

Autumn Term 2022



Headteacher's Message

Dear Families,



What a busy autumn term at the Pines. As ever, time has flown by and is it hard to believe that we are drawing to the end of 2022. It has been another challenging year in the news when considering world events and changes, but the Pines continues

to be a happy and safe place, with the most amazing young people.

This term we have welcomed lots of new pupils and staff to the Pines. They have all settled in so well and it is lovely to see the progress that the children make.

All of the children in the school (265 now!) are a delight and it is so rewarding to see the ways in which they grow, develop and thrive in school. I am honestly so proud of each and every pupil in school, the run up to the Christmas break highlights this, where we see pupils perform in the Christmas shows, or welcome their parents in to an afternoon of holiday crafts, with confidence and enthusiasm.

Last Wednesday we welcomed back our first cohort of GCSE pupils, to collect their awards. They are all very happy and settled in their new settings and doing really well. We were incredibly proud of them all for achieving all of the qualifications and accreditations that they were entered in for and it is lovely that we are able to keep in touch with them all, some of them had been a part of the Pines family for over 12 years!

At the end of the term we are saying goodbye to Rebecca Hindley and Qurat Ayub, we wish them all the very best in their new schools and thank them for all their support.

As always, at the end of every term I would like to thank all of the staff, their hard work, commitment to the Pines and the children really is something

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incredibly special. I am sure you join me in wishing them a happy and relaxing holiday.

After the break, we will be sending out letters to you to recruit a parent governor – please keep an eye out for that.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday and a prosperous New Year. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Best Wishes,



Emma Pearce





Let's see what our classes have been up to this term....

Early Years Department



Butterflies Class



This half term butterflies have been exploring the theme colours everywhere. They have completed lots of colour activities within class and have explored the stories Brown Bear Brown Bear, Cats Colours and the Mixed Up Chameleon. Pupils have also been working really hard at using their PECs in class during structured settings. This week the pupils have also enjoyed decorating the class Christmas tree and are starting to complete a range of Christmas activities. Butterflies also recently enjoyed their visit to the snowdome and McDonald's with their friends in ladybirds and caterpillars.



Caterpillars Class



Caterpillars have had a fantastic first term at The Pines. We have enjoyed using the Forest School area, digging building, swinging in the hammocks and even cooking outside. We have been out in the mini bus exploring the local area and have loved using Early years new climbing frame. This half term we have been thinking about colours and have particularly enjoyed the "Brown Bear Brown Bear What do you see" story. Matching colours and decorating the animals.

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Ladybirds Class

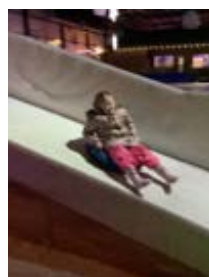


This term, Ladybirds have been learning about ourselves. We have looked closely at our features using mirrors and made lots of fantastic artwork; paper plate faces, painting ourselves and hand and foot prints. We have been getting to know each other and looking at photographs of our families.



Our topic this half term has been colours everywhere. We have enjoyed stories relating to the theme, especially Brown Bear Brown Bear What Can You See? We have enjoyed making art work around this story and enjoyed our story sack; matching the animals, using puppets and reading the story together and on our own.

Ladybirds have settled well and are following our school routines, where we are beginning to use PECS to request items of interest. We have been into Forest school, been out on the minibus to the park and the allotment. We also enjoyed our Christmas trip to the Snow Dome where we had fun playing in the snow.



Primary Department



1A Class

What a fantastic start 1A have had to the school year, throughout this term the children have built resilience, good communication skills and positive relationships with one another. They showed continued enthusiasm towards learning and always tried their best!

In Literacy, we have been improving our writing skills and letter formation every day and have produced some excellent work. We have also worked on our Reading skills through daily Phonics. In Maths, we have looked at 2D shapes and their features and have now moved to 3D shapes and their features. We are also enjoying looking at number problems. We looked at weather in Geography and how to dress for different seasons, we delved into themes such as belonging and responsibility in PSHE and in D.T we enjoyed food tasting and building our very own class robot!

We also strengthened our speech and language skills by doing weekly sensory sentences and used communication aids to support us with our emotions and behaviour. Our highlights have to be: taking an active part in anti-bullying week and performing our speeches at the Christmas production!



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1M Class

1M have had a busy term, our first topic was 'My School and Me,' and we had a lot of fun finding different places within the school. This half term we have been learning about pirates and sea creatures in our topic 'Splish Splash Splosh.' We have continued working on our maths skills, counting pirates in and out of the pirate ship and splashing them into water and making a fish tank from lego bricks! We also counted fish whilst singing the rhyme '1,2,3,4,5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive.' In our English sessions the books we have enjoyed have included the Rainbow Fish, Let's Explore Under the Sea and the poem/ song Ten Little Pirates. We enjoyed playing with the pirate treasure chest and have done some lovely mark making work, making our own glittery treasure chest. We have enjoyed some lovely Autumn walks out and about in the community. We also visited Pumpkinfest for our Autumn trip to look at all the different pumpkins of many shapes and sizes. This half term we have visited garden centres to look at the fish and also the lights and winter decorations on our more recent visit.

We have been working hard on our play skills, learning to use the toys and resources within the classroom and matching numbers, shapes and our names.

Also we have had a lot of fun getting ready for the Winter production with plenty of sensory play, making snowmen from lots of different media and practicing wearing our snowman costumes!



1S Class

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1S started off the term by exploring our senses. We read the book Polar Bear Polar Bear and focused on the sounds we could hear around us, as well as in the story. We have also listened to some call and response rhymes and joined in with action rhymes! We have loved going out to the forest this term, we toasted some 'witches cone hats' on the fire and we have even been brave enough to hold some wriggly worms!

