

Welcome to the first 2020/2021 issue of PBA Press!

It has been great to get to know our new pupils in school. The large group of Year 5 pupils are already settled into the routine of a new school. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly they become accustomed to new people, spaces and expectations and I am delighted with their attitude and application. It's been a real shame that we have been unable to operate the number and variety of clubs and activities that we would like, although each class is still able to attend their homework club after school with their teacher and this has been really well attended. I have also been pleased that we have managed to run the Bikeability training with our Year 6 pupils. This was delayed from last April when we were all locked down and is yet another small example of how the pandemic just makes everything in school just a little more complicated.

This last month has been about getting settled into our new building. This is made a little more complicated by the phased release of so much of the building. While our Key Stage 2 wing was completed in September other areas are being released over time. At the end of September, the dining hall was handed over, in the first week of October the canteen was released allowing us to provide hot meals and in mid-October we will take possession of the sports hall, activity hall and changing rooms. As I write I am expecting to take possession of the phase 2 part of the building during the half term break.

As always, we are becoming accustomed to new ways of working in the new academic year. This is really about making sure everyone knows what the expectations are and there is no doubt that having new spaces to "explore" is exciting. I have been delighted with the application and maturity our pupils have shown since the start of the year and I know teachers have felt the same.

We now move to the next phase of the year where we move on from introductions to the real work. We will be undertaking some baseline assessments with pupils over the next couple of weeks. These are simply for the school to better understand how pupils have coped with the extended period out of school and ensure that we are able to identify areas that might need extra attention.

We are fully aware that parents of existing pupils at PBA would welcome the opportunity to visit the school. Under normal circumstances this would have happened already and we are sorry that the restrictions placed on schools regarding socially distancing make this extremely difficult.

We are currently discussing how best to accommodate additional visits but this is made difficult because of the need for these to be undertaken outside school hours. The rule of six also makes visits extremely time consuming. In addition, we would like to be able to show parents the completed building which his due later in the year.

If there is a relaxation in the guidelines before Christmas we will ensure parents are able to visit the school, in lieu of that happening we will make arrangements for parents to visit in the new term. Please accept our apologies for the delay, it would be fantastic to show our new school and facilities to the whole community and it is immensely frustrating that we are unable to do so at present.

Amongst all the excitement of new buildings, COVID-19 guidelines and the "business" of opening a new school, it is important to reflect on the key priority: working with young people and helping them to grow into the adults they will be. At Pix Brook Academy we talk about our core purpose a great deal: to educate the socially responsible citizens of the future. Included in this simple sentence we capture the essence of what we believe. That young people need to be educated so they can better understand the way they can contribute to the world and hopefully (if we can do our job well enough) make it a better place for everyone. No small challenge but with the support of parents and the commitment of staff all at Pix Brook Academy believe that this is worth working for.

S Adams

Mr Steve Adams
Principal



Ambitious

Aspirational

Responsible

News from Year 5

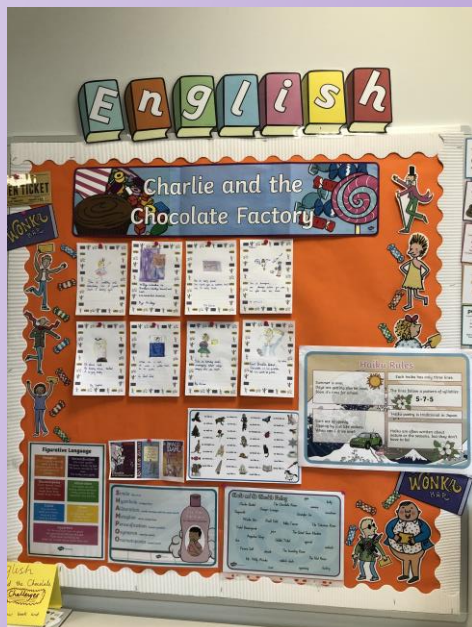
What an amazing start it has been for our fabulous new Year 5s. Every single one of them has settled in wonderfully to their new surroundings, made even more daunting by the glorious, but gigantic new building. Everybody, teachers and students, has been thoroughly impressed with everything the new school has to offer; from high-tech Science rooms to the awesome Interactive Whiteboards found in every classroom. After a patient wait, our fantastic year group were able to enjoy their first packed lunches in the shiny canteen, followed a week later by their first cooked meals, provided by the new kitchen!



