



Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many of you on Monday or Wednesday of this week at Parents' Evening Meetings. I hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to see and discuss your child's learning as well as a cup of something hot and a cake at Pirbucks. Thank you to those who filled out the online safety survey at one of these evenings.

With online safety in mind, and with Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 11th February, I wanted to revisit my previous newsletter that addressed my concerns about children disclosing what they are watching or playing at home. When such disclosures are made, please be assured that a member of staff speaks directly with the child's parents for clarity and further support. Thank you.

On an unrelated note, please can we ensure that children are not bringing in large, or even multiple pencil cases into school. These are amazing things and look very expensive but can cause upset or unnecessary distraction when learning. If only I'd bought shares in Smiggle 10 years ago...!

If you are coming to next Friday's cross-country event, look out for Mark (the coffee guy), who will be selling hot beverages as you enter the school gates by the office.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind regards
Pete

Pete Wright
Headteacher

Coming Up –

- 10th - Visitor - Year 3
Talk on Judaism
 - 11th - Safer Internet Day
 - 11th - Short Story Competition Launch - KS2
 - 12th - Year 1 Sportshall Athletics @ Guildford Spectrum (PM)
 - 14th - FOPS Pre-Loved Uniform Sale – KS1 Playground AM
 - 14th - 1.30pm Pirbright Cross-Country Events (parents welcome)
 - 17th – 21st HALF TERM
- PLEASE CHECK THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR ALL 2025/2026 DATES & INSETS.**

Pirbright X-Country –Friday 14th February – Parents Welcome

2025's Sporting Calendar kicks off in a few weeks with the school's inter-house X-Country events. All children run and all children score points for their house teams. The captains will be on hand to support the littlest legs running around the field – we are always amazed at the bar Reception set in perseverance and resilience! All children can come to school in their PE kit, including their all-important house t-shirt ready for the event. Reception children (and all children new to the school) will receive their t-shirt on the day so please don't worry, we have that covered. Parents are welcome to come and spectate; entrance is at the KS2 gate and KS2 children run first from 1:40pm with Reception & KS1 to follow at 2:20pm. Please note, as we have done for the past few years, parents will be asked to stand in an allocated viewing area for the safety of the children! We will be watching the weather closely and advise if the field is too wet for a safe event at the earliest opportunity.

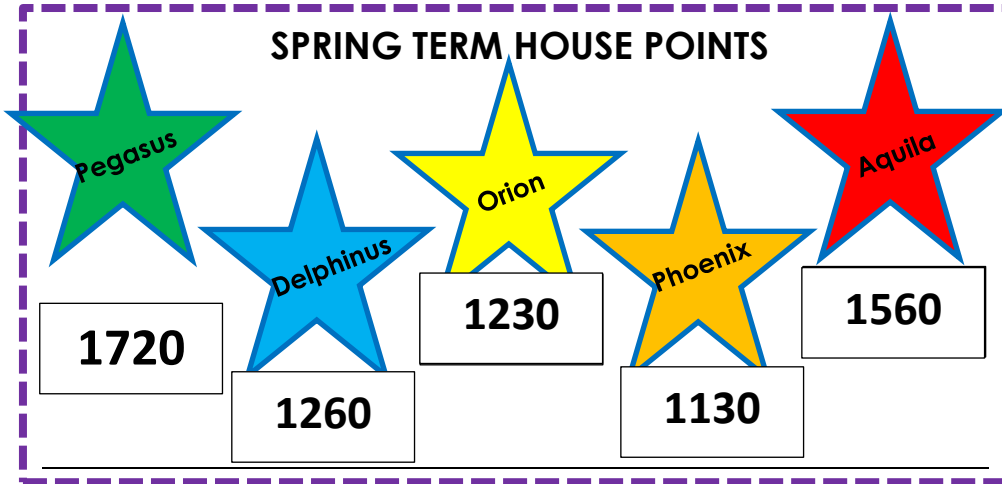
Add our calendar to your electronic calendar! Head [here](#) and click on the +Google link at the bottom of the calendar.



SCHOOL WEBSITE PHOTOS!



SPRING TERM HOUSE POINTS



Weekly Attendance Update

Reception & KS1 Winners	KS2 Winners
1HE – 99.1%	6DC – 99%

Whole School Year to Date

95.9%



The Daily Mile!

