

The Pinner Park Post



Volume 1 | Issue 21 | Friday 28 February 2020

Lent, Kindness and '28 Days'

On Monday, we talked to the children in assembly about Shrove Tuesday and Lent.

Lent is a period of time in the Christian church calendar which starts on 'Ash Wednesday' and leads up to Easter every year. Traditionally, Christians mark Lent by giving something up, but what if we could do more than that?

During the 28 school days of Lent we're inviting our children, staff and families to take part in simple acts of kindness. We're 'giving something back' instead of 'giving something up'.

Small acts of kindness, performed by everyone in our school and community, has the power to make a big change to our school, community and, ultimately, to our world.

Attached to this newsletter is a family chart which you can use at home. Let's get the wave of kindness moving all over Pinner!

Best wishes,

Nick Waldron

Headteacher



Your views are important to us

Thank you to all those parents who have already taken the time to complete our survey. Your views are really important to us and we will read each response carefully.

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!

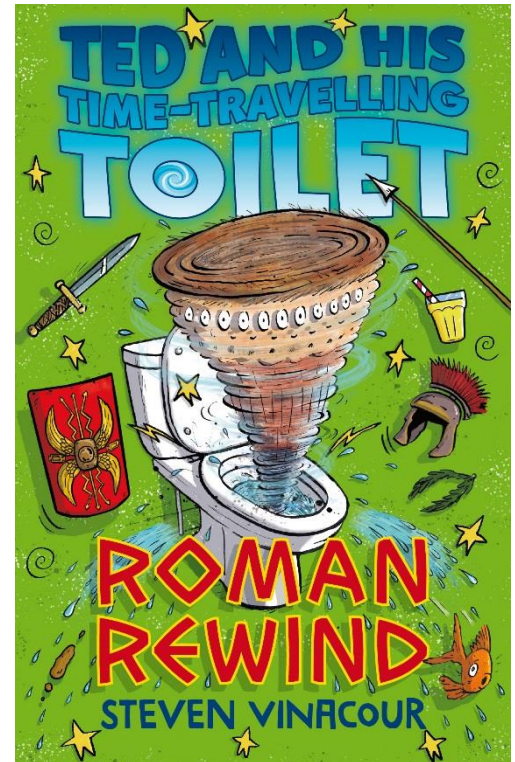
The survey is very quick and easy to complete - the link to the online survey is: <http://bit.ly/ParentCarerSurvey2020>



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

Author Visit

We are delighted to be hosting a very exciting event on Monday March 9th. Comedian and children's TV writer Steven Vinacour has accepted our invitation to visit Pinner Park during the afternoon. Our Year 3 and 4 children will meet him during a special assembly, followed by an after-school book signing. As Steven is celebrating the publication of his very first book for children, Ted and his time-travelling toilet: Roman Rewind, he will be talking about the process of becoming an author and the inspiration for his new book series in a session focussing on reading for pleasure.



“It was an obvious choice to start the series with the Romans. If you had a crisis at school, who better to seek advice from than the Romans? They invented so much...Sanitation, Heating, The Calendar, Vegetables, Elephants, Grass, Nintendo Switch and Crunchy Nut Corn Flakes. But what is important is that what this book lacks in historical accuracy it more than makes up for in silliness.”

Steven Vinacour, Author

Steven's new book will be available for sale at the event, and he has kindly agreed to sign any books purchased. This will be available to all students, not just those in Years 3 and 4.

The books are being supplied by the local independent bookseller, Brenda Parkhouse, who has generously provided copies for our school library and discounted the price so that the book will be available for £6.

In order to avoid disappointment, if you would like to order a copy in advance, please return the slip below with payment in a named envelope. Any commission from sales will benefit our library. Thank you for your support.

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Book Order form: Steven Vinacour visit to Pinner Park, Monday 9 March, 2020

Ted and his time-travelling Toilet: Roman Rewind

All purchases will be signed by Steven and advance orders will be ready to collect after the event. Please indicate below how many copies you require, and the name and any message (e.g. Happy Birthday) that you would like Steven to write inside the book.

