

# PBA Press

## Christmas 2020 Issue

Welcome to the final PBA Press of the year.

It's a really over used phrase but this really has been an unprecedented year for everyone. As I reflect back on this term, I realise that all the worries and concerns that we have relating to COVID-19 are best viewed through the prism of a school. For us, this has been a brilliant term. The pupils have settled quickly into the school and already they are beginning to think and act as PBA pupils. We have had our fair share of COVID-19 related issues and yet throughout, the pupils (and parents) have responded magnificently. For that I am immensely grateful.

If we take a moment to look back, I think we can all agree that PBA has made a great start. Being able to start in September in our Year 5 and Year 6 classrooms was fantastic. The contractors had worked throughout the lockdown period and delivered a school ready to go. Our pupils arrived and the rest is history. We have now taken possession of the rest of the building and this will give us another boost in January when we start to think about how to utilise these spaces. There is obviously a great deal of work to be done but it's exciting work.

Christmas in schools is a genuinely fantastic time to be working with children. We have tried to include all the activities we are able given the constraints and combining Christmas Jumper Day with the Christmas lunch was great. We still have to keep to our bubbles but we were able to go some way in providing the excitement that is so important for young people, particularly when so much of the future is uncertain. Hopefully you will enjoy the brilliant photos of each class bubble in this issue.

During these last few weeks, I am delighted to say that pupils have worked really hard. We know that having missed so much school we must do what ever we can to accelerate the learning in class.

To that end, it has been great to see so many pupils take advantage of homework club and for pupils to be working so hard in class. We have now reached the end of the term and everyone: pupils; teachers and parents need an opportunity to take a well-deserved rest. I guess this Christmas will be a little different from normal but if your household is like mine, you will be doing everything possible to make it a good one.

Remember to be kind to yourself and critically remember that this time of year is about family. It is going to be difficult to be with everyone we would like but that just means we can spend more quality time with those we can. I see that as an opportunity. There have been many difficulties that many families have had to cope with and my sense is that this can lead to a feeling that we should do or have more to try to make up for missed holidays or the other things we have been unable to do. I think the opposite applies: above all else children need quality time with their family, not things. This Christmas provides a perfect opportunity to do just that.

Have a wonderful Christmas and new year.

*Steve Adams & the PBA Team*



WISHING EVERYONE A VERY

*Merry Christmas!*

And a Happy New Year

With best wishes from all of us at  
Pix Brook Academy

### **School Council**

The Pix Brook Academy Student Council will play an important role in allowing and encouraging our pupils to share their ideas and views on how their whole school experience can be further improved. As you are aware, we recently held elections for pupils to become members of the student council. To apply for this role, pupils had to write and deliver a speech to their entire class to explain why they should be elected. This took a lot of courage and preparation, and the quality of the speeches heard was of a high standard.

A large number of pupils put themselves forward for the role and so, as a result, the competition was fierce and competitive. Each class then voted for one boy and one girl to represent them on the council. There was also a Principal and Vice-Principal's vote which allowed both myself and Mr Adams to nominate one pupil each that we felt demonstrated the required skills and enthusiasm to join the council. There were also two pupils in 6 Zephaniah that received the exact number of votes so both were able to join.

I would like to congratulate every Pix Brook pupil that applied for the role, as it clearly demonstrates their passion in wanting a say in further improving the school experience for both themselves and their peers. It gives me great to announce that the following pupils were successful in being elected to the Student Council:

Yr 5 Shakespeare	Yr 5 Churchill	Yr 5 Nightingale	Yr 5 Attenborough	Yr 5 Pankhurst
Elodie M & Finley W	Maisie K-W & Jonny M	Phoebe V-L & Rocco D-B	Rosa S & Mylo G & Harry B (Vice Principal's vote)	Ellie H & Oliver B

Yr 6 Zephaniah	Yr 6 Morpurgo	Yr 6 Blyton
Evie A & Maisy D & Evan L	Jessica F & Oisín B	Tarini S & Alim A & Milo O (Principal's vote)

All these pupils should be very proud of themselves as they have taken on a hugely rewarding responsibility. They will be representing the views and ideas of their peers, as well as their own. As a school we are very excited about working collaboratively with our pupils so we can further improve their Pix Brook Academy experience.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our pupils, parent/carers a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and successful New Year.

*Mr King-Mand*



### **Safeguarding**

This is just a polite request for any parent/carer to have a conversation and/or audit of their child's mobile phone and social media use. As a school we are unable to monitor if or how any of our pupils are using social media when they are not in school. It continues to be brought to our attention that some pupils are using apps which may not be appropriate or relevant for them. Could we therefore ask that, if your child is using any apps, you have a conversation about safe and appropriate use of these apps, check things such as privacy settings and which apps your child is currently using. Although we fully appreciate the huge advantages and excitement social media can have, we also need to be mindful that some children may not have the skills, knowledge or understanding yet to use such platforms safely, wisely and correctly. Could we also please ask that parents/carers speak to their child to remind them that if they have any worries about a friend, that they should always speak to a member of staff or yourselves and to avoid (whenever possible) discussing it with their peers. Discussing worries with friends (although useful in some circumstances) can sometimes lead to gossip, misunderstandings and further upset. Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

We would like to thank the parents/carers that take it upon themselves to contact the safeguarding team to raise any worries/issues that they may have. Please do feel free to continue to do so as safeguarding should be seen as the responsibility of everyone.

Wishing all our pupils, parents/carers a lovely Christmas and New Year!

*The PBA Safeguarding Team*





PIX BROOK ACADEMY CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY 2020  
ATTENBOROUGH CLASS



PIX BROOK ACADEMY CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY 2020  
SHAKESPEARE CLASS



PIX BROOK ACADEMY CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY 2020  
PANKHURST CLASS



PIX BROOK ACADEMY CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY 2020  
CHURCHILL CLASS



PIX BROOK ACADEMY CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY 2020  
NIGHTINGALE CLASS



PIX BROOK ACADEMY CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY 2020  
MORPURGO CLASS



PIX BROOK ACADEMY CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY 2020  
BLYTON CLASS



PIX BROOK ACADEMY CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY 2020  
ZEPHANIAH CLASS

### Other Information

- Should your child develop COVID-19 symptoms during the weekend of the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> December and subsequently test positive, we would ask you to notify the school via email to [pixbrook@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:pixbrook@bestacademies.org.uk). This way, we will then be able to contact the other members of the class via ParentMail so that they can self-isolate for 10 days. Should they develop symptoms and test positive **on or after** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December, then school does **not** need to be contacted.
- If you haven't received your link to book your virtual parents consultation appointment, please email the office at [pixbrook@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:pixbrook@bestacademies.org.uk)
- The lunch menu for the first week back is now available to select on ParentMail
- Homework Club will commence Monday 11th January
- We look forward to seeing everyone on **Tuesday 5th January!** (Timetable Week 1)