

# PBA Press

Welcome to the Christmas issue of PBA Press!

This half term has included a whole host of activities starting with our Open Evening and Open Mornings at the start of November and ending with the awards assembly. I am delighted with the way pupils responded to all the opportunities, they really are the best advocates for the school.

As the term progressed, pupils were involved in assessments, a necessary part of education in the UK. We had our visit to the Black Country Museum for Year 6 and Pantomime for the Year 5. Christmas Jumper day combined with the Christmas dinner was a great day and the organisation of the Maths immersion day and writing days all provided pupils with variety and an opportunity to engage in different ways. Pupils at Pix Brook always take on the challenges presented to them positively and they have done so throughout the year, none more so than with the recent very cold snowy weather.

If we take a moment to look back, I think we can all agree that PBA has had a great year. Sporting fixtures have happened aplenty, clubs are running, visits have taken place outside school and visitors have come into school to deliver specialist experiences. On top of this the usual delivery of lessons undertaken by a full body of specialist teachers has happened on a daily basis. Our last day was a genuinely impressive moment in the life of the school. Throughout this term pupils have been accumulating clear license to learns. This is our way of rewarding those pupils who simply do what they are expected to do at school every day. For those pupils who have had a clear licence every day since the beginning of term, they had the dubious reward of watching a film (Elf of course) and have pizza with me. What was remarkable was just how many pupils achieved this really high benchmark. (We allowed pupils one chance to still be included.) That meant 162/180 Year 6; 121/150 Year 7 and 55/92 Year 8 have been recognised for having a done everything expected of them for an entire term. 80% of our Year 6-8 pupils achieved this. Truly fantastic.

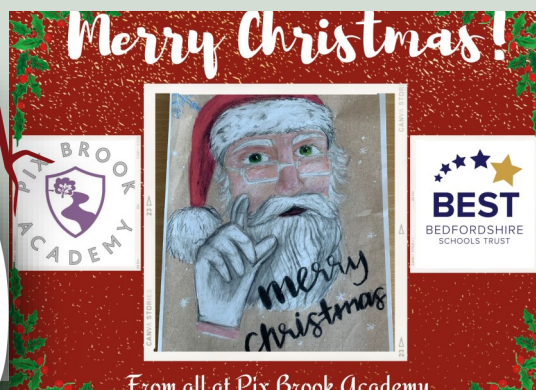
The school has also had some fantastic support from the Trust, a great example being the provision of a staff well-being space. This is designed to provide a separate space from the usual frenetic activity associated with schools and take time to reflect and pause. Not an easy thing to do in any job let alone teaching. We are really grateful for this innovative resource to support our staff.

During these last few weeks, I am delighted to say that pupils have worked really hard. 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. We all hope that Christmas this year will be a good one and while in so many ways there are big challenges for families it is still a marvelous time to be together.

It remains for me to wish all a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. It is this time with family that makes this time of year so important and to have children at home during Christmas is undoubtedly one of life's great moments and hopefully provides memories that last a lifetime.

Have a wonderful Christmas and new year—we look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 4th January.

Steve Adams  
& the PBA Team





### Staff Wellbeing Garden

Our new staff wellbeing garden has been officially opened by BEST.

As part of the trust's fifth anniversary celebrations and amid the backdrop of the pandemic, BEST pledged to fund and create areas within all its schools and nurseries where staff could relax.



The Pix Brook garden was constructed at the start of this half-term and earlier this month BEST Chief Executive Officer Dr Alan Lee and Chief Operating Officer Craig Smith joined Principal Steve Adams to cut a ceremonial ribbon.

Dr Lee said: "The wellbeing of all really matters at BEST and compassion is one of our core values. We are grateful for the kindness and support shown by our colleagues at Pix Brook and we are delighted to provide this garden area for their use."



### A message from Sue Howley MBE (Chair of Governors)

A big thank you to Steve Adams and everyone who works so hard at this wonderful school to support and encourage the children and their families.

It is much appreciated.

The governing board wish you all a happy holiday with your families and friends





## Year 5

Here we are at the end of 2022 and it seemed that it was just a few weeks ago, when we welcome the new Year 5s to PBA. Since then Year 5 have been so busy settling in the PBA ways and getting on with PiXL tests, Big Writes, Cadbury's trip, where they further their learning about the Maya and how they created Chocolate as well as getting a few bargains (lots of chocolate). The Year 5s have also been able to do some fun experiments during the Science Spectacular lessons this week.

