PBA Press





Welcome to this half terms edition of PBA Press!

This has been a half term that has flown by incredibly quickly and we now look to the last half term of the year. As is usually the case, the summer term is about preparation for examinations and other events such as end of term occasions in addition to thinking about the start of the new academic year.

As I mentioned in our last PBA Press, the teaching staff have been appointed for next September. We were also really lucky to have had excellent fields for our support staff positions. These additional staff will continue to help us support and teach the increasing number of pupils joining the school. We now have a team of 14 primary teachers working with the KS2 pupils, all operating in the primary part of the school. Specialist staff teaching English, Maths, Science, Art and MFL are also in place all supported by teaching assistants and other support staff.

The continued recruitment of pupils into Year 5 for the next few years means we are well placed to provide the expertise within the primary provision ably supported by secondary trained colleagues as the pupils move through the school. To have our second group of pupils joining the secondary phase of the school is exciting to say the least. Given the growing number of pupils on roll, we will be operating a split lunch next year with pupils in KS2 having a different lunchtime from those in KS3. This should make lunch queues shorter and space more available for our pupils.

We have also planned our transition events for next half term. These include the usual 'Meet the Tutor' evening for new Year 5 pupils in addition to an opportunity for parents to visit the school, have a tour and meet the teachers. Step up day is planned for Friday 1st of July and on this day all pupils will be experiencing a little for what next year will be like with most new staff in school.

Work continues to try to develop the site. We have been able to attract some additional funding from the Trust to provide some much needed outside shade. These should be in place early next term. We have also taken possession of our Platinum Jubilee oak tree and seat. This will be planted and officially opened on Monday 6th June when we have our Jubilee lunch.

Last year I talked about increasing the level of extra curricula provision and I am delighted to say that PBA facilities are used extensively beyond the school day both by external providers and our staff for PBA pupils. The award of the Sportsmark Gold award last week, is a fantastic testament to the quality and range of PE provision at PBA and provides some recognition of the huge amount of effort that goes into this area. The hope and plan is to continue to expand the level of use of the school facilities so that the school can become a hub for community use. We recognise how fortunate we are to have such a fantastic school and we are keen to continue to develop its use outside normal hours.

As always at the end of a half term, I can look back on the work undertaken by the pupils and staff and feel proud of their collective efforts. With the continued support of parents and carers, we are in the privileged position of seeing young people grow and see their personalities develop. We have a school with truly fantastic pupils and it is brilliant to watch them mature. We will persist in our endeavour to educate the socially responsible citizens of the future and with your support take every opportunity to secure that vision. It remains for me to wish you a wonderful half term break and I look forward to seeing you next half term.

Happy half term!



Mr Steve Adams Principal

Ambitious

Aspirational

Responsible

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Responsible

Teaching & Learning News

***EASTER SCHOOL**

A massive well done to all of our Year 6 pupils who attended Easter school. The days were very successful and all of the children worked incredibly hard.



ECO COUNCIL

Each class elected a student to be a member of the school eco council and on Thursday 26th May we held our first meeting with the elected members. The council have agreed a pledge to support our school community to become more eco conscious but also put in some environmentally friendly actions. During the first meeting there were lots of ideas of how the council members can support our eco pledge towards becoming environmentally social responsible citizens of the future. The council will be holding regular meetings with project to support the schools eco credentials, there will be plenty of community updates on their progress.



A EVOLUTION OF HORSES A

Evie in Year 6 became the class expert when discussing evolution of horses in science. Evie shared her passion of horses and pictures of her horse Lucky. The class had a great discussion about adaptation and evolution, and discovered how the first known species of horse (as we know them today) were called Hyracotherium and were only 0.4m tall! They also had a four toed hoof!



🥩 YEAR 6 ART 🥩

Blackman class had a great time painting their clay fish in Art. The designs were excellent and were in the style of Pablo Picasso.





PIX DANCE COMPANY

To celebrate International Dance Day a couple of weeks ago, we took the opportunity to introduce the members of our brand new Pix Dance Company







Rehearsals are well underway for the members of Pix Dance Company...!



YOUTH PARLIAMENT

It is fantastic to see the development of two of our pupils who are representing the local community in the Youth Parliament. They are the youngest members and have already undertaken assemblies at school and attended meetings at the council on Saturday mornings. Well done Josh & Milo!



