

Welcome to the first PBA Press of 2022!

As always, I like to take a few moments to consider the year to date and I can reflect that this term has presented some real high points punctuated by some challenges. No doubt the biggest challenge faced by all schools is the continued impact of COVID on the learning of young people. Predominantly this is caused by their absence from school when children test positive, however it is also the case that the incidence of COVID amongst staff in schools remains very high. We have staff who have had the virus more than once and on each of these occasions their absence is prolonged due to the requirement to isolate. Operating a school under these circumstances does not make life any simpler, particularly when schools are desperately trying to provide the normal pupil experience with the addition of re-enforcement lessons to address some of the significant absence all pupils have experienced in the last two years.

In spite of this, we have continued to provide the breadth and depth of curriculum that is so important. Days that really add something different to a young person's education such as the Planetarium or virtual space workshop, are invaluable in providing those memorable moments in the year. Beyond these events, lessons continue to be delivered in a consistent and thoughtful way. Our model of collegiate planning means that all pupils, regardless of their teacher, is provided with a consistent diet of lesson experiences that is not dependent on the person delivering the lesson. In Year 5 and Year 6, we work around a piece of literature that provides a "touchstone" to the curriculum, providing the point of reference around which to build a particular subjects curriculum. By drawing out the themes within subject, we hope to re-enforce the learning undertaken. Year 7 is more traditionally secondary based and is the starting point to the achievement of formal qualifications.

Continuing with the theme of maintaining the "normality" of school in anything but normal circumstances, we have ensured that the range of extra-curricular activities remains high. It is fantastic to see so many pupils prepared to stay after school to play games, fixtures and other events. We have taken the decision to invest in another trampoline given the level of demand in school.

A few weeks ago, over 70 pupils turned up after school for trampoline club which was a little unexpected and required some nifty re-planning. The new trampoline should be here soon! We have also been undertaking additional fixtures with other schools to try to provide as many pupils as possible with the chance to represent the school beyond the usual one team.

Overall it's been a really busy first half term of the year. We have continued to develop our staff team with some really strong appointments for next September. Three Science, two English, Maths, MFL, Primary and Art teachers will all be joining the school in addition to support staff. The school continues to grow and make an ever more significant contribution to the local area and our pupils, always our strongest asset are growing with us.

We look to the next half term with optimism, there is much to look forward to and much more to be done, but this is always the case in schools!

Have a great half term break.



Mr Steve Adams
Principal

Half Term Summary

YEAR 5

As we approach the halfway point of the students first year at PBA, we look at how we have grown into our new environment.

It has been fantastic to see the students developing new friendships and relationships with their amazing class teachers. As a year group we have already completed a huge amount from learning about how chocolate is made at Cadbury World to raising our own butterflies and releasing them into nature, and from seeing a hilarious pantomime (where myself and Mrs White became unknowingly involved!) to being transported into outer space when the planetarium visited us.

We look forward to what the next term holds in store for us, the teachers are already excited for what is in the pipeline (more to be revealed after half term break!), as well as the weather getting warmer and a bit less windy!

It has been an honour to get to know this amazing Year group and we all look forward to keep going from strength to strength as we progress through the rest of the school year.

Myself and the year 5 team would like to wish all families a safe and fun-filled half term break and we look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday 21st February!

Mr. Cook



YEAR 6

We are nearly half way through our academic year for all at PBA and we have taken part in some awesome learning, consolidating and furthering the pupil's knowledge. Year 6 is continuing preparing for their oncoming SATs with the caring support and guidance of their Teachers and Supporting Staff.

We have also had some fun activities to look back on, such as our trip to Blists Hills Victorian Town where the pupils had the opportunity to see how the Victorians lived as well as partaking in some interactive learning, which was linked to our History and English topic, the Victorians.

Thank you to Mrs Murphy and the Science Team, we also had the visit of some very amazing scientists that came with a Portable Planetarium, where the pupils had the opportunity of star gazing and discover very interesting facts about our Solar System and outer space.