In PE we have taken part in dance and gymnastics and worked hard to navigate through and over PE apparatus, whilst maintaining our balance! Sometimes it's been tricky, but we have persevered!

In PSHE we learned how to look after and care for our environment- this meant we got to use the vacuum in the classroom! We managed to make a mess beforehand, just so we had something to clear up 😊



We've also had Open Theatre from the Hippodrome visit us every week. We have loved interacting with their drama skills! We've also been lucky enough to watch the pantomime 'Snow White' at school- we utterly adored it!

We've had a very busy term and we can't wait to get going with the next one! We hope the next term brings more adventures and

more fabulous fun!



2B



2B's topic this term is called 'Explorers'. In our topic lessons we have been thinking about familiar places in our school. This has included labelling different areas around school, such as, the library, dinner hall, playground, sensory room, sports hall etc. In Geography, we looked at the UK flag and we can recognise the UK flag from a collection of flags from around the world. Our favourite book in English this term is 'We All Go Travelling By' by Sheena Roberts. In this story we explored different types of transport. We wrote and used symbols to construct simple sentences about the story. We also looked at sequencing the main events in the story and answered simple questions. In Math's, we explored numbers, counting forwards and backwards and have looked at 2D shapes and their properties. In our PSHE lessons, we have been thinking about our feelings, emotions and our community. 2B are able to recognise a wider range of feelings and emotions. We enjoyed playing simple games and can take turns in a group game with the support of our teachers.



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We also enjoyed our Forest School sessions earlier this term. We took part in lots of exciting outdoor activities, which included making hedgehogs out of clay, pumpkin explosions and cooking witches hats on the fire. A big thank you to Sami our Forest School Leader who supported these sessions. 2B have enjoyed working with Charlotte Boyer from the Birmingham Hippodrome. Our Birmingham Hippodrome project was based on the TV show Strictly Come Dancing. We enjoyed learning the hand jive dance. As the build up to Christmas and the winter season begins – we have had lots of fun with the snow machine and enjoyed dancing to the song Winter Wonderland.



2C Class

This term, 2C have started off the new year extremely well. We have had new friends to get to know and have had some children who are new to school. We have welcomed Lyana and Subhaan into our class and have been helping them settle into life at The Pines. We have learnt about The Romans and found out about life was like in Roman Britain. We made shields, mosaics and even a road made from biscuits! We have also had the opportunity to take part learning different styles of dancing. We did a Strictly Ballroom workshop and worked with the Hippodrome. We also had a great time doing Bhangra dancing. We created an amazing performance and performed it as part of our Christmas Production! In Design Technology, we have been cooking up a storm. We have made lots of delicious things including pizzas, marmalade sandwiches, chapatis and biscuits. We have also been learning about food groups and what make a 'healthy plate'. In Science we have learnt about 'Materials' and about 'Living Things'. We looked at the difference between objects and materials. We looked at the properties of materials and we did an experiment to find out which would make a suitable roof for a toy house. We had fun creating rain to test out the materials!



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2L



For our first term in 2L, we have covered the topics:

- Around the World in 80 days
- Explorers – The World Around Us

Across all of our subjects, we have been practicing our writing skills in English. Exploring our counting skills in Maths. In Science, we have looked at Light and Animals including humans. We have also discovered Ancient Greece in History. In PSHE we have looked at Celebrating differences. We have celebrated Children in Need, Remembrance day, Anti-bullying week, Community week and shortly we will be celebrating Christmas.



2P Class



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2P have had a fantastic Autumn term. In September, the children got off to a fab start, settling in well to their new classroom and quickly getting to know their new class team. They enjoyed making magic potions, decorating magic wands, and listening to the 'Room on the Broom' sensory story as part of our 'All Things Magic' Topic. They also took part in lots of activities exploring the UK in Geography lessons. We enjoyed using the light up toys and dark tent in Science. After the half term break, 2P started looking at a new topic 'Once Upon a Time,' and have been listening to lots of Nursery Rhymes and fairy tales, particularly enjoying the 'Little Red Riding Hood' sensory story. The children have also been looking at all the different celebrations that take place in October and November, and have produced some beautiful art work in celebration of Diwali, Halloween, Remembrance Day and Bonfire Night. Throughout the term, the children have been working hard in Maths and English lessons, enjoying lots of number songs, exploring different shape and size objects, focusing well in sensory phonics sessions, and practising their mark making and writing skills. We've also been making the most of the weather - when it has been dry - and been out on lots of outings to the school allotment, and to different local parks and playgrounds. After such a busy term, I'm sure the children are ready for a restful break. I hope all the children and their families have a lovely Christmas, and I look forward to seeing them all, back in school, in the New Year.



2R

This term 2R have enjoyed the topics Around the world in 80 days and Explorers. We have read the stories Simon Sock, The Ant explorer and Winnies amazing Pumpkin. We have also created our very own Atalas' to help others find information about different countries. We have had so much fun learning about the Ancient Greeks, we really liked sketching pictures of Greek architecture.

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In November we were stars of the show as we went to perform at the hippodrome as part of our HEN school project. We danced the Cha Cha in front of over 50 children from different schools.

2H

Our topic in 2H this term has been 'once upon a time' and we have been looking at traditional fairytales, in particular The Three Billy Goats Gruff. We have loved taking part in a range of activities relating to our book; using apples, marshmallows and caramel spread to create goats teeth, making paper plate trolls and using colourful semantics to describe what we can see in the picture book.