Congratulations to Ashwin (6DC) who completed his Marathon this week. Well done!

HEAD TEACHER AWARDS



HEAD TEACHER AWARDS are given out on a Thursday during assembly where we have the opportunity to hear about the children's successes of the previous week and celebrate how they embodied the Pirbright Values.



Position Vacant

FOPS are looking for a new chair/s. If you are interested in leading the PTA, please have a chat with either Kate, Nerys, Mrs Dow or Mr Wright. No question is too daft (apparently!) so come and chat!

Position Filled

Lovely Neil Manser is departing his post as FOPS' treasurer. Neil has been a fabulous Scrooge McDuck over the past four years and we are grateful for all of his support and skills. The position has been snapped up by Thorsten Schulz-Gerhardt who we thank very much in advance!

Roast Beef = Turkey

Cleverchefs have let us know that they are coming to the end of their supply of beef for Roasty Wednesday and will be replacing it for the foreseeable future. The iPay system has been updated to reflected this so please make changes if you need to. Thank you!

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

A huge thank you to the 48 of you who signed up for our KS2 trip to see Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat on Thursday 5th June at Woking's New Victoria Theatre. We have now picked the 30 names (randomly) and those who have been successful will be informed in due course. Payment, along with trip permissions, will be made via SCOPAY as always. Thank you!

Miss Jackson (2HJ) = Mrs King

We will have a new (sort of!) teacher on the staff after half term when Miss Jackson returns as Mrs King. Fear not, she is not leaving us but getting married! Congratulations to Mr & Mrs King on their upcoming nuptials and we all promise to try and remember the name change!





World Thinking Day – 24th February

Monday 24th February is World Thinking Day when Girl Guides and Girl Scouts & Rainbows everywhere remember each other and reaffirm their commitment to international friendship and understanding. On World Thinking Day, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world do something special to celebrate - watching the sunrise, holding an act of worship, having an international party or undertaking an extra service project. On World Thinking Day, we would like to invite the girls to wear their uniforms into school to remind us all of their commitment to their respective organisations. In order to promote gender equality, we would also like to invite the boys who attend Beavers, Cubs or Scouts to wear their uniforms into school as an act of solidarity and so we can celebrate all of the contributions made by Pirbright children to the wider community.



Just a little reminder that our next Learning Look will take place on **Friday 28th February 2025**. This time, it will be at the end of the school day so please head to your child's classroom from **2.45pm to 3.10pm**. This will give you the opportunity to look at books, displays and other pieces of work to celebrate your child's learning with them. During the session, we would love you to chat to your child about what they are proud of and write a positive comment on a Proud Scroll about what has made you feel proud. Learning Looks are spread out across the school year and the dates and times for all of the sessions are on the school calendar. These sessions are entirely optional but if you are unable to attend it is really useful if we know in advance. Please let your child's class teacher know so your child can be paired up with another family, a friend or school adult. Also, please note that the session **finishes at 3.10pm** so the children have a few minutes to gather their home time things and say goodbye before meeting you outside the classroom (or meeting spot if they are in KS2).

Dress-Up Day

Every year we celebrate World Book Day and every other year we celebrate Comic Relief – this year is just World Book Day for us! Whilst we wouldn't say we are low-key when it comes to dressing up here (Mr Fuller once dressed up as a full shower system, including the curtain!) – we certainly are low pressure for parents and will take absolutely anything that works for you! We don't have "best dressed" prizes as we know the pressure this can add.

World Book Day – Celebrated at Pirbright on **FRIDAY 7th March** (celebrated nationally on Thursday 6th but no one needs a Thursday dress up day in their life!). Please come to school dressed as a book character or anything inspired by a book. We'll take (almost) anything!

There is no Comic Relief celebration at Pirbright this year; see you next year for that one!



a member of
Learning Partners
academy trust

A huge well done to all the children who performed in the Rock and Pop assembly on Wednesday this week under the leadership of Rob Piper, one of our Rock and Pop music teachers. Thanks also to the parents who came to support! It was a wonderful event and one we hope to make a regular thing!

If you are interested in your child learning to play an instrument with Rock and Pop, we are able to offer lessons on a variety of instruments, now including the voice, with our vocal teacher Alice.

