

## Message from Mr Adams

I write at the end of the first half of the Summer Term and in some regards the situation in schools is no clearer than that before Easter. Missing the entirety of this first part of the summer term has been devastating for those of us who were beginning to feel that the school community was really starting to come together. Getting to know our pupils as individuals has always been a priority for me and it is beyond disappointing to have lost this time with them.

Currently, Primary schools are preparing to receive Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils into school from the 1<sup>st</sup> June, although the final decision regarding this will not be taken by the Government until the 28<sup>th</sup> May when the most recent scientific advice will be assessed. For schools and parents awaiting the announcement, the uncertainty is difficult to manage. For those of us with children in different year groups, that uncertainty is even more profound. Currently we know the Government's hope is that all Primary pupils will receive some schooling before the summer break although at present the details of what that might look like are unclear.

For all of us at Pix Brook Academy, it will be fantastic to have our pupils back in school. Our challenge is how to achieve this while adhering to the safety guidelines. Safe social distancing is achievable by splitting our three classes into five, making use of the other two teaching spaces, the staggering of breaks and lunches are possible as are routines for cleaning. What is clear is that when pupils do return, school will not be the same as before the outbreak of COVID-19. We have produced our plan for the return of pupils and when we are advised that it is safe to do so we will provide more information, we can only hope we hear soon. All the staff at PBA are working on the basis that the children will be back with us before the summer, we are just waiting to be told when.

During the course of the lock-down, I know parents have been working fantastically hard to support their children at home. I am well aware of the difficulties associated with teaching your own children and have nothing but admiration for those of you who have persisted. It may seem a thankless task but please be assured you will reap the rewards at some point in the future when you least expect it! Your children may not thank you now but in years to come they will appreciate your efforts. I hope that the materials and resources we have provided have been useful. Trying to balance the need to provide educational activities without adding pressure to families has been something of a tightrope. Hopefully our use of Google Classroom, enabling communication with teachers, regular phone calls and emails for pupils, class Zoom meetings and weekly material on the website, have done something to mitigate the challenge of doing schoolwork at home.

The Summer Term is a fantastically busy time in schools. We are currently working with our lower school colleagues to put together the classes for next year.

Fortunately, we had made all our teaching appointments for September and I have been in communication with each of them. They are all looking forward to starting and have been preparing for the start of the new term and looking forward to seeing their new classes.

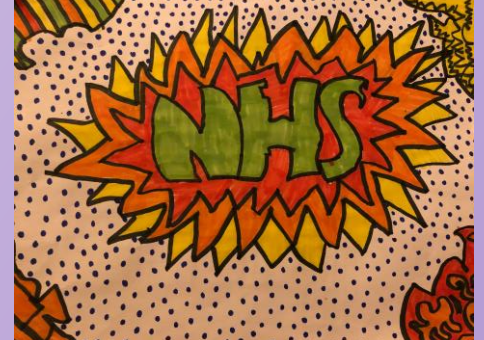
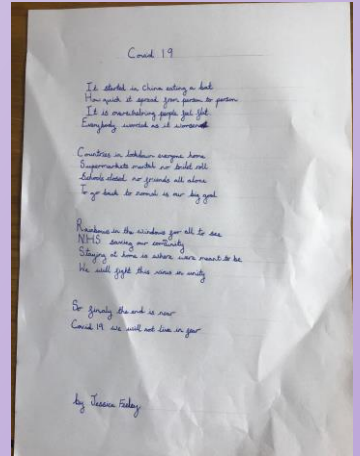
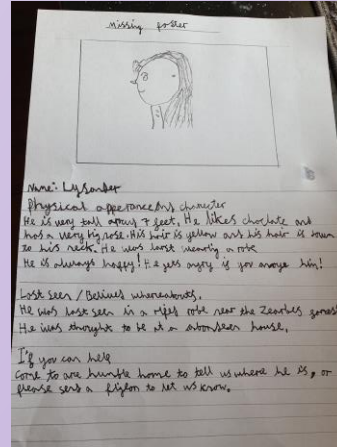
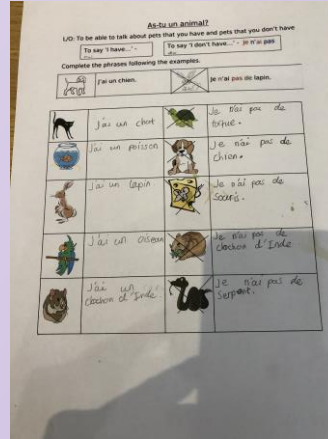
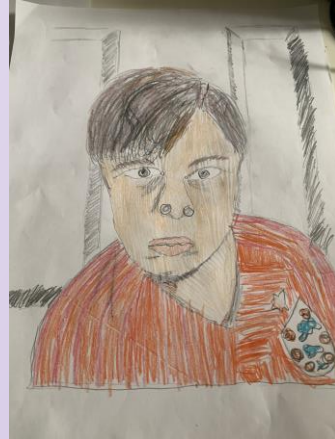
Unfortunately, some things are less simple. As you may expect the impact of the pandemic is felt in a host of areas. Currently it appears that the usual step-up days will not be possible. Instead we are planning for teachers to meet with parents and pupils individually (at a safe social distance). I am also exploring the possibility of a virtual tour of the new school. We might also miss our normal end of term celebrations, if this is the case I will ensure that when pupils do return we have an appropriate event to mark the end of our first (very eventful!) year at the school.

