



## Headteacher's Message

Dear Families,



*What another super term at the Pines, as ever time really is flying, even with a couple of snowy days thrown into the mix!*

*We continue to have some really good success stories with our children and it is so rewarding to see them flourish and feel safe and happy at school. Hopefully you will see some of the good news stories that we share on Dojo regularly, it is lovely to see some of the comments that other parents make and the children really do like to see themselves on "the big screen"*

*Thank you for all of your messages of support regarding the vandalism we were sadly the victims of earlier this term. They really were appreciated, both buses are now fully operational and the site is back to normal thankfully. The children were very vocal about the issue and were angry that someone did this to our school! It prompted some positive conversations about how we can look after our school.*

*As we head into spring and summer, the allotment and forest school really are blooming and such an amazing resource! The children really enjoy using them and as the weather improves they will be used even more.*

*I had the privilege last week of going to visit our year 9 and 10 pupils at Boreatton Park – a residential. It was so lovely to see the children so confident and happy in a new environment. I was more nervous that they were when watching them do the zip wire! As ever huge thanks to the staff who supported*



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*this, gave up their time and enabled the trip to happen, Miss Plant, Miss Roberts, Thom, Rachel and Mr C!*

*Sadly, this term we are saying goodbye to Rhiannon Francis who has secured a job as lead teacher in a resource base, Claire Greaves has secured a position in the Early Years team in Birmingham and Emily Newey is leaving to take up a teaching assistant position nearer where she lives. They will all be missed and we wish them all the best in the future. Dean Hadley is starting with us as a teacher after Easter, I am sure the children and school community will make him feel really welcome. We are recruiting after Easter for additional support staff and teachers for September.*

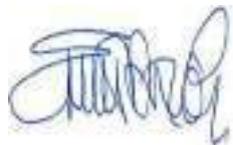
*Many thanks to those of you who completed the parent questionnaire earlier this term, we are addressing the feedback and working on areas for development, particularly around communications, ensuring dates are shared in good time and regular communication regarding your child's school day and progress. We are also looking at the timings and days of parent workshops and coffee mornings to try and reach as big an audience as possible and enable more parents to join. It has been unfortunate this term that industrial action has meant that we have had to change plans and dates slightly. As ever if you have any concerns or indeed celebrations or things that are going well, the leadership team are "linked" to your child's class Dojo and can be contacted there or via school through the usual routes.*

*Next half term there are 2 bank holidays. 1st May is May day and the 8th May is the Coronation of King Charles. School is closed on both of these days.*

*Wishing you all a restful holiday and look forward to seeing all of the children back in school on 17th April 2023*

*Thanks for your ongoing support*

*Best Wishes,*



Emma Pearce



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

### Early Years Department



#### Butterflies Class



This term butterflies have been exploring the topics out and about and growing. We have enjoyed visiting lots of places within the environment and seeing how things grow and change. We have explored lots of modes of transport and particularly enjoyed riding on the bus and mono-rail. We have bought and planted seeds, watching them grow. We have continued to explore a range of healthy foods as part of our sensory food group sessions.



#### Caterpillars Class



It's been a busy Spring Term for Caterpillars! We have been learning and exploring all about planting and growing!

We have enjoyed listening to lots of stories including "The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Jasper's Beanstalk", we also read "Mouse Plants a Seed" for World Book Day.

We have planted our own beans and sunflowers and have enjoyed watching them grow right in front of our eyes! We have made our own beanstalk paintings and a GIGANTIC 3D beanstalk for our

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classroom display...we think it looks AMAZING! We have also enjoyed playing in our role play area, our teachers made a very lovely garden centre for us to play in! Not forgetting, all getting messy and exploring all of the lovely sensory trays.

Some of our favourite Spring Term moments have been in the Forest, we enjoyed making a beanstalk using paint and our wellies...we got to stomp through the paint on the tarpaulin which was very messy but lots of fun, a caterpillar with the plant pots and playing with the water and soil and getting very, very messy! We have also enjoyed watching the camp fire and trying lots of yummy snacks that Sami cooked for us, our favourite was definitely the s'mores.

Last but not least, caterpillars enjoyed having their loved ones in for a Stay and Play session, we had lots of Easter fun, making Easter Bonnets, decorating biscuits and playing with all the sensory trays! We can't wait for next half term!! Have a great holiday!



