

Pix Brook Academy Press



Issue 4: 8th November 2019

Message from Mr Adams

Once again it has been an eventful few weeks in the life of Pix Brook Academy. Perhaps the most exciting event was the visit to the permanent site on the 31st October. Fortunately, the rain stayed away and we had an opportunity to meet the senior staff from Willmott Dixon who talked to the pupils about the construction site. There is no doubt it is exciting for us all to see the huge change in just a couple of weeks. Seeing the diggers move around, going into the site office and seeing where the staff work and hearing from the project manager about how the site will progress was a great experience for us all. I have been really pleased with how Willmott Dixon have chosen to engage with the school, they have been really inclusive and I hope this bodes well for the future.

As always it is fascinating to listen to the questions of 9-year-old children. The excitement shown when the computer model showed a trampoline in the gym was a site to behold. Never mind the huge new school that's being built: there's going to be a trampoline! The pupils have now had their first visit to the site and we have more planned. They have planted some daffodils, some even the right way round and we have an assembly being run by WD later this month. It's a good start and while no one can promise there won't be a hitch, we have at least seen genuine engagement and commitment from the contractors to work with us.

The other big stand out moment for me happens every other Friday. This is where I take the opportunity to meet with pupils selected by their teacher who have been working as hard as they can and doing their best. We have juice and biscuits, discuss the week and what is happening over the weekend. This is at the core of my belief in the purpose of education: try your best, if you do that no one can ask any more. I am delighted to say that teachers are struggling to choose who to send to me, so many are working fantastically well. These conversations are priceless, pupils are interested, loquacious and I have to say have fascinating insights. It's a real highlight for me.

I have also had an opportunity to meet with some parents. A really useful meeting was held to help me understand what more we might do to improve the educational experience of our pupils. Out of the meeting we agreed that the development of the Pix Brook parent's association (PBPA) would be a welcome addition to the school. If you are interested in being part of a likeminded body of parents to help provide additional support for the school, please let me know via the school email. I am hoping to be able to organise the inaugural meeting before Christmas.

We have a few events coming up over the next few weeks. I am delighted to say we have our Remembrance Day organised. A representative from St Mary's Church will be holding the assembly. Lessons in the morning will be different from usual and will appropriately focus on the sacrifice made by members of the armed forces. Please note as part of this day pupils who are members of cadets or scouts / guides can choose to wear their uniform for the day.

Finally, can I remind everyone that the school continues to offer homework club on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. These are free until 4pm and provide pupils with an opportunity to complete their homework at school. It continues to be very popular and staff are available to provide support if required. The purpose of this is to minimise the impact of homework on parents and enable pupils to complete their work at school. I am very keen that we develop the resilience and independence of pupils so that they have these attributes that will be so necessary to their education. There really should be no need for any pupil not to have completed their homework.



Teaching and Learning News

News from Mrs Smyth

Lots to report in Mrs Smyth's classroom this week. After a very successful trip to Cadbury World, we have been using what we learnt to help us in lessons. In English, we have been writing haikus and limericks about the characters in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. This week we are designing our own machine, using the senses and onomatopoeia, which could appear in Mr Wonka's factory and writing instructions to explain how it works! In Science we have been researching David Attenborough, Gerald Durrell and also Jane Goodall to find out what they have done to become so important to the animal world. Our Maya topic has continued with us designing our own temples and also discovering what made a great Mayan ruler! Lastly, in Geography, some fantastic work has been produced on the different layers of the rainforests and the various animals and plants which you can find there. A very busy and exciting learning time has been had!



News from Miss Broadbent

It has been a busy start to the new half term. We are continuing to read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in English and have invented our own chocolate machines using similes, metaphors and onomatopoeia to describe it. We also know how using all five senses in descriptive writing can improve the overall effect. In Maths we have been investigating factors, multiples and prime numbers. Our Science has moved on from plant reproduction and we are now studying animals. Our research has introduced us to naturalists such as: Gerald Durrell, Jane Goodall and David Attenborough. We have particularly enjoyed watching clips from the current BBC series 'Seven Worlds, One Planet' which has really brought the animal world to life.



News from Mr Van Wyk

We have hit the ground running this half term (like a springbok!) and got straight back into working hard in all areas. In Science we have been researching conservationists and people who have made outstanding contributions to the animal and plant world. They included Sir David Attenborough and Gerald Durrell. We have designed and written instructions for our own sweet-making machine in English and learned how to identify factors, multiples and prime numbers in Maths.

Those who were in Football club this week experienced the full force of the English weather with some torrential rain on Tuesday. As the weather is likely to be poor over the coming weeks, please bring a towel with you to football club. On the subject of sport, I hope everyone enjoyed the rugby over the past weekend 😊



Teaching and Learning News

News from Mrs Pearce

In Conservation Club we have been replanting and maintaining the plants at the front of the school. The pupils have been working on ensuring that the placement of the plants is accurate and creates a balanced look. As the weather is changeable, please do not forget waterproof coats, wellies and a carrier bag.



