

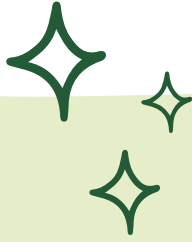


SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 18

20TH JUNE



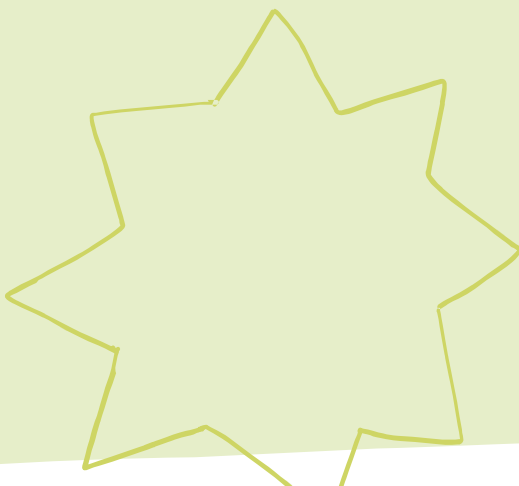
'Transforming lives through inspirational learning'



As we move further into the final half term of the school year, the energy and excitement around school continues to grow. It's a joy to see our children so engaged in their learning, taking part in activities that stretch their thinking, build their confidence, and create lasting memories.

This time of year brings a wonderful blend of reflection and celebration. From end-of-year projects, trips and performances to class events and transition activities, there's so much happening across the school that highlights just how far our pupils have come. You should have received a letter earlier this week outlining some of the key events planned — these dates have also been added to the "Diary Dates" section at the end of this newsletter for easy reference.

We look forward to sharing more of these special moments with you in the weeks ahead. Thank you, as always, for being such a vital part of our school community — your encouragement and support mean so much to the children and staff alike





OPAL UPDATE

Unfortunately, due to low interest, we had to cancel the Opal/Landscaping event scheduled for Tuesday. However, we're still excited to share some updates about our OPAL playtime initiative with you.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) encourages imaginative, active, and child-led play, and there are many wonderful videos that explain its ethos and vision. We hope to upload some footage showcasing how OPAL is coming to life here at The Pines! In the meantime, here's a glimpse of OPAL in action at another school: [Watch here.](#)

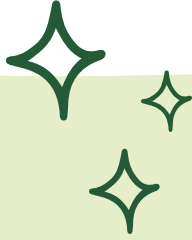
We also want to extend a huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Horka, who generously dedicated their time and effort — even in the hot sunshine — to complete our new stage. We're so grateful for their hard work, and we know the children will love performing there during lunchtimes, whatever the weather!





We are also introducing bikes to our OPAL Play. We have carried out a benefit risk assessment to ensure the children can use them safely. If you have any bikes in good working order that you would like to donate, please get in touch.





NEW ADVENTURES AWAIT: PLAYGROUND REDEVELOPMENT BEGINS!

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news with you. On Friday, 13th June, we received official confirmation that our long-awaited planning permission has been granted! After a detailed and complex process, we can finally move forward with the redevelopment of our school grounds.

To ensure the work is completed efficiently and with minimal disruption to our pupils, some of the minor preparatory work will begin from 7th July. We will take every care to keep any interruptions to the children's playtime as limited as possible.

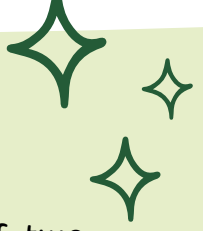
Our exciting plans include a combination of safe, durable rubber surfacing, astro turf areas, and dedicated planting and wildlife zones to create a vibrant and engaging outdoor space. The children will also benefit from a large sandpit, a digging area, a tunnel, and comfortable seating integrated into the natural mounds around the playground.

In addition, to enhance the biodiversity of our school grounds, our Trust will be installing raised planters, and this autumn we will be planting new trees to increase shade. We will also be sowing meadow grass to encourage wildlife and create a beautiful, natural environment for the children to enjoy.

We can't wait to see the transformation unfold and watch our pioneers enjoy their improved outdoor spaces.



GREENER CHOICES – UNIFORM UPDATE...



We're always keen to listen to parent feedback — and as a mum of two boys who somehow still manage to come home covered in mud despite now being teenagers, I completely understand the need for practical solutions!

In response to suggestions from our parent community, we're pleased to let you know that we are now introducing an optional bottle green polo shirt to wear alongside the existing white ones. This small change should help make uniforms a little more durable and manageable — especially for our more adventurous pupils!