## Ladybirds Class



This term Ladybirds have had lots of fun learning and exploring through our topics 'out and about' and 'growing'. We enjoyed going on the minibus to Melbicks Garden Centre and shopping at ASDA, going to the park and walking to the allotment. We have planted sunflower seeds and beans in our window greenhouses, which we are watching grow! Everyone has enjoyed looking at photos of ourselves as babies and toddlers and looking at how we have all grown. There have been lots of fantastic craft activities linked to our topics; making boats that we floated on the water, making beanstalks using printing and collage and making bright sunflowers. Lots of fun was had outside when we made a bus with seats and a steering wheel and used drain pipes for our vehicles to slide down. We have enjoyed several stories and our favourites are Magic Train Ride and The Very Hungry Caterpillar where we have used the story sacks to retell the story. We had our first sensory food group sessions where we were amazing at touching and trying new foods. We have also been learning about brushing our teeth and we are doing this in school, which is fun!



## Primary Department



### 1A Class

1A have had a fantastic term. They have had a new teacher join their class, Miss Reid and have shown what fantastic learners they all are. During English 1A have explored the topics 'Our Local Area' and 'Young Gardeners'. 1A have read the fiction book's The Smartest Giant in town and The Enormous Turnip. For non-fiction we looked at photos of our local area and discussed what facilities we can use where we live such as parks, churches, mosques, swimming pools etc. We are also writing a Bean diary tracking the progress of our bean seeds and how we can look after plants to help them grow. 1A's favourite topic in English was Michael Rosen's poem 'Oh Dear' with some children in 1A knowing most of the poem off by heart. 1A have also had the opportunity to take part in drama sessions from Open Theatre which is a nonverbal drama group, the children looked forward to every Tuesday and all enjoyed their interaction with the drama troop. In Science, 1A have also been exploring animals and their habitats. They have explored what environment's animals and insects prefer to live in. The favourite activity for the term was forest school. The children enjoyed making bird feeders and watching videos of local wildlife that came to visit the forest school at night. In PSHE 1A developed their understanding of Dreams and Goals with some children identifying what they wanted to be when they grew up. We have some children dreaming of becoming nurses, artists and footballers.



## 1M Class



Our topic in 1M last half term was 'Our Local Area.' We enjoyed some walks in the local area looking at the natural features and the buildings. In class we worked with numbers, matching them to doors and looking for numbers on doors around the school. In DT we worked on building strong walls with different bricks and materials. We enjoyed getting messy with paper mache to make cardboard walls stronger. We made a model of our school of how it looked long ago and compared it to how our school looks now. We enjoyed work on the rhyme 'The Grocer's Shop,' matching food items to symbols and going to the shops with our shopping list!

For World Book Day we enjoyed a week of activities based on the story 'Wow Said the Owl' and enjoyed sharing lots of books in our cozy book corner.

Our second half term topic was 'Young Gardeners.' Our science topic was 'Plants' so this all tied in very well with the fact it was our turn to enjoy the Forest School once a week! We have had a great time exploring, digging, climbing balancing and much more in the wonderful Forest School area! We have been focusing on and working really hard on improving our mark making skills this term and the hard work is really paying off as we are becoming more independent in our writing and pre-writing skills.



## 1S Class



1S kicked off the year by focusing on the story of the 3 Little Pigs. We were lucky enough to visit some pigs at Heart of the Country in Lichfield and Sheldon Country Park! They were very mucky and made some oinky noises at us!

We have also accessed the local community by going to a local play area- it really tested our gross motor skills but we had so much fun!

We also did lots of cooking during the first half term- making cheesecake, cupcakes and flapjacks! Yummy!

We've also enjoyed having the Open Theatre group from the Hippodrome come in- we engage really well with non-verbal drama!

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We loved World Book day and focused on the story Tidy by Emily Gravett. We looked fabulous in our costumes and explored all of our nature themed activities!

More recently we have focused on the story of 'Sonny and his Wonderful Wellies'. We've had lots of splashing fun in class and we even managed to get a spot of welly-wanging in! We've also been looking at dandelion flowers and dandelion clocks in science! We managed to spot some on our walk to the allotment- it was great fun blowing them and making sure those seeds scattered everywhere!

In geography we have been exploring clouds- we managed to take some excellent photos- although we had to wait until we had a nice cloudy day! We are a budding bunch of photographers! Best of all, was snow fun! Although it was chilly- we had so much fun with the odd snowball, or two!

We are looking forward to more adventures in the summer term!



## 2B



2B have had an amazing term! It has been busy, action packed with lots of fun activities to explore. Our topics this term have been Birmingham and Chocolate. 2B have really enjoyed these topics and have made lots of progress since January! Well done 2B!

Let's take a look at our learning journey this term...

In English, the children have enjoyed sharing stories. Our particular favourites have been Handa's Noisy Night and Mr Bunny's Chocolate Factory. The children have really enjoyed developing their writing skills by exploring marking making and writing simple sentences about the story using symbols and writing or matching key words and phrases. The children have labelled key characters in the story and have practiced their recall skills by learning to sequence parts of a story.