Our new teaching staff in Year 5 have also settled in to their new environment. Mrs Gregory, Mrs White and Mr Williams have definitely bought into the ethos and values of the school. Miss Aksoy has also enjoyed a great start to her new role as a form tutor in Year 5 and Mr Van Wyk, returning to Year 5 from last year, has also settled in his new class.

English

We have been reading Charlie and The Chocolate Factory and have completed lots of different activities. We have completed fact files about the characters, used similes and metaphors to describe the characters and completed comprehension tasks and poems to show our understanding of the book. Here is a picture of our display board showing some of the children's haiku poems.



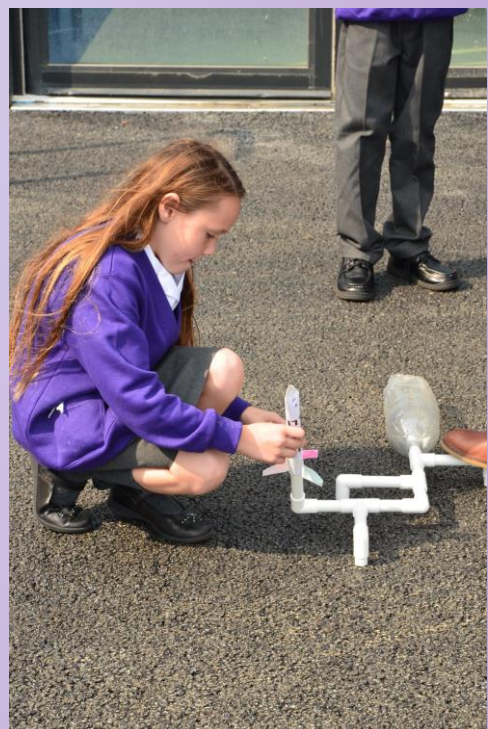
Maths

We have gone back to basics with Place Value in the first three weeks. We then focused on Addition and Subtractions and doing mental and written methods, as well as solving word problems. The feedback from many children and teachers was that they are enjoying Maths but it has also highlighted the ongoing need to practice multiplication tables and number bonds for quick recall. The children are learning new methods of calculation in a variety of Mathematical scenarios and real-life problems and knowing their times tables are essential. We therefore ask parents and carers to continue to support children with homework and practising times tables and number bonds.



Design and Technology

To link in with the book being studied this term (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory), Year 5 pupils will be designing and making cardboard gumball machines that will be themed around the book. So far this term, pupils have completed tasks around workshop health and safety and have carried out product analysis tasks of existing gumball machines. Some groups have begun the initial manufacturing and the others will begin manufacturing in the coming lessons. The pupils are very excited about this project and their teachers are expecting some sweet results!

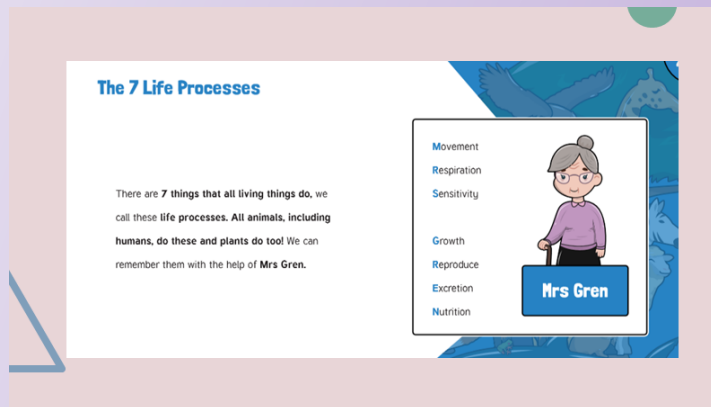


Science

In science, we are looking at 'Living things and their habitats.' So far, the children have identified parts of a flower and learnt the 7 life processes using the help of MRS GREN. (Please quiz your children on their knowledge of Mrs Gren, answers below.)