Inevitably there has also been an impact on the construction of the permanent school. Much of the work has progressed throughout the period of lock-down, however some elements have been impacted by the pandemic and this might result in a delay to the handing over of the school. Currently plans are in place to provide alternative accommodation for pupils in September if required. If that is the case we will continue to use our current site and either have accommodation at Etonbury Academy or have temporary classrooms on our current site. I will provide more details when the situation has been confirmed, I anticipate knowing the decision at the beginning of July. I will obviously be extremely disappointed for pupils, parents and staff if we find ourselves in this position but as the recipient of the school, there is little that can be done. Given the life changing impact the virus has had on so many lives, it seems churlish to be anything other than disappointed. Currently I know that Willmott Dixon and the local authority are doing everything possible to enable us to access the school at the start of term, it remains to be seen if circumstances conspire against us. If they do, it will be a short-term delay and the plan will be to be in the new school before the end of the year and my focus is on ensuring that pupils receive an outstanding experience regardless of the building they are occupying.

As we enter the May half term break, I would like to wish you a well-deserved rest. We are not expecting pupils to undertake schoolwork during this period. Trying to maintain the notion of a yearly cycle is important and while the normal holidays and family visits might not be possible we should still try to demarcate this period in some way. No doubt we will continue to receive updates over the next few weeks and please be assured that as soon as I have any further information I will share this with you.

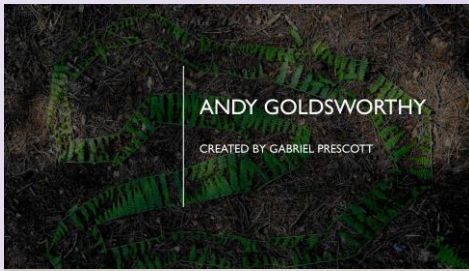
Thank you again for your support and I hope the weather remains kind and everyone remains well!

## Just some of the amazing work you've been producing...





# Just some of the amazing work you've been producing...



ANDY GOLDSWORTHY  
CREATED BY GABRIEL PRESCOTT

## ABOUT ANDY GOLDSWORTHY

- Andy Goldsworthy was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 1956 in Cheshire
- He is a British sculptor, photographer and environmentalist
- He lives and works in Scotland
- Andy studied at Bradford College of Art and at Preston Polytechnic



## ABOUT HIS WORK

He creates Land Art which is a form of art that is only made of natural resources but it can be made in a natural environment and studio. The main resources he uses are snow, ice, leaves, ferns, twigs and straw to create his sculptures.