In Maths, we have been learning to sequence numbers to 10, 20 and beyond. The children enjoyed exploring patterns using Duplo bricks and peg boards to create simple repeating patterns. The children have been labelling 2D and 3D shapes and exploring shape properties. We have used Numicon shapes and practical tools to add one more or one less from a given number.

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In Science, we have been exploring different materials and their properties. The children have looked at a range of materials which included, wood, glass, plastic and stone/brick. The children had to name and label different materials. We also explored the materials textures and began to describe what they feel like e.g., hard, soft, rough or smooth. The children have also explored animals which included familiar animals such as, pets. The children were able to label familiar animals and are beginning to describe what they look like by their appearance.

In Topic, the children explored our city, Birmingham. We had to identify familiar landmarks. We started with landmarks that we see every day and around our local area. Then we looked at the city centre and places that may be familiar to the children. This has to be our favourite topic which was Chocolate. The children loved trying different types of chocolates and sharing if they liked or disliked taste and flavour. There were certainly not many...if any dislikes! The children also explored chocolate brands and logos and attempted to mark make or overwrite familiar chocolate brands.

2B also had lots of fun taking part in World Book Day this term and enjoyed creating our Eco Warrior picture. We used wooden circle blocks and natural collage materials to create our Eco Warrior faces.



## 2C Class

2C have had a great Spring term. In the first part of the term, we looked at superheroes in our, 'To the Rescue' topic. We read the story of Supertato and the children enjoyed reading more Supertato books too! We all loved retelling and acting out the stories. We made our own superheroes and described them and their powers. In Science, we have been learning about electricity. We found out about mains and batteries and made electrical circuits. We also did some problem solving and had to identify why a circuit didn't work. The children also took part in an electricity workshop when we visited the Think Tank. The children found out about where electricity was discovered and took part in experiments. They even made a human circuit to make a light, light up. We also looked at different transport and we saw cars, buses, bikes, aeroplanes and even an enormous steam train! We have also enjoyed Forest School with Sammi this term. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the area. They particularly enjoyed making rafts and cooking breakfast.

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2L



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

- Birmingham, we have also had lots of good walking practice around our local community!
- Chocolate, we have been tasting lots of different chocolate and making different recipes which have chocolate in them.

Across all of our subjects, we have been practicing our writing skills, reading skills and communication skills in English. Exploring our counting skills, and mastering different aspects of shape in Maths. In Science, we have looked at Animals including Human and Living things in their habitats. We have also discovered Water Cycle in Geography. In PSHE we have looked at Charity and Healthy choices. We have celebrated Valentine's Day, Lent, World Book Day and shortly we will be celebrating Easter.



2P Class



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2P have had a very busy Spring term. We started the term working on our 'Caring for Others' topic. The children enjoyed activities looking at, people who help others, washing and dressing 'baby,' brushing teeth and making a gift to give to a friend. In Science, the children explored 'rocks and materials,' using magnifying glasses, tweezers and jars to explore rocks and sand, making their own fossils, and using different tools to free the dinosaurs in our 'dinosaur excavation' activity. In Spring 2, we have been learning about farm animals in our 'On the Farm' topic. The children have enjoyed lots of creative activities and farm themed sensory play. The children have also been enjoying listening to stories and rhymes including 'We found a hat' 'That's not my cow' 'Old McDonald' 'BINGO' and 'The Gruffalo,' as well as continuing to work hard on their fine motor activities, mark making, counting and shape tasks.

Happy Easter from 2P! We hope everyone has a fantastic break and look forward to seeing everyone back at school, ready to work just as hard, in the Summer term.



## 2R

This term 2R have enjoyed the topics Birmingham and Chocolate. During our Birmingham topic we had lots of fun learning about the city we all call home. We recreated famous landmarks in art, from the rotunda to the bull! We also explored Birmingham's famous water ways – the canals, making comparisons between what they were used for in the past to what they are used for today. Then we moved on to CHOCOLATE, the yummiest topic of all. We have had so much fun reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We were set a task to create our very own Wonka bars. Miss Francis gave us each £1 and we went to Tesco to find our secret ingredient. We had so much fun and created some delicious and interesting Chocolate bars.

We also had the delight of meeting our new teacher Mr Hadley, we are all very excited for him to start after Easter.

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## 2H

Our theme this term has been On the Farm. 2H have enjoyed looking at different texts including That's not my Cow, Wonderful Words on the Farm and Old McDonalds. We have worked hard on improving our reading skills with our key texts and for some pupils, identifying 'who' and 'what doing' parts of the story. We have used our collage skills to create animals and farm items from different textures such as shaving foam sheep. We behaved really well on our trip to Sheldon Country Park to see farm animals in real life!

