make sure we do not stand by and let others be bullied. Presentations included: role plays, poems, raps, speeches and much more! All of the children worked very hard and have achieved their 'Bully Free Form Status' certificates.



Design and Technology

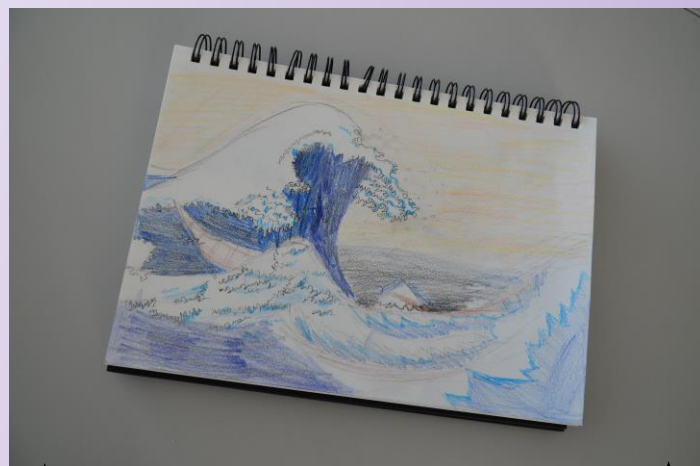
Pupils have been building straw bridges which will be tested for strength over the next few lessons. Pupils are becoming more and more confident in using templates and improving their confidence in accurately using hot glue guns. Pupils have also had the opportunity to work in small teams and formulate designs which they have enjoyed doing. From this project, pupils will appreciate and understand why triangles are used in structures that need to carry lots of weight. A large number of pupils have built more than one bridge and some have even designed their own bridge and built it. After this project, pupils will begin designing and building a structure/shelter that could be used during a natural disaster.

In the DT club, we are currently building air powered rockets. So far, pupils have designed and made the tailfins for their rockets. The next stage will be to make the main body and nose cone for their rockets. Once complete, pupils will use a rocket launcher manufactured from PVC pipes and an empty 2 litre fizzy drink bottle to launch their rocket as high and/or as far as possible. This project builds upon their previous elastic band powered straw rocket.



Art

Pupils have been busy drawing 'The Great Wave' by the Japanese artist Hokusai. There has been some excellent work produced by a number of pupils. They will now move on to drawing waves that incorporate Hokusai's style of drawing and painting. Pupils will be using water colouring pencils to colour in their painting(s). There will be a real focus on getting pupils to use different tones and shades in their painting(s) as well as improving their attention to detail when painting. As previously mentioned, this project feeds and link directly to the book they are currently studying (Kensuke's Kingdom).



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:

Jessica Feeley
Grace King
Emily Miles
Noah Challands
Evie Ash
Luke Carrins
Erin Carr
Sienna Davison
Isla True
Joe Reeve
Isla McNaughton
Charlie Bland
Oisin Barnes



Safeguarding at PBA

The NSPCC

The amount of money raised by our pupils was incredible! The NSPCC were absolutely astounded when we told them that our pupils had raised a staggering £1,167.65. As a school and as the teachers, we could not be prouder of our pupils and what they have done to help and support the NSPCC. They really have set the standard for future Pix Brook pupils to try and follow. A huge thank you to all our pupils and their parents/carers for their support, fund raising and donations.

Special mention to Lili Kitchener-McAdam for raising £132 for her sponsored walk and to Maisy Davies and Evie Fernandez who raised £47.80 from their weekend hot chocolate sale! Well done to Nathan Finch who ran the most laps!



The NSPCC delivered the second of their 'Speak Out. Stay Safe' workshops to the remaining half of the year group. As with the first workshop, the NSPCC were very well received by our pupils and they actively took part in it. Pix Brook pupils were engaged, motivated and contributed very well to the workshop. The programme was very useful, and we are very confident that our pupils took on board the very important messages from the workshop that they should never be afraid to speak out and about anything that is stopping them from feeling safe.

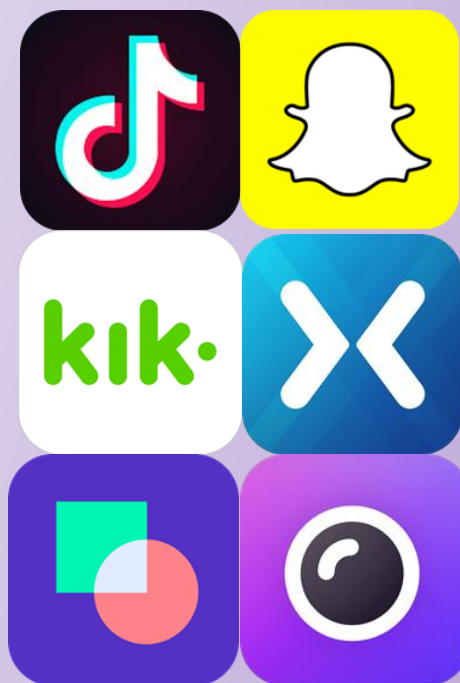


Social Networks, Apps and Games

In the last newsletter, we highlighted the social networking app TikTok and signposted some useful links that provided advice and guidance about this app. As we know, there are many more apps that young people can access and use. We have therefore listed a useful website that highlights and reviews the current popular social networks, apps and games. The website provides summaries, age rating guidance and the level of possible risk of each social network, app and game.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks?order=&page=1>

We strongly advise a visit to this website to get further useful information. Could we also please ask that parents have a conversation with their child about any of the highlighted social networks, apps or games and consider whether their child should be using any of them at the moment due to their age.