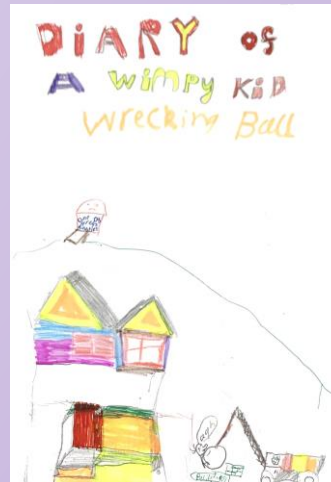
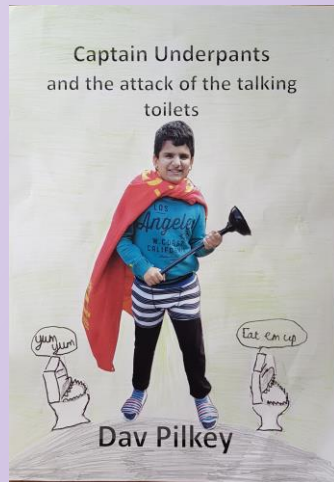
## MY WORK INSPIRED BY ANDY GOLDSWORTHY



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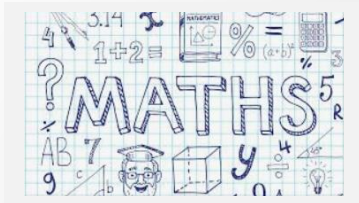


## MY WORK INSPIRED BY ANDY GOLDSWORTHY



## Other News

### New Staff Members Joining PBA In September



**Mr Jacob Williams** joins us from Robert Bloomfield Academy.

Having studied Maths and History at Aberystwyth University Jacob will be teaching a Year 5 class and takes responsibility for the development of ICT. He has worked as a Maths apprentice at a secondary school in Luton and is looking forward to meeting his new class and helping bring Maths to life at PBA.



**Mrs Emma Murphy** joins us from William Austin Junior School.

Emma is currently a Year 5 teacher and science co-ordinator. She brings a wealth of junior school experience having worked as a TA and teacher. Previously she worked in the university sector. Emma will take responsibility for Key Stage 2 Science.



**Mrs Jean Gregory** joins us from Etonbury Academy.

Jean is currently a Year 6 class teacher. Previously she worked for a number of years as Head of Year 6 in a middle school. Jean will work closely with the team to develop the pastoral support available in school.



**Mrs Molly White** joins us from Etonbury Academy.

Molly is currently Key Stage 2 Maths lead and a primary teacher. With a first-class degree in Creative Art and Design and KS2/3 teaching in addition to teaching her class Molly, will take a lead for Music across the school.



**Miss Gonca Aksoy** currently working at PBA as TA and after school facilitator.

Gonca takes up a role as Primary teacher full time at PBA in September. Before qualifying as a teacher, she worked in schools as a teaching assistant and unqualified teacher. A Bilingual member of staff who will be developing the MFL provision at the school.



**Mrs Isobel Whent** joins us from Etonbury Academy.

Isobel is currently Assistant Headteacher and SENCo at ETA. She joins us permanently in September having worked here part time since the start of the year. Having started her career as a PE teacher Mrs Whent will be the schools SENCo and lead teacher of PE.

### Staff Update



Mrs Tracy Smyth has been appointed Director of Key Stage 2. Having been invaluable in contributing to the development of the pupil experience and curriculum during the course of this year, Mrs Smyth will officially take the role as Senior Leader responsible for KS2. Her remit will focus on outcomes at KS2. This is a significant appointment and is well deserved. I know that Mrs Smyth is particularly looking forward to working with our new pupils and staff next year.



