# PBA Press





#### Welcome to the first PBA Press of this academic year!

The end of October! The first half term has flown by and it has been fantastic to be so much busier with nearly 500 people working in the school. To think that just over two years ago we were working in a tiny building with almost no facilities with just over 50 pupils. The transformation in this very short period has been remarkable.

What has perhaps been the most gratifying, has been the way both pupils and staff have embraced the opportunities the facilities and relaxation of COVID restrictions have afforded. We started fixtures as soon as possible and we have been able to compete with other schools both home and away. The new school minibus has really opened up the county for us and we are part of the Redborne Sports Partnership which arranges fixtures for all schools. We have also launched the PE extra-curricular programme to great effect. We have on average over 300 participants in PE extra-curricular alone. Great thanks must go to the PE department for their preparedness to facilitate these clubs and fixtures.

We have also been able to take trips outside school and enjoy visitors into school. The Year 7 trip to the Houses of Parliament was really well received and for a number of pupils, this was their first visit to our capital. We have also been able to welcome a visiting artist who provided pupils with the benefit of her expertise facilitating some outstanding art work. We have also had a visit from the curator of Hitchin Museum speaking to pupils about local Victorian history focussing on the impact of black Victorians in our region and only yesterday pupils were given a "living history" day on Roman history by a Roman centurion explaining the life of a soldier at the time and showing pupils how battles were undertaken. The first half term has been really busy!

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. Having over 180 new pupils in Year 5 in seven classes, certainly adds a buzz to the school and they will add great life and vigour to our school over the next few years.

This term has also been about progressing learning and trying to catch up lost learning from the COVID pandemic. As will be obvious to all, we are in no way at the end of this but the school is working hard to provide all the support we can to enable pupils to catch up missed learning. This is not a simple process, you cannot stop other learning to make up previously missed learning, instead you need to be creative with time and staff and make adjustments. We have undertaken three main "interventions": adjustment to the curriculum to focus on key learning that has been missed; tutor time intervention by the Head of KS3 English and Maths and the appointment of an additional member of staff to release staff to work with pupils who have missed the most. We will continue this process over the year and hope that COVID circumstances nationally do not conspire to make this more difficult. We have had a number of pupils and staff who have tested positive this term and each time this happens another delay occurs in the catch-up process.

Overall, I have been pleased with the start to the year. Next half term will be busier, we have the arrival of our Eco-pod, Open Evening on the 25<sup>th</sup> November (with Open Mornings the two weeks before), a trip to the pantomime for Year 5 & 6, a trip to Cadbury World for Year 5 and a visit to Blists Hill, (a Victorian working town) for Year 6. Keeping all this going is no small challenge but with the support of parents and the commitment of staff all at Pix Brook Academy believe that providing these opportunities for our pupils is worth the work.

Wishing you all a restful half term break. We look forward to seeing the pupils back on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November (staff training day Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November).



**Mr Steve Adams** Principal

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**Aspirational** 

Responsible

# **Teaching & Learning News**

# **Key Stage 2**

## The Lifecycle of a Butterfly

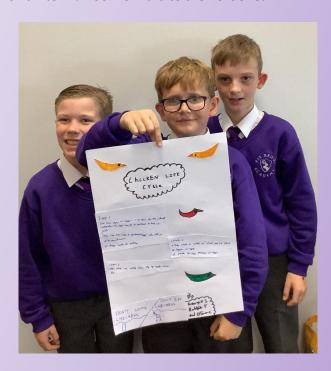
Year 5 have been very lucky this half term to have had the opportunity to watch their own class caterpillars go through their lifecycle and metamorphosis into Monarch butterflies. We watched closely as the caterpillars grew from the size of a pinhead to their fully formed selves. They then gradually made their way up the side of their home and attached themselves to the lid, where they began their stage of chrysalis. We enjoyed coming into school every day to see the chrysalis gradually form over the entirety of the larva's body. Once inside its chrysalis, we examined the change of colour and transparency. After about a week, some butterflies began to emerge from their chrysalis and slowly their wings grew, as they pumped liquid into them. Before we knew it, the butterflies were ready to be released into the wild. When a sunny day came around we took it in turns to go outside and release our butterflies, for them to continue their life and restart the lifecycle once again.