Focus on Learning

Maths

We are currently learning about prime numbers, factors, square and cubic numbers. Next week we begin to study the topic of perimeter and area. A common concern for parents is that maths is taught differently from when they were at school. If this is the case for you then hopefully the following resource might help:

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-your-child-learns-key-stage-2-maths>

English

We are currently developing our use of similes and metaphors to improve our descriptive writing. We have also been learning about imperative verbs and adverbs. Perhaps ask your children why Mr Adams is particularly fond of imperative verbs!

Science

Pupils have been studying about life cycles and looking at the work of David Attenborough and other conservationists. The timing of "Seven worlds, One planet" could not have been better. This is obviously compulsory viewing!

News from Mr King-Mand

Safeguarding at Pix Brook Academy

The use of social media has become part of our lives and it seems it is here to stay. As we all know it can have many benefits and uses, but it can also pose risks and challenges for our young people. Shown below is a link to a useful website that discusses social media, its potential risks and the challenges of it. It shares top tips, gives expert advice and shares stories from parents. We hope you find this link useful and possibly use it as a way of having discussions with your child about social media. Please do feel free to come and talk to us about anything to do with safeguarding.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/social-media-concerns/>

Design and Technology

Pupils continue to make excellent progress with their gumball machines. They are currently marking out and assembling the mechanism that allows the gumballs to drop out of the machine. The enthusiasm and effort of the pupils remains high and very focused. The attention to detail shown by a large number of pupils is brilliant to see.

In the DT club, we have started our new project this week. Pupils will be making a mini basketball court that includes a small catapult to launch the basketball (table tennis balls) in to the net. They will make the hoop and mark it out like a real basketball court in the coming few sessions. They will then make the catapult to launch the 'basketball' in to the net. This project will allow pupils to learn about a simple mechanism and it will also allow them to get some target practice.



Art

Pupils have been set a brief where they have to design a chocolate wrapper for a new chocolate bar that Willy Wonka has created. Pupils have been asked to design the name of the bar, create suitable fonts and the relevant graphics for the wrapper. As part of their research, pupils have sketched the fonts used on the most popular chocolate bars at the moment. Currently, pupils are busy producing the initial ideas for their wrapper design.

Other News

Charity

It's time to get (nut free!) baking as we will be holding a bake sale in aid of 'Children In Need' next Friday (15th November). We will be selling goodies (biscuits, cakes, muffins) at break time and after school (if there are any left!). Prices start from 20p.

It's Christmas Jumper Day in aid of 'Save the Children' on Friday 13th December so don't forget to wear your best festive jumper!

We will be collecting food donations for 'The Need Project' this Christmas. Further information regarding this will be sent out via ParentMail in due course.



Flu Immunisations



Following on from the ParentMail sent out, the School Nursing Team will be at PBA on Tuesday 26th November to give pupils their flu vaccination. If you haven't already done so, please could you return your consent form to the school office as soon as possible.

Break Time Snacks



Please can you ensure that your child brings in a healthy snack (ideally fruit) every day for break time.

Proposed Changes to Schools in Shefford, Stotfold and the Surrounding Areas



Further to the letter sent out regarding the proposed changes to school in Shefford, Stotfold and the surrounding area, please find below communication documents produced by Central Bedfordshire Council:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14gqGDubPbjfodedhcqKUSgE5h4_k1lkr?usp=sharing

The Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST) **does** support the move to primary-secondary envisaged in the materials. However, it **does not** support the staggered approach described. We believe that a single and fully-co-ordinated move is in the best interests of all children, delivering openness, transparency and choice. We are keen to hear whether you support our schools and agree with a single, fully-co-ordinated move. Please would you click on the link: <https://forms.gle/Kc2qrWT4HKBETdtJ6> and complete the single question feedback form.

New Staff



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Aksoy as our new after school facilitator for PBA Extra!

Open Evening

Our Open Evening is on Wednesday 27th November from 6pm until 8pm. We are using The Pendleton Sports Centre for the Principals speech at 6:15pm and 7:15pm and then prospective parents can walk across to view the school.

If possible, I would like all pupils to attend so that prospective parents have an opportunity to see and speak to them. A ParentMail message will be sent out asking for permission for your child to join us. Can I ask that this is completed and returned by the deadline in the message.

Pupils will be undertaking a variety of "lessons" in class where they will be working with a teacher. I would also like our pupils to introduce the open evening by singing before the speech. We have the Bedfordshire Music Service staff joining us on the evening who have been working with pupils since September. We will also have Willmott Dixon, governors, parents and BEST trustees in attendance.

