

The Pinner Park Post



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Let There Be Light...

Welcome back to school. We hope that everyone had a restful and fun half term break.

This term is jam-packed with festivals and celebrations of light. We will be talking to the children about Diwali, bonfire night, Hanukah, Advent and Christmas. As the very dark nights draw in, we begin to understand the importance of light in our lives.



Light can be a guide, a security and a comfort. We will encourage our children to be a 'light' to others through their kindness and thoughtfulness.

Let your light shine!

Best wishes,

Nick Waldron

Headteacher

Rewarding 'over and above' behaviour



As part of our approach to promoting positive behaviour, we recognise and reward children who go 'over and above' our standards in a range of ways.

We have some new certificates which are awarded each Friday in assembly. Our first recipients received these just before half term.

We also have our 'Pinners' – these are points awarded to children for excellent work, behaviour or effort. Each child is in a colour team (named after a tube line) so it's about points for the team as well as a reward for a child!



We will remember...



We are supporting the Royal British Legion's poppy appeal again this year. We are selling poppies throughout next week – at the start of each day.

The poppy appeal helps the Royal British Legion to provide thousands of veterans, service men, women and their families with vital advice and support.

Lego donations please



We use Lego in all sorts of ways in school and we always welcome donations. If you have any Lego which you could donate, please bring it into the school office.

We would be particularly keen to receive complete sets of Lego (small kits) with the instructions. We use these for one of our interventions to support children's learning.

Reading Records

Thank you to all those parents who are supporting your child's reading at home.

Please encourage your child to read the books they bring home from school, but please also enjoy other books! We would encourage all our children to find books they enjoy by visiting book shops, going to the library, and sharing book recommendations with others.

In your child's reading record, please make an entry each time he or she reads with you. This may be your child reading to you, you reading to your child, or sharing a book together. These are all great activities to help your child to become a successful reader who enjoys reading.



Celebrating Birthdays



We love celebrating birthdays at Pinner Park. Birthdays are such fun – marking another year that is past, and a reminder that we are 'growing up'!

Schools have a number of ways of marking children's birthdays and I know that it is traditional in some schools for children to bring sweets or cakes to share with others.

For a number of reasons, we do not want sweets or cakes being brought in to school, and we want to relieve parents of that particular pressure when you have lots of other birthday things to think of!

We are very happy for children to wear their birthday badge, and we will, of course, wish a very 'happy birthday' on that special occasion. If you would like to mark your child's birthday in another way, we suggest that you consider donating a book to the school library. We will stick a special book plate in the front of the book to recognise your donation and your special day!

Headstone Manor Park

A significant number of children from our school travel through Headstone Manor Park every day. It's great that children are walking to school! We have been advised that major works are being carried out on the park site, commencing this week on the footpath from the playground to the Headstone Lane West entrance. The works to the park will continue throughout the winter and the Spring Term. Please be aware of this and speak to your children about staying safe around the disruption, machinery and works.



Sports News

Our first half term was full of sporting activity with many children participating in sports clubs, and also representing the school at sporting events.

On 3rd October we took a group of children to Harrow Leisure Centre to take part in a Harrow Schools **Dodgeball** competition. The children had a great time playing lots of schools every game was really exciting.



The key stage 2 children have been playing on Tuesday lunchtime with Mrs Holland, everyone is welcome to join in.

On 11th October a group of children and 3 sports leaders went to Aspire in Stanmore to take part in a Harrow schools **Boccia** tournament. This is a skill game where everyone tries to get their ball nearest to the white ball. The children did really well and scored lots of points and worked extremely well as a team.

Boccia club is on Friday in the MUGA for key stage 2 children.



On a very wet and windy Saturday morning we attended the Years 5 and 6 7-a-side **football** competition at Barnet FC at the Hive.

We played all our games in our league and progressed to the semi-final where we lost 1-0 to West Lodge. The boys played some terrific football and the games were all very hard fought.

Well done boys for giving up your Saturday morning to play.

Elections and Polling Stations

I am sure you won't have missed the big news that there is due to be a General Election on Thursday 12 December.

Local returning officers have the power to require a school to act as a polling venue and Pinner Park Primary School will, most likely, be required.

When schools are used as polling stations it is usual for the school to be closed to pupils on the day. This is because the polling station needs to be open to the public from 7am to 10pm, with access to toilets and running water. This compromises the controlled access systems.



Once we have some further details, and once we have made a decision about any school closure, we will inform you straight away. I know that you will understand that this is very much a 'live' news story and we will try to respond as quickly as possible. We thought that you would prefer to forewarned, even though a final decision has not yet been made.

You may also wish to note that local elections are expected on Thursday 7 May 2020.