Also, the children have enjoyed taking part in dissecting a flower by removing petals, the stamen, the anther, stigma, style, ovary and filament.

Our next lessons will be taking cuttings from a plant and replanting them to see if we can create our own cloned plant.



Each class has been lucky enough to be joined by 5 little caterpillars! We have enjoyed watching them grow over the past few weeks into giant caterpillars and then turn into a chrysalis. We are patiently waiting for the transformation into Painted lady butterflies to happen (Attenborough already have 4 lovely butterflies to enjoy!!) When they hatch, we will feed our butterflies fruit like oranges and apples and sugared water for three days before releasing outside. We will miss our little friends but have loved getting a close up view of this amazing



PE

What an exciting start to term! We have welcomed the Year 5's with all their new kit, looking fantastic. We have been learning how to warm up safely and focusing on our fitness, particularly after the period of time at home. They have completed some fitness tests and then doing sessions to improve their own fitness. They will be re-doing the tests in the last few PE lessons of the half term, so hopefully we will see an improvement!

We have also just gained access to our sports hall, and some lucky Year 5's this week got to have a lesson in there! It was very exciting, and we look forward to starting our curriculum of sports using both the hall and the new studio after half term.

COVID pending we will be running a range of different extra-curricular clubs and activities soon!

Humanities

It has been an amazing first few weeks in the Pix Brook Humanities department. I have had so much fun getting to know all the new students in Year 5 and I hope they have had the same amount of fun being introduced to the subjects and topics I love. So far, Year 5 have discussed the Maya Civilisation in History, Rainforests in Geography and Inspirational people in Religious Education. There seems to be a great knowledge base in the year group in Geography and I look forward to building on that in the future. Similarly, in History there is a wealth of knowledge and I have loved watching the eyes light up as we discuss the Maya and watching your knowledge increase lesson by lesson has been an absolute pleasure. Lastly it has been an honour for me to be able to introduce inspirational people such as Anne Frank and Nelson Mandela during Religious Education I know that some of the Year 5's are meeting these topics for the first time and it has been a pleasure for me to ensure that all students gain a solid foundation from which to build the socially responsible adults of the future.



Art

In preparation for their Charlie and the Chocolate Factory art project in which they will design a new chocolate bar wrapper for Willy Wonka, pupils have been developing their basic art skills in applying shading, texture and developing their skills in linework and observational drawing. A lot of Year 5s are already wrapped up in their art lessons and thoroughly enjoying them!

We hope that this new cohort continue to make a successful and settled start to life and Pix Brook and we look forward to bringing you more news from our amazing school!



*Miss Aksoy, Mr Brooks, Mrs Gregory, Mr King-Mand,
Mr Van-Wyk, Mr Williams and Mrs White
Year 5 Team*

News from Year 6

This week certainly has been a different week for many reasons, the weather has changed meaning we are feeling more Autumnal. This has not held us back from carrying out some of our favourite outdoor activities. This included our Bikeability week! The children started the week with cycling around the carpark and then built up confidence to cycle around Stotfold. Alongside this we have also been celebrating walk to school week, we have talked about various ways we can get to school without adding to our carbon footprint and a lot of children have either walked or cycled to school this week. They were particularly excited when they received badges for their efforts. As the we are also nearing the final stages of the building work we hope that the completion of the bike shed will encourage more of the children to cycle in to school in the future. Maybe the children can even encourage the teachers and staff to help them in reducing our carbon footprint!



Year 6 have loved coming back to school and seeing their friends after such a long time. We also have the added excitement of settling into our fabulous new building, definitely a change from last year! We have had several new students who have joined us and settled into the year group easily. It has been a busy start to the year.

