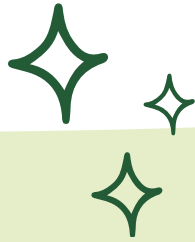




SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 9

17TH JANUARY



‘Transforming lives through inspirational learning’

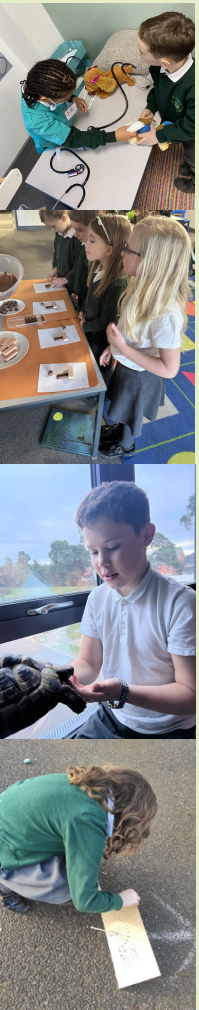
Welcome to 2025 at The Pines! We have an exciting learning adventure ahead.

ENGAGE AND EMPOWER

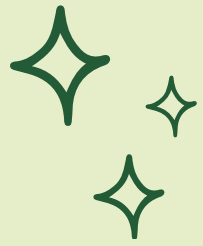
Our Engage and Empower days continue to thrive, and it was a delight to showcase the children’s learning experiences during our celebration assembly on Friday.

In Reception, the children enjoyed cosy hot chocolate and bedtime stories, fostering a love for reading in a warm, inviting atmosphere. Year 1 transformed into veterinarians, learning about animal care and compassion. Meanwhile, Year 2 took an exciting journey as they boarded a plane, exploring the wonders of travel and adventure! Year 3 transported themselves back to Ancient Egypt, diving deep into the rich history and culture of this fascinating civilization. In Year 4, students crafted inspirational resolutions, envisioning their future goals and aspirations. Year 5 celebrated the spirit of sportsmanship by recreating events inspired by the Olympics, and Year 6 embarked on a journey to the Galápagos Islands, discovering the unique wildlife that inhabits this incredible location.

Throughout these activities, we were fortunate to have several special guests join us, from pilots to tortoises, adding an extra layer of excitement and learning to the day!



Our learning themes for this term continue:



Reception: What happens when I fall asleep?

Year 1: Feathers, furs, paws and claws.

Year 2: Who was Amy Johnson?

Year 3: Walk like an Egyptian!

Year 4: Anglo Saxons: Betrayals, Battles and Bloodshed

Year 5: The World of Ancient Greeks

Year 6: Ocean Exploration...

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Although, we have only just returned we are already planning events throughout the whole school for the rest of the term and thought it may be helpful to provide advance notice of our parent consultation sessions taking place on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th of February.

The booking system for these will open on the 27th January at 6pm via MCAS.

OPAL

Our Opal provision continues to flourish, with this week showcasing some fantastic engagement in our ball skills area in the playground court. It's wonderful to see children from Reception to Year 6 coming together and developing a range of essential skills, including throwing, catching, shooting, batting, and bowling. This inclusive playtime has been a highlight of the week, and we're so proud to see our children building friendships and learning together.

Excitement is building for our upcoming external performance/stage area and this week's Play Assembly gave the children a sneak peek at our new play zones. They'll soon have the option to vote for either a Mud Café or a Large Scale Construction area, both designed to inspire creativity, imagination, and physical activity.

The children are eagerly anticipating their new play options and are already thinking critically about how to make the most of each space.

Our children are also demonstrating a remarkable level of maturity and responsibility with regards to our climbing frames. After conducting their own Benefit Risk Assessments, they've identified potential hazards and suggested ways to mitigate them, such as managing crowds and providing hand protection. As a result, they're now free to play on the climbing equipment at any time, without restrictions. This is a testament to their growing awareness of health and safety and their ability to think critically about their play.

It was great to meet our new Play Champions. We're confident they will lead by example and inspire their peers to take ownership of our outdoor learning environment.

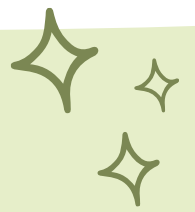
A special mention goes to our Year 5 students, who received the coveted Golden Broom Award for their exceptional tidy-up skills and dedication to supporting our outdoor learning environment. Your hard work and commitment to keeping our playground tidy and safe is truly appreciated!



As we head into the new year, it's essential we're all prepared for the ever changing weather. Please ensure your child has a warm, water-resistant coat in school to keep them dry and comfortable during outdoor play.

A gentle reminder: we do encourage the children to wear minimal jewellery in school, for safety reasons. Our policy for wearing of jewellery in PE and outdoor learning can be found [here](#). Thank you for your continued support.





ATTENDANCE

The Department for Education (DfE) remains committed to enhancing school attendance, and at The Pines, we are equally dedicated to supporting families in this important area. We strive to meet the diverse needs of all our students, including those with medical conditions, ensuring they can return to school as promptly as possible. If you are aware of any potential long-term medical issues that may affect your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

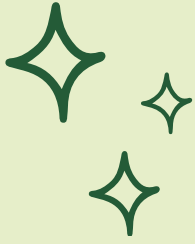
We understand that many families may have booked holidays last year prior to the DfE's policy changes; however, we are unable to authorise absences for holidays taken during term time. If an absence meets the criteria for non-attendance, a fine may be issued. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

READING STARS



Building on the success of our 'Stars in the Jar' initiative, we are excited to announce the upcoming launch of our new 'Reading Stars' rewards program! Stay tuned for more details coming soon. In the meantime, we're continuing to explore our vibrant reading curriculum, engaging with a diverse range of captivating texts that inspire a love for reading.





PFA NEWS



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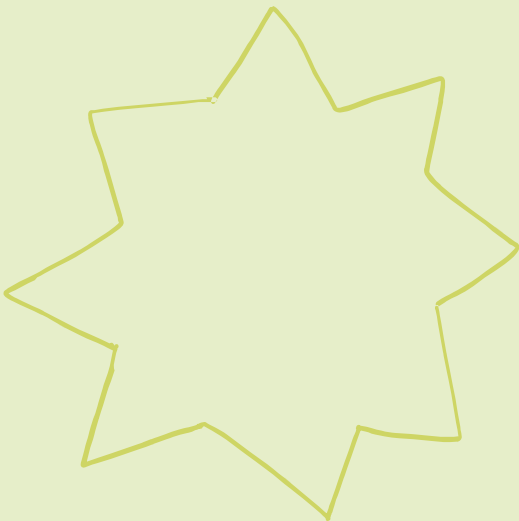
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



21st
Jan

Wonderdome visiting Reception Class

6th
Feb

9-10am SEND / Wellbeing Cafe

7th
Feb

Number Day - more information to be sent home soon.

12th &
13th
Feb

Parent Consultations - booking via MCAS available
27th January

17th
Feb

Half Term

24th -
27th
Feb

Y5 Bikeability

6th
March

World Book Day - more information to be sent home soon