In Science, our focus has been rocks. We have been looking at different ways to explore rocks, such as printing with them, looking for them in treasure tuff trays, and our favourite method yet; cooking different rocks (chocolate and starburst rocks were the winners).

In RE, our topic has been Christianity. We have explored different artefacts related to this religion, and have used art resources to make our religious crafts such as salt painting crosses and holy spirit bird hanging mobiles. In PSHE, we have been learning about healthy living. We have explored different healthy fruits and vegetables; making and tasting recipes such as fruit smoothies and potato salads. We have also explored relaxation and sleep, focusing on calming resources and activities to help this.



## 2M

## English

Our first topic in English this term was 'To The Rescue'. We enjoyed listening to the story 'Little Red Riding Hood', joining in with the rhyme 'If You're Super and you know it' and learning about how we can look after the planet with George Patrick's 'Planet Rescue'. We enjoyed using our Superhero strength in Explore and Learn to practice our cutting skills. We are so strong that we were able to cut through playdough, cloud dough and tagliatelle! We also had fun practicing our mark making and pencil control skills by creating our own Superhero masks and capes. We were also brave enough to draw different shapes, write our names and letter sounds in sticky Superhero slime (yuck!).

This half term, our topic has been 'Marvellous Machines'. As part of our nature themed World Book Day celebrations and our focus text 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle, we made a beautiful 3D flower out of recyclable materials. We have enjoyed listening to the story 'The Train Ride'. We have been busy looking at the story's illustrations and using symbols to identify key characters or settings. We have also been listening to the rhyme 'I'm a Little Engine'. In Explore and Learn, we have been continuing to practice our mark making, pencil control, cutting and name writing skills. We have also enjoyed lots of imaginative play with different transport vehicles in wet textures. Our favourites have been rice pudding, beans and damp sand.

## Maths

In Maths, we have been busy recognizing and ordering numbers, counting how many there are in a set and finding the corresponding numeral number on our PECS strip to label it. Some of us have been adding and taking one away from a set, counting and reading numerals to 50 and beginning to read number sentences and add to 10 with objects for support.

In our Shape, Space and Measure lessons, we have been learning about big and small. Children have been able to sort different transport vehicles into big and small, with symbol support. We are starting to explore everyday objects and sort them into round and tall with symbol support.

In Explore and Learn, we have been continuing to develop our problem solving, visual perception and fine motor skills by using different sized blocks to build and copy patterns, exploring transport themed Numicon inset boards and different shape and number jigsaws. We have also been busy practicing our number formation in different sensory trays (cocoa powder is a favourite) and consolidating our counting and shape recognition skills.

## Art

In Art, last term we enjoyed participating in lots of threading and fine motor skills activities, as part of our weaving topic. With some support, children were beginning to weave different materials such as paper and ribbon through different objects. We had lots of fun!

2F



2F has been super busy this term! During our Beautiful Britain topic, we looked at the British isles and added in all the different islands, we wrote postcards and used a map to identify favourite places. In Science we learnt about living things and classified animals. We really enjoyed learning

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about Vikings in History, we learnt how they travelled from Scandinavian countries, the Viking alphabet (runes), their different weapons and we had great fun making a long ship!

In Maths we have learnt about graphs, bar charts and line charts. To gather our information we completed surveys. We have done lots of work about money, we have been adding and subtracting and using it practically.

We've also really enjoyed accessing the Forest school area!



## 2W

This term, our topics have been Caring for Others and Down on the Farm. The children have all continued to work hard and explore and learn lots of new and exciting things. In the first half term, we found out who cares for us in our school and the wider community. We loved dressing up and roleplaying with the doctor's bags! We also learnt how we could help others and be a good friend. In science we learnt about how animals can be grouped by their characteristics into mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and fish. In history we were fascinated to find out how people lived in the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age. We even lit a fire and cooked some bread in the forest area.

This term, we have been reading stories and information books about life on a farm. We have found out all about tractors and even labelled the different parts. In science, we have been investigating

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the properties of different materials. We explored looking through different types of glass and made our own playdough, which we have moulded and shaped. We have also been busy working with clay, making small pots which we are going to paint and decorate.

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



## Secondary Department

### 3S Class

It's been a busy term for 3S! We've been looking at making lots of yummy foods in food tech, such as shortbread biscuits, omelettes and turnip stew! We've also been exploring our local community; going to the local shops and investigating the different plants we are growing down at the allotment. This term we have been looking at plants and how they grow so we planted cress and sunflower

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seeds. We have used our cress to make cheese and cress sandwiches, which gave us a fantastic idea for Enterprise week!