Maths

We have been looking at multiplication and division, something that covers many areas of Y6 Maths.

Science

The children and teachers are soon going to be using our amazing science lab. The children will all have the chance to visit at least once a week for a practical lesson. We will update with more photos as the children begin using this amazing facility.



In Year 6 the children have been learning all about light. Did you know that light travels nearly 900 times faster than sound? That is why you see the flash of lightning before you hear the clap of thunder!

We have discovered that light travels in straight lines. But we are going to explore how a reflection is made and are hoping to make periscopes later this week.

English

We have had lots of fun playing detectives while reading the Sherlock Holmes story 'The case of the Speckled Band'. Each lesson we have pieced together the clues and come up with our own theories, some of us even figured out the mystery correctly. Then we used our knowledge of detective stories to write our own mystery.

Our Guided Reading novel is 'Cogheart' which ties in with our Victorians topic. It has elements of fantasy which we are enjoying and have even had a go at designing our own mechanical animals



Art

Year 6 have been studying the life and work of the famous British Victorian designer William Morris. They have created a fact file about his life and achievements, had a go at replicating some of his famous wallpaper designs and patterns. They are currently looking at man-made and natural patterns in the world around us. They will use the knowledge and skills they have picked to create a William Morris style wallpaper design which they will then turn into a printing plate. They will then do some of their own wallpaper printing in the second half term. Year 6 are really rolling with this project!



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Design & Technology

The Year 6 theme for this term is the Victorians. The Victorian era was a great time for inventions and innovations, and we see the descendants of these Victorian inventions in our everyday lives. In keeping with Victorian inventions, the project for this term is to design and make a portable light source – the link being that the light bulb was invented during the Victorian era. So far this term, pupils have learnt about some of the inventions created by the Victorians, some famous male and female inventors from the era and they have taken apart and drawn the main components of a torch to gain an understanding of the parts that help make it work. In the coming lessons, pupils will make a simple torch using just lolly sticks, copper track and an LED. This will help them to understand simple circuit design. The pupils are excited and enthusiastic about this project and I'm sure many Year 6 pupils will shine during this project!

Humanities

The Year 6's has also impressed me with their depth of knowledge concerning the Victorians in both History and Religious Education and this illustrates how well the Schemes work together to consolidate and build upon each other's knowledge, thereby ensuring overall progress for all students. In addition, the Year 6's has been able to look at their local area and asked 'how can we improve it?' With the aim of contacting the local MP, the idea is to show the students in year 6 how to change things by contacting those in positions of power which I believe is a key skill for both now and the future. Lastly, the Year 6's have shown great ability and maturity during their lessons and have been able to utilise strategies which are usually reserved for much older students than Year 6. I congratulate them as a year group and am pleased to say that this means I and we at Pix Brook shall continue to be unashamedly ambitious for the students and the community as a whole



*Miss Broadbent, Mr Brooks, Mr King-Mand, Mrs Murphy and
Mrs Smyth
Year 6 Team*

Other Teaching and Learning News (All Years)

HOMEWORK

Subject	Handed Out	Day Due
English	Monday	Thursday
Spellings	Wednesday	Wednesday
Maths	Thursday	Tuesday

Diaries should be signed by a parent/guardian every week.
These will be checked on Monday's.

HOMEWORK CLUBS

DAY	CLASS	TEACHER
Monday	Nightingale Zephaniah	Mrs Gregory Mrs Smyth
Tuesday	Attenborough Churchill Blyton Morpurgo	Mrs White Mr Van Wyk Mrs Murphy Miss Broadbent
Wednesday	Pankhurst Shakespeare	Miss Aksoy Mr Williams

Equipment List



pencils



rubber



ruler



sharpener



handwriting pens (blue)



green pen



scissors



glue
stick



colouring
pencils

Audiobooks with BorrowBox

To increase the choice of audiobook titles available to our borrowers we have two complementary audiobook services, RBdigital and BorrowBox.