TURING CLASS

It has been another exciting half-term for Turing class with lots of fun activities to keep us going. In English, we have been learning all about Shakespeare and The Piano - the children had many interesting ideas about who the old man in the video was. In Maths, we have been tackling angles and Mr Williams had great fun showing the class

different 'turns' they could make with angles. Two subjects I really want to highlight are Art and Science. In Art, we have been looking at the Tudor period and specifically Tudor portraits. As part of this, the children had to draw their own self-portrait and we had some real Hans Holbein wannabes in Turing class! Our class has also been lucky enough to be part of a trial for a new Science teaching approach. Just this week, we had a brilliant time learning all about Thermal Insulators and Conductors, with the help of some very talented young girls, who explained how their dance uniforms help keep them warm when performing in Winter time - and a shout-out to Year 6 pupils Caitlin and Poppy for supporting in this. I cannot wait for the last half-term with this class, we are going to make it a special one!



NATIONAL NUMERACY DAY

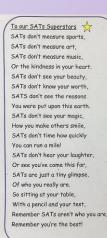
National Numeracy Day has been celebrated in the United Kingdom every year since it was founded in 2018 by National Numeracy. It's a specific day to focus on what this charity works on all year round - recognising the large part that numbers play in our lives. People are encouraged to try and build confidence in their numeracy skills, even if they're not maths-orientated people. This day is celebrated to try and show that you don't have to be super smart to love numeracy, everyone can learn how to be better with numbers.

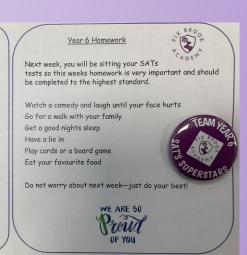
National Numeracy Day UK tries to highlight how much numbers are used in our lives, every day. This can range from the sports that people watch, the books that people read and in the shops when using money. Not everyone's great with numbers or interested in numeracy, but that doesn't have to stop you from getting involved on Wednesday 18th May 2022.



YEAR 6 SAT's

The Year 6 pupils have continued to make us proud with their fantastic approach to their SAT's. They enjoyed a breakfast treat every day and many of the classes enjoyed 'guessing what biscuit it will be after the test!' We are immensely proud of our pupils and they are a credit to you all. Well done Year 6!



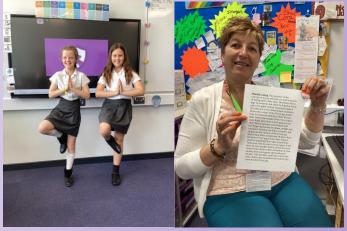




Our pupils have enjoyed various meditation sessions for #WorldMeditationDay







IIII UK MATHEMATICAL TRUST JUNIOR CHLLENGE



On Thursday 28th April, 20 students from Years 6 and 7 took part in the UK Maths Trust Junior Challenge. It was the first time Pix Brook Academy had taken part and was very much short notice so there was no time to practise. The Challenge is worldwide as students in China and across the UK take part; it encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using basic maths techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Junior Maths Challenge are designed to make students think and it certainly did that! Our students had to answer 25 multiple choice questions in one hour and they were very challenging! No one spoke but there was lots of scribbling on scrap paper.



The results were fantastic: one gold, 3 silver and 8 bronze awards as well as 8 participation certificates. A special mention must go to Oisin Barnes for being Best in School and Lauren Bone for being awarded Best in Year. A huge 'Well Done' to all who took part.



May's Mathematician of the Month has been awarded to Lucy (Year 5), Lilli-Mae (Year 6) and Logan (Year 7)!

There were many nominations this month so was a tough choice! Well done to all students who were nominated- it is wonderful to hear about all your hard work in Maths!



YEAR 5 MAKE JUBILEE CROWNS

The whole of Year 5 (and the teachers!) had lots of fun making gold cardboard crowns ready for our Jubilee celebrations on Monday 6th June!



Sport

*Y***CRICKET**

An amazing turnout for the cricket taster that Mr Szwajbak arranged with Letchworth GC Cricket Club.

We had two ECB qualified coaches and a former Sri Lankan International Women's player come in to PBA to deliver a taster session free of charge.