## Other News Cont'd

### Parent / Carer Survey



In order to help Sustrans and Central Bedfordshire Council plan for the future and to further promote active travel to families, please could you complete the following short survey – There is a prize incentive for one lucky respondent who will win a £400 bicycle to suit their child!

<https://sustrans.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/cbc-schools-parent-survey>

### May Birthday Celebrations



Happy birthday to the following people who celebrated in May

Erin

Evan

Jess C

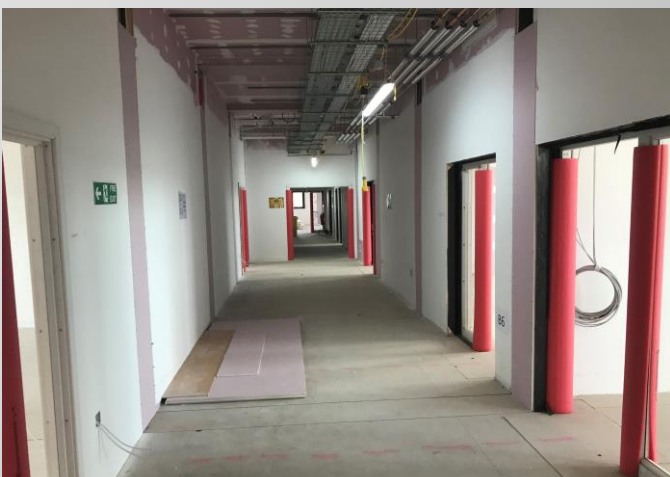
Isla T

Dillon

Josh

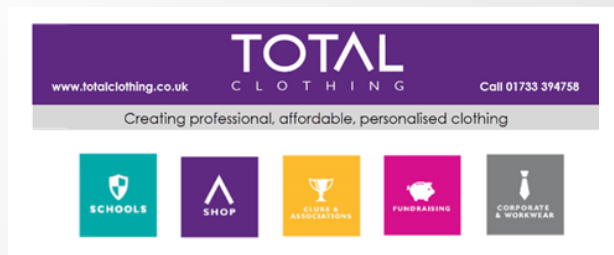
Mr King-Mand

### Update Photos from the New Site



## Other News Cont'd

### School Uniform: Message from Total Clothing



#### **Sizing Days**

Due to the Government Guidelines and the safety of staff, parents and pupils, we feel the Sizing Day is not something we can offer currently.

The main advantage of this day is to allow pupils to try on the clothing. However due to the risk of the virus travelling onto the clothing and additional pupils trying on the same garments, we would not be able to allow trying on of the uniform.

Therefore, we feel without this advantage and with the addition of social distancing, it would be safer and more effective to support parents as much as we can with the online ordering and showroom offering.

#### **Booklets and Sizing Videos**

To support this, we are creating a booklet and sizing video bespoke to Pix Brook Academy offering advice on how to measure your child. This would be the same measurements we advise taking on the Sizing Day and parents can do this in the safety of their own home. In the video I will explain the Pix Brook Academy Uniform requirements (with dressed mannequins on display), how to measure your child and any extra hints and tips specific to your uniform.

We are also offering the FREE home delivery throughout June to allow parents to size and order their uniform in plenty of time before the start of school in September.

We will also be as flexible as we can with the returns. Any returns will be isolated for at least 72 hours before they are put back on the shelf to sell.

If any parents are struggling and have specific concerns with sizing, we will always have our Customer Services team available on Live Chat, email and telephone. We are also considering arranging Zoom calls one to one with any parents that would like further assistance and advice with the uniform.

#### **Appointments and Showroom**

Parents will still be able to visit our showroom and shop in Peterborough if they wish to. To monitor the number of parents/pupils we will have in the showroom, we will be asking parents to make appointments throughout the summer to visit the shop. There will be a link for parents to book online. These appointments will most likely start from mid-end of June. Further information on this will be sent shortly.

