

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 8

9TH JANUARY 2026

‘Transforming lives through inspirational learning’

Welcome Back to a Bright New Year at The Pines!

Welcome back to all our wonderful children and families! We hope you had a restful and joyful winter break, filled with special moments and time to recharge.

It's been fantastic to see everyone return to school with such enthusiasm and smiles to start the new year. We were especially delighted by the magical snowy day on Tuesday — what a treat! The playground was full of laughter, creativity, and snow-covered fun as children built snowmen, played games, and made memories that will last a lifetime. Here's to an exciting term ahead, full of learning, friendship, and new adventures together.





Our Values



This term we have begun the relaunch of our values. Each week we will focus on a different value and be looking for those attributes in one another. This week our focus has been on the value of Character. We are developing kindness, resilience, compassion, empathy, honesty and much more. You may notice that your child will come home with one of our special value stickers. If they do, ask them to tell you all about it. We are so proud of our Pines family!



Hope ^{belief} Kindness
Honesty ^{Expressing} Expressing
Confidence ^{Brave}
^{Reflective} Empathy Courage
Integrity ^{Self} Love
emotions Resilience Joy



ENGAGE AND EMPOWER!



On Tuesday each class enjoyed their return to school 'Engage and Empower' day. This gives each class the opportunity to find out what their new theme will be and to spend time reconnecting with their peers and developing their well-being.

Here are some highlights...

Hedgehog Class - Reception

'I wonder what happens when I fall asleep?'



In Reception we kicked off our new theme by having a PJ day! The children all came to school in their snuggly pyjamas. We collaborated and created our own dreamland and made dream catchers. At the end of the day the parents joined us for hot chocolate and a story. We had such a lovely day!



Squirrel Class - Year 1

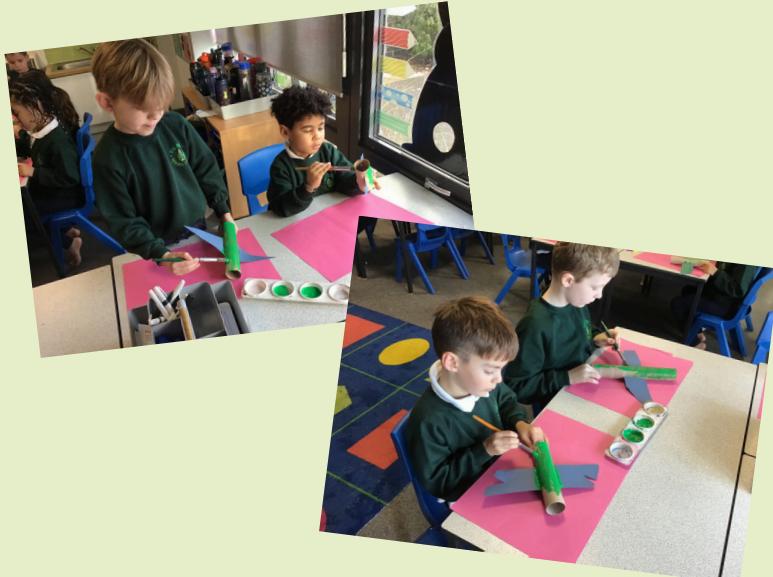
'A classroom journey from Red Lodge to Shanghai'

During our Engage and Empower Day the children were initially 'hooked' into the theme and were shown a variety of different objects based on the theme such as; a post card from Red Lodge and Shanghai, a fan, some noodles and a Chinese dragon. We enjoyed some mindful eating throughout the day and ate some Gyozas paired with some traditional herbal tea.



Rabbit Class - Year 2

'Flight - let's fly away!'



During our Engage & Empower day the children boarded a flight to Australia! The children listened carefully to the onboard safety announcements before taking off using a flight simulator. We then made model planes and began to learn about the history of flight. We worked as a team to order images of planes from 1490 to the present day.



Nightingale Class - Year 3

'Walk like an Egyptian!'