What a great day Panto Day was...oh yes it was! Taking the Year 5 pupils to see Cinderella was thoroughly enjoyable!

I have been so privileged to be part of "The learning journey" at PBA from their beginning and I have already witnessed how, in one way or another, they have developed as a more mature and independent individuals. I feel proud to be your Head of Year! with all the new challenges and opportunities to continue to grow into a socially responsible citizen that is Positive Polite, Prepared and Perseverance!!

I have to mention and thank our great Year 5 form tutor's team, who always have had the pupil's best interest at heart, when planning lessons and making decisions on fun learning activities such as the trip to Cadburys World and the panto and some more fun and fantastic trips and activities to come in the New Year!!

So, I will take this opportunity to wish you all, a fabulous Festive Season and well-deserved restful time with family and loved ones. I am looking forward to welcome you all back in January, so here to a happy and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year 2023 to everyone! Enjoy and recharge your batteries.

Mrs Horwood and the Year 5 Team



## Year 6

What a fantastic first term in Year 6! This amazing year group has continued to do us proud in the transition to their final year in primary education. It is always tricky to transition to a new year group but students (and staff- myself and Mr Williams!) have seemed to take it in their stride. The first term has been packed with many different activities including being transported back to the Victorian Era at the Black Country Museum, developing our resilience with Making Me, an amazing Maths Immersion Day planned by Mrs White, I could continue but I would not want to take up the whole of the PBA press! In year 6, we look forward to welcoming our amazing students back on the 4<sup>th</sup> January for a new term and new year full of hard work and continuing to be socially responsible young people. Wishing all families a safe and happy festive break.



Mr F. Cook and the Year 6 Team





## Year 7

The first term is over and our students have really shown how amazing they are. This was particularly evident when a large number of the students supported us with Open Evening. It is so true when we say they are the greatest representation of Pix Brook Academy and I was very proud of them that evening.

Year 7 have explored lots of new topics including; mapping skills in Geography, creating presentations on cyberbullying in Computing & gaining their bunsen burner licenses in Science. We have seen a huge number of students taking part in the many extra-curricular clubs, including F1 club, Debate club, Art club and the many PE teams that we have to offer. I look forward to seeing the students try new things when the list of clubs is released after Christmas.

We have had lots to celebrate so far this year, including 99 students with no marks on their License to Learn. These students were rewarded with a movie and Pizza this week. Well done on all of your fantastic work, keep it up and let's carry that on next year. I would like to wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs D Freeman and the Year 7 Team



## Year 8

I write this end of term review as we are currently in the middle of some extremely cold weather, but it only seems like last week we welcomed students back to PBA in September when the sun was shining.

It has been a successful term for our Year 8 cohort and it was amazing to celebrate some of these successes in our end of term awards ceremony yesterday. I would like to say well done to all the award winners, but perhaps more importantly congratulations to all the Year 8 cohort on their approach to learning and positive behaviour this term.



There has yet again been some fantastic sporting achievements this term, and once again a huge thank you to the PE team for offering the vast array of clubs and sporting teams. A further well done to those students that were selected as PBA's first ever sports captains.

Away from the sports fields there has been a great uptake on extra-curricular clubs offered both at lunch time and after school. I know that students have enjoyed attending these clubs, it really is a great opportunity. However, if the students have been unable to attend this term be sure to look out for the clubs that will be running next term.

Today sees the first set of students celebrating with pizza and a movie with Mr Adam's after achieving no marks on the new license to learn award system. It is amazing to see nearly half of the cohort achieve zero marks over the whole term, this is an

incredible achievement. For those students that have missed out this term, they have a further opportunity at the end of next term.

I would also like to thank all Year 8 students that helped at the new intake evening at the beginning of November, each and every student was a fantastic ambassador for the school. On a personal note my helpers in the DT Department represented the school impeccably.