Letchworth Cricket Club are keen to recruit as many students as possible, especially as they use Fairfield Cricket ground as one of their facilities, so it really is a great opportunity for us to link with the club having so many pupils live on the park.







ATHLETICS

Year 7 Athletes enjoy trip to Bedford Modern!

Our Year 7 athletics squad participated in their final fixture of the year at Bedford Modern School on a glorious Tuesday evening. Again, our squad was up against Year 8s in the combined Key Stage 3 competition however we enjoyed success in several events, including Isla coming 3rd in the 100m, Evie coming 2nd in the 1500m, Charlie placing 3rd in the 800m, Nathan finishing 3rd in the 1500m and Alim placing 2nd in the 100m. A huge well done to all students who have represented the school in the Year 7 competition and we look forward to the Year 5/6 squad competing throughout June!

PE SUMMER TERM FIXUTE UPDATE

YEAR 5

Athletics: Fixtures commencing on Tuesday 7 June to

28 June

Cricket: Tournament on Friday 17 June

Rounders: Fixtures commencing on Thursday 12 May

to 16 June

YEAR 6

Athletics: Fixtures commencing on Tuesday 7 June to

28 June

Cricket: Tournament on Friday 17 June

Rounders: Fixtures commencing on Thursday 12 May

to 16 June

YEAR 7

Athletics: Fixtures commencing on Tuesday 3 May to

24 May

Cricket: Fixtures commencing on Thursday 12 May

to 16 June

Rounders: Fixtures commencing on Wednesday 11

May to 15 June

PE STAR OF THE MONTH: MARCH

Year 5

Sian Sepulchre- For good progress made in Hockey Quinn Fortier-Scott- For demonstrating excellent skills in Orienteering

Year 6

Grace Kelly- Fantastic effort in Dance Noah Saxby- Excellent performances in Basketball lessons

Year 7

Ellie Talbott- Fantastic performances in the Y7 Football team

Mason Thomas- Improving his batting and bowling skills at Cricket club

SCHOOL GAMES AWARS

For the past month or so, Pix Brook Academy has been gathering evidence for the School Games Mark and submitted an application. Today Mr Szwajbak had the pleasure of meeting with our School Games Organiser who has awarded us with GOLD status for 2021-22!

It is a fantastic achievement for our first year applying and something that schools take years to achieve, so for us to obtain the highest award in such a short space time is an amazing feat.

A massive thank you to all the PBA staff for encouraging students to attend extra-curricular clubs, any staff who have helped out at clubs or fixtures, our students for incredible commitment and passion for sport and of course Team PE for delivering such a high quality provision of activities throughout the year. We are really proud of our school.

Our School Games Organiser will be back in a few weeks to award our certificate which I am sure will take pride of place at the front of school for all to see.



PBA SPORT ROUND UP

It has been another prosperous half term in PE, with cricket, athletics and rounders fixtures taking place, along with the many other activities being delivered at lunch and after school. We are so proud that recently our school has achieved the Gold School Games Award, which is testament to the effort and commitment that both students and staff have put in throughout the year. As we approach the final half term, we still have plenty of fixtures and dates for the diary, including the remaining Year 7 cricket fixtures, Year 5/6 cricket festivals, Year 5, 6 and 7 rounders fixtures along with the Year 5/6 athletics events throughout June. We will be holding our Sports Day this year on Thursday 7 July, which promises to be a feast of games and athletics events where pupils will be become the first record holders for each event, some of which will last for many years to come. Still a lot to look forward to as we aim to finish the academic year on a high!

Celebrations Outside of PBA

Stotfold News Magazine

CONGRATULATIONS Eleanor!!

Eleanor guessed the correct name of our giant teddy this year at the Mill event... the bear was named BELLA.

Thank you to everyone that popped along to see us and who entered!

We hope you enjoy Bella Eleanor!!



WELL DONE ISABELLE

Isabelle in Year 5 played her first ever football tournament at the weekend which is pretty good going considering Isabelle and her team only began playing matches in January!

Isabelle was goal keeper and saved 2 of the penalties. Well done Isabelle!



WELLL DONE FREYA!

Congratulations to Freya in Year 6 who did fantastically well at the UKITF finals day in Bristol on 2nd April 2022.