I have had the pleasure of teaching lessons for the Year 6 group and overall they have shown their 4P values of PBA: Prepared, Positive, Polite and Perseverance! A special mention goes Edie H, Ella W, Sophie C and Lauren B who have the highest total of achievement points across the year group.

As the weather gets warmer and Spring brings the joys of brighter days, I am looking forward to see more pupils taking part on the Lunch sports clubs that the PE Department have put together. I must add that the usual lunch time clubs are still running as normal.

Myself and the whole of Year 6 Team would like to wish you all a well-deserved relaxing and enjoyable Half term and I am looking forward to see you back on the 21st of February!

Mrs Horwood



YEAR 7

Another half-term has ended and it has been another brilliant half-term for the Year 7's. It has been a pleasure to witness the students engaging in lessons from all areas of the curriculum. I know I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching many of the student's DT and Art this half-term.

It has been great to see so many of them working hard this half term and receiving lots of achievements points. A special mention goes to Hollie W, Evie A and Nathan F who have the highest total of achievement points across the year group.

I would also like to congratulate those students that have been voted into the PBA Student Council.

There has been a great uptake in extra-curricular activities, particularly in the PE Department where the students have been sampling new and exciting opportunities. I was lucky enough myself to pop along to one of the amazing trampoline sessions after school last week. Once again, the PE staff have been working extremely hard to give the students these fantastic opportunities.

On a personal note it was a pleasure to meet many of you for the recent Year 7 Parents Evening, hopefully by the next parents evening we will be able to meet face-to-face. It was a successful evening and I hope you had a helpful insight into your child's progress since they started Year 7.

Lunch times have now become even more exciting for the Year 7's as there have been two new basketball hoops installed, it is great to see so many students joining in and running around during social times. The photograph shows just some of the students that have enjoyed shooting some hoops (I have also enjoyed joining in!). I must add that the usual lunch time clubs are still running as normal. All there is left to say is I hope that all students enjoy a relaxing half-term and I look forward with anticipation to their return in just over a weeks' time.

Mr Fleckney



Teaching & Learning News

📖 CHURCHILL CLASS HISTORY LESSON 📖

Churchill class enjoyed practicing their debating skills with Mr. Cook in History today. We made the most of the sunny weather by holding our debate outside the classroom ☀️

We are currently learning about WW2 and today's lesson was about appeasement and the 8 steps which resulted in WW2. One side were arguing for appeasement and one side against. Both teams had very well thought-out points which helped us to write up our answers in our books back in the classroom!

Well done Churchill class!



👉 SPaG 👉

Gandhi Class have been working really hard on their SPaG today. They enjoyed getting into groups and completing a spelling, punctuation and grammar carousel for their fix it lesson, following a PPC. Miss Power is very proud of all of their hard work, keep it up Gandhi! 😊



✍️ YEAR 5 ENGLISH ✍️

This term in English, Year 5 have been reading Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo. After reading the last couple of chapters, the children had been learning and translating a few Japanese words. They then had the opportunity to write their own name in Japanese. This was such an enjoyable lesson, enjoyed also by the Governors whilst on their learning walk.

Well done Nightingale class, these look amazing.

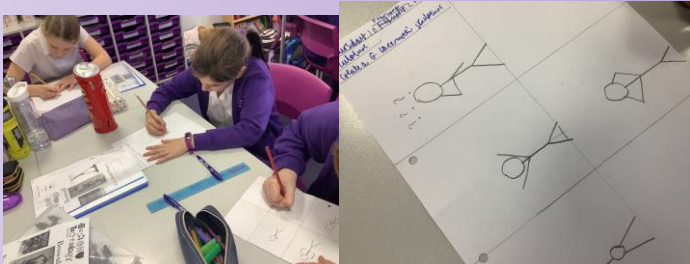


🗿 GIACOMETTI SCULPTURES 🗿

Blackman class had great fun creating their own Giacometti Sculptures.