**Applications can be made through their website -
<https://www.rockandpopfoundation.com/enrol>**

Home Learning

In celebration of this week's Parents' Evenings, it is a good time to reflect on the big part you play in your children's learning through Home Learning. We've gone through many versions of Home Learning over the years and guided by the research, settled on something which we hope works for the majority. There is an emphasis on practicing the essentials at home (spelling, maths and reading) and then some enrichment tasks which are entirely optional for you to choose from depending on your life and child's needs. They are not for the children to choose – you are in charge!

Whilst we would love the children to be independent in their Home Learning, this is the aspiration for the time they leave Year 6. Realistically, they will need your support over their years in primary and hopefully this will in turn help you see what they are learning and value this important skill. Setting time aside to do Home Learning helps the children have this important experience modelled to them by you and will set them up for life. It's good for you to know what they are up to at school so the weekly Home Learning Sheets are essential here, alongside the year group booklets which were published at the start of the year.

As ever we are here to support you so if you come across something tricky or not quite the way you learnt it at school, send us an email and we will be happy to go through it with you and offer you some support.

Home Learning is a collaboration between school and home and *should* be a positive experience for you and your children. We know your children will value the time with you – even if they don't always tell you this!



Home Learning
Guides 2024 -
2025

CLICK HERE



Year 2

Weekly Learning Diary

Date: Friday 10th January

Name: _____

What have Year 2 been learning about this week?

What a brilliant first week back we have had! Our topic this term is called *Living, Dead, and Never Alive*, and we kicked it off by going on a hunt around the school grounds to find examples of these three categories. Tuesday morning was particularly exciting when we became detectives after discovering some suspicious dinosaur-like footprints on the KS2 playground. We quickly returned back to class, researched different dinosaurs and wrote letters to Mr. Wright to share which type of dinosaur we thought had visited and why. In English, we began reading our new text 'The Secret Dinosaur'. We've made intriguing predictions, answered VIPERS questions, learned new vocabulary and reviewed the four different types of sentences. In Maths, we've been enjoying our new unit on multiplication and division. We started by exploring the meaning of the multiplication symbol and learning how equal groups and arrays help us understand and solve problems. In PSHE, we've had great discussions about how to be responsible and safe in different situations and in Art, our creativity shone when painting dinosaur silhouettes, focusing on blending and creating smooth transitions between colours.

Weekly To Do List...

These tasks are weekly expectations to consolidate your child's learning of the core curriculum. Please tick when you have completed each one.

Reading

Please share a book with your child as often as possible. Remember to ask them questions to check their understanding of the text. For example:

- ⇒ Can you retell the story in your own words?
- ⇒ How are the characters similar or different?
- ⇒ Predict what might happen next? Why do you think that?

I have read 4-5 times this week with an adult at home.

Spellings

Spelling ideas: Roll a dice and write the spelling this many times, writing each spelling into a sentence, create a word search or write funny sentences which include the weekly spellings.

I have practised my spellings 4-5 times this week.

Maths

To support your child with their mathematical development we recommend that you try to fill in regular mental arithmetic challenges each week. This could be counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s, learning number bonds to 10 and 20 and talking about how many tens and ones are in a two digit number. You could also spend 15 minutes using Mathematics.

I have worked on my maths skills 4-5 times this week.

Things to Remember

29. 1.25
WEDNESDAY
INSET DAY

Parents evenings
4.30-7pm

6. 2.25
Parents evenings
4- 6pm

My Spellings

Rule: Words where the /j/ sound is spelt /jge/

badge

edge

bridge

dodge

fudge

ridge

smudge

judge

wedge

lodge

Home Learning Activities

- Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance. Can you create a poster to illustrate 1 or more of the British Values? Be as creative as you like! Maybe you can illustrate voting? Or you can create a collage to show law? What does respect look like to you? Perhaps you have some amazing ways to show different faiths and beliefs? Please bring your entries in to school by Friday 24th January.
- As we settle back into our learning after the Christmas break, let's have a think about our Super 6 skills and how they can help us. Can you create a poster to go in your 'Home Learning' zone at home which will remind you of each of the Super 6 skills and how you can use them to complete your learning challenges? We would love to see some of them, so please do email them to your class teachers.

Parent Comments

Parent Signature: _____ Teacher Signature: _____

Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager

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- Reading your child's behaviour and understanding their feelings
- Effective communication techniques
- Reflecting on your relationship and how to nurture your child's emotional health
- A transformative journey that can strengthen your bond with your child at every age

Designed by clinical psychologists in partnership with practitioners and parents



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Oh friends, we meet again.