Both bottle green and white polo shirts can usually be found at large supermarkets and online retailers, making them affordable and easy to source.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our pioneers feel smart, comfortable, and ready to learn.



EVERY DAY COUNTS: THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE



At The Pines, we know that good attendance is key to helping every child thrive — academically, socially, and emotionally. Being in school every day helps children stay connected with their learning, their friends, and the wider school community.

As attendance is a legal requirement, we are not able to authorise holidays during term time. While we absolutely understand the financial pressures many families are currently facing, the Department for Education states that cost-related reasons do not count as ‘exceptional circumstances’. This means that any term-time holidays must be recorded as unauthorised, and fines will be issued by Suffolk Local Authority — these are processed by and paid directly to them.

It's important to note that:

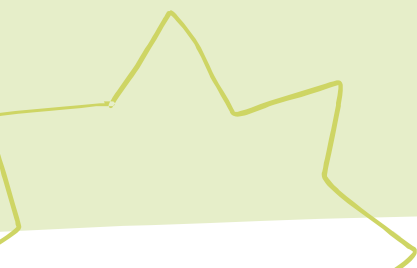
- If your child is absent and we don't receive a reason, the absence will be marked as unauthorised.
- If we have reason to believe an absence is due to a holiday — even if reported as illness — it will still be recorded as unauthorised in line with national guidance.

We are required to follow our attendance policy, which is monitored by our Trust, Suffolk Local Authority, and the Department for Education.

Our shared goal is always to support every child in getting the most from their education.

For more information, and to download a Leave of Absence Request Form, please visit <https://pinesprimary.org/parents/late-absence-procedure/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch — we're always happy to help.



OUR SHARING SHED IS OFFICIALLY OPEN EVERY AFTERNOON FROM 3PM

(NEAR THE KS2 BIKESHED)

DONATIONS OF FOOD
AND ESSENTIALS
WELCOME



IT'S FOR EVERYONE
SO PLEASE
HELP YOURSELF



HELP US TO
REDUCE
FOOD WASTE



SHARING
IS
CARING



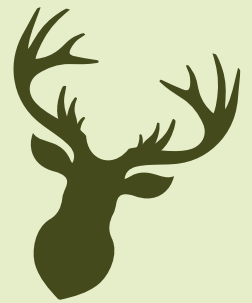
TAKE WHAT YOU NEED, LEAVE WHAT YOU CAN





Year 6
invites you to
Express yourself!

23/06/25



Hey Pines Pioneers, Parents and Carers! We're still trying to raise money for our Year 6 residential trip, and we need your help! On 23rd June, we invite the Pines Pupils to show off their unique style and to express themselves! Whether it's a funky hairstyle, a crazy hat, or anything else that shows off their personality. Here's how you can help! Each way you express yourself will cost just 50p. Or, go all out and express yourself in multiple ways for only £2! Bring your money to school on Monday, 23rd of June to support our trip. Every little bit helps, and we really appreciate your support. Thanks so much for helping us make this residential trip unforgettable!

Here are the ways you can express yourself:

Wear non-uniform

Odd socks

Bring your teddy to school (please label)

Come to school with crazy hair /hat

Wear temporary tattoos

Wear nail varnish

choose:


1 for 50p

2 for £1

3 for £1.50

4 for £2.00

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



23rd -25th
June

Y6 Residential Trip

23rd
June

'Express Yourself' Day

25th
June

Y5 Kentwell Hall Trip & Y3 Dance Festival

27th
June

Y2 Wandlebury Trip

2nd
July

Y4 River Stour Trip

3rd
July

Y6 Crucial Crew
Y1 Felixstowe Trip

4th
July


Y6 Rounders on the Pavilion

8th &
9th July


Y5 & Y6 Performance- tickets available now

10th
July

YR Pirate themed event 9-11am
Y1 Seaside Celebration 2.30-3.15pm



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



11th
July

Whole School Transition Day

17th
July

Y5 Song Performance 2.50- 3.15pm

18th
July

Y2 Art Gallery 2.30 - 3.15pm

21st
July

Y3 End of Year Picnic at Red Lodge Pavilion 11- 1pm
Y4 Film of Highlights 2.45-3.15pm
Tea with the Teacher 3.30- 4.30

22nd
July

Last Day of Term

1st & 2nd
Sept

PD Day - No pupils in School

3rd
Sept

Y1 - Y6 Back to School

18th
Sept

Flu Vaccinations

25th
Sept

School Photos