Getting started with BorrowBox is really easy. Download the BorrowBox app for Android or iOS and sign in with your library card number, or login to the BorrowBox website, and you'll find a great range of new and popular audiobooks to request and listen to. If the title you want is on loan you can reserve it for free, and automatically receive notification when it's available to borrow. Look out for some of these titles:

- [A Thousand Ships](#) by Natalie Haynes is the story of the Trojan War, powerfully retold from an all-female perspective
- [Moonlight Over Mayfair](#) by Anton du Beke is a romantic, irresistible story that will sweep you off your feet
- [Between the Orange Groves](#) is a moving tale of desire and secrets set in Cyprus from Nadia Marks
- [The Inheritance of Solomon Farthing](#) by Mary Paulson-Ellis is a historical mystery about the debts of the present and the past
- [Me](#) by Elton John is the autobiography of the musical legend, read by Taron Egerton and Elton John
- [Ghost Fire](#) by Wilbur Smith is an epic story of tragedy, loss, betrayal and courage

Find out more about BorrowBox and how to get started on our [virtual library](#). Not a member of the library? You can join online [here](#). If you've forgotten your PIN get it sent to you [here](#).

Other News

Non-Uniform Day



We will be once again raising money for the breast cancer charity 'Wear It Pink'.

Pupils are invited to come into school in non-uniform (ideally wearing at least one item of pink!) on Friday 23rd October in exchange for a minimum donation of £1 which they should hand into their teacher during morning registration.

Mr & Mrs King-Mand



We are delighted to announce that Mr King-Mand's wife is expecting another baby due Easter 2021! Mum and baby are doing well, dad is feeling very tired!

Flu Immunisations



The school nursing team will be at PBA to administer the flu immunisation for both Years 5 and 6 on Friday 4th December.

More information including consent forms to follow.

Labelling Uniform



Please can all uniform (especially PE kit) and equipment be clearly labelled.

We have teamed up with 'Stikins' name labels who will give the school 30% commission on every order.

To order your labels visit www.stikins.co.uk and quote Pix Brook Academy's unique code **6948**

School Lunches



Lunch menu forms for the following week will be sent out via ParentMail every Friday and must be submitted by 9am on Monday. Please note we are unable to make any amendments after this time. Your child will be marked as having a packed lunch if we do not receive a form for them.

School lunches are priced at £2.30 per day and invoices will be sent out every Monday via ParentMail for the previous week's lunches.

If you believe you qualify for Free School Meals, please contact 0300 300 8306.

Local Road Closures

PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL
(CHURCH STREET, CLIFTON)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2020

Central
Bedfordshire

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Central Bedfordshire Council has made an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle, except a vehicle being used for fire, police or ambulance purposes in an emergency, from proceeding along the length of Church Street, Clifton.

This temporary closure is required to enable installation of new electricity supply work to take place and shall apply to such extent as may from time to time be indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. Where possible access will be maintained to property and premises but may be restricted from time to time according to local signing.

It is expected that the works will take place over THREE WEEKS from 19th October to 6th November 2020. The road will be closed at all times during this period.

There is no alternative route for this closure. Access will be maintained for residents at all times.

The Order will come into operation on 19 October 2020 for a period of eighteen months or until the proposed works have been completed, as detailed above, whichever is the earlier.

For further information please contact Eastern Power Networks – 01449 727600.

Other News

Uniform



I am pleased to say that following some work with our pupils we have decided to relax the rules requiring girls to wear skirts only. I am fully supportive of the equality of provision and expectations and we will be applying the same expectations to both boys and girls in terms of uniform. The uniform requirements for trousers will be the same for boys and girls, tight or “ankle flashing” trousers are not appropriate.

Tours for Prospective Parents



Tours for prospective parents start during the week of the 12th October. These are socially distanced visits following the rule of 6 guidelines and visitors are grouped together from the same lower school. Tours will be conducted by PBA staff outside normal school hours so will not impact upon current pupils at the school.

