

The Pinner Park Post



Volume 1 | Issue 20 | Thursday 13 February 2020

What is love?

This is our first 'Thursday' newsletter of the school year! Tomorrow, the staff team will be working together on a range of issues – we will be spending the morning thinking about 'play' and the role it has in all our children's learning.

Tomorrow also happens to be Valentine's Day – a day when love is celebrated.

We use the word 'love' in such a wide range of contexts – I love chocolate, I love Bath Rugby, I love my family, I love my job! In school, we talk a lot about kindness. Being kind can be a way of showing love for one another.



We hope that everyone has a super half term, and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 24 February.

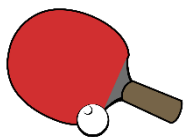
Best wishes,

Nick Waldron

Headteacher

Representing the School – Sport and Music

Over the last week, we've participated in two sporting events. A group of children represented the school in a seated volleyball tournament at the Aspire Centre. Additionally, our netball players participated in an event at Pinner Wood School. Both groups of children competed well, and represented the school superbly. Well done!



Last week, two brothers from Pinner Park reached the final of the Jack Petchey West London Schools Table Tennis Championship. It is an incredible achievement to have finished winner and runner-up. Congratulations!

On Tuesday, a group of guitarists from Pinner Park performed at the Harrow Guitar Festival. The children worked hard to practice and prepare their pieces, and they were a credit to the school. Fabulous!

We've also had some super dance and African drumming performances from our Year 2 children. Great stuff!

Well done to all these groups of children!



Your views are important to us

As a school, we are very keen to work in partnership with parents. Working together leads to the very best outcomes for the children in our care.

We have set up a survey for parents which is in three parts:

1. General feedback about the school – your views on a range of important aspects of school life.
2. Your feedback to support the Governing Board in establishing a vision for the school going forward.
3. Some specific views about 'play', as we start a programme to improve the quality of play at Pinner Park alongside OPAL (outdoor play and learning).



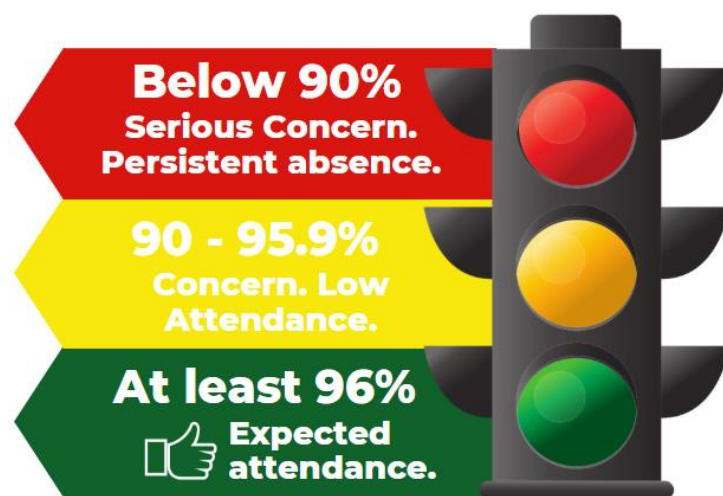
We are not waiting for the end of the school year to raise these questions because we are keen to act on your thoughts and suggestions straight away! We are seeking feedback from staff and children on these issues too.

We always try and make improvements as a result of feedback from our stakeholders. For example, last year parents told the school that they would like stronger communication (especially using new technologies). We responded by re-vamping our communications – rolling out electronic communications for the whole school, introduction of the weekly 'Pinner Park Post, and having a social media presence.

The link to the online questionnaire is: <http://bit.ly/ParentCarerSurvey2020>

We would really appreciate your views and comments. Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to complete the survey.

Attendance: Every Day Counts!



As you know, excellent attendance is vital in order for children to do well at school. This is why we are setting an attendance target of 96%. This reflects the national attendance for primary schools in England.

We expect every child to achieve an attendance rate of at least 96% (and some will have higher attendance).

Your child will bring home a letter today which highlights their current attendance percentage for the school year.

Well done to all those children and families who have received 'green' letters. We even have some children who have 100% attendance – never absent and never late – this is tremendous!

If we can help to improve your child's attendance in any way, please do let us know.