In science, we have been looking at magnets and forces. We have enjoyed using different magnets to investigate everyday items. We have also been exploring push and pull forces; using wooden slopes to push and pull cars was a clear class favourite!

Our focus in History has been the Anglo Saxons; we have used different printing techniques to create our masks, shields and swords. We also had a go at making and tasting traditional anglo saxon foods such as gruel and vegetable soup.

In RSHE, we have looked at celebrating differences. Our focus in class has been celebrating each others families. We have worked hard on recognising our family members and re creating their portraits using arts and crafts.

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2M

We have been very busy in our new class, this term.

English

We have had two topics in English this term. Our first was 'We are all Different'. For this topic, we enjoyed listening to the story of Elmer the elephant, engaging in lots of sensory mark making activities and practicing our pencil control.

Our other topic this term is 'The Great Outdoors'. This term, we enjoyed the non-fiction book 'My London Alphabet' where we practiced our letter sounds and alphabet skills by matching symbols to their corresponding letters. Some of us even had a go at ordering the alphabet!

We have also enjoyed listening to the rhyme 'London's Burning'. We have been engaging well in our Attention Autism sessions, listening to the rhyme and having a go at putting the fire out in stage 3!



Maths

In Maths, we have been busy requesting more, recognizing and ordering numbers, counting how many there are in a set and finding the corresponding number on our PECS strip to label it. Some of us have also had a go at adding to 10, using different objects for support. We have also enjoyed choosing and listening to different number rhymes this term. Our favorites have been 5 currant buns, 5 Little Firemen and 5 Flying Men.

In Shape Space and Measure, we have enjoyed a variety of shapes themed Attention Autism sessions. We have engaged in construction activities, have been on a hunt identifying different shapes in the environment and have been giving adults a named shaped from a sensory tray, when asked.



ICT/Computing

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In ICT this term, we have been following simple instructions around the classroom, with symbol support. This includes sitting, jumping, standing, clapping, crawling and rolling. We have also been enjoyed the website HelpKidzLearn, where we have been practicing our touch skills with our favourite cause and effect games.



2F



2F have had a busy Autumn term. First half term our topic was Dinosaurs. The children made dinosaurs sculptures in Art using clay and mod-roc. In Science we looked at fossils and rocks. In Geography the children enjoyed exploring the coastlines of the UK. Aston villa came in to do a STEM workshop and the children practiced their coding skills. We celebrated the life of our late Queen Elizabeth. Charlotte from the Open Theatre came in to work with us, the production was 'Strictly Ballroom'. Second half term we celebrated Black History in our first week back. Our topic is 'Come Dine with Me' and in DT we have done lots of cooking and looked at healthy eating. In History we have looked at Victorian life in school and home and compared to modern times. In Science we have explored and experimented with forces and magnets. For Remembrance Day we observed the two-minute silence and remembered the lives of those we have lost. The children have really enjoyed swimming this term and have made great progress. Everyone was enthusiastic when practicing and performing in The Winter Spectacular.



2W



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This term, our topics have been All Things Magical and Once Upon a Time. The children have all settled really well into Class 2W and had a super term, forming new friendships and learning lots of exciting things.

In the first half term, we mixed potions and read lots of stories about witches and magical creatures.



We explored light and dark for science and really enjoyed trying on clothes with reflective strips and shining torches on them to test how effective they would be at keeping us safe at night. We also looked at maps of the United Kingdom and learnt the names of the UK countries and their capital cities.

This term, we have been reading the story of Cinderella. We have looked at the characters and thought of different words to describe them. We decided that the step-sisters were unkind and lazy, whilst Cinderella was lonely and busy. At the end she was happy, which we were pleased about!

In science, we have been investigating forces.

We tested cars on different surfaces and measured how far they moved.

We have been finding out how the Anglo Saxons lived in history and we have especially enjoyed exploring the forest school area.



2W have worked very hard this term and made our teachers very proud. Well done 2W!



Secondary Department



3S Class



3S have worked very hard this term. Most of 3S are new to Pines school and have all settled in well into their new school and classes with amazing support from fellow pupils that have moved into secondary from primary. We have enjoyed a number of topics across the term. During English our topics have been 'Wild at Heart' and 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.' It has given us the opportunity to explore and read the books Stig of the Dump written by Clive King and One Plastic Bag by Mirander Paul. We have had the opportunity to explore and develop our understanding of how we can better look after our planet and the small changes we can make at home to help stop climate change. In art we have been learning about the art works of Picasso and explored replicating some of his work. We have also explored how to weave paper and have created a Christmas tree weaving paper and working collectively as a class. In 3S we really enjoy science and have developed our understanding of different states of matter and separating mixtures. We had a lot of fun in the science lab discovering the best way we can separate different solutions. Our favourite was definitely using the Bunsen burners to separate our salt water solution by boiling and evaporation. In RE we have been comparing different religions and their practices. We all contributed ideas on different religions in class that we wanted to learn about, and we have also been exploring Christianity and Belonging. During ICT we have been discovering how to collect data and create spread sheets using Excel and its features. We have had a wonderful first term from 3S!



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3C Class

3C have worked really hard this term. Our topics have been based on Life Cycles and Material Monsters. In English we've had great fun with Attention Autism and Sensory Sentences to help us with or work and we've also enjoyed lots of different books both on the whiteboard and in our hands. Maths has been very practical and we have used it to try to help us understand everyday problems including how to share, how to buy things and how many chairs can be safely stacked at the end of the day.