She won a gold medal in the U14's 1st Degree UK Champion in patterns AND she won a silver medal in the U14's lightweight sparring!

Following this, she has been selected to go to the World Championships in Holland to represent the UTA as part of Team UK in patterns and sparring!



WELL DONE POPPY 🚖

A big well done to Poppy in Year 6 who competed in her first National DMT (Double Mini Trampette) competition at the weekend, the English Qualifiers. She put in a really confident performance and placed 10th in a England in her age category. We are all very proud of her!





At 12 weeks old, Mr Dawson's son FINALLY fits into his Pix Brook Academy baby-grow!





Charity

🤾 MISS POWER's JURASSIC COAST CHALLENGE 🤻

We are so incredibly proud of Miss Power who completed the 'Jurassic Coast Ultra Challenge' where she walked 100km over 24hrs!

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tarapower4











MR KING-MAND CYCLES FROM LONDON TO BRIGHTON &

Mr King-Mand will be taking part in the London to Brighton Bike Ride (54 miles!) on Sunday 19th June raising money for the British Heart Foundation. If you would like to donate to this fantastic charity, please find the link to his JustGiving page here:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pix-brookacademy



Safeguarding



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





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 lf 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



Other Info

MOBILE PHONES This a reminder that mobile phones are not permitted to be used anywhere on school grounds. Mobile phones must be switched-off before students enter the school gate and must not be switched on again until they exit the gate at the end of the school day.

Mobile phones must be handed to form tutors at the beginning of the school day. If any student is seen with a mobile phone, it will result in confiscation and locked in reception until a parent/carer can collect. Any student that has a mobile phone confiscated will be sanctioned accordingly.

SCHOOL LUNCHES From Tuesday 7th June, Pix Brook Academy will be using a biometric cashless catering system for our school lunches.

This means that you will no longer pre-select your child's lunch and your child will make the choice themselves, daily, when they arrive at the school canteen. They will use their fingerprint to 'pay' for their meal and this money will be deducted from your ParentMail account which you will use to top up your account (minimum topup of £5) only - this is done through 'Accounts, 'School Lunch Top-Up'. A daily 'spend limit' of £2.40 (the price of a daily meal) will be programmed into the cashless system meaning your child can only spend £2.40 a day this academic year.

The menu for school lunches is below. This menu is the same menu that is being used this term. We will return on Week 1 after half term.

For those of you who have pre-ordered the Queen's Jubilee Lunch on Monday 6th June, the office will manually deduct this cost from your ParentMail account so there is no need to do anything.

			Academy Lunch Menu ummer Term		
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Week 1	Tuna Pasta Neapolitan Pasta (V) Garlic Bread	Crispy Chicken Vegetarian Sausage Rolls (V) Wedges	Roast Pork Quorn in Gravy (V) Roast Potatoes	Meatballs Quorn Balls (V) Rice	Hot Dogs Quorn Sausage Hot Dogs (V Chips
	Veg	Baked Beans	Veg	Veg	Baked Beans
	Jam & Coconut Sponge	Iced Bun	Angel Delight	Chocolate Cracknell	Ice Cream
	Yoghurt or Fruit	Yoghurt or Fruit	Yoghurt or Fruit	Yoghurt or Fruit	Yoghurt or Fruit
Week 2	Ham & Sweetcorn Carbonara	Fish Fingers	Roast Turkey	Chicken Korma	Sausages
	Macaroni Cheese (V) Garlic Bread	Cheese & Onion Rolls (V) Herbie Potatoes	Quorn Fillets (V) Roast Potatoes	Veggie Spring Rolls (V) Rice	Pizza(V) Chips
	Veg	Baked Beans	Veg	Veg	Baked Beans
	Lemon Drizzle Sponge	Pineapple Sponge & Custard	Shortbread Biscuits	Gainsborough Tart	Cookies
	Yoghurt or Fruit	Yoghurt or Fruit	Yoghurt or Fruit	Yoghurt or Fruit	Yoghurt or Fruit
Week 3	Chicken Tikka	Chicken Nuggets	Roast Beef	Chicken Pie	Breaded Fish
	Cauliflower & Broccoli Cheese (V)	Plant Based Goujons (V)	Quorn Sausages (V)	Quiche (V)	Pizza (V)
	Naan Bread/Garlic Bread	Herbie Potatoes	Roast Potatoes	Potatoes	Wedges
	Veg	Spaghetti Hoops	Veg	Veg	Baked Beans
	Chocolate Brownie	Arctic Roll	Carrot Cake	Jelly & Cream	Iced Sponge
	Yoghurt or Fruit	Yoghurt or Fruit	Yoghurt or Fruit	Yoghurt or Fruit	Yoghurt or Fruit