## 3C Class

3C have had yet another fun packed term. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to get out of school as much as we usually do due to the minibuses being out of action, but luckily we were able to make good use of the Forest Garden area so that in our Community time we still managed to get out of class.

As part of our work we have been looking at being Healthy and looking after ourselves in lots of different ways. As well as looking at what our bodies need to help us stay healthy such as sleep, keeping our bodies and teeth clean and eating well, we've also been learning about helping our minds to stay healthy by finding out about who we can talk to if we are feeling sad, upset or angry. We've also enjoyed some yoga, which we're becoming really good at, and mindfulness.

Through looking at what we can do to help ourselves we've worked on how we can help others both in school and at home. As part of this, some of the class have started their Duke of Edinburgh work. We've all had a think about how we can help people and now we are recycling more paper, composting more food and also increasing our ability to make simple food. Egg and banana protein pancakes were a big hit!

Some of the recipes from World War 2 didn't look like quite so much fun, but building a shelter was fantastic and we all enjoyed using recycled materials as part of our art work on Superworm for Book Day. It was also great fun to look at all the other classes work.

We are now carrying out work for our Enterprise - more info on this soon!

Who would have thought that we could pack so much into what seemed at first like a very short time!

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## 3F Class

In English, 3F have been studying the play the Tempest. They have learnt that the writer is called William Shakespeare and was born in Stratford-Upon-Avon in 1564 which is near our home City of Birmingham. Shakespeare's work is well known all around the world and is studied in schools, colleges and Universities. After watching the Tempest and writing the play in their own words 3F have been learning the actual script and being acting out the scenes. They have all found a new love for Shakespeare.

In February 3F had a drumming workshop where a very lively Nick entertained the pupils. Pupils had the chance to learn about the drums and plenty of opportunities to experience warm up activities and play shakers, zigger ziggers, tub drums and plastic drums.

For World Book Day in March 3F designed gardens which included flowers, ponds and swings among other things. This was to depict a dream garden. 3F have been reading 'Holes' by Louis Sachar who wrote a story about troubled teens spending time in a detention center where they had no greenery and had to do hard labour all day. We discussed as a class if people are going through a difficult time they need a picturesque place to recover. Hence designing our own gardens.

We also have been given money by Mr and Mrs Taroni Tustin. We used this donation to visit the local café and choose and order our own breakfast. This was a fantastic opportunity to put in place our life skills and eat a yummy breakfast at the same time. Definitely a highlight to our term and a lifelong memory we will cherish.

In March we had the second instalment of Bhangra music with Jag. We danced and listened to the sound of the drum. We learnt that Bhangra is a type of non-traditional music of Punjab originating in the Majha area of Punjab amongst other things.

Finally we had the theatre company 'Loud month' in and we watched different scenarios about 'mental health' and how to deal with situations if they ever arise.

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## 3H Class

Our topics this term have been 'free falling' and 'staying alive'. We have read the fiction books 'Big Rain Coming' and 'Leaf Man' and explored them through sensory activities. Punctuation has been one of our focuses in English and the children have worked hard to start to look at different types of sentences and what punctuation is required such as; commands, questions and statements. We have incorporated our science topics to look at non-fiction books, learning about the different forces; air resistance, friction and gravity. We have enjoyed planning and taking part in some investigations to build our knowledge and understanding around these concepts.

In Maths the children have improved their geometry and number skills across many areas. We have re-visited multiplication and division to continue to practice our times tables and focused on recording and analysing different types of measurements.

Weaving was a new skill we tried in art and in cooking, we have continued to work in pairs to follow a variety of different recipes. In History we have learnt all about the Second World War and even made a trench in our classroom, which we experienced, it wasn't nice! In Geography, we have focused on maps and directions, identifying where we live and following directions around school.

RE has been interesting, finding out about the different colours and music that are associated with a variety of religions and why they are important. 3H have continued to work hard in all academic subjects as well as continuing to build communication, life and social skills on a daily basis to help build their independence across a wider context.



## 3K Class



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This term 3K have been looking at a range of exciting topics.

In Art we have looked at Ken Sugimori (Creator of Pokemon!) and Antony Gormley (Creator of the Angel of the North.) The boys have thoroughly enjoyed drawing and painting the Pokemon characters and creating sculptures of people and animals.

We have also created a range of animated storybooks using our ICT, Art and English skills. Jack and the Beanstalk was definitely a favourite!

We enjoyed learning about crime and punishment in the past. The boys learnt what happened if you were naughty in school in the past, and unfortunately we all got sent to Jail!!