Play at Pinner Park

We are working hard to improve the quality of play at Pinner Park. Breaktimes and lunchtime play are such an important part of the day for the children.

As part of this development, we will be providing a wider range of resources for the children to play with.

After half term, we don't want children to bring in toys, balls or games from home. We are worried that these items sometimes get lost or damaged in school. We will make sure that the children have lots of things to play with, and also are taught some new games to play.



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.

News in Brief

Our next **parent and teacher consultations** will take place after half term, on Wednesday 26 February and Tuesday 3 March. To book an appointment with your child's teacher, please use SchoolPing. Appointment times are available to book.

The **500 Words writing competition** is now open to any child who will be aged between 5 and 13 years on the 12th June 2020. More information, ideas for stories, and information about how to enter can be found online: www.bbc.co.uk/500words.



We took **'Idling Action'** yesterday. Vehicle Idling Action is a London-wide behaviour change campaign which is helping to reduce localised air pollution caused by motorists leaving their engines running when parked. Our Year 5 students learnt about air quality through a workshop, then our 'Healthy Heroes' took to the streets to speak to drivers at pick up time. Please switch your engines off outside school, even if you are stopping for a short period of time.

Tomorrow, 14 February, is an INSET Day at Pinner Park.

The school will be closed to children. School will re-open on Monday 24 February.

World Book Day – Advance Notice and Challenges!

World Book Day is the biggest celebration of its kind, anywhere. It is a big, loud, happy celebration of reading, writing and storytelling. We really want to do our part to help make this Book Day, on 5 March, the best World Book Day ever.

The teachers and support staff will be planning lots of activities for the day and we'll share those with the children after half term.

There are two things that you may want to get thinking about over half term:



Extreme Reading Challenge

Will you take on an Extreme Reading Challenge? Challenge yourself to read a book in an unusual place - somewhere really out of the ordinary – take a picture and email it to office@pinnerpark.harrow.sch.uk and put 'Extreme Reading Photo' as the subject line.

A display will be made from the photos and we will also put them on the school website for everyone to see. Please only send us a photo of your child if you are happy for it to be shared on our website (no names will be given).

Half term is an excellent opportunity to get your picture so start thinking now about an odd, strange, unusual, crazy or extreme place to be caught reading! Whether it is up a tree, on top of a mountain or stood on their head, we want your photos!

You might recognise the young man in the photo. He is reading on the Flying Fish roller coaster at Thorpe Park!



Obviously, we encourage you to keep safe (we wouldn't recommend reading in the jaws of a crocodile) but we are really looking forward to seeing who in school has such a passion for reading that they have to do it anywhere and everywhere!

Potato Book Characters

We invite you to decorate, or dress up, a potato as a book character and bring it into school on World Book Day (5 March). We'll display the characters and also photograph them from our school website.

Perhaps you'd like to choose a character from your favourite book? Who will it be? It will be great fun guessing who all our potatoes are dressed as!

Both activities are entirely optional, and for fun! We look forward to seeing your pictures and potatoes!

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Advice for parents and carers

We have been asked to circulate the following letter to all parents by Public Health (Harrow).

Dear Parents and Carers,

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus.

There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school or further education setting as normal.

If you are intending to travel abroad this half term

We recognise that some families or children may be planning to travel abroad this half term to countries where there is a higher risk of transmission.

The affected countries are: China, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

If so, please refer to <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/news/498/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-update> for the latest travel advice.

Returning from abroad or visitors from abroad

Anyone travelling to UK from Wuhan or Hubei Province in the past 14 days should stay indoors and call NHS 111, even if they have no symptoms.

Anyone who has travelled to the UK from the countries listed above in the last 14 days and is experiencing cough or fever or shortness of breath, should stay indoors and call NHS 111, even if symptoms are mild.

Public Health England has also issued general advice for members of the public <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public#advice-for-travellers>

What actions can everyone take

A UK wide campaign has been launched to provide clear advice on how to slow the spread of Coronavirus.

Please help to support the campaign which promotes basic hygiene practices to stem the spread of viruses: these include regularly washing hands with soap and water and always sneezing or coughing into a tissue and then disposing of it.

Further information is available from <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/> which is updated regularly.

Carole Furlong

Director of Public Health