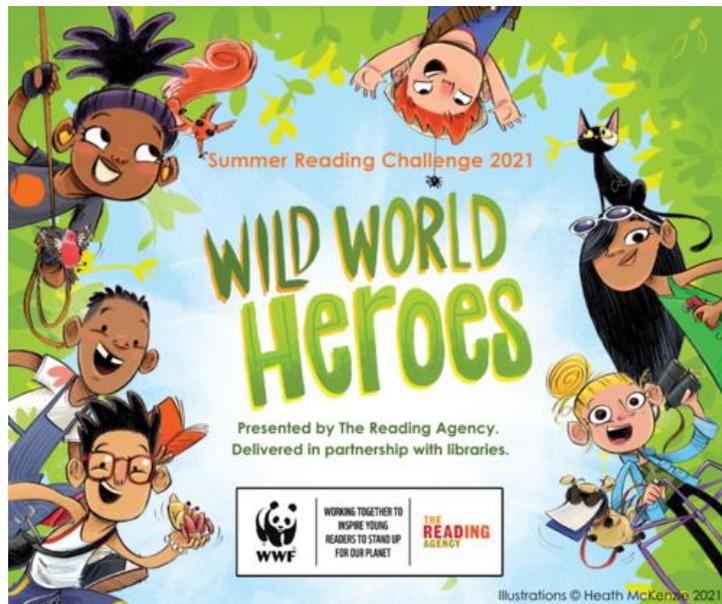


Summer Reading Challenge

We are encouraging pupils to take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge organised via our local library service. This year's theme is Wild World Heroes. More information can be found at the following link: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/wild-world-heroes-intro> or visit our local library.



When we return to school in September we will be awarding 30 house points to every child who has completed the Challenge. Bring your certificate into school to claim your points.

Reading

Reading has also been high on the agenda at school over the last few weeks with our long awaited visit from Julia Jarman and taking part in the digital Hay Festival for children. Each class enjoyed a different workshop at the Hay Festival. Kestrels and Swifts thought about creating characters who are opposites after listening to Zanib Mian share her inspiration for the Planet Omar stories. Robins were thrilled when they received a message from Joseph Coelho who gave a recital of their Abecedarian poem about farm animals.

On Thursday 28th May, Julia Jarman visited school and inspired children with her stories. Wren's were very excited to hear Julia read their favourite class story Big Red Bath and Owls asked some very engaging questions about Julia's life as an author. It was a wonderful visit and Julia was full of energy and very inspiring. A great afternoon to celebrate and enjoy books.



Summer Weather

We are enjoying beautiful summer weather. If your child is coming to school in sandals, please ensure that socks are also worn especially if the sandals have open toes. A reminder that flip flop and croc style footwear are not allowed.



There is very little shade on the school field so sunhats to wear at break time and lunchtime would also be useful – please make sure these are named! **Suncream should be applied before pupils come to school in the morning** as we are unable to apply suncream in school. Most children's suncreams will last the whole day. Sunglasses for hayfever sufferers may also be helpful.

Please also make sure that your child brings their water bottle to school each day.

Many thanks for your support.



Pupil Premium Funding and Free School Meals

- Have your circumstances changed?
- Have you been furloughed?
- Is your child moving into Year 3 in September?

Schools across the country are reporting an increase in Free School Meal applications due to the effects of lockdown and subsequent job losses and reduced working hours. If your circumstances have changed and you would like help in applying for Free School Meals, please speak to Mrs Fenner, Mrs Bailey or Mrs Keech in the school office in strict confidence. We would also like to reassure parents that Free School Meals information is dealt with sensitively and on a need to know basis.

Since the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals for Key Stage 1 pupils, there has been a significant reduction in the number of families applying for Pupil Premium/Free School Meals funding when their child starts school. If you have a child who is moving into Year 3, school meals will begin to be chargeable. Therefore if you think you might be eligible to apply for Free School Meals, please visit the following website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or click on the following link [Free schools meals](#)

As a school we also benefit financially from funding for Pupil Premium pupils so even if your child is in Key Stage 1 we would encourage you to apply. Not only will the school receive additional funds, it also saves you having to remember to apply when your child moves into Year 3. If you need any additional information, please speak to Mrs Fenner, Mrs Bailey or Mrs Keech in confidence.



Farewell!

Mrs MacKellar will be leaving us at the end of term and we wish her well as she relocates to be nearer to family.

We are starting the recruitment process to find her replacement and will keep you informed of progress.

Mrs MacKellar first worked at Pirton School as a temporary supply teacher and ended up staying with us for several years! We thank her for all her hard work during her time at Pirton School and wish her good luck with her future plans.



Summer Events

Health & Safety advice from the Local Authority remains to plan very carefully for events in school for the remainder of the term. The message is that what may be possible or permissible under the current rules may not necessarily be feasible depending on each school's individual circumstances.

We will do our best to ensure children enjoy their last few weeks of this school year and will try to involve families if possible whilst also following restrictions and our Risk Assessment.



Covid-19

Whilst government restrictions are easing we also know that Covid cases are rising in some parts of the country including nearby Bedford. We would ask parents to continue to be vigilant and report any cases which directly affect the school and our class bubbles by contacting the school office either by telephone or email as soon as possible. Thank you for your help.



Term Dates 2021-2022

Autumn Term 2021

Wednesday 1 September – Tuesday 21 December 2021
Half Term: Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October 2021
INSET Day: Wednesday 1 September 2021
OCCASIONAL Day: Friday 26 November 2021

Spring Term 2022

Wednesday 5 January – Friday 1 April 2022
Half Term: Monday 14 February – Friday 18 February 2022
INSET Day: Wednesday 5 January 2022

Summer Term 2022

Tuesday 19 April – Friday 22 July 2022
Half Term: Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June 2022
INSET Day: Tuesday 19 April 2022
Bank Holiday: Monday 2 May 2022
INSET Day: Friday 27 May 2022
INSET Day: Monday 6 June 2022