## 3R Class

During the term, we have looked at the History of Anglo Saxons and Medieval Britain. We compared what life was like during those times, up until now. Looking at food, clothes and houses.

In the subject of 'The World Around Me!' -we investigated the UK and undertook field study work comparing and contrasting Australia to the UK. In Science we have explored Earth and Space, where we created our own Solar System. We also studied Green Plants. We looked at the life cycle of a seed and grew our own cress and broad beans.

We continue to enjoy the interactive entertainment of Open Theatre. We also explored two amazing artists – Keith Haring and Roy Lichtenstein. We have also enjoyed having fun with making and eating pancakes and creating our masterpiece for the World Book Day exhibition, 'Jessie the Jellyfish'

Wow.....we have been busy! Have a lovely break and see you in April.

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## 3V Class

3V have enjoyed lots of varied learning experiences.

In Art, the class really enjoyed finding out about the lives and works of Pop artist like Keith Haring who used the influences of Graffiti art to create his own unique style which you can see in the fantastic drawings 3V have done.

Miss Sampla has really brought to life the Religion curriculum with visits to a local Mosque, a Gudwara and St Martin's church. This has given the class an opportunity to see the part that religion plays in different communities as well as support their development in social skills and social awareness.

In Science, we have explored compounds and mixtures and to do this, we have conducted experiments in the Science lab using acids, Bunsen burners etc; processes requiring students to work to strict safety rules. In a different experiment, we defied gravity using magnets as you can see in the picture.

In English, we have just begun an interview project. Students have gathered information about interesting things that staff do outside of school. They will be preparing interview questions before interviewing their victims...sorry, I meant guests, in a chat show style which will be filmed.

Next week, as part of Enterprise week, we will be visiting Walsall College to find out what it's like to go to a college and what kinds of courses they offer and on Friday, students will be operating a Car Wash.

Well done 3V, you have all been brilliant!

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## 3Z Class

3Z have been a busy bunch, they have been exploring all things growing. In science we planted seed and waiting patiently for them to grow and went shopping from the comfort of our classroom!



We have learnt new prepositions, celebrated Mother's day and exploring different uses of ICT. In PE we have looked at adventurous activities, we love climbing. We are looking forward to selling our bags on enterprise week.

We cannot wait for Summer term!  
3Z

## 3W Class

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With Spring in the air, frogspawn in the pond and birds nesting, it's time to tell you what 3W have been up to.

We've again taken part in Kindness by Post, it's always lovely to send off artwork and notes by the students to brighten someone's day, and to receive a card in return. We actually took part in two of these, one in February as well as in March.

In school we've discovered Alex Rider books, everyone was keen to find out how Alex would find out what the villain was up to, and escape being found out himself. Would he stop the evil plans?

With all the storms we had, appropriately enough we also studied the poem 'Hurricane hits England' by Grace Nichols and the contrast between what she experiences here and what her ancestors would have experienced in Jamaica.

History has all been about Crime and Punishment and what people went through hundreds of years ago and now. We also looked in more depth at workhouse conditions, the treatment of people and what they were supposed to do. And the food they were supposed to eat. There were not many takers for a trip back in time!

We've cooked and learnt spellings, investigated pop music and a little bit about evolution. Charlotte from Birmingham Hippodrome has also been working with the class, the topic being based around the musical 'Six', about Henry VIII's wives. We can't wait to see the film Charlotte is putting together for the class.

The students also took part in a Junk instruments workshop, they had fun using different pieces of junk to make a very effective section performance of 'We Will Rock You' by Queen. There have also been visits by Loudmouth Theatre and next term the class will be off to Tesco to learn about the different jobs that occur in the supermarket.

The class are also excited to have started working toward their Duke Of Edinburgh award.

But our current project is to work towards Enterprise Day, making our wares for sale. As to what they are, you'll have to wait till Friday to find out!



## 4K Class

Wow what a busy term it's been in 4K.

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We have set up our very own snack shop which was been run by the class. It was also named by one of the students, "Pines Bucks". The children made several types of cheese toasties and hot drinks. We learnt how to make the snack and hot drinks safely, as well as handling money, and taking orders. We also offered a delivery service.

In English for world book day we read the story "The Leaf Man". Then for our eco piece of art work we created a Leaf man picture using recycled materials such as, plastic bags. We have also taken part in drama sessions with both open theater and the Hippodrome.

In Maths, we have been doing lots of number work from adding and subtracting to working with money.

In Science, our topic area was "Materials". We looked at materials and their properties and what we would wear in different weather conditions. We also looked at materials and their textures. We did this through the story "That's not my car" and went on a walk around the school to find different types of textures.

We have also been lucky enough to make one or two trips down to the schools Allotment. We looked at travelling safely in the community and doing some jobs at the allotment. Hopefully now the weathers getting nicer we can make a few more trips next term.