I look forward to the new term in anticipation and to welcome the students back after the Christmas Holidays. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Mr Fleckney and the Year 8 Team



## Snapshot of the Autumn Term Highlights

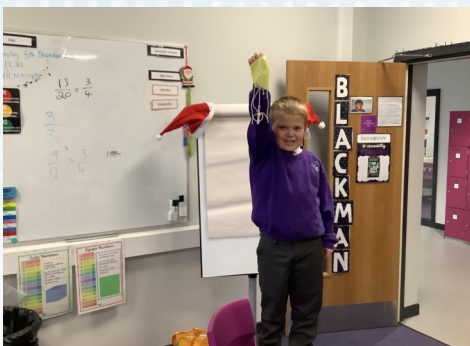


## KS2 Christmas Film





## Autumn Term Highlights

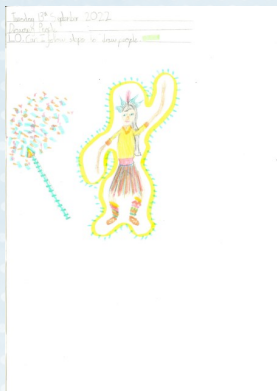


## KS3 Christmas Film





## Art



This term the Year 5s have had a chance to design their own Maya tribal face paint and draw Maya people and some of their clothing. They then moved on to follow steps of John Dyer to draw rainforest plants, animals and then create their own piece of contemporary art linked to the rainforest. They have thoroughly enjoyed linking their knowledge learnt in History and Geography and putting it all to paper. They have created some amazing work, well done Year 5!

This term, Year 6 have been creating work inspired by William Morris. They have had the opportunity to explore clay and drawing as well as using oil pastels and watercolour paints. They have produced some fantastic repeat patterns using printmaking techniques for their final outcome, which were inspired by Morris's designs. Well done to all of Year 6!



Year 7 have been exploring Pop Art this term. We began the year discussing 'What makes a hero?' and the students designed some fantastic superheroes of their own, and they also wrote their superheroes 'origin story'. Inspired by the large scale sculptures of Claes Oldenburg, the students have been making their own pizza slices from cardboard and newspaper and painting these with acrylic paints; they look good enough to eat! The students learnt a lot about mixing colours during this task and I am so proud of the quality of the work that they have produced. Well done Year 7!

In our lessons, Year 8 have been exploring a range of different artists connected to the theme of 'Urban Spaces', creating their own responses. They have had the opportunity to create one point perspective drawings, use oil pastels and felt tip pens and have created their own stencil designs. Red1Skates in Hitchin has kindly loaned the art department some skateboard decks to inspire the students to design their own, and the students will be working on their final designs when we return to school in January. I'm really excited to see what the students produce!



There have also been lots of Year 7 and 8 students attending art club on Thursday lunchtimes, and they have had the opportunity to experiment with clay and print making to create Halloween and Christmas decorations.

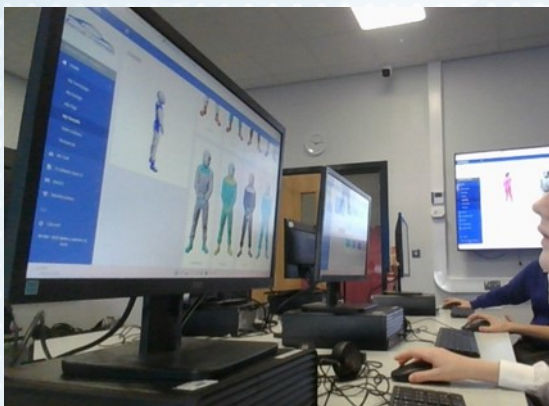
Mrs Poxson





## F1 Club—Maths in Motion

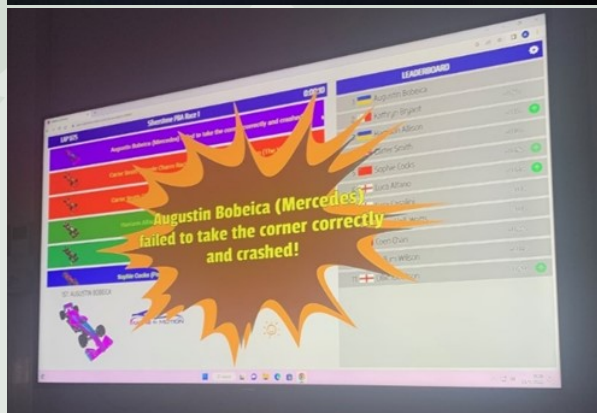
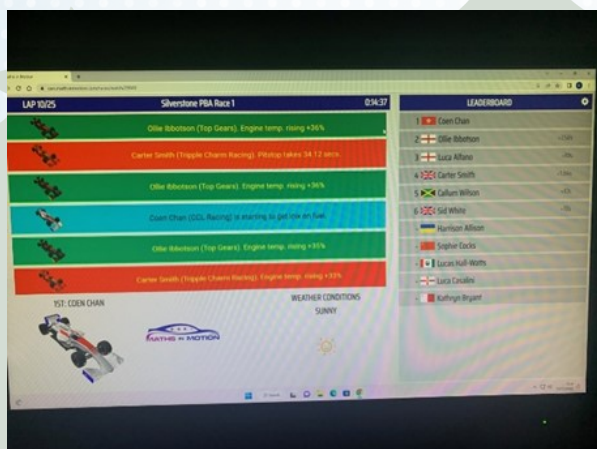
The club started in September with about 20 students from Years 6 and 7 and the occasional Year 8. The first few sessions were spent planning; measuring out Silverstone track to find the length, then converting it from metres to kilometres and then having to multiply it by 25 as the race was 25 laps long. All that to find out how much fuel to put in! Pupils also had to measure the angles of the bends to find out if they were a tight bend, medium bend or long bend and also the length of the straights. Once they had this information, they could work out the safe speeds on the track. Planning almost over, they chose the colour of their car, racing overalls and a flag.