And I'm afraid my days here may be numbered. We are URGENTLY seeking a new chairperson or two to take the lead for Friends of Pirbright School fundraising team. Our current chairs are standing down after two years of leadership and they have done an incredible job, but it is now time for us to find someone to fill their shoes. I'm afraid that without a chairperson, we cannot continue to fundraise for our school. FOPS' fundraising has enabled us to grow our school's offering and has enabled our incredible teachers to have even better resources for teaching our children. Remember, FOPS is a charitable organisation, and its success relies entirely on volunteers. If we are unable to find someone to take over, then I'm afraid that will be end. I have said it before, but I'll say it again – you won't be on your own. I'll be here (please don't laugh – that's just mean), and so will a host of helpful FOPS volunteers, to support you and help! We have leads for major events, so it's really about coordinating efforts across the group and ensuring everyone is on the same page. Kate and Nerys, as well as Jen and Rosie in the years prior to, have established some great initiatives which have set us up for success – we now just need YOU. Yes, you. We need someone exactly like you to come and lead us for a little while. Please. Please.

In the usual section of this newsletter, I have some updates. Let me just consult my list. Ah yes, uniform donations – thanks to those who dropped off this morning ahead of the Uniform sale – which will be taking place on the morning of Valentine's Day. Love is in the air.

You'll thank me for this one – REMEMBER YOUR CHANGE FOR THE CAKE SALE TONIGHT. It's the cake sale. THE CAKE SALE. Thanks to EVERYONE who donated cakes this morning. I am imagining the most well organised amongst you staggering in with bin bags of old cardigans to donate, with precariously balanced home baked brownies on top. You are heroic. How we love you.

Oh gosh, we need some folks to organise The Summer Fair this year. Don't worry – you've got ages to plan for that if you start now. Show of hands please?

Also planning for Chocolate Bingo is in full swing. Keep your eyes peeled for the details. It's the most wholesome event of the year; and everyone loves it. I can't wait. For the chocolate. And the bingo.

17th - 21st Feb 2025

Potential Kids

Feb Half Term Camp

At Pirbright Village School
9am - 4pm

BOOK NOW

Potentialkids.co.uk

Let's Celebrate Pirbright

If your child "achieves" or takes part in something special outside of school (local football team, village show, scouts award, sporting event and the like) then please send a photo and a short description to Mrs Dow either at her email address or at celebrate@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk and she will pop it up on the display board in the hall for all to admire.

Term Dates 2024/2025

Term	Start	End
AUTUMN 2024	Monday 2 nd September 2024	Friday 20 th December 2024
<i>Half term</i>	Monday 28 th October 2024	Fri 1 st November 2024
<i>Christmas</i>	Monday 23 rd December 2024	Friday 3 rd January 2025
SPRING 2025	Monday 6 th January 2025	Friday 4 th April 2025
<i>Half term</i>	Monday 17th February 2025	Friday 21st February 2025
<i>Easter</i>	Monday 7 th April 2025	Monday 21 st April 2025
SUMMER 2025	Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	Tuesday 22 nd July 2025
<i>Half term</i>	Monday 26 th May 2025	Friday 30 th May 2025

INSET DAYS 2024/2025

- Monday 2nd September 2024
- Tuesday 3rd September 2024
- Friday 25th October 2024
- Wednesday 29th January 2025
- Monday 30th June 2025**
- Monday 21st July 2025**
- Tuesday 22nd July 2025**