They began by sketching matchstick poses showing emotions and then created their own elongated designs.

Can you guess some of the poses?



🚀 YEAR 5 SPACE WORKSHOP 🚀

In Year 5, we have had a Space workshop learning all about the planets.

Our favourite fact learnt in Shakespeare class was that the biggest volcano is on Mars and it's 2x the size of Mount Everest and as wide as France! 🌌



🏠 NEWS FROM MORPURGO CLASS 🏠

Today in Morpurgo Class we have been discussing everything a settler might need when coming to Britain to set up a village. The children were very thorough and thought of most things. We then had a go at designing our own Anglo-Saxon village, thinking carefully about the requirements and the placement of houses and farmland.



⚽ YEAR 5 FOOTBALL EARN ANOTHER VALUABLE POINT! ⚽

Our second round of league fixtures took place on Wednesday, where we had been informed that our scheduled fixture that evening against Marston Vale had been forfeited and that we would play our second fixture against Alameda followed by a friendly against Alameda B. In the first game against Alameda A, we started on the back foot as the opposition pressed early on and forced Oz into making several routine saves.

A lapse of concentration was then punished as Alameda capitalised on space in the box and a cross was steered home by the Alameda striker to take the lead. Once again, the reliable defending duo of Harry and Blake came to our rescue to keep the score 1-0, showing good positioning to intercept Alameda passes from deep. A couple of substitutions gave us fresh legs, where Robbie combined superbly with George who curled the ball beautifully into the bottom corner to equalise. We finished the first half with several opportunities to take the lead, with both



Freddie and Robbie coming close, only to see their efforts whistle past the post. At half time the honours were even. In the second half we stepped up a gear, Eli and Cameron in turn began to control the midfield and going forward our play became much more fluent. Agonisingly however we could not find the winning goal, where despite our confident build up play we could not find that finishing touch. The game finished 1-1. Player of the match was George.

In our second match of the evening we played against a much changed Alameda outfit. We began the encounter confidently, raining attacks on the Alameda goal and it was only a matter of time before we found the net. A foul on the edge of box on Remy gave us our first clear cut opportunity and it was Remy who stepped up to drive the free kick past the goalkeeper. This only spurred us on continue the free flowing football where again Remy was able to find the net before half time to lead 2-0 at the break.

Sensing the opportunity to inflict more damage on the score line, we came out flying in the second half, with goals from Luke and a wonder strike from Harry from 30 yards out which left the keeper helpless. Will continued to boss midfield and was influential in many attacks in the second half, creating from central areas and supplying our wide players with frequent opportunities. In the closing stages of the game we were awarded a corner and it was Alfie who crowned our 5 star performance by scoring directly to add our 5th goal of the evening. The score finished 5-0 to PBA. Player of the match was Will.

🧪 YEAR 5 SCIENCE 🧪

Year 5 Gandhi Class have all enjoyed learning about different types of forces in Science this new year. We have carried out numerous experiments, including creating parachutes out of different materials to find the best material for air resistance, finding out what surface has the most friction so James Bond doesn't slip over when he is chasing the baddies and testing whether a lubricant (oil) will create more or less friction when picking up jelly cubes using chopsticks.



🍌ARTS & CRAFTS🍌

We have had a very art and craft based day in Morpurgo Class. Our DT lesson centred around researching Viking figures ready for our final project. We watched a tutorial that showed us how to draw a Viking step by step. I think you will agree the results are great. Next was our Art lesson – making origami fish. We found the instructions a bit tricky initially but after a few tries and lots of team work, we had cracked it. Well done everyone.