#### **Pankhurst Class**

Pankhurst have had an amazing term! We have really enjoyed reading Charlie and The Chocolate Factory and linking it to other subjects, such as DT. The children are showing great effort in creating their gumball machine and cannot wait to complete it. Using the glue gun has resulted in some of us burning our fingers, however this did not stop any of the children! Well done for persevering! We have studied the life cycle of many different animals in Science and have showcased our work in different ways (posters, non-chronological reports and diagrams). Here is a photo of George, Robbie and Oliver with their chicken life-cycle poster! Maths has also been one of the children's favourite. They have enjoyed working with numbers and solving some tricky problems. Here is a photo of Amy and Lily-Mae in action! Well done Pankhurst for being positive and polite this half-term! I look forward to the next one!





#### **Flower Dissection**

In Science this half term, Year 5 have been looking closely at the lifecycles of different species of animals and have now moved onto looking at the reproduction of plants. Gandhi class have been in the Science lab this week and completed a flower dissection in groups. They enjoyed studying the different parts of the flowers and relating their group discussion to prior knowledge about photosynthesis and pollination.







#### **Shakespeare Class**

Over the past 6 weeks, Year 5 have been reading and learning all about Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The book is all about a young boy who wins a golden ticket to visit Willy Wonka's Factory! The children have loved reading the book and are constantly asking when we are reading the next chapter as they want to know what happens next!

One of the activities we did was to create our own Haiku, which is a Japanese poem that is based around syllables. We had a lot of fun clapping out the syllables of our poems and writing all about a character of our choice in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Here are some examples from Shakespeare!



#### **Times Tables Rockstars!**

We have launched Times Tables Rockstars in school this term and our students are loving it! They are particularly enjoying playing against each other in class in the Arena, and saving up coins to buy new outfits and props for their avatars! We have already seen our school average improve and there are some individuals making phenomenal progress! All year groups have had an assembly explaining exactly how the program works and how to get the best out of the game this week so we are expecting the school to get even better!

In a few weeks' time we will be competing against schools across the country in a giant competition called England Rocks! We can't wait to see where Pix Brook will land in the standings! Please encourage your children to play a little bit every day to really improve their recall of times tables!

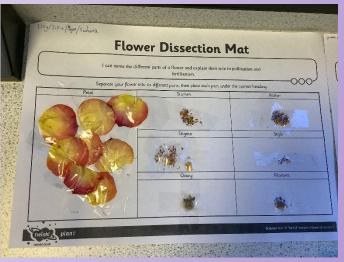
Keep Rocking Pix Brook!



#### **Turing Class**

It has been a wonderful first half-term for Turing class. The students have settled perfectly into Pix Brook life and I could not be happier with how they have performed. A brief overview of some of the tasks we have undertaken. In English, we have been doing all about Charlie and the Chocolate Factory - this has included work such as a Limerick, a description of the factory using our senses and a diary about the day Charlie won his Golden Ticket (SPOILER ALERT!). In Maths, we have tackled some challenging topics: place value and addition and subtraction. In Geography and History, we have studied the Rainforest and the Mayans – one of the tasks we did was to create a timeline, which you can see here. Meanwhile, in Science, we have been looking at living things and their habitats. Unfortunately, we in Turing class were unable to birth any butterflies, however we more than made up for it with our wonderful flower dissection just this week! It has been a cracking half-term and I look forward to the next one!





#### Geography

This half term has been busy for Geography, the Year 5's have been learning about the rainforest. The Year 6's have been creating presentations on improvements to our local area. Year 7's have been learning mapping skills, alongside this they have created topographic models which show height and relief of land on a map.