Dates for the Diary 2024/2025

January 2025		February 2025	<p>10th - Visitor - Year 3 Talk on Judaism</p> <p>11th - Safer Internet Day</p> <p>11th - Short Story Competition Launch - KS2</p> <p>12th - Year 1 Sportshall Athletics @ Guildford Spectrum (PM)</p> <p>14th - FOPS Pre-Loved Uniform Sale – KS1 Playground AM</p> <p>14th - 1.30pm Pirbright Cross-Country Events (parents welcome)</p> <p>17th – 21st HALF TERM</p> <p>24th – World Thinking Day</p> <p>26th - Year 4 Greek Day</p> <p>28th - Fire Brigade Visit - Reception</p> <p>28th - 2.45pm – 3.10pm Whole School Learning Look</p>
March 2025	<p>4th - Year 3/4 Sportshall Athletics @ Guildford Spectrum (AM)</p> <p>5th - Year 2 Sportshall Athletics @ Guildford Spectrum (AM)</p> <p>7th – World Book Day – DRESS UP</p> <p>7th – The BIG Read 2:45pm (Parents Welcome)</p> <p>7th - Cake Sale (Year 4 to Lead)</p> <p>12th Year 2 My First Steps Leadership Training</p> <p>14th - Science Day (Celebrating Science Week)</p> <p>19th - WASPs Touch Rugby Tournament</p> <p>25th - Year 2 Visit to Nower Wood</p> <p>27th - Family Lunch (11:30 Onwards)</p> <p>28th – FOPS Chocolate Bingo</p>	April 2025	<p>2nd - Year 3 Pop-Up Museum</p> <p>4th – Easter Assembly (Year 5) AM (No Parents – Sorry!)</p> <p>4th – Term finishes at 1:30pm</p> <p>4th - Cake Sale (Year 5 to Lead)</p> <p>25th - 8.30am – 9.00am KS2 Learning Look</p> <p>25th - 8.45am – 9.15am Reception & KS1 Learning Look</p>
May 2025	<p>7th - Tempest Class Photos</p> <p>12th – 16th – KS2 SATS Week</p> <p>13th - YR Visit to Wellington Country Park</p> <p>16th - Cake Sale (Year 3 to Lead)</p> <p>19th – Pirbright Has Talent Auditions (Y1 – Y6)</p> <p>21st - Year 3 Visit to Gilbert White's House</p> <p>22nd - Year 5 Dynamo Cricket 1pm-5pm @ Old Woking CC</p> <p>26th –30th May HALF TERM</p>	June 2025	<p>4th - Year 1 Visit to the British Wildlife Centre</p> <p>5th – Pirbright Has Talent Show! (No Parents, sorry!)</p> <p>6th - 2.45pm – 3.10pm Whole School Learning Look</p> <p>9th – 12th - Year 6 Residential Visit to Somerset</p> <p>12th - Reception Zoo Lab Visit</p> <p>13th – Year 6 Late Registration (10am)</p> <p>13th – The BIG Read 2:45pm (Parents Welcome)</p> <p>16th – 17th – Year 4 Residential to Ufton Court</p> <p>20th - Sports Day & Family Lunch</p> <p>30th – INSET DAY – School will be closed to children</p>
July 2025	<p>1st – Year 6 into 7 Induction Day (Surrey Schools)</p> <p>2nd - Year 6 into 7 Induction Day (Surrey Schools)</p> <p>4th - Year 6 Performance PM (Y6 parents invited PM)</p> <p>4th - Cake Sale (Year 2 to Lead)</p> <p>10th –Summer Concert EVE (Parents Welcome)</p> <p>11th – 10am Late Registration</p> <p>14th – New Entrants Morning Session (10:30-11:30)</p> <p>14th – 3.15pm-4.30pm Celebration Afternoon (Parents Welcome)</p> <p>16th – Leavers’ Party (Eve) 5:30pm</p> <p>17th – Year 6 Fun Day</p> <p>18th – 10.00am Year 6 Leavers’ Assembly (Parents Welcome)</p> <p>18th – 1.30pm – End of Term</p> <p>18th - Cake Sale (Year 1 to Lead)</p> <p>21st - INSET Day (School will be closed to pupils)</p> <p>22nd – INSET Day (School will be closed to pupils)</p>		

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AUTUMN 2024	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025	Friday 19 th December 2025
<i>Half term</i>	Monday 27 th October 2025	Fri 31 st October 2025
<i>Christmas</i>	Monday 22 nd December 2025	Friday 2 nd January 2026
SPRING 2025	Monday 5 th January 2026	Friday 27 th March 2026
<i>Half term</i>	Monday 16 th February 2026	Friday 20 th February 2026
<i>Easter</i>	Monday 30 th March 2026	Friday 10 th April 2026
SUMMER 2025	Monday 13 th April 2026	Tuesday 21 st July 2026
<i>Half term</i>	Monday 25 th May 2026	Friday 29 th May 2026

INSET DAYS 2025/2026

Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Friday 24th October 2025
Wednesday 28th January 2026
Monday 29th June 2026
Monday 20th July 2026
Tuesday 21st July 2026