4R Class 

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This term 4R have worked hard within their lessons. Within our English lessons, for World Book Day, we have focused on 'The Boy Who Grew a Tree', discussing the moral of the story and justifying why looking after our environment is crucial. We were able to imagine we were Jadav Payeng and take part in a role play session, asking and answering a variety of questions. 4R were able to recall what happened in the story to write thank you letters to Jadav Payeng for his 'inspiring', 'heartwarming' hard work. We really did enjoy sharing our letters and listening to our fellow peers. In honor of World Book Day, we created our own piece of artwork made from recyclable materials. Within our maths lessons, we looked at a variety of different topics, ranging from multiplying and dividing by 10 using our place value grids to reading and extracting information from time tables. It was a little tricky to start off with, but 4R soon got the hand of it. Well done! Within our Science lessons, we have covered a wide range of topics within our physics and biology lessons. We were able to look at all the different forces which act on objects and use a newton meter to measure those forces. After watching some videos on volcanic eruptions, the class were able to identify the different forces acting on the volcano. Within our biology lessons, we have looked at animal adaptations and food chains/webs. The class were able to work together to identify how a variety of different animals have adapted to suit their environments. 4R enjoy both their theory and practical lessons within food and have demonstrated a very strong understanding of how to prepare and cook a variety of different recipes, along with identifying possible hazards in the kitchen. The class especially enjoyed making their own pizzas and were able to develop a range of cooking skills. The class have all had their career meetings now and have started thinking about what their future might look like after leaving school. It is lovely to see and hear a variety of different career paths! During this term, we have been very busy working with Charlotte from the Hippodrome, doing work on SIX: The Musical. We have enjoyed working together as a class to perform a short session – singing and dancing along to the 'inspiring songs'. They have continued to have a fantastic second term and we cannot wait to see what the future has in store for us during our last term in year 10. Fantastic work 4R!



4B Class 

# THE PINES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

4B have continued to work hard. In Maths they have begun to look at algebra and how to solve equations with missing numbers. They can all confidently round numbers up and down.

In English they have been learning how to break down a poem to find out the meaning behind it using inference and deduction skills. They wrote their own poems in a variety of forms including; kennings, haiku, free verse. This is proudly on display in the classroom.

In science, the pupils have looked at stopping distances and enjoyed going on to the playground to test whose reaction time was the best when told to stop. They understand the importance of being alert and know when they begin to drive they will need to have good concentration skills to avoid accidents.

All the pupils particularly enjoy food technology. This term they have cooked a variety of dishes. They like to taste the dishes and many of them take the recipe home to repeat with their families.

On number day they each wrote a book for a younger child. They used the text "Ten Black Dots" as a stimulus and then wrote their own. They were rightly proud of what they achieved.

All the pupils have now had a careers interview to help them form a pathway to their future. It has been another good half term with an abundance of good work produced.



## 4W Class



We've gone Food crazy here in 4W this term. After investigating the best type of flour used to make Choux pastry the young people have planned, prepped and produced three dishes linked to the Americas. This has been a chance to research and showcase the culinary flavours of Jamaica, Brazil, the USA, and Canada. Teachers and students have been fortunate enough to eat spicy chicken dishes, monster cookies and New York style Pizza.

The assessments and exams are coming thick and fast but 4W are coping brilliantly during these stressful times. Their maturity and determination is truly impressive.

## Occupational Therapy (OT)





THE  
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SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

Following the success of the recent “introduction to sensory processing differences” workshop delivered to parents and carers this term, Laura Graham the school occupational therapist has put together some advice on how to increase proprioceptive input for your child at home, as well as an explanation about what proprioception is.

**What is Proprioception?** Proprioception is the sense of body position and force. It gives us information about where a specific body part is and when it is moving. Our proprioceptive sensors are located in our muscles, joints and ligaments. We can feel where our arms, legs, head and body are without even seeing them because our proprioceptive system tells us where they are and determines the force needed to be exerted during an activity. The proprioceptive system is important for development of body scheme, body awareness and emotional security. Common difficulties seen can be appearing clumsy, using too much or too little force when handling objects such as when writing. The proprioceptive sense also provides sensory regulation of the nervous systems and therefore individuals who frequently experience sensory overwhelm will benefit by gained increased proprioceptive opportunities. The table below shows some activities to try at home.