All the measured data was input and then the fun bit - tuning the engine, working out the optimum aerodynamic downforce, suspension and gearbox ratios. Only after all this had completed could the pupils perform a practise lap!! Not many got around the first time - more tweaking done! Eventually, we were ready for the first race. The anticipation from all the hard work .... the race positions were announced, the countdown began; the lights went from red to green and we were off. The information flashed up on the screen. Cars ran out of fuel; engines over-heated; cooling systems failed and the result was .... no one made it to the end of the race.

Undeterred, they planned again, tweaked again and we raced again. This time expectations were high. Again, cars ran out of fuel, engines and cooling systems failed and cars crashed on the track but .... we finally had a winner. Lucas Hall-Watts in Year 7 completed the race and won. Well done Lucas.

Next term, the club will be running again and picking a new race track. If anyone would like to join, then please contact Mrs Bryant. First session will be Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023.





## Science

Year 5 had their Science Spectacular this week. This is a special lesson each term where they get to experiment and use equipment from the KS3 lab. The children helped Santa out in his Fizzy Elves Academy. They mixed bicarbonate of soda, vinegar and food colouring to create a fizzy concoction.

Year 6 had their science spectacular this week. This is their opportunity to use some of the KS3 equipment. The children were fantastic and were able to investigate three types of chocolate, and see which one would melt the fastest. In order to do these the children used Bunsen burners, tripods and a gauze. They followed all safety rules carefully and loved the task. They were then lucky enough to toast marshmallows on the Bunsen.



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## Geography

I have been very busy this term sending out praise emails and merits as I have been so impressed with the level of work that children in all year groups have put into their subjects this term. The year 5 children have worked really hard learning about the rainforest including location, culture and how to save the rainforest. In year 6 they have been learning about their community, they have looked at the 2021 census data to see that both Stotfold and Arlesey have increased in population, they then considered how the area will continue to meet the needs of the community. Year 7 have been learning about settlements, this has included the history of settlements but also what settlements might look like in the future. The Year 7's compared the ideas of sociologist Ernest Burgess to economist Homer Hoyt, considering how land value can influence the planning of a successful settlement. Finally, the year 8's have been focused on the Horn of Africa considering the challenges that the region faces, they have also been researching the mystery of the disappearance of the lake Chad completing the year with a debate about the Transaqua project to refill the lake.

Reflecting at the end of the term it is clear how much work the children have put into their studies, their heroic efforts have not gone unnoticed. The Humanities department have decided to reward one 'Humanities hero' per year group every term, they will receive a certificate and a badge to wear with pride. This terms Humanities hero award winners are:



Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Florence Lambie	Richmond Silas	William Wybrow	Kiera Sheff





## PE



It has been our PE Department's most successful term since the school opened, winning four district competitions this autumn. Attendances at extra-curricular activities have remained extremely high, where the effort and commitment shown by students and staff has boosted our performances in district leagues and competitions. We kicked off the term with an incredible league campaign by our Year 6 boys football team, who won each game throughout the season and were crowned champions at previous holders Arnold ground in a pulsating 3-2 win. We then won back-to-back table tennis competitions, with our KS3 boys team winning their district competition and the KS2 girls team also finishing first, where each team progressed to the county finals and placed fourth in a brilliant debut year entering table tennis teams into competitions. Lastly, our Year 7 girls basketball team defied all odds winning all of their games in the district tournament, where they will progress into the county finals in the new year. Furthermore, we are awaiting the Year 7 boys basketball all district finals, where we are due to play Robert Bloomfield in the play-off, so we hope to add another title to our collection. Well done to all students who have attended clubs or represented the school this year!