#### **Artist Visit**

One of the amazing opportunities we have offered our new Year 5s was the chance to have an art lesson taught by a real-world artist! We were fortunate enough to be visited by Loren Dowding, who specialises in Animal drawings. She led the children of Year 5 (and even some of the teachers!) in a session to draw a raccoon. The children had a wonderful time, as you can see, in trying out this new skill. Whilst one half worked on their drawing skills, the other half were inspired to use colour in a new, refreshing way to colour in an animal picture. I am sure the children will join me in hoping we can meet Loren and her amazing artwork again!

#### **Nightingale Class**

Well done, to all of Nightingale for settling in so well (even Mrs Gregory). Since starting in September, the children have worked so hard, pushing themselves every day. They have come in with smiles on their faces and have seemed to enjoy their lesson. Have a lovely well-deserved rest. Mrs Gregory.

#### **Sport**

PBA Year 6 Girls Netball got off to a flying start with their first two games this week, all the girls were very excited and played incrediably well. Mrs Whent was very proud of them.

The games were close in both matches we played, and the final scores were: Etonbury VS Pix Brook 1-1, Henlow VS Pix Brook 2-2. Etonbury VS Pix Brook, the man of the match was Aimee S for PBA and Lauren B for the game against Henlow.

Written by Lauren B - Year 6

#### **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. Majority of classes 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 scrumptious results!







#### **Deadly 60 inside London's Natural History Museum**

Deadly 60's Steve Backshall is inside London's Natural History Museum, tracking down the Evil Fossil Hunter in this super science Live Lesson!

Year 5 and 6 pupils helped Steve and his young team of palaeontologists solve a series of clues and catch the Evil Fossil Hunter, before he managed to escape with a stolen artefact! This interactive adventure, in partnership with the Natural History Museum, was designed around fossils and what they can teach us about creatures that lived millions of years ago.

We explored how fossils are made and what they can tell us, the story of the real life fossil hunter Mary Anning, and the evolution of animals. It was a great interactive 30 minutes.





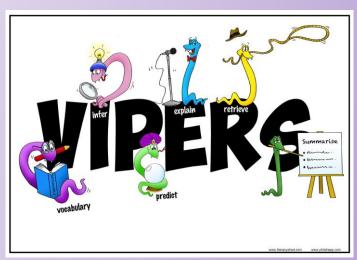
#### **Humanities**

The Year 6s were given the opportunity to look at the history of diversity within their local area when they participated in a workshop provided by the NHDC Museum Educational Services. The students greatly enjoyed the session which enabled us to bring History to life and fulfil our aim to produce the socially responsible adults.

#### **English**

In Year 6 English we have been super sleuths in English this half term. We have read the Sherlock Holmes story 'The Case of the Speckled Band' which links to our Victorian topic. We found it tricky to follow initially as the language is old-fashioned in parts but the story definitely gripped us. The story is full of clues, some which helped us piece together the case, but others were red-herrings and led us in the wrong direction. As the story unfolded there were lots of theories put forward as to who committed the crime and what their motive was, some of us even managed to solve the case! Once we finished reading the story, we used the format to help us write our own detective stories. They have been very enjoyable to read and a number of Pix Brook staff feature in some!

Our Guided Reading novel this term is 'Cogheart' by Peter Bunzl. This story is also set in Victorian times but has elements of steam-punk fantasy in the form of mechanical animals and sliver-eyed men. We have been improving our inference skills as we read by piecing together the clues to work out what we think 'the secret' could be and where. We have been working hard on improving our dictionary skills and reading around words in a text to work out a meaning in context.



#### **Austen Class**

We have had a fantastic start to Year 6 in Austen class. We are now settled into routines and have got to grips with our timetables. In Austen class we have particularly enjoyed our geography lessons looking at how we can improve our local area of Stotfold. We have worked very well in groups and we are looking forward to presenting our hard work to each other after half term.

Another highlight of this half-term has been our work in Art. We have looked at the work of the artist William Morris and have demonstrated some fantastic creativity and sketching skills when working in his style.

We are also enjoying looking at the Victorian era which has lent itself to many curriculum areas. In R.E. we have looked at the lives of famous Victorians and in D.T. and History we have focussed on Victorian inventions. Thank you to those pupils who have taken the time to create their own presentations on our class topic which we have shared in our lessons.