We have done well in PSHE looking at ourselves and the similarities and differences between people and at how we can look after our environment such as emptying the paper recycling and filling Colin the compost heap with (yes – you guessed it) compost. In History we have looked at the toys from the past and also how people lived long ago and in Geography we have been exploring our own area and the contrasting area of Australia. This has meant that most weeks we have had a visit out, either walking, or on the minibus to help us become more aware of our surroundings and the area in which we come to school. 3C do love a journey! If you add cooking, sewing, finding out about materials and their properties, growing herbs and plants, balloon tennis and breakdancing to our list of "can do's" you'll see we've had a great term.

Happy holidays everyone – we hope you enjoy them.

Love from 3C



3F Class

This term 3F In Science we have studied different life cycles (humans/animals and insects). We loved learning about them and had in-depth discussions every lesson as well as lots of work to complete. We studied each life cycle and the series of changes that the members of a species undergo as they pass from the beginning of a given developmental stage to the inception of that same developmental stage in a subsequent generation. We are currently studying the Earth and beyond and love learning about this. During these lessons we find out about interesting facts such as the days are getting longer because of climate change. We're now wondering if school days will be getting longer! We are watching you Ms Pearce! We also recognise how we play a big role in looking after our planet even though we are individuals, if we all do the correct thing the world will be a better place.

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In Maths we have been studying place value amongst other categories. Some of us have been learning the value of each digit in a two-digit number (tens and ones). Some three-digit number (hundreds, tens, ones) and others four-digit number (thousands, hundreds, tens, and ones). We also studied shape, so we now can identify lines of symmetry in 2-D and 3-D shapes presented in different orientations. We also know the properties of each shape (faces/vertices and edges).

In English we have been writing poems and learning about the different types of poems we could write. Also we have learned how to use both familiar and new punctuation correctly, including full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks, question marks, commas for lists and apostrophes for contracted forms and the possessive (singular). We have then practised this in a story that we have written independently. We are all proud of our stories.

Within class cooking is definitely one of our favorite lessons. We love the practical, the eating and learning about nutrition in general. This term we have learnt about the different vitamins and minerals our body needs to stay healthy. We understand it is really important to have a colorful and varied diet to stop disease and sickness.



Towards the end of term we planted tulips in the allotment for community week. This is a week that celebrates the positive changes we can make for others around us. We believe by planting colourful flowers it will make the environment beautiful and more pleasant for others. While we were there we did some weeding for the same reason. As a class we understand that if we can make little changes to our environment and the people around us, they will turn into bigger changes and make a huge impact on others.



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3H Class

Our topic this term has been 'material monsters'. In English we looked in detail at the story 'We are going to find the monster', we really enjoyed reading this book and exploring the places through a sensory story. All children were able to re-tell parts of the story, which showed our ability to listen and recall. In maths, we have continued to build our skills in geometry and number! In science we have explored and learnt about different materials; which are objects are made from each one and why. In art, we found out about tessellations and had go at creating some ourselves. In geography, we have explored Australia and compared it to the UK, in terms of the weather, animals, currency and lots more! The industrial revolution has been the focus in History; we learnt about farming, coal mining and housing a long time ago, it was very different! In cooking we have followed recipes, worked in pairs and tasted new foods. Jazz was the genre we have been looking at in music, we have practiced playing the drums and pianos to make our own compositions. We have visited the donkey sanctuary on a weekly basis to learn about animal care and take part in practicing life skills within this area. We really liked walking the donkeys and preparing some food for them to enjoy. As part of our reward trip, we went to the local café where we enjoyed a lovely lunch, which we ordered and paid for ourselves.



3K Class

3K have had a lovely Autumn Term. In Science we have looked at different types of animals and where they live and also classifying solids, liquids and gases. The children have enjoyed melting chocolate to see the different states of matter. In Geography we have looked at Sweden and China. The children have experienced the cultures of these countries and especially enjoyed trying Swedish and Chinese food. 3K have also had the opportunity to visit Forest School this term. The children have enjoyed hunting for bugs and big and small objects. Some of the boys have found some very big things!!

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3R Class

During the term, we have looked at the History and Geography of Birmingham. We have compared what life was like in Victorian times up until now. We have explored housing, clothes, toys and much more. We have located places of interest within Birmingham and as a class, we are able to identify the purposes of these places with ease.

In Science we have explored habitats and food chains. We looked at land and water animals and have sequenced the food chain order. We even discovered the food chain from grass to human (beef burger)!!! More recently, we took a deeper dive into chemistry studying materials in Science.

We have enjoyed learning Boccia in PE and the interactive entertainment in Open Theatre. We also explored 'Picasso and Cubism' in Art and created our own masterpiece using 2D shapes.

We have had a busy couple of months and have settled in together as a team.

Have a lovely break and we will look forward to continuing our journey in 2023.

Love all of the 3R Team x



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3V Class

3V have made an impressive start in their first year as secondary students. We have had lots of exciting experiences and students have particularly enjoyed using the resources and facilities that Key Stage 3 offers. For example, as you'll see from the photos, we have been conducting experiments in the Science Lab such as creating the reaction between Magnesium and Hydrochloric Acid and 'popping' the resulting Hydrogen gas.

Two of the highlights of this term were being invited to Stockland Green School to take part in their Remembrance Day activities and also when the Royal Navy visited and challenged our students to make their own flares which they launched in the playground.

Well done 3V for representing The Pines so well with your enthusiasm and excellent behaviour!



3Z Class



3Z have explore out topics wild at heart and reduce, recyle and re-use. We have learnt all about animals lots of interesting facts and makaton signs. We are helping to recycle and complete errands which is all part of developing our life skills.

We have enjoyed Community week and anti-bullying week we also did lots of kind things for our friends to enjoy.

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3W Class

Our class have had quite a busy term, learning about plants, photosynthesis and respiration in Science. We have discovered what nose hairs are for, and made things fizz, dance and foam which has been fun, and which taught us about states of matter and chemical reactions.