### 'English LIVE' wins Point of Light Award



A huge congratulations to Holly King-Mand who has been awarded with a Points of Light Award for 'English LIVE' from the Prime Minister!

In a personal letter to Holly, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

"Every day I take a moment to say thank you to someone in our country for their service to others by recognising them as a Point of Light in our lives.

"So, on National Thank a Teacher Day, I wanted to write to thank you for the ingenuity with which you have captured the imaginations of thousands, supporting parents

managing home-schooling and helping to educate children from across four continents.

"As our country comes together to win this battle with Coronavirus, I am lost in admiration for the courage and dedication of our teachers – from those in the classroom looking after the children of other critical workers, to those like you who have helped to reimagine education for the online world."

Mr King-Mand could not be prouder of his wife and recognises that having a "national treasure" in the family means he will have to make sure the literacy elements to his lessons are "on point"!



## A message from the teachers...



**Mrs Pearce:** I have been really busy since the last newsletter. As many of you know I have been looking through the amazing work that you have been completing on Google Classroom. I have also been the PBA quiz master! I hope you have enjoyed completing the quizzes, I have certainly enjoyed putting them together for you. But one of my favourite things since the last newsletter is to have seen most of you in the class Zooms. You are all looking well and I am looking forward to some more Zoom sessions to come after half term.

I have also been spending time with my family particularly trying to make the most of the lovely weather we have had recently. We have been on walks discovering the local area and have been growing some plants from seed including radishes, courgette, tomatoes and lettuce.

Keep well and I hope to see you all again soon.

**Miss Aksoy:** I've really enjoyed looking through your work on Google Classroom. You have all impressed me with the quality and amount of work you are producing (using other resources too). Other than that, I have been planning French for next year and putting together some more work for Google Classroom. I've tried my best to make it accessible and fun for you.

On the other hand, practising yoga in my garden has been relaxing and going for long walks has been enjoyable! I hope you're all well!

Take care and stay safe!



**Mrs Whent:** Hi all! I hope you are all keeping well. I have missed the opportunity to start taking your PE lessons this Summer term, but I am spending lots of time creating and planning our curriculum in PE for next year!

It is so exciting thinking about the new facilities we will have, a sports hall, dance studio, outside courts and fields! I have lots of new sports to teach you and for you to try; including Netball, Gymnastics, Basketball, Rugby, athletics and many more!

We will also be thinking about what sports clubs and teams we will have for you to enjoy. I hope you are all keeping fit and healthy, either walking as a family, riding your bikes or doing a bit of Joe Wicks. Enjoy the fresh air, stay active so you're ready to take part in all the fun new activities I have planned.

**Mrs Smyth:** Hello Everyone, I hope you are all staying safe and well during these very unusual times.

I have thoroughly enjoyed setting all of the activities for the home learning but have absolutely loved the work that has been sent in. The children must be so proud of themselves as the work has been amazing! I was especially impressed with the Art challenge where the children researched artists and then created their own piece in that artists style. I have to say, we have a very creative year group!

My favourite thing I have done is spend lots of time with my 3 boys and this week we made monkey cakes! Take care everyone and keep doing everything you are doing. We are all in this together!



**Mr Van Wyk:** We have been going on lots of bike rides (just like everyone else!) and have enjoyed being able to go outside in this lovely weather. We are very lucky in this area to have many open fields and beautiful walkways and farms to explore. I have struggled a little going up hills because I have a not-so-little passenger to escort on my bike but the extra exercise is probably doing me some good.

If anyone has discovered a new and exciting route that allows bicycles in our area, please be sure to share. I hope everyone is enjoying some quality time with their families and hope to see everyone soon again.



**Mr Brooks:** I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to you all for making me feel so welcome. I have been so impressed by the breadth of interests and the level of knowledge, you all showed during the recent Zoom meeting. I can't wait to get back in the classroom, so that we can continue to be as ambitious as you all have been at home.