Cheques should be made payable to: Brenda Parkhouse. Please return the order form as soon as possible to your class teacher (and by Friday 6th March at the latest).

| Child's name (block capitals please) | Class | No. of Copies | Total payment | Dedication, if required (e.g. Happy Birthday) |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---------------|---------------|---|
| | | | | |

Play Time Toys and Balls

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 our change, 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.



Extreme Reading Challenge



Thanks to all those children who have already taken the challenge – you can see the photos here:

<http://pinnerpark.harrow.sch.uk/news-blog/extreme-reading>

If you find yourself reading 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).



Get 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!

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!

Covid-19 Guidance

We have had a few queries about the recent outbreak of Covid-19 (Coronavirus).

We will continue to follow the advice from the government and we advise parents to use the following web link for up to date information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>.

Please remember that the advice is regularly updated.

If parents or families have returned from visits abroad, please follow the advice on the government website.

We will continue to remind all our staff, children and families about sensible hygiene precautions including the use of tissues and hand-washing (see below). This is not new - this is good, all year round, advice!



World Book Day – Thursday 5 March

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 have planned lots of activities for different year groups during the day. These activities include classes pairing up across the school to share books together, and Key Stage 2 classes taking part in a 'book tasting' (no eating involved!)

We'll also be giving out £1 World Book Day book tokens on the day.

In addition to our Extreme Reading photos (see above), there are a few things which will need your help...

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!

Pyjama Day – Bedtime and Cosy Reading

We invite all our children (and staff!) to wear their pyjamas for the day, and to bring a cuddly toy if they wish!

During the day, children in EYFS and Years 1 – 4 will have the opportunity to do 'Bedtime Stories', and year 5 and 6 will do some 'Cosy Reading' (with a blanket and torch if they want to!).

Extreme reading, potatoes and dressing up are entirely optional, and for fun!



Zebra Crossing – Please Take Care!



If you are crossing Melbourne Avenue, please use the zebra crossing.

If you are driving, please be extra vigilant and stop completely if there is someone waiting to cross. Please wait until they have crossed the road until moving on.

Pedestrians should always check that the traffic has stopped before starting to cross.

PTA MEETING

Friday 6 March | 9am – 10am | Lower School Staff Room | All Welcome!

Wallchart for Home

We are running our scheme for 28 school days – but there are more ideas here so that you can continue at home. Tick them off as you go. You can do them in any order!



| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Tidy up your room without being asked | Send a letter or picture to a grandparent, relation or family friend | Cut down your screen time – tv, internet or games, and suggest playing a family game together | Collect food and canned goods and take it to Harrow Foodbank | Try to spend a whole day without arguing with anyone |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Save energy. Turn off lights, TV and chargers when you leave a room | If someone in your family has done something special for you, write them a thank you note | Do chores without complaining | Make some biscuits or sweets to give to your family as a gift | Say something nice about someone |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Make an extra effort to smile more today | Make a note saying something nice for members of your family and hide them in a place they will find them | Set the table and clear away or do the washing up without being asked | Pick up litter outside your home, or somewhere else (ask an adult – be safe!) | Be generous with your words, pay a compliment to a family member or friend |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Talk to someone who needs a friend | Help with the washing up without being asked | Write a letter or email to someone from your family who you haven't seen for a while | Make a present or a scrap book for a relative – include things that they like | Read to someone |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| Play a game with a brother, sister or friend | Help to make a meal and to serve it to your family | Open a door for someone today | Pray for someone you know, or tell them that you are thinking of them | Bake a cake and share it with friends |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| Say thank you to someone who helps you all the time | Make a list of things that you are thankful for | Find a toy or book you no longer use and give it to someone as a gift | Write a story for someone | Make a card for someone – an Easter card, a thank you card, or just a 'hello' card |