In English we have read parts of Coraline and Skellig to improve our reading skills as well as spelling, sentence structure and communication. We found out that Skellig was some sort of angel, and that Coraline had another mother who wanted her to stay with her and who wanted to sew buttons on Coraline's eyes!

Maths saw us practicing our numbers. Some of us were working on fractions, others addition and some on time tables. We also tried figuring out Roman Numerals, and played Maths games.



We tried our hand at designing and then sewing a monster in DT, and in abstract art we got to paint a template of cows very strange colours and patterns. Contemporary Dance was fun, we couldn't quite manage some of the moves but we gave it our best shot. Safety on the internet was the topic for ICT and in Music we listened to Blues and talked about some of the singers, then in RE studied some religious leaders.

History took us back in time to when canals were used to transport goods and people, and the invention of the train and the changes it brought about, including seaside holidays. And Geography took us overseas to China and to some of its different landscapes and climates.

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4K Class

4K have had a wonderful start to the school year! We have been making friends, getting to know each other and have had lots of fun while doing so! This year, we are working really hard to complete our qualifications so we've started our ASDAN qualification and we're almost finished our Arts Award! We are also working through Entry Level in maths and English! It's not all hard work though, we've managed to spend lots of time making new, healthy meals (and sometimes the occasional unhealthy snack too!) We're excited to see what next term holds for us!



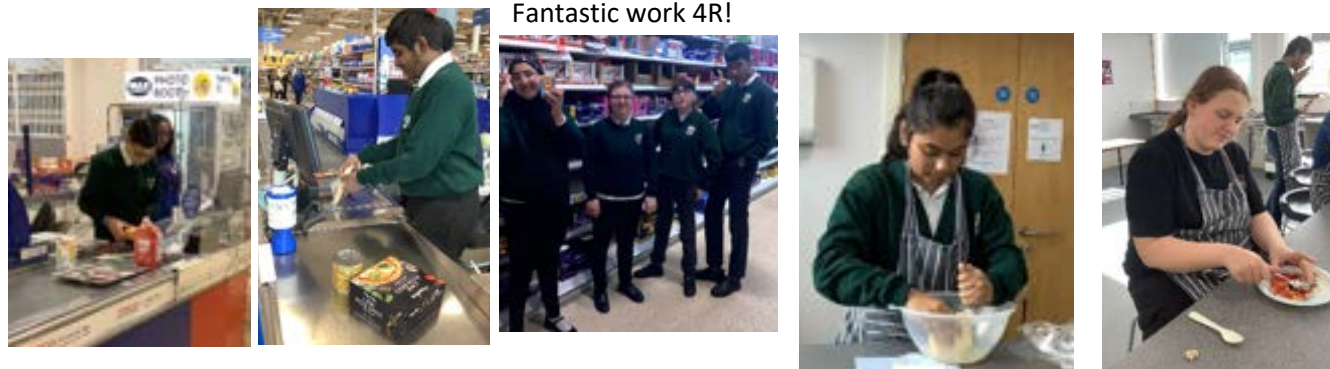
4R Class

This term 4R have made some really good progress towards their Entry Levels. Within our English lessons, we have looked at a range of non-fiction texts including newspapers and letters. We have created our own newsletters in honor of the late Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee, and have put our amazing writing skills to the test by writing 'thank you letters' to different people within our community as part of the 'Pines Community Week'. We even had some lovely responses back. 4R have covered lots of different topics within our math lessons. We have worked really hard with creating bar charts and pictograms using smarties. It was a very yummy lesson! Within our Science lessons, we have covered a wide range of topics within our biology and chemistry lessons. We have looked at the different specialised cells within our body. We found out that our human body has roughly about 37.2 trillion cells! That's a lot of cells! 4R are making some good progress within their food technology lessons, where they continue to develop their cooking skills. The class enjoy cooking (and eating) a variety of delicious food – both savory and sweet. Unfortunately, there is never any spare to send home! They have demonstrated a very strong understanding of hazards within the home and know the importance of staying safe when cooking. During this term, we have been very busy participating in work experience at Tesco, where the class have shown great determination whilst completing a range of activities and jobs. They have developed their understanding on the different jobs that are

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available to them after leaving school. It was very hard to take photos as they were so busy working hard. They have had a great first term and we cannot wait to see what the future has in store for us.

Fantastic work 4R!



4B Class

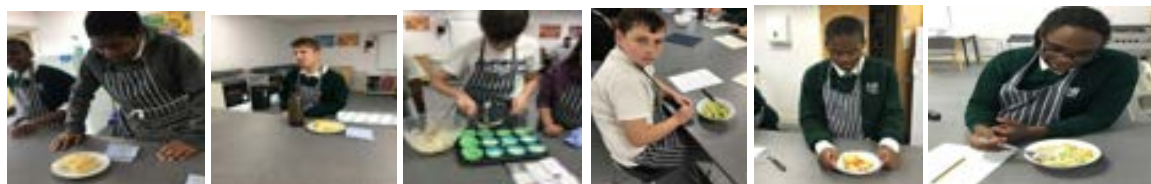
4B have been working extremely hard this term. They have already filled one Maths book and have begun to work on the next. In Maths they have looked at fractions and decimals and one group have begun to look at indices and roots.

In English they have analysed *Anita and Me* by Meera Syal. They can all tell you about the different themes prevalent in the book and give examples. They have learnt how to pull quotes from the text to support their writing.

In Science they have been doing Chemistry. They know about the periodic table and what each of the letters are, (we don't know them all). They also looked at separating mixtures by different methods i.e. chromatography, evaporation, condensing, filtering. They did some practical work in the science laboratory to separate the mixtures.