<p><b>Chair push-ups</b> – Teaching your child how to do chair push-ups can be a discreet and effective way of providing them with increased proprioceptive input. Holding their body weight off the seat for up to 30 seconds at a time is the aim, but may need to be built up gradually.</p>	
<p><b>Wall Pushes</b> - 1 minute sustained force, another simple activity that can provide proprioceptive input via joint compression</p>	
<p><b>Pull ups or body hanging</b> – 30 seconds hanging from arms on a pull up bar or monkey bars in the park building up from there, using outside gym bars this is a very effective way of providing a significant amount of proprioceptive input, over time it can be graded to include pull ups rather than just hanging. Adding some swinging motion will also add in some vestibular input.</p>	
<p><b>Oral motor regulation activities</b> – blow football, blow Lego maze, blow caterpillar, blowing bubbles, long and slow sustained blows rather than fast and shallow. Also using crunchy or chewy snacks and foods and drinking from a sports bottle or using a straw.</p>	
<p><b>Carrying heavy items</b> - when out for a walk or out at the shops give your child some heavy items to carry, either in the form of a bag pack or items to hold in their hand.</p>	

**Chores** – if appropriate and safe your child can help with chores in the home and garden that can provide additional proprioceptive input. Activities such as vacuuming, cleaning windows, sweeping leaves, baking and mixing are all good.



## Mental Health

### Introduction to Self-soothe box

The self-soothe box is something you can create with your child, and can help support grounding, relaxation and reduce the symptoms of panic, anxiety and low mood. You could use a shoe box, and they could help decorate it if they wanted to so it was clearly identifiable as their own.

It is recommended that you have a range of sensory things and something that helps focus the mind. You can include anything in the self-soothe box so it can be tailored for your child’s needs.

Below are some examples of what you might consider including

#### TOUCH ACTIVITIES MEMORIES CARDS

Playdough Colouring Photos Breathing Cards

Fidget Cubes Wordsearches Blanket Finger breathing

Stress Balls Lego Cuddly Toy Emotions checker

Chair of Governors, Wendy 



THE  
PINES  
SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and starting to enjoy the lighter mornings and evenings. Spring is starting to sprout in to life all around us.

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

I have to say being able to see all of the Dojo posts brightens my day.

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.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a new person to our governing board. Our new parent representative Faye Chapman. I know I speak for everyone when I say we are really looking forward to getting to know her and working together to support The Pines School.

It is also with sadness that I would like to inform you that a long standing member of our board Marvin Taylor has decided to leave due to work commitments. I would like to thank Marvin for all of his hard work and dedication to The Pines over the last few years. Marvin you will be sorely missed.

Finally, on behalf of the Governing Board, I would like to wish you a restful spring break.

Kind regards

Wendy Sartain  
Chair of the Governing Board



[Whole School Events](#)

# THE PINES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## World Book Day

It was lovely to see so many pupils dressed up and enjoying World Book Day. All of the classes produced some fabulous activities and really enjoyed listening to a range of stories.

We are very lucky to have a brand new story chair for our Forest School area, kindly donated by Harrison's parents. Thank you!

We are using world book day donations to purchase an outdoor area story box.....how exciting!



## Red Nose Day

Huge thanks to everyone who participated in Red Nose day and came to school dressed in something red! Our pupils love participating in national events. Thank you to everyone who made a contribution.



## Enterprise Week 27<sup>th</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> March

Enterprise week has been a huge success! We have welcomed paramedics, the police and an Olympic coach into school to chat with our pupils- the ambulance was very popular. Enterprise week has given pupils the opportunity to explore different careers and think about life after school, such as travelling independently and managing money. It's an excellent opportunity for pupils to develop their life skills, build independence and enjoy visits within the local community. We're looking forward to inviting parents in to school on Friday.

## Attendance Spring Term 2023

## Attendance

Up to Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 18 of our pupils have achieved 100% attendance since September. Amazing! This term, our overall school attendance is 90.2%.

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](mailto: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/screenshot of text message either with your child, Dojo or via email: [m.webb@pines.bham.sch.uk](mailto: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. Every day matters!

[New School Lunch Menu January 2023](#)

# THE PINES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**THE PINES SCHOOL LUNCH MENU (JANUARY 2023)** Please note, some items may be subject to change due to availability.

**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

**THE PINES SCHOOL LUNCH MENU (JANUARY 2023)**

# THE PINES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## WEEK TWO

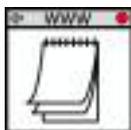
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sticky BBQ chicken	Winter warmer Cottage Pie (cook deconstructed)	Roast Chicken	Chicken tikka Masala with Naan Bread	Freshly made Margherita Pizza
Quorn Chow Mein	Homemade Cheese and Potato Pie	Roast Quorn or Halal Roast	Vegetable Curry	Fish of the day
Jacket 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

[School Website and Social Media](#)

# THE PINES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## 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](http://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



# THE PINES SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## **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**