#### **Science**

This half term in science we have been exploring light, reflection and shadows. One of the many investigations we carried out involved testing the sun's rays with UV beads. We had to observe the sun's effect on a selection of UV beads over a set period of time. By coating the beads in various factors of sun cream, we were able to conduct a fair test and explore which sun cream was the most effective. After that, we were able to construct our own periscopes using mirror and card. Unfortunately, some of the periscopes were not built as per the instructions and they had to be rebuilt! But these amazing creations allowed us to see around corners! We then used water to refract light and performed magic when we were able to use water to "turn" our images around!

To finish off the topic we learnt all about how shadows were formed. One interesting fact was that light travels in straight lines, meaning that if the ray of light hits an opaque object the shadow will be formed. Using this information, we performed a shadow puppet theatre using our own hand made puppets. It was great fun and some of the shows created were The Lion King, Mary Poppins and Little Red Riding Hood.

By Edie H and Michael T - Blackman class









# **Key Stage 3**

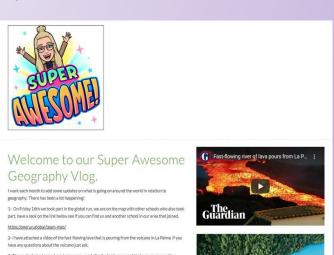
#### **Humanities**

It has been eventful first half term in the Pix Brook humanities department. The Year 7s have been to Parliament and been given the chance to apply for the British Youth Council. The Year 7s were also given to experience a day in the life of a Roman Soldier. The practiced getting into ranks battle formations and some of them got to actually where some Roman armour.





We have also just launched a Geography and History blogs which will be full of the last news and events in the subject and allow the student to access the subject at the o we plan to let the students edit we want both subjects to be as accessible and interactive as possible. As you can see exciting times ahead for the Pix Brook Humanities department.



#### **Houses of Parliament Trip**

The staff and children were very excited to be able to go on a long-awaited school trip. The journey gave a glimpse of the sights of London which the children enjoyed before we had even got off the coach! Once we had disembarked the kids enjoyed a lunch by the Thames before heading to the Parliament Education centre. In parliament, we toured both the House of Lords and the House of Commons then completed the experience with a workshop on how debating techniques and how bills are passed into law. Walking the path of many a world leader has hopefully set

the Year 7 children up to be inspired to become members if of the youth council. We have asked those who are interested to apply on google classroom or ask Mr Brooks or Mrs Pearce for more details.



#### **Design and Technology**

In their Design Technology lessons pupils began their term by making wooden automata toys. The project allowed them to learn about simple mechanical movements, basic types of mechanisms and gave them the opportunity to work with woodworking tools and equipment. There were some really creative and fully working automata toys manufactured. This project has laid some foundation stones for pupils to build upon and develop their creativity as well as their designing and making skills. Pupils have started their new project; they will be following key elements of the design process to design and manufacture thermoplastic mobile phone holders. As part of the project they need to carry out some research, analyse existing products, design and administer a survey to their target market before moving onto the designing, making, testing and evaluation. They will have the opportunity to work with new equipment such as the strip heater as well as develop existing skills and knowledge.



#### PE

PE participation rates are through the roof!

It has been a fantastic start to the year in PE, where we have witnessed huge attendances at each of the clubs on offer. Not only have we made PBA history by entering our first ever football and netball teams in competitive matches, but we have also watched over 400 students in action at clubs each week! Currently we are delivering football, netball, basketball, table tennis, dance and badminton sessions, with plenty more activities to come throughout the year. Furthermore, we have celebrated our first 'Star of the Month' award winners, along with introducing a 'Team of the Term' award, where students can see our successes along the way on our 'PE Wall of Fame' noticeboard in the sports centre reception. Coming soon after half term will be even more football and netball fixtures, along with our first basketball and table tennis matches of the year, so please stay tuned with all of the news and results as our exciting journey continues!