About this activity

Get creative and enter the British Science Association's annual poster competition. You can make your poster about whatever version of 'Our diverse planet' you like and enter our UK-wide competition with the chance to win some exciting prizes. You can enter one of the activities found in this pack for the poster competition - simply look for the paintbrush symbol. Or you can use them as inspiration to get you started.

Kit list

- ✓ Paper (A4 or A3)
- ✓ Creative materials, e.g. pens, pencils, scissors, glue, watercolours, paint, colouring crayons, pipe cleaners, felt, thread, wool, foil, clay, string, beads, stamps, foam, pompoms.

N.B. try to avoid using straws or glitter - these plastics can damage our planet and harm the diverse creatures and ecosystem that live there.

Guinness World Records are proud to sponsor this year's poster competition.

There are many forms of discovery in the world which go hand in hand with records, such as exploring uncharted terrain, but 'discovery' comes in many forms - there are no limits on how you 'discover your world'!

Find record-breaking inspiration for your poster entry here: [guinnessworldrecords.com/records/hall-of-fame](https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/records/hall-of-fame)

Our Diverse Planet

Poster competition



Research your poster

Investigate and imagine 'Our diverse planet' and everything that makes it special. Here are some topic ideas to get you started:

- ✓ Why not think about biodiversity? From the diversity in your own garden, to the diversity at the very bottom of the ocean, research all the amazing creatures and organisms that live on our planet.
- ✓ The diversity of science and STEM subjects. Have a think about all the diverse ways that science affects our lives and who you know that uses science every day. Is there science in baking and cooking? What about making a film or taking a picture? Or how about operating planes and cars? Remember that science is everywhere, you just have to look for it!
- ✓ Think about the other kinds of diversity our planet contains - from the variety of the molecules that make up essential parts of life, to the different ways our towns and cities are built, and the variation of people's tastes and interests.
- ✓ Our planet is unique, but why not investigate what makes it different from the other planets in our solar system?

Make your poster

Once you've done your research, it's time to get creative! Your poster must be:

2D (flat) - if you make a model, you need to just send us a photo of it on A4 or A3 paper

You can use pop up pictures, pull out tabs or materials such as paint, drawing pencils, crayons and paper.

Send us your poster

Posters will be judged on creativity, how well they fit the theme and how well the poster has been made or drawn.

Once the poster is complete, please hand it into your class teacher - closing date is Friday 20th March

Next steps

Celebrate! For more details, along with the full set of rules and tips for educators, check out our website britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/poster-competition

Other News

PBPA



The next PBPA meeting will take place at The Chequers at 7.30pm on Monday 30th March.

If you would like to join the PBPA (Pix Brook Parent Association) please let the school office know.

Sport Relief



We will be raising money for Sport Relief on Friday 13th March by having a non-uniform day for a suggested donation of £1. Pupils are invited to come to school in sports-wear.

WHAT IS SPORT RELIEF?

Sport Relief brings the nation together to raise money through the power of sport. With your help, we fight inequality wherever we find it to create a better, fairer world – free from poverty.

Easter Concert



We will be holding our Easter Concert at St Mary's Church on Thursday 2nd April. Parents are invited to join us for songs and refreshments 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.

Admission Arrangements



The admission arrangements for September 2021 have now been determined and can be found on the BEST website: <https://www.bestacademies.org.uk/page/?title=Governance&pid=7>

Free School Meals



As part of our procedure to ensure that all pupils are receiving what they are entitled to please see the information below. If any of the detailed criteria are applicable please follow the link to ensure you have registered.

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

How do I register?

If you click on the link below it will take to you Central Beds registration process.

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/53/benefits/4/free_school_meals/3

Local News and Events



WANT TO TRY SOMETHING NEW? COME AND SEE WHAT WE DO..

OPEN EVENING

10TH MARCH 2020 - 19:00 TO 21:00



Experience Adventure Sports, learn new skills and build teamwork and confidence, and most importantly have FUN exploring The Great Outdoors!



We are currently recruiting:

- Scouts – for ages 10.5 to 14
- Explorers – for ages 14+
- Adult Volunteers

For more information go to www.arleseyscouts.org.uk



BAYCROFT
Care Homes & Senior Villages



In conjunction with the Stotfold Mill, Baycroft Care Home in Fairfield are hosting an event on Saturday 14th March from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Address : Hitchin Road, Fairfield, Hitchin, Bedfordshire, SG5 4SW

There will be free tea, coffee and cakes, a raffle and children's activities such as dressing up as a miller, puppets related to the story of 'The little Red Hen' and cogs and gears to make constructions.

At 11.00am, there will be a brief Presentation on the History of the Stotfold Mill from 1066-2011.

All are welcome with or without children!!

There will be an opportunity for children to make mice out of play dough & a prize for the best mouse made!!

All proceeds will go towards the running of the Stotfold Mill and Nature Reserve.

#runbythecommunityforthecommunity

MULTI-ACTIVE

HOLIDAY COURSES

Courses running in the school holidays.

WWW.MULTI-ACTIVE.CO.UK



Diary & Term Dates

March	Friday 6 th Friday 6 th Friday 6 th -Sunday 15 th Friday 13 th Wednesday 18 th Friday 20 th Monday 30 th	- Willmott Dixon Assembly - PBA Press Issue 8 - British Science Week - Non-uniform Day (Sports Relief– sports-wear £1) - SEND Coffee Morning (9am) - Closing date for Science Week posters - PBPA Meeting (7.30pm at The Chequers)
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 (TBC) - 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 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 - End of Year Disco - 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 26 th – Friday 30 th	- Half Term
November	Date TBC	- Pix Brook Academy Open Evening
December	Saturday 13 th & Sunday 14 th	- Christmas Tree Festival at St Marys Church