



## Newsletter 10 – 9<sup>th</sup> February

### ‘Transforming lives through inspirational learning’

The weather has certainly reminded us that we are still very much in winter despite the early spring signs of longer days and snowdrops. Although we have avoided the snow (much to the disgust of many of our children!) we have certainly been drenched this week.

Please do remember to send your child in with a suitable warm coat. We endeavour to ensure that children get as much fresh air as possible at break-times, so although the rain may have eased the playground will still be wet.

Playing outside gives your child the chance to explore the natural environment and have adventures. Your child can play games, test their physical limits, express themselves and build their self-confidence. Outdoor play can also mean more mess, and more mess often means more fun! So inevitably, there will be occasions where children get muddy and grubby but it is all part of their exciting learning journey.

### Swimming Gala

Some of our Year 5 and 6 children had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Forest Heath Sports Partnership Swimming Gala at Newmarket Leisure Centre. The whole team demonstrated great ‘Character’ especially showing great determination in a very competitive event. The whole Pines community is extremely proud of them.

### Communication

We have recently been reviewing our parent survey results and we would like to thank every who took the time to complete it. While the majority of feedback is positive it is clear that communication has been highlighted as an area that requires further development.

As we continue to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of education and parenting effective communication remains paramount. We understand the importance of staying connected with you to ensure the success and well-being of your children.

The last parent survey highlighted several areas to develop which we have been working on:

#### The Pines Website

Our new website was launched this year and continues to grow in content. We are working with the relevant agencies to try and get the online calendar to synchronize with other apps (as our previous calendar did)

#### Facebook Page

People highlighted that this was a popular method of communicating events and reminders so we have developed both the content and frequency of posts to hopefully improve this area. Please follow our page and interact with our posts so that we can continue to monitor our levels of engagement.

#### MCAS

My Child at School was also introduced last academic year to bring a lot of information together in one place, under the 'Announcements' tab. We are aware that some people are not receiving notifications about events and are looking into this.

#### School Newsletter

Some parents felt overwhelmed by the volume of information that we are sharing, therefore the newsletter is now sent out on a fortnightly basis. Our data has shown that more of our community are now accessing this document.

We also continue to have staff out in the playground at the various points before and after school. We appreciate that it isn't always timely or appropriate to speak to teachers then but if do you require a phone call or meeting please let the office know and we will be more than happy to facilitate this.

We completely understand parents need to for as much notice as possible for school events and are reviewing our procedures to ensure this happens. For example, several parents raised that the 'Meet the Teacher' evenings at the start of the academic year are too short notice, so we will share these dates with you before the end of this academic year.

By utilizing these communication channels effectively, we can work together to ensure that your child receives the support and guidance they need to thrive academically and socially. Your involvement and partnership are instrumental in fostering a positive learning environment for everyone and we would like to thank you for your continued feedback.

### **Worries and Anxieties Workshop**

Thank you to those who came along to the 'Supporting your child with worries and anxieties' session. For those unable to attend the slides will soon be added to our digital wellbeing hub which you can access using this link:

<https://padlet.com/familywellbeing/family-wellbeing-hub-q8vt5427kh4q3zkb>

Please keep an eye out for future events and further information around our 'Parent Talk' programme, which we hope will take place later on this year.

Rachael (Family Wellbeing Lead)

## Number Day

We're thrilled to share the wonderful success of Number Day, which took place last week! Our pupils enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to dive into the world of mathematics through engaging activities and challenges. It was heartwarming to witness our children celebrating our learning values by Collaborating, Communicating, Creating and having fun while honing their mathematical skills. We extend our gratitude to all the team and parents who contributed to making Number Day a memorable and enriching experience for everyone involved. Here's to cultivating a lifelong love for all things numerical!

## PFA Upcoming Events

The PFA have a range of wonderful experiences and events coming up throughout this half term. Please see below for more information:

<b>THE PINES PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION</b> <b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b> <b>15</b>	<b>Sweetshop</b> stop by for some yummy sweets!
	<b>FEBRUARY</b> <b>29</b>	<b>Leap Day raffle</b> A chance to win passes to local activities!
	<b>MARCH</b> <b>6</b>	<b>Pre-loved book sale</b> Help us raise money to purchase books for our library
	<b>MARCH</b> <b>21</b>	<b>Bags 2 school collection day</b> Drop off clothes you don't need anymore.
	<b>MARCH</b> <b>28</b>	<b>Egg Decorating Contest</b> decorate a hard boiled egg bring it to school . £1 to enter

You can also join The Pines Parents and Friends Association (PFA) Facebook group to keep up-to-date with their activities, and please see the flyers attached to this newsletter.

## Parent Consultations

Just a quick reminder that our parent consultation booking system went live on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February and it will close on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February. The sessions will take place in person after half term and will be a chance for you to hear about your child's progress at this midpoint in the year.

After considering feedback, we will be holding the Parent Consultations in the school hall and entry will be via the door next to our main entrance. As always, please do not bring children with you to these appointments.

## Headteacher's Awards

Our recent proud recipients:



## Dates:

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Half Term  
World Book Day  
Last Day of Term