In year 3 the children used hieroglyphics to write their names. The children learnt about the process of mummification. Year 3 are now carrying out an experiment and have mummified a tomato! They will leave these for at least 6 weeks to see if it has worked. The children began to learn about the pyramids, how they were created, and why. They then created their own 3D pyramids and hid something secret inside!



Fox Class - Year 4

'Anglo Saxons - betrayal, battles and bloodshed!'



In year 4, the children learned about creating self-portraits and used mirrors to help them. Some of the class created a picture of how they look now, but some added extra creativity and included some clues about their "inner self", or how they imagined themselves. We also started learning about Anglo-Saxons, beginning with the special alphabet they used, called "runes". Here are the class carving runes into clay, including their initials or names.



Owl Class - Year 5

'Ancient Greece - It's all Greek to me.'

We introduced our Ancient Greece topic with a History Mystery, where pupils examined images and discussed what the objects were, why they were made, who they were for, and how they were created. Working collaboratively, they then placed Ancient Greece on a timeline alongside other civilisations to develop a sense of chronology. We also had a mindfulness activity where we coloured Greek-inspired vases; this encouraged focus, creativity, and reflection.



Stag Class - Year 6

'How has the world evolved?'



In Year 6 this half term we are learning about evolution. We spent some time on Tuesday learning about Charles Darwin and his voyage aboard The Beagle. The class worked in teams to figure out what equipment they would need when exploring new lands and even got to inspect some new creatures up close. We thought about how it would feel to discover new species and even created some of our own, thinking about how these animals were suited to their environments.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Start the day the fun way at Breakfast Club!

We're open every morning at Pine Cones from 8:00am with smiles, games, and a great start to the day.

Book via MCAS, and we can accept payment using the Government Tax-Free Childcare Scheme to save 20%.



PARENT CONSULTATIONS

We are planning to hold our next parent consultations on
Tuesday February 24th 3:30-5:30 and
Thursday February 26th 3:30-6:00.

Details on how to book via MCAS will be sent out nearer the time.



BREAKFAST CLUB

8-8.45AM AT PINE CONES

£6 A SESSION

(GOVERNMENT TAX FREE CHILDCARE PAYMENTS ARE ACCEPTED)

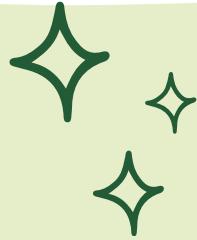
TOAST, CEREAL, JUICES AVAILABLE

BOOKING VIA MCAS IS ESSENTIAL
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR HELP BOOKING
CALL THE OFFICE ON 01638 790135

FREE UNIFORM

The PFA have lots of pre-loved uniform outside the office - all items are free until the end of January so go and have a look!





PFA NEWS



easyfundraising

You can raise **FREE** donations for The Pines Primary School **EVERY** time you shop online. Just use **#easyfundraising**! Over 8,000 retailers will donate, including all the big names like John Lewis & Partners, BT, Expedia, Argos, ASOS, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more!

Please support us:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/the-pines-primary-school/hclxvk/s2s/HysSEVIH/SE868/facebook/>

NEXT TERM DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

We have lots to look forward to next term; please see below for our current list of PFA events:

Friday 16th January – Tuck Shop

Friday 30th January – Tuck Shop

Friday 13th February – Tuck Shop

Friday 27th February – Tuck Shop

Friday 13th March – Tuck Shop

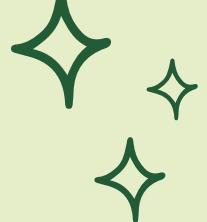
Friday 20th March – School DISCO

Monday 23rd March – Decorate an Egg Competition

Friday 27th March – Tuck Shop



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



13th
Jan

6pm Y6 SATs Information Evening

6th
Feb

NSPCC Number Day - More details coming soon

16th -
20th Feb

Half Term

24th &
26th Feb

Parents Evening - More details coming soon

30th Mar
- 10th Apr

Easter Break

13th
Apr

PD Day - No pupils in School

Term dates for 2026/27 are now on the website [here](#)

