

The Pinner Park Post



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Happy New Year!

The celebration of Chinese New Year starts tomorrow. The celebration lasts for two weeks.

During this time, houses are decorated with coloured lanterns, brightly coloured banners and arrangements of flowers. Fireworks, a Chinese invention, are let off on the Chinese New Year's Eve. The dragon's dance, performed to the accompaniment of drums and gongs, and lantern parades are also features of the celebration of the New Year.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish a happy new year to all those in our school community who are celebrating.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Nick Waldron

Headteacher



Can you help us with some resources?

A reminder that we are on the lookout for the following items to enhance our outdoor play:

- Pots, pans, wooden spoons, large kitchen utensils (any kitchen items)
- Small play resources - dinosaurs, dolls, figures, cars
- Lego
- Wellies
- Fabric/ material e.g. old duvet covers, sheets, saris, curtains, net curtains, throws, rugs, carpet, seat cushions, tarpaulin, nets
- Dressing up clothes



We will be happy to receive these items at any time. The sooner we do this, the sooner the children will be able to play with the items! Thank you for your support with this.

Phonics – Reading, Writing and Spelling

We want to help all our children to be successful readers who love reading, and successful writers who love writing!

PHONICS

Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It helps children hear, identify and use different sounds that distinguish one word from another in the English language.

Written language can be compared to a code, so knowing the sounds of individual letters and how those letters sound when they're combined will help children decode words as they read. Understanding phonics also helps children know which letters to use when they are writing words.

Phonics involves matching the sounds of spoken English with individual letters or groups of letters. For example, the sound k can be spelled as c, k, ck or ch.

Teaching children to blend the sounds of letters together helps them decode unfamiliar or unknown words by sounding them out. For example, when a child is taught the sounds for the letters t, p, a and s, they can start to build up the words: "tap", "taps", "pat", "pats" and "sat".

In Early Years, we start our children on the phonics journey using a systematic, carefully sequenced approach with a short, daily lesson. You can find some further information about our approach, and 'Letters and Sounds' (the scheme we follow) on our website:

<http://pinnerpark.harrow.sch.uk/phonics.html>

The approach of having a short, daily lesson continues all the way through to Year 6. Once children can read accurately, and with increasing speed, we use a scheme of learning from 'Read Write Inc' which focusses on spelling - with 15 minutes of daily teaching, enabling children to develop confidence and accuracy.



Teaching of phonics underpins this programme, but it also develops children's knowledge of word families, develops an understanding of how prefixes and suffixes impact upon root words, teaches how to remember the trickiest spellings, and much more.

The teaching revolves around instruction, partner and group practice, and competitive group challenges that help children commit new words to memory. The learning is active and creative, with lots of opportunities for the teacher to model examples and then for the children to respond through games, challenges and partner work.

Children start the Read Write Inc Spelling approach in Year 2.

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In Brief - Reminders

Drop off procedures and times

Upper School children can arrive at school, and enter the building, at any time between 8.45am and 8.55am. We are happy to take responsibility for your child as soon as they come into school. We don't allow unsupervised children in the playground before 8.45am because we want to keep everyone safe.

Lower school children should be lined up and ready to come into class at 8.50am. Please wait with your child until the class teacher leads them to class.



Cycling and Scootering

We ask that children walk with their cycles or scooters once they get to school, with no riding on the school site. Thank you for your support with this.

Lotions and Potions

Please note that we do not allow children to bring in or use any type of over-the-counter remedy, including lip balms or cough sweets. Please ensure that your child does not bring these items into school.

Change of Collection Arrangements?

If you know that there will be a change of arrangements, please let your child's class teacher know in advance, or make contact through the school office before 2pm on the day. This gives us sufficient time to ensure that all the messages are passed on.

Club Cancelled?

Please note that we will always contact you if a club is cancelled. So, if you have not heard... it is on! You do not need to contact us to find out, we will always let you know. We'll always try and keep a club running, even if the weather is poor, by using alternative accommodation.

School Disco

We are looking forward to our Discos on Friday 31 January and Friday 7 February. Lower School children will be looked after by school staff at the end of the school day. The children will be able to change into their disco clothes, have a snack (provided by parents please) then will be accompanied to the disco with all their things.

Head Lice

Please regularly check your child's hair for head lice or 'nits'. The following link on the NHS website provides further information: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits>

Year 2 and Year 6 Parent Briefings

Thank you to the Year 2 and Year 6 parents who attended our recent briefings. The presentation slides and further information can be found on the curriculum section of our school website (within the 'key information' menu).



Please leave the disabled parking area outside school for blue badge holders only.