## PE Star of the Month - November

Tamanna Parhar	Year 5	For excellent effort and skill in Football
Harri Maund	Year 5	Excellent effort in lessons and district cross-country

Nevaeh Cutts	Year 6	Fantastic effort and attitude in football lessons
Ethan Reed	Year 6	Excellent leadership skills shown in sport education lessons

Navleen Basra	Year 7	Great progress made in basketball lessons
Thomas Devereux	Year 7	For excellent effort during Rugby

Liv Mead-Price	Year 8	Showing excellent progress and effort in Rugby
Dantae-Dior Allen	Year 8	Excellent progress in basketball lessons

## Team of the Term

Y6 Boys Football Team	Becoming district champions and being undefeated
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This year we have introduced our TAG Team in PE, a group of talented and gifted (TAG) Sports Captains from Years 6/7/8 who will be responsible for leading activities in lessons, supporting at extra-curricular clubs and officiating at sports fixtures, in order to promote student leadership at the school and open avenues for our pupils to learn about the different roles in sport beyond participation level. With over 70 applications across school, the following students were elected:

Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Luca A	Mylo G	Charlie C
Freddie B	Charlie J	Nathan F
Luke F	Daniel M	Liam R
Harry M	Freddie S	Mason T
Remy M	Lauren B	Evie F
Freddie P	Edie H	Lacey P
Ralf P	Maddie F	
Chloe C	Maisie K-W	
Maia E	Leane' K	
Nicole H	Sophie L	
Isabelle K		
Amelie L		
Lily R		
Ivy W		

Our TAG Team will start their roles in the new year and we look forward to seeing them grow as socially responsible citizens of the future!



Year 7 Football Awards



Year 7 Basketball Awards

Year 8 football awards:	Year 8 basketball awards:	Year 6 football awards:
Top scorer = Izaiah B	MVP = Nathan F	Top scorer = Ethan E-P
Most improved = James L	Most Improved = Noah C	Most improved = Luca A
Players' Player = Charlie C	The 4 P's = Charlie C	Players' Player = Eli W
The 4 P's = Nathan F	Coach's Player = Nathan F	The 4 P's = Luke F
Manager's Player = Chase P		Manager's Player = Freddie P





## Sports Colours Winners

Year 6 - Football	Year 6 - netball	Year 6 - x country
Freddie P	Ivy W	Ruby D
Ethan EP	Nichole H	Harriet Mc
Ralf P	Maia E	Austin M
Luke F	Layla H	Luke F
Harry W	Angelina C	
Blake C		
Will C		
Eli W		
Alfie N		
Luca A		
Keir Y		
Freddie D		
Harry M		
Remi M		
Cameron W		



Year 7 - Football	Year 7 - Basketball	Year 7 -X country	Year 7 - Netball
Charlie J	Noah S	Lauren B	Sophie L
Daniel Mc	Charlie J	Charlie J	Edie H
Noah T	Luca G		Maisie KW
Harrison F	Daniel Mc		Leane K
			Lauren B
			Emily G
			Aimee S
			Phoebe S



Year 8 - Football	Year 8 - Basketball	Year 8 - X country
Nathan F	Logan R	Evie F
Mason T	Eddie M	Nathan F
Charlie C	Nathan F	
Chase P	Evie F	
	Lacey P	
	Sienna D	





## Extra-Curricular Clubs—Spring Term

All extra-curricular clubs to commence week beginning 9th January 2023

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS - SPRING TERM

	LUNCH TIME				AFTER SCHOOL			
	YEAR	Club	Staff	Room	YEAR	Club	Staff	Room
Monday								
Tuesday	5 & 6	ICT Club	Mr Williams	006	5	Homework Club	Various	Y5 Classrooms
	7 & 8	Maths Drop-In Club	Mrs Bryant	140	7 & 8	Forensics Club	Mrs Adams	201
Wednesday	5 & 6	Triolingo (Italian) Club	Miss Power	006	5 & 6	Young Voices (11th & 18th Jan)	Miss Priestley & Mrs White	Hall
	5 & 6	Gardening Club	Mrs Pearce	Garden	6	Homework Club	Various	Y6 Classrooms
	5 & 6	Beginners Sign Language Club	Miss Binks	119	6, 7 & 8	Maths in Motion F1 Club	Mrs Bryant	140
	7 & 8	ICT Club	Mr Williams	140	7 & 8	Homework Club	Mrs Freeman	206
Thursday	7 & 8	Art Club	Mrs Poxson	126				
Friday	5 & 6	EdShed & TTRS Club	Mrs Murphy	006				



