

School Council

Congratulations to our newly elected School Councillors.

Wrens: Poppy and Rory
Robins: Charlie, Isabelle, Cassie and Charley-May
Swifts: Adelaide and Jessica
Kestrels: Harriot and Reece
Owls: Edie and Milan

School Councillors meet regularly with Mrs Perry and one of their first tasks is to decide on a charity to support during this academic year. Further news to follow.



New Website

Our new website has been launched! Please take a look at www.pirtonschool.org.uk

If you have any feedback you would like to share with us, please email the school office on admin@pirton.herts.sch.uk



Key Stage 1 Helpers

Further to our message in the October newsletter we are still keen to welcome helpers back into school. This will need to be put on hold temporarily following recent advice from the local authority about restricting visitors into school. However, these restrictions won't last forever and we can continue to carry out our checks in anticipation of being able to allow helpers (parents, grandparents and friends from the village community) back into the classroom.

If you would like to help out in school we are particularly looking for helpers for our Key Stage 1 classes – Wrens, Robins and Swifts. All volunteers need to be DBS checked to comply with our safeguarding procedures. We will also need to take up character references. DBS checks can be arranged with Mrs Bailey via the school office.

If you are interested, please talk to your child's class teacher about what help you may be able to offer. We need help on numerous occasions, for example, swimming, school trips, reading, curriculum workshops, etc.



Open Days for Prospective Parents

We are hosting two opportunities for prospective parents to look round the school prior to making applications for Reception places for September 2022. In view of recent Local Authority guidance we have slightly changed the format of these sessions. Visitors are requested to wear face coverings and will be seated socially distanced in the school hall. At the end of this meeting, tours of the outside of the school building will be arranged. Unfortunately we will not be able to show parents around the classrooms. Members of staff and school governors will be on hand to answer any questions or individual concerns.

Dates and time are as follows:

Tuesday 16 November 2021 - 1.30 to 3pm
Wednesday 17 November 2021 - 9.30 to 11am

Please let friends, family and neighbours know of these dates.

Primary Admissions

The application process for primary admissions for children born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 opened on Monday 1 November 2021 with the closing date deadline of 15 January 2022.

Online applications can be made on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions.



Shoebox Appeal

A reminder that we are once again supporting the Samaritan's Purse Pack a Shoe Box Appeal. Leaflets have already been sent home giving further details. If you would like to donate a Shoebox, please follow the instructions in the leaflet and return your box to Zoe Railton at 14 Crabtree Lane, Pirton by 11th November.



Pumpkin Winners!

The school's prize pumpkin in the village Pumpkin Show weigh-in competition!

There were also some lovely entries for the PPTA Pumpkin Colouring Competition. Prizes were distributed to all class winners.



Online Safety News

A copy of the Herts for Learning Autumn Term Online Safety News information is being sent out with this newsletter. Please feel free to pass on the information to family and friends as it contains lots of useful tips and advice.



Online Safety Policy

Pirton Governors have recently ratified the latest Online Safety policy for schools and a copy is attached to this newsletter. A requirement of the policy is that all staff, governors and parents sign a copy of the relevant Acceptable Use Agreements promising to comply with requirements of the policy.

A copy of the Agreement for parents to sign and online safety rules for pupils is also attached. Please return a signed copy to the school office by the end of November. If you would like a printed copy of the Agreement, please email the school office and a copy will be sent home with your child. The online safety policy outlines measures to ensure that everyone in school remains safe.

House Captains

Elections for this academic year have now been concluded. Congratulations to our Captains and Vice-Captains!

Motte

House Captain: Alex Williams
Vice House Captain: Jessica Manson

Blacksmiths

House Captain: George Lewis
Vice House Captain: Emily Wilson

Highdown

House Captain: Annabelle Brown
Vice House Captain: Bailey Pearce

Bury

House Captain: Edie Rees
Vice House Captain: Jake Ramsey

Covid Precautions

Last week we sent out information received from the local authority and Public Health Hertfordshire advising schools to increase their Covid-19 precautions including asking all visitors into the school building to wear face coverings.

Positive tests are increasing across Hertfordshire and we would ask parents to be vigilant and to go for a PCR test if anyone in the family is showing symptoms.

We have increased our daily Covid cleaning protocols and will be asking pupils to wash or sanitise hands throughout the school day. We would really appreciate your support so that we can continue to provide a safe environment for our staff and pupils.



Autumn Term Dates 2021

Thursday 11 November	Remembrance Day Assembly
15-19 November	Anti-Bullying Week 'One Kind Word'
Monday 15 November	5-8pm Swifts Parent Consultation meetings rearranged
Tuesday 16 November	1.30-3pm Open Afternoon 5-8pm Parent Consultation Meetings rearranged
Wednesday 17 November	9.30-11am Open Morning
Thursday 18 November	3.30-6pm Parent Consultation Meetings rearranged
Friday 19 November	Children in Need - £1 voluntary donation
Friday 26 November	Occasional Day – School closed
Friday 3 December	9am – Kestrels Class Assembly Christmas Crafts Afternoon
Thursday 9 December	2.15pm and 6pm Key Stage 1 Nativity
Friday 10 December	Whole School visit to the panto
Tuesday 14 December	2.30pm and 6.30pm Key Stage 2 Carol Concert
Thursday 16 December	Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children - £1 voluntary donation Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 21 December	PPTA Non Uniform Day - £1 voluntary donation End of Term

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: Thursday 26 May
Additional Day in lieu of Jubilee Bank Holiday: Friday 27 May 2022
INSET Day: Monday 6 June 2022