## **Other News**

#### **Morrisons Vouchers**

We are collecting vouchers from Morrisons for free gardening equipment, you can get 2 tokens for every £10 spent. Please hand any vouchers in to the class teacher.



#### **Debating Club**

We are very excited to announce that PBA debate team, which consists of year 6 and year 7 students, have been entered into a global competition. The debates will be virtual and will be held in November the countries involved are England, Scotland, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. The final will be live streamed so we are hoping that our community will have the chance to support our debate team!



#### **Parent Governor Nominations**

Parent Governor nominations close on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Please see the letter regarding this <u>HERE</u>

## **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**

September was Childhood Awareness Month. Thank you for all those that donated to our 'Be Bold, Wear Gold' day. It was so lovely to see a sea of yellow and gold. We raised over £1,200! Amelie and her family are hugely grateful and the support means so much to them. Amelie managed a morning at school to be part of the day, which was lovely to see.



#### One Run Global

Friday 15 October was 'One Run Global' day, a worldwide event for schools to participate in a 15 minute exercise programme whether it be walking, running or cycling. There are around 150,000 students from 54 countries signed up and Pix Brook is now on the map having registered this week!

Our plan was to have the whole school walking around the perimeter of the field, enjoying the fresh air and the sun after lunch break. One lap was the equivalent to approximately 1km and as a school we managed to clock up just over 500km!

Some of the students decided to run the course including Nathan F in Year 7 who ran 6 laps of the field!



# **SEND & Safeguarding**

## For music and magic come to our Local Offer website launch...



Join us for information and fun at our Local Offer website launch for families and children/ young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability).

#### Wednesday 3 November 2021

Leighton Buzzard Youth Centre 10am Book your place: https://bit.ly/30jT2Pi Sandy Children Centre 2pm Book your place: https://bit.ly/3iVzffk Houghton Regis Children Centre 6pm Book your place: https://bit.ly/3AB4jqR

#### Saturday 6 November 2021

Flitwick Children Centre 10am Book your place: https://bit.ly/3v5NL9u Biggleswade Youth Centre 2pm Book your place: https://bit.ly/3DyKthW

Arlesev Youth Centre 6pm Book your place: https://bit.ly/3lvOzkv



Find us online \delta www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/SEND #LocalOffer #SEND #CBCSENDServices











# 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



Deputy Safeguarding Lead



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 you feel upset or worsted about anything at all even if you trink 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
- 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.



NSPCC nspcc.org.uk

# **Diary & Term Dates**

November Monday 1st

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> - Nightingale Class Virtual Parent Consultation (Re-scheduled)

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> - Remembrance Day / Services Uniform Day

- Start of Term

Appelou 15<sup>th</sup> Codhum Morld Trip (Year 5)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Cadbury World Trip (Year 5)

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Blists Hill Victorian Town Trip (Year 6) Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - Non-Uniform Day (Children In Need)

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> (date TBC) - Flu Immunisations (all years)

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> – Fri 12<sup>th</sup>

Tues 16<sup>th</sup> – Fri 19<sup>th</sup>

- Open Mornings for Prospective Parents

- Open Mornings for Prospective Parents

- Open Evening for Prospective Parents

School closes 12.50pm (NO after school clubs incl. PBA Extra)

- Staff Training Day (no school)

**December** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Face to Face Parents Consultation (Year 7)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Lunch

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> - Face to Face Parents Consultation (Year 5 & 6)

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> - Pantomime Trip (Year 5 & 6)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of Term **(NO after school clubs incl. PBA Extra)** 

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan - Christmas Holidays

January Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> - Staff Training Day (no school)

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> - Start of Term

**February** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> - Half Term

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> - Start of Term

March Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> - World Book Day

**April** Friday 1<sup>st</sup> - Non-Uniform Day

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - Easter Holidays **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>** - **Start of Term** 

May Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Bank Holiday

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

June Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - Start of Term

July Friday 1<sup>st</sup> (date TBC) - Step-Up Day

Thursday 21st \*\*\* NEW DATE \*\*\* - Last Day of Term (NO after school clubs incl. PBA Extra)

- Half Term