PBA Physical Education Extra – Curricular Provision

Spring Term 2023



	Lunch 1 – 12:30 – 13:00 (KS2)	Lunch 2 – 13:20 – 13:50 (KS3)	After School: 15:05 – 16:00
Monday	Year 5 Boys/Girls Handball (MD/LN) Year 6 Boys/Girls Fitness (JS)	Year 7 Boys/Girls Fitness (MD/LN) Year 8 Boys/Girls Futsal (JS)	Year 7/8 Boys/Girls Badminton (JS) Year 5/6 Boys Rugby (MD) Year 5/6 Girls Football (AJ)
Tuesday	Year 6 Boys/Girls Dance (EN) Year 6 Handball (JS/MD/LN)		Year 5 Boys Football (JS) Year 7/8 Girls Football (AJ) Year 8 Boys Rugby (MD) Year 5 Girls Netball Fixtures (IW) Year 8 Boys Rugby Fixtures (MD) Year 5 Boys Football Fixtures (JS)
Wednesday	Year 5 Boys/Girls Fitness (MD) Year 6 Boys/Girls Badminton (JS/LN)		Year 7 Boys Rugby (MD) Beginners Trampoline (IW) Year 5/6 Girls Football Fixtures (AJ) Year 6 Netball Fixtures (IW)
Thursday	Year 5 Boys/Girls Futsal (JS/MD/LN)		Year 5/6 Netball (PS) Year 7 Boys Rugby Fixtures (MD)
Friday	Year 5 Boys/Girls Netball (PS) Year 6 Boys/Girls Futsal (JS/MD/LN)	Year 7 Boys/Girls Futsal (MD) Year 8 Boys/Girls Fitness (JS/LN)	

#### Spring Term League Fixtures:

Year 5: Boys Football: Jan 11 – Feb 1

Year 6: Netball: Jan 11 – Jan 18

Year 7: Boys Rugby: March 2-16

Year 8: Boys Rugby: Feb 28 – March 14

Competitions: KS3 Badminton: Jan 27

Netball: Jan 17 – Feb 7

Girls Football: Feb 22 – March 15

Girls Football: March 22-29

Girls Football: March 22-29

KS3 Girls Rugby: March 10

Girls Football: Feb 22 – March 15

Year 6 Boys Rugby Festival: March 13

Year 5 Boys Rugby Festival: March 21

## Lunch Menu—Spring Term

### Menu Jan - April 2023

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	Macaroni Cheese V Quorn Balls V Garlic Bread Rice Veg Angel Delight Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Crispy Chicken Cheese & onion Lattice Wedges Veg Shortbread Biscuits Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Sausages Quorn Sausages V Roast Potatoes Yorkshire Puddings Gravy Veg Rice Krispie Cake Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Chicken Curry Cheese pin Wheels Sauté Potatoes Naan Bread Veg Chocolate Sponge Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Pizza Battered Fish Chips Baked Beans Ice Cream Yoghurt Fresh Fruit
WEEK 2	Sausage Pasta Quorn Sausages Wedges Veg Cheese Cake Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Fish Fingers Cauliflower Cheese Crispy Cubes Garlic Bread Veg Jam Sponge Custard Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Roast Pork Quorn Roast V Roast Potatoes Gravy Veg Veal Carrot Cake Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Beefsteak Pasta Guiche Veg Apple Crumble Custard Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Hot Dog Vegetable Nuggets Chips Baked Beans Cookies Yoghurt Fresh Fruit
WEEK 3	Chicken Pasta Quorn Pasta Veg Chocolate Brownie Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Meatballs Vegetable Spring Roll V Rice Baked Beans Lemon Love Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Roast Turkey Quorn Filler V Roast Potatoes Gravy Veg Chocolate Chip Sponge Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Chicken Chow Mein Pasta Chips Veg Muffins Yoghurt Fresh Fruit	Pizza Chicken Nuggets Chips Baked Beans Mousse Yoghurt Fresh Fruit
EXTRAS	Jackets Cheese Baked Beans Tuna Salad	Jackets Cheese Baked Beans Tuna Yorkshire Wags	Jackets Cheese Baked Beans Tuna	Jackets Cheese Baked Beans Tuna	