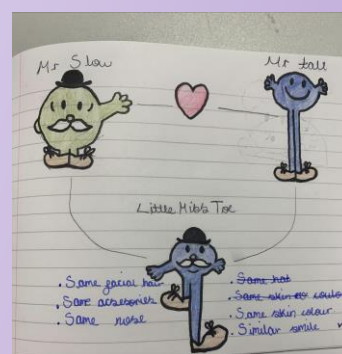
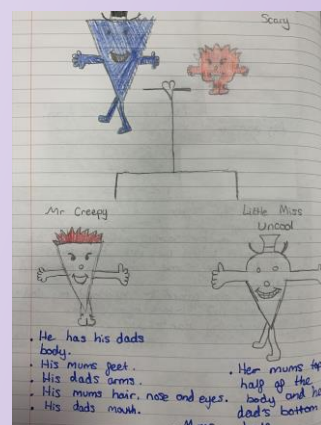
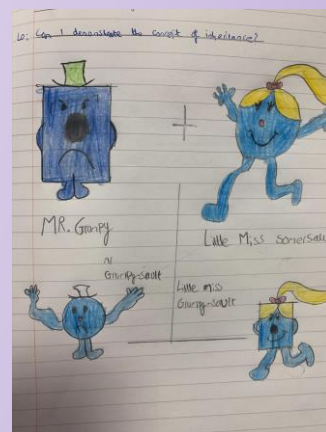
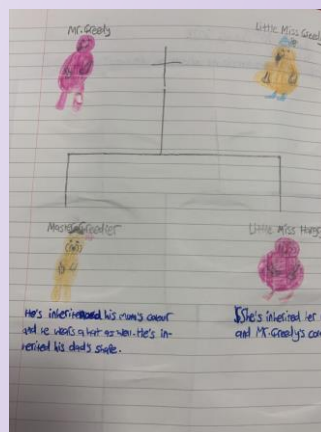
🧠TOP SECRET MISSION IN PANKHURST!🧠

(Studying Forces in Science) Jamie Bond needed our help when chasing the baddies on his last mission, he slipped! Jamie Bond's shoes did not generate enough friction so the bad guys got away! We had to find out how much force is needed to move a shoe across three different surfaces. We used a newton-metre to help us. After our investigation we found the best surface. George, Oliver, Robbie and Thomas did a fantastic job during the investigation! Well done Pankhurst!



🦋YEAR 6 SCIENCE🦋

Year 6 have loved starting their new science topic- evolution and inheritance. They looked carefully at family photographs and identified inherited traits. It was lovely to see all the similarities. They loved seeing pictures of Miss Broadbent and her son. This week they designed Mr Men offspring and had a great time putting their learning into action.



🍌 YEAR 6 ENGLISH 🍌

Year 6 have been studying the poem 'The Highwayman' in their English lessons. The story tells the tragic tale of Bess the landlords daughter, the Highwayman and their love for one another. We don't want to give away the story too much but can you guess what happens from our freeze frames?



🌌 INFLATABLE PLANETARIUM 🌌

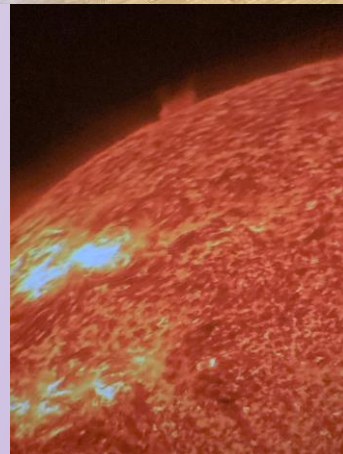
Yesterday, Year 5 classes were fortunate enough to have an inflatable planetarium erected in the school hall and a show presented by Mike and Milly from www.starlightstem.co.uk

Amazingly, the children were invited into the inflated dome and were part of an interactive lesson, teaching all about Space (the children's new science topic). Their learning from this will scaffold this. The lesson included:

- an amazing fly through the Milky Way (our solar system), looking closely at all the planets.
- a closer look at planet Earth and begin to understand what makes our planet so special.
- a better understanding of the Sun and Moon and the effect they have on Earth
- a look at the stars in the night sky, learning how to recognise constellations and stories associated with them
- question time

The children's array of questions and gasp, made for a great time had by all.

