

Pix Brook Academy Press



Issue 1: 13th September 2019

Welcome to the first ever issue of the 'Pix Brook Academy Press'!

Having been open to pupils for six full days, I think it's fair to say that it has been a bit of a whirlwind of activity, however the staff and pupils have been fantastic and responded to every challenge with great enthusiasm. This week has seen a host of tasks that have helped pupils make a great start to their lessons. Pupils are taught the majority of their lessons by their class teacher with specialist teaching in PE, Art, DT and Music. The facilities for pupils are ideally suited to their needs and all staff have commented on the quality of the building. Inevitably there have been snags to address and some of these will continue. Fortunately, these do not affect the teaching spaces and we have made sure that the majority of the works are undertaken beyond the usual school day.

Hopefully you will have received login information from ParentMail. This will be our preferred method of communication and has been used effectively in my previous schools; it should be a convenient and efficient way of gathering information about activities. The days of handing letters to nine-year-old children are well behind us!

The next few weeks will allow us to settle into our 'normal' routines. We have some benchmarking tests coming up, these are for internal purposes only and must not cause any additional work for pupils, or any worry from parents. As pupils start the next phase of their education, the process of assessment tends to increase. This provides teachers with information that is used to identify gaps in understanding so that they can be addressed and is really at the core of good teaching.

It remains for me to say thank you for your support and to wish you a lovely weekend. Perhaps England will really lift the weekend and beat Australia!

Mr Steve Adams
Principal



News from Miss Broadbent's class

We have had a wonderful first full week. It has been lots of fun settling in and getting to know one another. Our 'Marvellous Me' summer project homework gave us a wonderful chance to talk about ourselves, our families and what we like to do outside of school. We have been busy in class writing letters to our teacher all about ourselves as well as starting to read 'Skellig' our reading text for this term. Meanwhile in Science, we have conducted an experiment into which shape of folded paper was the strongest, some of the results were really surprising.



News from Mr Van Wyk's class

In Mr Van Wyk's class this week, the children were continuing to settle in to Year 5 very well. We started new topics such as the Maya Civilisation, Rain forests and also discussed an important date in our history on Wednesday of this week, September 11th. The children all contributed thoughtfully to discussions and showed a real interest in the topics.



News from Mrs Smyth's class

'Whizzbangers! Snoozcumbers! The wonderful world of Roald Dahl has begun in our class. This week we have started our 'Curious Confectionery' topic by reading the first chapter of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We have been looking at Rainforests all over the world and begun to find out more about the Ancient Mayans. We are excited to find out lots more especially as the Mayans loved chocolate like many of our class!



News from Mr King-Mand

Design and Technology Pupils have begun working on the 'Great Gumball Machine Project'. The project will involve pupils making a Charlie and the Chocolate Factory themed gumball machine out of corrugated card that dispenses gumballs. All pupils have made a great start to the project and shown great enthusiasm for it. From some of the pupil discussions and ideas, there will be some truly incredible looking gumball machines.

Art Pupils have begun showing off their artistic skills in their art lessons. Pupils were very excited when they received their artist sketch books and couldn't wait to get drawing in them. Their autumn term art project will involve pupils designing confectionery/cakes that are themed on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. This will be a truly delicious project for our pupils to get stuck in to.



Other News

The **school photographer** (DSP Photography) will be here on **Friday 27th September** to take individual and whole school photos – remember to you bring your best smiles in on that day! Photos will be available to purchase online, details on how to do this will follow.

Lunch menus will be sent out via ParentMail every Friday detailing what will be available to order for the following week. School lunches are priced at £2.30 per day and paid via invoice through ParentPay (details to follow). Please could you go through the menu with your child over the weekend and submit the form by 9am Monday. Please note we are unable to make any amendments after this time.

ParentPay is our system to pay for items such as school lunches, trips, after school club etc. We are still in the process of setting this up but as soon as the system goes live we will send a ParentMail message detailing how to use the system and pay for items.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to our **After-School Clubs** and PBA Extra (our wrap around care until 6pm). The form will be sent out again on Monday should anybody else wish to sign up.

Please can all uniform (especially PE kit) and equipment is clearly **named**. We already have 2 water bottles and a jumper in lost property! 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 or ask at the school office for more information.

If you need to **report an absence**, please contact the school by 8am on 01462 416243 or email pixbrook@bestacademies.org.uk

Safeguarding at Pix Brook Academy

Although all adults working at Pix Brook Academy have a responsibility for child protection and safeguarding, there are three staff with particular responsibility for safeguarding. These are:

- Mr King-Mand (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Mrs Smyth (Deputy Safeguarding Lead)
- Mrs Pearce (Deputy Safeguarding Lead)

All staff have received safeguarding training at the start of the academic year which included recent updates from the Keeping Children Safe in Education (Part 1) guidance. This guidance can be found on www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2 Any staff joining Pix Brook Academy in the future will be given the same training and updates. This will ensure they are competent in helping safeguard our pupils and are aware of the issues around safeguarding.

All pupils should feel comfortable speaking about anything that is worrying or upsetting them when they are in school and understand that all adults at school are there to keep them safe. We would therefore encourage all parents to regularly remind their son/daughter that they can speak to any member of staff at school if something is causing them worry. They should also be reminded that there are also three members of staff that have a special responsibility for ensuring their safety.

We will be working with our pupils to make them aware of what safeguarding means, who they can turn to when something is worrying them and the role of our safeguarding team. Lots of useful information can be found on www.childline.org.uk and www.nspcc.org.uk for both parents and children. If you have any concerns or questions about safeguarding, please feel free to come and talk to our safeguarding team.

Diary Dates

Friday 27 th September	- School Photographs (afternoon)
Thursday 3 rd October	- Parents Evening (Time TBC)
Monday 14 th October	- Cadbury World Trip
Wednesday 27 th November	- Pix Brook Academy Open Evening (6-8pm)
Friday 13 th December	- Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 17 th December	- Pantomime Trip to the Gordan Craig Theatre
Thursday 18 th December	- End of Term Assembly
Thursday 13 th February	- Parents Visit (afternoon)
Friday 13 th March	- STEM Day
Friday 27 th March	- Non-Uniform Day
Thursday 23 rd April	- World Book Day (Non-Uniform)
Friday 26 th June	- Sports Day
Friday 3 rd July	- Step Up Day
Wednesday 8 th July	- Awards Afternoon
Monday 13 th July	- New Year 5's Visit

Term Dates

Monday 21 st October-Friday 25 th October	- Half Term
Monday 28 th October	- Teacher Training Day (no school)
Monday 21 st December-Friday 3 rd January	- Christmas Holidays
Monday 6 th January	- Teacher Training Day (no school)
Monday 17 th -Friday 21 st February	- Half Term
Monday 6 th -Friday 17 th April	- Easter Holidays
Friday 8 th May	- Bank Holiday
Monday 25 th May	- Bank Holiday
Monday 20 th July-Monday 7 th September	- Summer Holidays