Pupils will need to be dropped off at 5:45pm and can be collected from the school at 8pm. They will need to be in full uniform.

Please note, there will be no after school clubs running on this day.

I'd like to thank you in advance for your support in this important evening for the school.



Pix Brook Academy New Admissions Open Evening

Wednesday November 27th 6pm-8pm
Presentations at 18.15 and 19.15



Pix Brook Academy & Pendleton Centre
Stotfold Road
Arlesey SG15 6XS

Local News and Events

REMEMBRANCE SERVICES 2019

SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER



Arlesey

This will take place in the morning when the Royal British Legion and town organisations assemble in St. Peter's Avenue to leave in parade promptly at 10.45am to the Arlesey War Memorial along House Lane for the Remembrance Service starting at 10.45am. Everyone is most welcome to join us.

Stotfold

This year's ceremony will start at 2.45pm at Stotfold Cemetery -we ask that you convene at the Cemetery by 2.30pm. After the laying of the wreaths the parade will make its way along Queen Street, along the High Street and turn into Church Road to St Mary's Church for the service at 3.30pm. Everybody welcome.



STOTFOLD COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 23rd November, 12 until 4pm
The Memorial Hall, Hallworth Drive, Stotfold
(by courtesy of Stotfold Town Council)

To benefit 1st Stotfold Guide Association

FREE ENTRY TO VISITORS

Adult Tombola & Raffle, 30+ Crafts & Gifts stalls
Children's Tombola & activities including face painting
Santa's Grotto & Post Box
Refreshments & Socialising area
Display of Stotfold & Area memorabilia

To donate or arrange collection of tombola / raffle prizes please contact:
John McBurney 07958 555536
Alan Cooper 01462 733106





NOV 30 Christmas Fair & Lights Switch On
Public - Hosted by Arlesey Community Events Group

★ Interested ✉ Invite

🕒 Saturday, 30 November 2019 from 15:00-19:00 UTC

📍 Arlesey Village Hall
SG15 6 Arlesey Show map

Stotfold's Christmas Lights

Saturday 2nd December
Switch On 6.30pm

at
The Greenacre Centre, Valerian Way
Stotfold, SG5 4HG

- ★ Stalls & Refreshments from 4pm
- ★ Roecroft Lower School Choir will be performing at 6pm
- ★ Storytime with Father Christmas from 4pm - Pre-booking is Advisable. Contact the Town Council offices for your ticket (under 9s only)

STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL
The Greenacre Centre, Valerian Way, Stotfold, SG5 4HG
01462 730064 Email: enquiries@stotfoldtowncouncil.gov.uk



MULTI-ACTIVE

Courses running in the school holidays.
HOLIDAY COURSES WWW.MULTI-ACTIVE.CO.UK



SuperCamps

THE UK'S NO.1 FOR CHILDCARE
DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Diary & Term Dates

November	Friday 8 th Monday 11 th Friday 15 th Wednesday 27 th	- PBA Press Issue 4 - Remembrance Assembly / Student Services Uniform Day - Bake Sale for Children In Need - PBA Open Evening for prospective parents, 6-8pm (NO after school clubs)
December	Friday 6 th Friday 13 th Date TBC Tuesday 17 th Thursday 19 th Date TBC Friday 20 th Monday 21 st - Friday 3 rd Jan	- PBA Press Issue 5 - Christmas Jumper Day for Save The Children - Christmas Dinner - Pantomime Trip to the Gordan Craig Theatre - End of Term Assembly at St Marys Church (period 5) - Class Christmas Party - Last Day of Term, finish at 3.05pm (NO after school clubs) - Christmas Holidays
January	Monday 6 th Tuesday 7 th Friday 10 th	- Staff Training Day (no school) - Start of Spring Term - PBA Press Issue 6
February	Friday 6 th Thursday 13 th Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st	- PBA Press Issue 7 - Parents Visit (afternoon) - Half Term
March	Thursday 5 th Friday 6 th Friday 13 th Friday 13 th	- World Book Day (Non-uniform) - PBA Press Issue 8 - STEM Day - Sport Relief (Non-uniform Day)
April	Friday 3 rd Monday 6 th - Friday 17 th	- PBA Press Issue 9 - Easter Holidays
May	Thursday 7 th Friday 8 th Monday 25 th - Friday 29 th	- PBA Press Issue 10 - Bank Holiday - Half Term
June	Friday 12 th Friday 26 th	- PBA Press Issue 11 - Sports Day
July	Friday 3 rd Wednesday 8 th Friday 10 th Monday 13 th Friday 17 th Monday 20 th - Friday 4 th Sept	- Step Up Day - Awards Afternoon - PBA Press Issue 12 - New Year 5's Visit - Last Day of Term, finish at 3.05pm (NO after school clubs) - Summer Holidays