

**"Enjoy, aspire and achieve together to be the best that we can be."**

## PARENT OPEN SESSION AND PIXIE'S GRAND OPENING

Do check out the information below on our open session next Friday when we will have the pleasure of parents working alongside their children in class. As previewed last week, we are timing this alongside a Grand Opening of Pixie's Pre-School. We should be delighted if any parents visiting that day would like to drop in and take a look and speak to the pre-school colleagues. Before then anyone who is looking for a pre-school place is very welcome to contact the school office and arrange to visit.

## School trips for the year ahead

An integral part of school life has always been school trips/visits. These are always very enjoyable and enriching experiences for the children and provide them with wonderful memories not to mention huge learning opportunities. We plan to continue with these for the year ahead but with ever increasing costs we thought parents and carers may find it useful to be given an overview of what is planned along with approximate costs; this may help you to budget for these.

Month	Year group	Trip/visit	Approximate cost
November	Year 3	St Albans	To be confirmed
	Year 2	Fire Service visit school	zero
	Year 1	Visit from Luton Museum with toy collection	£6
December	Whole school	Pantomime	£20
January	Year 4	Young Voices O2 Arena	£12 t-shirt (travel costs paid by PTFA; participation cost paid by sch)
March	Year 4	PGL; Caythorpe 3-day residential	£195
May	Year 3	RAF Museum Hendon	£13
June	Year 2	Warwick Castle	£22
June/July	Rainbows & Pixie Class	Mead Open Farm	To be confirmed
June/July	Year 1	Woburn Safari Park	£15

Travel costs and associated insurance are now extremely costly. For the summer trips, the PTFA have heavily subsidised the trips to reduce the cost for parents. The approximate costs outlined above include this subsidy. Currently we are investigating running trips for most year groups to Wrest Park in Silsoe.

## Home-School-Child Agreement

In line with DfE guidance, all maintained schools are required to publish a home-school agreement and associated parental declaration. We will be sending this home with your child next week. We are required to detail

- the school's aims and values;
- the school's responsibilities towards its pupils who are of compulsory school age;
- the responsibility of each pupil's parents; and
- what the school expects of its pupils.

We hope you feel that both you and your child(ren) support the endeavours of the school in this respect and can return a signed copy of the agreement by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

## School Photography of Pupils

The Safer Use of Images form is kept on file and gives/declines permission for your child(ren) to be photographed in school and for such photos to be used in school displays and promotional publications/website. We will be making increased use of such photos this term and so will be checking with families if we do not have those returns on file. If anything changes in relation to your original return please make sure you contact the school office and let us know.

## Swimming Pool

The pool is now closed for the winter – no need to pack swimming costumes for school til 2018!

## Library

Pixie Class enjoyed their first visit to the library this week – it was lovely to see their enthusiasm and to hear they have been sharing the books at home.

### **Open Afternoon – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

We would like to invite parents/carers into school on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2:50 – 3:20pm to work alongside the children in the classroom. We hope this will give you an opportunity to see how the children have settled into their new class and provide an insight into the classroom ethos and routines. We do ask that parents and carers leave the session at 3:20pm and wait as usual at the school gates for the children's dismissal at the end of the day. This is to enable staff to continue with their end-of-school routine for children and ensure the safe release of all children. Unfortunately, we do not have the space to accommodate siblings or young children at these sessions. Can we please request that mobile phones are not used on school premises during this time?

In the case of year 1 – Unicorns – Mrs Matcham is on a very important First Aid course on this day. Therefore, we would like to suggest that parents of Unicorn pupils drop in on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October – same arrangements as for other classes on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Harvest Festival – 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

Our Harvest Festival this year will take place at All Saints Church in Shillington on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 2pm. Each class will present a short item to mark the occasion. We would like to invite parents and carers to join us at the church for this celebration. Children will be dismissed from school at the end of the day as usual. Once again, we are hoping to distribute harvest gift parcels within the Shillington village community. If you know of someone within the village that you feel would like to receive such a parcel, please let the school office know.

### **Phonics Parent Information Session**

Our first parent information session takes place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September with the focus on phonics. The session will start at 9.15 and is aimed mainly at Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, although parents from all years are welcome. At the session we go through how children are taught to read and give more detail about the Year 1 phonics screening check. Please let the school office know if you wish to attend, a letter has been sent home to book places for this.

### **Structured Conversations**

These will take place over three evenings: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October. A letter about this will be sent home with an appointment preference reply slip. We will then notify you of your appointment once the majority of responses are returned. Please note if you have not requested an appointment by the deadline given, we will allocate you an appointment automatically where there are gaps in our schedule.

### **Congratulations**

We send our best wishes to Mrs Slater who has had a baby daughter, called Ella. We hope to see them both soon.

### **Top Table**

Mr Haddon was joined by the following pupils for lunch on Monday who were chosen to sit at the Top Table for their exemplary behaviour and values: *Phoenix, Thea, Joey, Tegan, Amelie, William, Elio, Jack, Callum and Courtney.*

**Shillington Superstars Awards:** Year 1: Oliver  
Year 2: Ayrtton

Year 3: Oscar  
Year 4: Dylan

Well done everyone!

#### **Dates for your diary**

26<sup>th</sup> September Phonics parent information session 9am  
29<sup>th</sup> September Parent open session 2:50pm – 3.20pm -  
parents/carers welcome  
Pre-School Grand opening: stay & play 9.30-  
12.00 & open to all 3.00pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> October Harvest festival at All Saints' Church – 2pm  
6<sup>th</sup> October Unicorns class Open Afternoon 2.50–3.20pm

6<sup>th</sup> October  
11<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> October  
17<sup>th</sup> October  
30<sup>th</sup> October  
31<sup>st</sup> October

First PGL payment deadline  
Structured conversations  
Individual/sch sibling school photos  
Teacher training day – sch closed  
Open morning for prospective  
parents 2018

**Our current value is "Excellence."  
Starting on Monday our value will be "Equality"**