In food technology they have cooked lots of different dishes including, courgette muffins, biscuits, tuna pasta salad. They all enjoy tasting the products at the end of the lesson.

It has been a good term and they have all learnt a lot. We are looking forward to the next half term and changing our topics.



4W Class

In year 11 the class have been working incredibly hard towards Entry level and GCSE qualifications all term. They have analysed *A Christmas Carol* in detail, participated in a range of biology experiments and wrestled with mathematical problems linked to Pythagoras' theorem, Trigonometry and

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probability. The young people have also made huge steps forward to develop their skills in Art, Food and ICT.

Following all of this industry, 4W have also been embracing Christmas. They have helped plan and prepare for the Christmas Fayre and this week enjoyed a festive trip around the German Christmas Market, where they sampled hot chocolates and rode on the Carousel.

We are really proud of all of them.



Attendance

Up to Friday 2nd December 2022, 64 of our pupils have achieved 100% attendance. Amazing! We have made our procedure easier for parents/carers to inform us of their child's absence:

- Answering machine between 5pm and 7.30am on weekdays and all weekend
- Direct messages to class staff via Dojo
- Email m.webb@pines.bham.sch.uk
- Calling the school office before 9.30am

Where no contact has been made by parents/carers, by 9.30am on the first day of absence, we will call you. If your child has been absent for 3 days with no contact from parents/carers, we will conduct a Home WellBeing check as part of our safeguarding procedures.

When attendance falls below 90% we will monitor and put support in place where required.

If you are struggling to get your child into school, you may find this link useful:

<https://bwc.nhs.uk/youve-been-missed>

If your child has a medical appointment, please send in a copy of the letter either with your child or via email: m.webb@pines.bham.sch.uk

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons

Thank you for your continued support in raising attendance.

THE PINES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER


Every day matters!

Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) News



AAC Awareness "Show your Voice"

October was **AAC awareness month**. For those who don't know, AAC is an acronym for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. In simple terms, this means any form of communication which helps (augments) or replaces (alternative) speech. This year's theme for AAC awareness is "Show your voice." People of all ages can use AAC if they have difficulty with speech or language skills. In our profession, we are privileged to work alongside many of these individuals to ensure they have a concrete system to ensure their voice is heard!



There are lots of different types of AAC.

- **Unaided (no tech):** signing, gesture, body language, facial expression.
- **Aided:** which can be broken down into:
 - Low-tech:** i.e. objects of reference, or paper-based systems such as Communication Books, Communication Boards, PODDs, PECS.
 - Hi-tech:** i.e. VOCA's (voice output communication aids) or SGD's (speech-generating devices)

Signposting to broaden awareness and understanding of AAC...click on the links

[AAC Scotland Home](#)
[Communication Matters](#)
[PrAACtical AAC](#)
[ACE Centre Ace Centre](#)
[Assistive Ware - What will you say?](#)
 Search Twitter: #AACaware22

The Pines SALT team can be contacted by parents via the class dojo app.

Occupational Therapy (OT)





Occupational Therapy at The Pines seeks to provide support and advice to the teaching teams to support pupils to access the vast array of learning and play opportunities provided and ensure that any identified motor skill difficulties or sensory processing differences do not create barriers to learning.

This term we have had a focus on supporting pupils increase their tolerance and acceptance of a range of foods. Some classes run sensory food groups and messy play activities using edible items, other class use the steps to eating process to encourage pupils to touch, smell, kiss, lick and eventually taste new foods. We know that food and eating is a subject that many families can find difficult so we attach a link for a webinar that offers an introduction to the SOS (Sensory Oral Sequential) approach to feeding that parents and carers may find beneficial.

<https://sosapproachtofeeding.com/start-here-parents/>

For issue outside of school, there is also the advice line for the NHS paediatric occupational therapy service, which is part of the universal offer, which supports with giving early help to families. This service can be accessed without a referral. Families will be able to discuss any specific difficulties with a Senior Occupational Therapist. The Therapist will be able to provide practical advice, strategies and support in relation to a child's independence skills within everyday activities. The advice line is available Monday to Friday, from 09.00 to 16.00 hours, for children aged 0 - 18 years (up to 19 years if in full time special school education) and registered with a Birmingham GP. **Tel: 0121 683 2325**

Mental Health

Mental Health and Wellbeing

At the Pines we understand the importance of positive mental health and wellbeing for our pupils. Not only do we work closely with organisations such as Forward Thinking Birmingham we also have our own support onsite 3 days per week from a child therapist.

Support is available for all sorts of conditions such as anxiety, bereavement, anger and low mood.

If you are concerned about your child's mental health and wellbeing please get in touch with your class teacher who will be able to support you by making a referral for in house support if necessary or connecting you with the relevant member of staff to discuss your concerns.

The holiday period can be a time that has a negative impact on our mental health and wellbeing and it's important that we all ask for help if we need it. The following organisations are a good starting point if you feel you need some extra support for you or your child during the holiday period.

- Mental Health Helpline for Urgent Help - NHS (www.nhs.uk)



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- Pause hubs | Forward Thinking Birmingham
- Home - Kooth
- Samaritans | Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy | Here to listen
- Papyrus UK Suicide Prevention | Prevention of Young Suicide (papyrus-uk.org)

Chair of Governors, Wendy



Dear Parents and Carers,

Well where has that year gone?
2022 seems to have gone within a blink of an eye.

It has been a fabulous Autumn Term at The Pines. As governors we have had the privilege to not only hear about the amazing work your children have completed, but to at times, be present in school to see the achievements with our own eyes.