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BIG LUNCH

(Monday 6th June) To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we will be holding our very own 'Big Jubilee Lunch' at Pix Brook Academy on Monday 6th June along with an Oak tree planting ceremony and commemorative bench installation and lots of fun Jubilee activities.

NON-UNIFORM DAY (Monday 6th June) Pupils are invited to wear red, white and blue on Monday 6th June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

BEST SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL 2022 (Thursday 23rd

June) The BEST Summer Arts Festival is an annual outdoor event where work across BEST is shared. It is an amazing chance to see the excellent talent in our local area. There will be music, drama, dance (including a performance from our very own Pix Dance Company!), art and media displays as well have other practical work on show in an informal setting. There is a BBQ and a bar for refreshments. The event is from 6pm-9pm at Samuel Whitbread Academy in Shefford. Tickets can be purchased here:

https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/swaconcert/bestsummer-arts-festival-2022/e-ezqdjq

PARKING Please can we remind parents and carers to be mindful when parking and driving in the school road. Please **do not park or block the entrance** to the school and please **do not use the car parks** to collect or drop off children. Thank you.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS – SUMMER TERM



SMART WATCHES

Please could we ask that smart/apple watches are left at home where possible. There is no need for students to bring them into school and we want to try and avoid them getting damaged. Along with mobile phones, any devices that can access mobile data, take photos, make calls/messages etc. need to be handed in to the form tutor at the start of the day. Thank you for your support with this

PBA EXTRA

Confirmation of your child's place at PBA Extra for the next academic year will be emailed to you on Friday 1st July. Please note that there will NO PBA Extra on the last day of term (Thursday 21st July).

LABELLING UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT Please can we ask parents/carers to label ALL uniform and equipment as the lost property area is expanding daily! We have teamed up with 'Stikins' who will give the school commission on every order placed. Please visit their website www.stikins.co.uk and quote our unique school code 6948

EQUIPMENT Please can you make sure that your child has all the necessary school equipment on a daily basis. Please can you also make sure they have a (plastic) water bottle with them too.



Diary & Term Dates

<u>June</u>

Monday 6th START OF TERM

Monday 6th The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Big Lunch / Non-Uniform Thursday 23rd BEST Summer Arts Festival 2022 (at Samuel Whitbread)

Wednesday 29th New Year 5 Intake Information Evening

<u>July</u>

Friday 1st Step-Up Day (all years)

Thursday 7th Sports Day

Thursday 14th Reserve Sports Day

Tuesday 19th Year 6 Trip to Gulliver's Land
Tuesday 19th Year 5 End of Year celebrations

Thursday 21st LAST DAY OF TERM (**NO** after school clubs/PBA Extra)

2022/2023

<u>September</u>

Thursday 1st Inset Day Friday 2nd Inset Day

Monday 5th START OF AUTUMN TERM

Friday 30th Non-Uniform Day (Mental Health Awareness)

<u>October</u>

Monday 24th – Friday 28th Half Term Monday 21st October Inset Day

November

Friday 11th Remembrance Day / Forces Uniform Day

December

Wednesday 14th Year 5 Pantomime Trip

Friday 16th LAST DAY OF TERM (**NO** after school clubs/PBA Extra)

Monday 19th – Friday 30th Christmas Holidays

January

Monday 2nd Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3rd Inset Day

Wednesday 4th START OF SPRING TERM

<u>February</u>

Monday 13th – Friday 17th Half Term

April

Monday 3rd – Friday 14th Easter Holidays Monday 17th Inset Day

Tuesday 18th START OF SUMMER TERM

May

Monday 29th – Friday 2nd Half Term

<u>July</u>

Friday 21st LAST DAY OF TERM (**NO** after school clubs/PBA Extra)