Thank you Mrs Murphy for organising this for us all in Year 5.



🌍 YEAR 5 SCIENCE 🌍

In Year 5 Science, we have just started our new topic of Earth and Space! During the first lesson, the pupils were asked to keep a moon diary during the coming weeks and to support this, we looked at the different phases of the moon. Using Oreo's, we gently split the cookie into two sections and used the icing in the middle to create the 8 phases of the moon. It was a tricky task not to eat them!!



🏠 GANDHI CLASS DT LESSONS 🏠

Gandhi Class have been having loads of fun in their DT lessons this half term. We have been looking at lots of different types of structures and the shapes that are used within these structures.

We looked at how bridges are built and found that the Truss bridge used triangles in its structure. The reason equilateral and isosceles triangles are used in bridges is because the equal angles allow forces to spread evenly across the bridge, they take force from a single point and distribute it across a wide base. In groups, we all had a go at making our own Truss bridge. Roles were given to each member of the group to work on either the sides, base or roof of the bridge and then Miss. Power tested each bridge fairly using the weight of a plant pot and a remote control to cross the bridge.

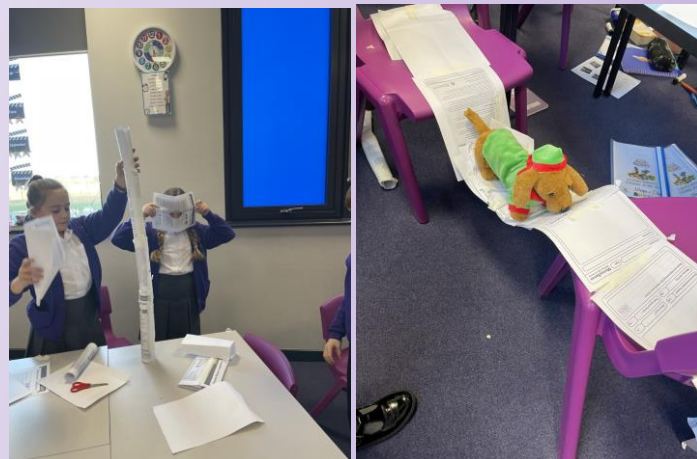
All the Truss bridges passed the weight test and Miss. Power has passed the class in becoming civil engineers in the future!



👤 YEAR 5 DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY 👤

In Year 5 Design and Technology, we have been learning about structures and the challenge was to create the tallest tower out of just paper and masking tape and then to create a bridge that our class dog could make his way across easily!

It was a lot of fun to see which techniques worked the best and learning why having a solid structure is so important when building objects. Well done Shakespeare class!"



POKEMON CLUB



Every Tuesday lunchtime, Mrs Gregory looks forward to Pokemon club. During Pokemon club, the children battle with their cards and watch Pokemon. Today, she was surprised with a gift from a wonderful pupil in Churchill class. This certainly has took a lot of time and effort from this pupil. Thank you so much.



YEAR 5 & 6 SPELLING AND MATHS SHED

After a successful trial, we have purchased a new spelling programme called Spelling Shed and Maths Shed. These games teach maths and spelling in a creative way. During the trial, the children that interacted daily have shown an improved confidence in the skills covered.



The idea is that the children will be learning their spellings and revisiting their maths skills in a fun and engaging way. I have attached a letter with more details (click [HERE](#))

The children will be in three groups, with spelling words and maths allocated to best suit their learning ability. Words will be added to their spelling homework book each Monday, and the sentences should be written as before. I will be in the computer room every lunch time on a Wednesday and Friday and the children are welcome to pop in and play then. It really works well if they try and play for 5-10 minutes daily.

There is an additional app available which some parents/guardians have purchased This is £2.49 form the app store but is not essential. <https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb/>

If you have a child at home today - please email me and I will forward their log in details.