During the next half term during History, you will be looking at the Tudors. Where I will be asking you to decide who the greatest Tudor is. In Geography, you will be looking at Communities and learning about the history of Stotfold. I have been very busy during Lockdown, preparing lots of exciting lessons for next year. There will be lessons about different Continents and a unit called Invasion Through Time where we meet the Vikings.

As you can see there are exciting times ahead. In the mean-time keep up the good work, stay safe, I look forward to seeing you all again very soon!

**Mr King-Mand:** Hello Pix Brook Academy pupils, I hope you've all been keeping safe and well. I continue with my 'preparation and training' for the next Tour De France by getting out on as many bike rides as I can – especially during this wonderful weather we've been having. Bradley Wiggins will have nothing on me by the time I'm finished!

In other news from the King-Mand household, my wife (Mrs King-Mand, who most of you will know as 'English with Holly') received some fantastic news from 10 Downing Street on National Thank a Teacher Day. The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has awarded Mrs King-Mand a Points of Light Award for helping home-schooling families across four continents during the pandemic. He has also sent a personal letter, thanking her for 'capturing the imagination of thousands' and helping to 'reimagine education for the online world'. On a personal note, I'm hoping in the future that we'll get an invite to 10 Downing Street to meet Boris Johnson for tea and biscuits!

I look forward to seeing and working with you all once again.





# Safeguarding at Pix Brook Academy

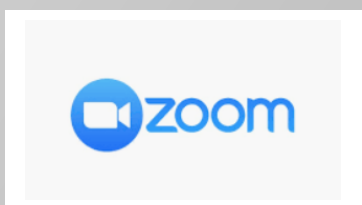
The safeguarding and well-being of pupils remains the top priority for Pix Brook Academy.

Even during this time of lockdown and the temporary closure of our school building, the well-being and safeguarding of our pupils has constantly remained at the forefront for Pix Brook Academy staff. Our pastoral and safeguarding responsibilities towards our pupils has not changed; we simply have had to execute our duties in a slightly different manner.



We fully appreciate that for some pupils, the current situation within the country can be worrying and a little daunting, especially the impact of being away from friends, missing out on the hustle and bustle of daily school life and the routine that school brings. With this in mind, the safeguarding team have kept in contact with those pupils that may just need that little bit of extra support, albeit over the phone. These 'check in' calls have allowed parents/carers to update the safeguarding team on how their child is getting on and for us to check if there is any additional support we could provide or signpost parents/carers towards.

We have continued to work alongside the families of pupils whom we were providing additional pastoral support for before the lockdown restrictions came in to force. This has also involved weekly 'check in' phone calls to discuss how things have been going for the pupil. The safeguarding team have been utterly amazed with how resilient our pupils have been and how, in many cases, they have just been getting on with things and making the best of 'lockdown life'.



To allow our pupils to see and speak to their classmates and teachers, Mrs Pearce has organised hugely successful Zoom class meetings. For us as staff, it has been lovely to see and speak to our pupils and more importantly for them to see their classmates and share stories and things they have achieved. We know from feedback how much our pupils have enjoyed the Zoom class meetings. These class meetings would not have happened without the organisation and commitment of Mrs Pearce and the dedication of staff at Pix Brook Academy.

For school staff, seeing and speaking to pupils on a daily basis allows us to easily pick up on and address any worries or issues that our pupils may be facing. As we are unable to do this at present, we would encourage our parents to get in touch via email if they have any safeguarding or pastoral worries. The emails of the Pix Brook Academy safeguarding team are shown below:

- Indie King-Mand [iking-mand@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:iking-mand@bestacademies.org.uk)
- Tracy Smyth [tsmyth@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:tsmyth@bestacademies.org.uk)
- Isabel Pearce [ipearce@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:ipearce@bestacademies.org.uk)

We look forward to seeing all our pupils in the near future so they can continue upon their Pix Brook Academy journey.

Until then, we hope you all stay safe, keep healthy and make the best use of this time in lockdown.