Virtual Open Evening



We will be filming for the school virtual open evening during the week of the 19th October. Please can I request that full uniform, including footwear is worn throughout the week. Some filming will take place in classrooms and some pupils will be asked to contribute to the film. I would really like to include all our pupils in this “snapshot” of the school however should you not wish your son or daughter to be included please can you advise the school.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Jessica Feeley in Year 6 who ran the 5k ‘Race for Life’ with her younger sister on Sunday 26th September. Between them, they raised £290 for Cancer Research – Well done girls!

Safeguarding at Pix Brook Academy

Mr King-Mand delivered separate assemblies about safeguarding to Year 5 and Year 6. The content included what pupils should do if they are worried or upset in school and the staff in school they can speak to. Pupils were informed of the roles and responsibilities of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Leads. To help instil the very important messages of the assembly, we encourage parents to remind/question pupils about:

- Who the DSL at Pix Brook Academy is
- Who the Deputy DSLs at Pix Brook Academy are
- What the job of the DSL and Deputy DSL is

It is also worthwhile reminding pupils that they can turn to any adult in school to talk about anything that is worrying or upsetting them. Included in the newsletter is the safeguarding poster that is displayed in classrooms.

Shown below is a link to Ditto, which is a free to subscribe online safety magazine providing useful and relevant information for parents about keeping children safe when they go online. It also highlights the latest issues in the online world for children.

<https://www.esafety-adviser.com/latest-newsletter/>

Please do feel free to come and talk to us about anything to do with 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.



Diary & Term Dates

October	Monday 12 th - Friday 16 th Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd Friday 23 rd Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th	- PBA Open Evening Tours (Roecroft) - PBA Open Evening Tours (St Marys) - Non-Uniform Day (Wear It Pink Day) - Half Term
November	Monday 2 nd Monday 2 nd – Friday 6 th Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th Wednesday 11 th Friday 13 th Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th Monday 30 th – Friday 4 th Dec	- Staff Training Day (no school) - PBA Open Evening Tours (Fairfield) - PBA Open Evening Tours (Gothic Meade) - Remembrance Day / Students Services Uniform Day - Bake Sale for Children In Need - PBA Open Evening Tours (Roecroft) - PBA Open Evening Tours (St Marys) - PBA Open Evening Tours (Fairfield)
December	Friday 4 th Monday 7 th – Friday 11 th Thursday 10 th Friday 11 th Friday 11 th Saturday 13 th & Sunday 14 th Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th Friday 18 th Monday 21 st – Friday 1 st Jan	- Flu Immunisations (all years) - PBA Open Evening Tours (Gothic Meade) - Parents Consultation Evening (all years) - Christmas Jumper Day - Christmas Lunch - Christmas Tree Festival at St Marys Church - PBA Open Evening Tours (Other Schools) - Last Day of Term (NO after school clubs) - Christmas Holidays
January	Monday 4 th Tuesday 5 th	- Staff Training Day (no school) - Start of Winter Term
February	Friday 12 th Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th	- Non-Uniform Day - Half Term
March	Thursday 4 th Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th Thursday 18 th Monday 22 nd – Friday 26 th Monday 29 th – Friday 9 th Apr	- World Book Day - Year 5 Bikeability Course (Team A) - Parents Consultation Evening (all years) - Year 5 Bikeability Course (Team B) - Easter Holidays
April	Monday 12 th Tuesday 13 th	- Staff Training Day (no school) - Start of Spring Term
May	Monday 3 rd May Friday 28 th Monday 31 st – Friday 4 th Jun	- Bank Holiday - Non-Uniform Day - Half Term
June	Monday 7 th Friday 25 th	- Start of Summer Term - Sports Afternoon
July	Friday 2 nd TBC Date TBC Date TBC Wednesday 21 st Thursday 22 nd July	- Step Up Day - End of Year Trip (all years) - End of Year Activity Day - End of Year Celebrations Afternoon - Last Day of Term (NO after school clubs)