To be entered into the Spelling Shed system a small amount of information will be added to their database. This is limited to:

Name
A username
A password

Usernames are displayed in certain areas so we recommend schools use first name and last initial as a maximum. Fully anonymous usernames can be used alongside a pseudonym in our system if required. If this is the case you should speak with your child's class teacher to discuss your specific requirements.

The Spelling Shed does not share any personal information and the full privacy policy can be accessed at <https://www.spellingshed.com/privacy.html> including details of your rights with respect your child's personal data.

I will be awarding prizes each week based on the league tables - everyone has an equal chance.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me – Mrs Murphy

KS3 HUMANITIES

Another exciting half term for Humanities at Pix Brook. We appreciate the integral part the understanding of the British Values. Especially the importance of the rule of law and an understanding of democracy, has to play in producing the socially responsible adults of the future. That is why we have been participating in, elections for the British Youth Council. Congratulations to all those students, who put themselves forward to be Pix Brook's representative for the local area. We eagerly await the results for the national election, fingers crossed for all our candidates, who are amongst the youngest participants in the country. Well done to those students, for being unapologetically ambitious and relentlessly aspirational.

KS3 ENGLISH

This term the Year 7s have been reading and performing Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Pupils have been using the drama studio to improve their confidence at speaking using Shakespeare's English. They've even been using the space to even use some genuine Shakespeare insults at each other!



🥊 BOXERCISE 🥊

Year 7 have been learning Boxercise in their fitness lessons.

Have we got the next Anthony Joshua or Nicola Adams at PBA?



🤸 GYMNASTICS 🤸

Turing class have been learning about body tension in Gymnastics this week. Here are some amazing examples of applying excellent body tension in paired balances. - Well done Turing!



🏏🏈🏉 PE 🏏🏈🏉

Record breaking PE attendances in 2022!

As a school we have started the new year with record breaking attendances at PE extra-curricular clubs, where we have again seen over 300 pupils attend at least one activity this half term and had over 130 students turn out for one cold January evening at football, rugby and trampolining clubs! Each week we are so proud of our pupils who show fantastic commitment come rain or shine. As a result of the huge participation rates across school, we are even arranging B/C/D/E/F/G team football fixtures for the Year 5 boys football teams to ensure that every child who attends training will have the opportunity to represent the school this year. We also had over 70 children across each year group register for trampolining clubs, while our lunchtime boxercise, netball, badminton and gymnastics sessions remain ever popular. After the break, we see our Year 5/6/7 girls football teams play their first ever fixtures, while our Year 7 rugby team will be wearing the purple hoop shirts for the first time. Thank you to all parents and carers who continue to support the department and best of luck to our PBA teams next half term!

☆ PE STAR OF THE MONTH - JANUARY ☆

Year 5

Remy Mapletoft

- Excellent effort in Gymnastics

Nicole Hall

- Outstanding effort in Health Related Fitness

Year

Bonnie Reid

- Excellent leadership skills in Basketball lessons

Harry Binns

- Great enthusiasm and strength in Gymnastics

Year 7

Liam Reaney

- Always supporting and helping the department in lessons and extra-curricular clubs

Macey Leroux

- Great effort in Health Related Fitness

PBA SCHOOL COUNCIL



Congratulations to the following pupils who have been selected for the School Council. We look forward to working with them!

Year 5

Aaron H
Lily-Mae C
Keira R
Alfie N
Alex L
Florence C
Evie A
Karson M
Chloe C
Corey B
Aaryan B
Kelly C
Arthur L
Khloe M

Year 6

Freya S
Oliver J
Stanley W
Laura W
Jacob J
Grace K
Michael T
Ella W
Phoebe S
Coen C

Year 7

James L
Lacey M
Mason T
Evie A
Evie F
Ollie W
Erin C
Thomas P

Other News

🏆 CONGRATULATIONS 🏆

We are massively proud of Ellie in Year 7 who has been selected to become the new goalkeeper for Cambridge United Ladies under 12's. Congratulations Ellie!



