

Friday 15th October 2021

Creativity/Independence/Determination/Aspiration/Resilience/Excellence

Dates for your Diary

 **Mon 18th October – Wed 20th October 21**

Parents evenings will be online to keep everyone safe, and safeguard pupils and staff. Appointment slots have now been released via our school website – Spider. Please log into Spider, to book a slot.

 **Fri 22nd October 21 Halloween dress up day – whole school**

 **Mon 25th October – Fri 29th October 21**
Half term

 **Mon 8th November: individual school photos**

CHILDREN NEED
THE FREEDOM AND TIME
TO PLAY.
PLAY IS NOT A LUXURY.
PLAY IS A NECESSITY.

Kay Redfield Jamison



Attendance

- F1 65%
- F2 96%
- Y1 100%
- Y2 91%
- Y3 65%
- Y4 93%
- Y5 100%
- Y6 55%

Letter to Parents

Dear Parents and Carers,

I look back and reflect on the past few weeks, as we near the half term holiday, and relish just how much we have accomplished. The children have all settled in wonderfully well, the school is looking fabulous and the teaching and learning has got off to a very good start. We could not have accomplished this, without your support. I am grateful to you all, who are now parking away from school. Children can now walk into school, feeling incredibly safe. Please do not block any drive ways as you park away from school. I am working on a couple of really exciting parent workshops, which I will share with you, in the coming week. Have a great weekend and keep safe, Mr Jalaf

Parent governor election

Mrs Sharan Ghuman emailed all parents last week, wanting to recruit a parent governor. Due to the number of Covid absences we have had at school, the deadline for registering your expression of interests has been extended to Friday 22nd October. Please contact the school office for further details.

Covid 19 - We need to keep on supporting each other

We continue to have a number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 at Pippins school. Please remain alert to the symptoms and if you are in any doubt, keep your child off school and book a PCR test. If your child has any of the main COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste), they should not attend school until they have received a negative PCR result. Please be aware that we have had cases where children have had stomach aches and headaches and tested positive. If your child has any of these symptoms please also book a PCR test.

Please **inform the school office of all PCR test results.**

Lateral flow tests are very helpful in identifying asymptomatic cases. We encourage all families to be testing at least twice a week. Tests are free and quick to administer. Families can order kits by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. They will be delivered to your house and are free. We encourage all families to maintain a supply of kits so that they can regularly test. If the test is negative, children should go to school as normal. If they test positive, a PCR test should be obtained and the school notified. If a family member tests positive children should have a PCR test but can attend school as normal (providing there are no symptoms).

To find out more information and the latest guidance about Coronavirus, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

To order a PCR test please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>



Despair not ...

We felt incredibly awful having to cancel the Halloween disco, especially as we had 117 Halloween characters attending, along with a very generous group of 8 parent helpers! Our first and foremost duty is to keep everyone safe, and to mitigate the spread of the infection. Having spoken to school council members and staff, we have agreed for a Halloween dress up day on Friday 22nd October! All the children who paid for the disco will be given a goody bag, generously donated by a benevolent parent, to take home. Once it is safe to do so, the disco will take place.

Keep those dancing shoes out ...

Punctuality Matters - be on time - Make it a Habit!

It is really important that children arrive in school or nursery on time every day. Nursery starts at 8.30am. Reception to year 6 have a soft start from 8.35- 8.45am. Gates close at 8.45am for registration.

Arriving on time is important for the following reasons:

- It is the legal responsibility of parents or carers to ensure that children attend their registered school on time each day.
- If a child is late they miss important information about the day's activities, and soft start activities.
- Children that arrive in good time for registration are able to talk to their friends before school and settle into the school day with them.
- A child who is arriving late to school may feel sad, embarrassed or unsettled.
- A child that is late can disrupt staff and other children.

Lateness can add up over the school year. If a child is late by just 5 minutes each day, this is the equivalent of missing 3 entire school days!

Lunch money

Please can you ensure that any outstanding lunch money is paid by 9.30am **on Friday 22nd October**. Lunches must be paid for in advance, please ensure that you are regularly topping up your Arbor account. If your account is in arrears and you would like to set up a payment plan please contact the school office before the deadline.

Black History Month

October is Black History month and as a school we are celebrating the lives of many famous (and not so famous) figures from history. Our Monday morning assembly was all about the Windrush generation: 'Coming to England' written by Floella Benjamin. Alongside this, phase assemblies in the last week of half term will focus on the importance of celebrating the contribution of BAME people in society.

It should be recognised that Pippins School has started on the road of changing our curriculum to have a clearer diverse and more inclusive dimension. This will also be embedded in the cultural capital we will give our children at Pippins. That process is ongoing, as we continually review our topics within the curriculum, to see how we can express the diversity of our community within it.

Practically this means looking at traditional topics through the lens of the involvement of key BAME figures and/or choosing books to share, that are more representative of the community the school serves than might have ordinarily been used. We will continue to share our journey over the coming years as this develops further.



Genuine equality means not treating everyone the same, but attending equally to everyone's different needs.

Tom Fester