As your Governing Board, we are working hard to support Ms Pearce, her senior management team and all of the staff, to keep our vision to Protect, Inspire, Nurture, Embrace and Succeed alive, to enable all of our children to receive the best experience they can.

Not that long ago I posted a questionnaire on Dojo, asking for your views on the school. I was fortunate enough to meet some of you face to face at parents evening as well. It would really help the future planning and development if we could have as many responses as possible. Please see the QR code below, scan this on your phone and it will take you straight to the online questionnaire. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to wish you a merry and relaxed winter break and a Happy New Year.





Whole School Events

Pines Parliament



This term we held our Polling Day for The Pines Parliament. There was a very exciting campaign which encouraged pupils to produce a campaign poster to persuade their peers to vote for them! The votes came in and our new Parliament Is:

- Tom 4R
- Katie 4R
- Owen 3W
- Adam 3V
- James 2R
- Aliyaan 2C
- Josh 2W



Message from our Prime Minister Tom and Deputy Prime Minister James.

Tom- At The Pines Maths lessons include multiplying, division, fractions and adding, I don't find these hard but they are just about right! I love art and learning about artists and their designs, this year I have learnt about Vincent Van Gogh who painted himself and the famous sunflower. I remember really enjoying learning about Anthony Gormley who designed The Angel of the North. I am excited to come to school to learn new things and socialise with my friends. I like our playgrounds and walking around in the fresh air.

James- In the six years that I have been at The Pines I have been helped by many of the teachers that work in Key stages 1,2, 3 and 4. I would like to thank all of the staff for all of their help over the years. The lessons at The Pines are fun, exciting and helpful to the students who have autism and additional needs. All of the teachers and teaching assistants are very helpful and safe to talk to talk to. I am proud to be at The

Pines.



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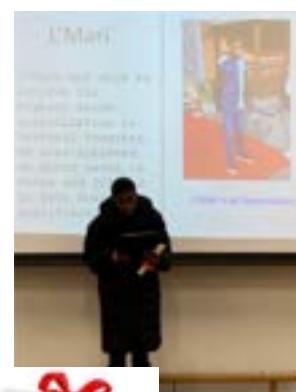
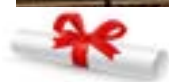
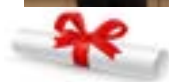
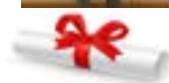
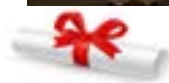


Class of 2022



This half term we Invited the class of 2022 back into school to collect their certificates and congratulate them for all their hard work. We are overjoyed and immensely proud of their achievements:

- Six children got GCSE passes, with grades in Maths and Science.
- All children entered for exams passed!
- All children entered for Asdan qualifications got the highest qualification possible!
- All pupils got an Arts Award.
- All passed ICT In functional skills.



Well done to all of the Class of 2022 pupils!

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i Other News

Children in Need 2022 🌲🌲🌲🌲

Due to the cost of living crisis we didn't ask for donations this year but we still managed to raise nearly £50 thanks to generous donations from our parents. The pupils enjoyed lots of spotty activities and participating in this nationwide event.



Jolly Jumper Day 2022 🌲🌲🌲🌲

This year we participated in Jolly Jumper Day and collected donations for Birmingham Children's Hospital, money is still coming in but so far we've raised **£180** for this fantastic charity.



School Calendar Spring Term 2023

Whole School Dates for your Diary – Further information about events will be distributed closer to the date.

Spring Term – January to March 2023

Please note, where possible, we are endeavouring to offer parent workshops twice, once during the school day and once in the evening.

January 2023		
03/01/23		Start of Spring Term (1) – children return to school
11/01/23		Year 10 Art Workshops with Birmingham artist Tabia Akhtar
24/01/23		Behaviour Group for parents with Mrs Campbell
February 2023		
03/02/23		NSPCC Number Day
06/02/23-10/02/23		Technology in Action Week
07/02/23		Safer Internet Day
06/02/23-10/02/23		Children's Mental Health Week
14 th , 15 th , 16 th /02/23		Junk Percussion Workshops across whole school
17/02/23		Break up for half term
Half Term – Monday 20th February to Friday 25th February		
27/03/23		Start of Spring Term (2)- children return to school
March 2023		
02/03/23		World Book Day
06/03/23		4:30pm- Girls puberty workshop for parents of pupils in Years 7,8,9
08/03/22		9:30am- Girls puberty workshop for parents of pupils in Years 4,5,6 10:45am- Girls puberty workshop for parents of pupils in Years 7,8,9 1:30pm- Girls puberty workshop for parents of pupils in Years 10 & 11 4:30pm- Girls puberty workshop for parents of pupils in Years 4,5,6
09/03/23		4:30pm- Girls puberty workshop for parents of pupils in Years 10 & 11
13/03/23-17/03/23		Science Week
14/03/23		Behaviour Group for parents with Mrs Campbell
17/03/23		Red Nose Day
22/03/23		Parents Evening
27/03/23-31/03/23		Enterprise Week across school
31/03/23		Break up for Easter Holidays
Summer Term starts on Monday 17th April		

Home/School News & Spring Calendar

Wow! What a busy term we've had. We started the term by holding a Welcome Meeting for parents in early October, giving all of our parents an opportunity to meet our team of staff who aren't necessarily in the classroom supporting the pupils but always striving to give the pupils and their families the best care and education possible. It was lovely to meet so many new parents and welcome new families to the school.

In November we held a coffee morning, which was attended by 15 families, some of our lovely Mums have commented it's a great way to meet up with other parents who understand some of the frustrations and jubilations of having a child with autism. We'd love to have more families come along for a drink and slice of cake, look out for dates!