💃 DANCE DANCE DANCE! 💃

We're extremely proud of these young ladies who performed amazingly in front of over 150 people at a dance show for [Gifford Dance Academy](#)

The girls had to change their routines with less than 48hrs to go due to rising cases of COVID affecting their performances and they all adapted brilliantly. Well done girls!



Congratulations to Aarushi in Year 6 who performed in the Gifford Dance Showcase on Saturday 5th Feb 2022 in Bedford

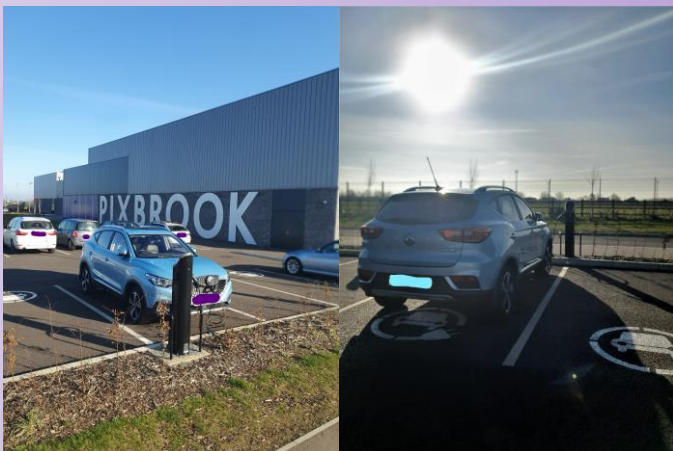


🌱🌍 GOING GREEN 🌱🌍

You may already know that PBA is a school for the future but you may not be aware of quite how future proof we are!

Amongst the impressive amounts of technology we have in school we also have electric car chargers in our carpark, ensuring we are fully prepared for a green future. With government aims to stop the sale of new petrol cars in 2030 and hybrid in 2035, eventually all petrol cars will be phased out in the future.

The geography department are excited to help the children learn about how this will affect future infrastructure in the UK. Alongside this they will consider how the UK can learn from other countries to support the international challenge of climate change.



Charity

🏠 THE GREAT TOMMY SLEEP OUT 🏠

On Friday 25th March, our Site Manager Mr Betts and 3 members of the Arlesey and Stotfold Royal British Legion, will be sleeping rough for the night to raise funds for veterans who are not as fortunate as others.



If you would to donate to this worthy charity, please find the JustGiving link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundra.../stotfoldtommysleepout22>

🏃 MISS POWER'S TRAINING UPDATE 🏃

Miss Power will be taking part in the 'Jurassic Coast Ultra Challenge' in May, where she will trek 100km continuously over a 24-hour period to raise money for the charity 'Mind'.



If you would like to donate to this fantastic charity, please find the link to her JustGiving page here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tarapower4>

Thank you in advance.

Safeguarding



Wellbeing

IVEL VALLEY PARENTING EVENTS

News Central @ email alerts

Central Bedfordshire

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKCBCC/bulletins/309fcb7>



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.

ChildLine
0800 1111

NSPCC
nspcc.org.uk

Diary & Term Dates

February	Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th Monday 21 st	- Half Term - Start of Term
March	Thursday 3 rd	- World Book Day
April	Friday 1 st Friday 1 st Monday 4 th – Monday 18 th Tuesday 19 th	- Non-Uniform Day - Last Day of Term (NO after school clubs incl. PBA Extra) - Easter Holidays - Start of Term
May	Monday 2 nd Monday 30 th – Friday 3 rd June	- Bank Holiday - Half Term
June	Monday 6 th	- Start of Term
July	Friday 1 st (date TBC) Thursday 21 st *** NEW DATE ***	- Step-Up Day - Last Day of Term (NO after school clubs incl. PBA Extra)