

Newsletter Number 22 – Monday 19th July 2021



What a year! It wasn't quite the end of the year that we had planned. Many of the children won't get to say goodbye to their teachers, but hopefully September will see a little more normality with the restrictions being lifted.

Thank you!

As we all know it has been quite the year! The children have not been phased at all by the bubble systems and the restrictions that we have had to put in place. They have come to school each morning with a smile on their face and have transitioned superbly when we have had to go to online learning; we're very proud of them.

Thank you also to all of our parents who have been so incredibly supportive and have helped their children at home with the online learning; we are well aware that it wasn't easy when you had your own work commitments and little ones at home to entertain.

Finally, a huge thank you to all of the staff who have been absolutely amazing. Their energy and enthusiasm has made sure that the children have still experienced what makes Pineham Barns a special place to learn. They have worked incredibly hard to make sure that the lockdown impacted the children's learning and well-being as little as possible. Not to forget the support team who have sent out correspondence in the evenings and weekends after the latest announcements or bubble closures, and Mr McLeod who has worked so hard to keep our site as safe as possible. They are an amazing team and we are incredibly fortunate to have them.

September Return

As families are aware, bubble systems will not be in place from September following updated guidelines from the Department for Education. This will mean that we will return to the gates being open for all children from 8:45am until 8:55am and school will finish at 3:15pm.



September is a few weeks away yet, and as cases continue to rise, we wait to see what happens. We will write to families on the training days to confirm whether we are returning to normality or if the DFE have changed their guidance.

PTA

Despite the year we have had, our PTA have managed to raise huge funds for our school and we are so very grateful for their efforts and to our families for supporting them. The money raised has gone towards the following this year:

Sports Kit. From the money raised for the Walkathon, a contribution has been made for a sports kit for our teams who hopefully will be able to return to competition next academic year. Mr Pender has designed sports kits along with the children for them to use when they are competing in football, netball and hockey tournaments, which we are thrilled about.

During our Science week, money was also donated to school, so that the children could plant flowers as part of their learning. The flower beds in our well-being area towards the lake look beautiful and the children are enjoying looking after them.

Finally, as we continue to develop our Science area in the Early Years, the PTA have made a contribution towards this, which has meant that we have been able to purchase lab coats, a Science shed and benches for the children to work at.

As you can see the money raised has significantly helped all of our children across the school, and we are really grateful for the efforts of our parents who run the PTA, thank you so much for all your hard work and we look forward to more events next year.

Reading Books

For those children in school, can we please ask that all reading books (staged books and reading for pleasure) are returned by Tuesday 20th July. Any children currently at home isolating, can we please ask that their books are returned on the first day back in September (Friday 3rd September).

Uniform

Many of you will be purchasing uniform in preparation for the start of the new academic year. Please can we remind families that we have a leaflet outlining our uniform requirements which can be found on our website, <https://pinehambarns.school/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Uniform-Leaflet.pdf> Families are reminded that trainers are not permitted as school shoes. Children who are moving into Key Stage Two are also required to wear a gold tie and we look forward to seeing them look incredibly smart from September!



Clubs

On Friday, you should have received a letter from Freestyle providing information about our clubs for September. Information regarding how to sign up for these was provided along with the letter. There will also be other clubs on offer for the children.

Hotshots will be making a welcomed return and Spanish will be offered to the children again as a club. Next year, we are extending our curriculum offer with regards to Spanish, so that Reception children will also be taught Spanish. Reception to Year Two will have a term and Years Three to Six will have regular sessions once a week. We are also delighted to inform you that we will be starting a choir in the autumn term, which the children will be able to sign up to as an additional club. Further information about all of these additional clubs will be sent to families in September.

Covid Reminders

Over the holidays, can I please remind families of the protocol for reporting any positive cases of Covid to school.

- If a pupil currently in school this week tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, families must contact Mrs Stewart at principal@pineham.org as soon as possible. This will enable any families that need to self-isolate to be contacted. Please ensure that you only send any positive results to this email rather than the office, as they will not be contactable over the holidays. Mrs Stewart will be able to be contacted regarding any positive cases up until 5pm on the 22nd July.
- Where a pupil from our school tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted.
- Therefore if a child develops symptoms from Friday 23rd July onwards, please don't contact the school, but follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Finally, if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Stewart at principal@pineham.org



Wedding Bells!

Over the summer, Miss Evans will be getting married to her partner Ben and will be returning to school in September as Mrs Cook.

I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the best for a wonderful day and a very happy life together.

Summer Reading Challenge!

At Pineham Barns, we firmly believe that reading is the key to unlocking every child's full potential therefore we have set a reading challenge over the Summer Holiday. Your child will collect points if they are able to read three times or more each week during their break. All points collected by each class will be added together at the end of the break. The more points they are able to collect, the better their whole class reward will be in September. We hope that this will help encourage our children to read as much as possible during their time away from school. You will, if you haven't already, receive details regarding this from your child's class teacher.

However, if you have any problems or questions regarding this, please speak to a member of staff from your child's year group or Miss Latham.

Dates for your diary

- Wednesday 1st September & Thursday 2nd September - Teacher Training Days
- Friday 3rd September - School opens to pupils

Have a lovely restful summer break