During this term the home/school team have continued to support families across school, it has been great to get back to face to face meetings.

This term, we've welcomed Deb to our team. She has been supporting families with financial and housing concerns and is a fantastic asset to our home/school team.

Home/School Coffee Morning and Workshop Opportunities Spring term 2023

Dates for your Diary- Further information about events will be distributed closer to the date.

Date	Meeting type	With who
Wednesday 04/01/23	Coffee Morning	Louise, Shemina & Rebecca
Thursday 26/01/23 4:30pm	Sensory Processing Differences Workshop	Laura Graham, school Occupational Therapist
Wednesday 01/02/23 10am	Finance workshop with Abdul from the Department of Work and Pensions- giving a brief overview of DLA, PIP and Universal Credit- how to apply and what type of support is available from DWP.	Abdul, Louise, Shemina & Rebecca
Half Term – Monday 20th February to Friday 25th February		
Wednesday 01/03/23 10am	Coffee Morning	Louise, Shemina & Rebecca
Wednesday 29/03/23 10am	Sensory Processing Differences workshop	Laura Graham, school Occupational Therapist

New School Lunch Menu January 2023

THE PINES SCHOOL LUNCH MENU (JANUARY 2023) Please note, this is the proposed menu, some items may be subject to change.

WEEK ONE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Fish Finger Sandwich with crispy lettuce	Sizzling Sausages Served with gravy and Yorkshire pudding	Roast Turkey	Fish fingers with Tomato Ketchup	Freshly made Margherita Pizza
Cheese and Tomato Quiche	Quorn sausage Served with gravy and Yorkshire pudding	Roast Quorn or Halal Roast	Italian winter vegetable bake	Fish of the day
Jacket Potatoes or Fish Fingers	Jacket Potatoes	Jacket Potatoes	Jacket Potatoes	Jacket Potatoes
Sandwiches/Baguettes	Sandwiches/Baguettes	Sandwiches/Baguettes	Sandwiches/Baguettes	Sandwiches/Baguettes
Fresh seasonal vegetables Wedges	Seasonal vegetables Mashed potato	Fresh Seasonal Vegetable Roast Potatoes	Fresh seasonal vegetables Garlic bread	Fresh seasonal vegetables Chunky Chips
Salad Home Made Bread Fresh fruit Fruit yoghurts	Salad Home Made Bread Fresh fruit Fruit yoghurts	Salad Home Made Bread Fresh fruit Fruit yoghurts	Salad Home Made Bread Fresh fruit Fruit yoghurts	Salad Home Made Bread Fresh fruit Fruit yoghurts
Winter apple sponge and custard	Vanilla shortbread	Brownie	Homemade Cookie and milk	Flavoured Ice Cream Fruit Jelly



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THE PINES SCHOOL LUNCH MENU (JANUARY 2023) Please note, this is the proposed menu, some items may be subject to change.

WEEK TWO

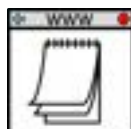
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sticky BBQ chicken	Winter warmer Cottage Pie (cook deconstructed)	Roast Chicken	Chicken tikka Masala with Naan Bread	Freshly made Margherita Pizza
Quorn Chow Mein	Homemade Cheese and Potato Pie	Roast Quorn or Halal Roast	Vegetable Curry	Fish of the day
Jacket Potatoes	Jacket Potatoes	Jacket Potatoes	Jacket Potatoes Fish Fingers	Jacket Potatoes
Sandwiches/Baguettes	Sandwiches/Baguettes	Sandwiches/Baguettes	Sandwiches/Baguettes	Sandwiches/Baguettes
Broccoli Florets Noodles	Baked Beans Sweetcorn Herby Diced potatoes	Fresh Carrots Green Beans Roast Potatoes	Fresh seasonal vegetables Rice	Peas or Baked Beans Chunky Chips
Salad Home Made Bread Fresh fruit Fruit yoghurts	Salad Home Made Bread Fresh fruit Fruit yoghurts	Salad Home Made Bread Fresh fruit Fruit yoghurts	Salad Home Made Bread Fresh fruit Fruit yoghurts	Salad Home Made Bread Fresh fruit Fruit yoghurts
Apple Flapjack	Carrot cake with vanilla frosting	Fresh fruit salad Fruity yoghurt	Chocolate Cracknell & Custard	Flavoured Ice Cream Fruit Jelly

Secondary pupils school dinner cost £2.55

Primary & Nursery pupils school dinner cost £2.40

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School Website and Social Media



School Website



We have a new and improved school website. If you have a moment we would love you to check it out and provide us with some feedback.

Our school website is: www.thepinesspecialschool.com



School Twitter



Our school has a Twitter account which is @ThePinesSpecial. We are starting to use this social media platform more frequently now to keep you informed of our school news and events. Please follow us to stay updated.



Term Dates 2022 - 2023



Autumn Term 2022

Term Starts: Monday 5th September 2022

Half-Term: Monday 24th October 2022 **to** Friday 28th October 2022

Term-Ends: Friday 16th December 2022

Spring Term 2023

Term Starts: Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Half-Term: Monday 20th February 2023 **to** Friday 24th February 2023

Term-Ends: Friday 31st March 2023

Summer Term 2023

Term Starts: Monday 17th April 2023

Half-Term: Monday 29th May 2023 **to** Friday 2nd June 2023

Term-Ends: Tuesday 25th July 2023

Teacher Training Days (school closed to pupils)

Monday 5th September 2022

Tuesday 6th September 2022

Friday 21st October 2022

Monday 24th July 2023

Tuesday 25th July 2023

