



# Newsletter



9<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to welcome you all to the new school year at Pikemere! The children all look very smart in their new school uniforms and they have enjoyed telling us about their holiday adventures.

As you will know, we have taken over Wraparound Care in the old Whizz Kids building, so would like to welcome the 'Wraparound Care' team to the staff at Pikemere. The new Manager is Mrs Bethan Smith and Key Workers are Mrs Janet Smith and Miss Charlotte Rushton. Miss Rushton will also take a lead with our three year old provision after Christmas.

I would like to thank all of the staff who have given up their time to help clean, paint and build furniture for the start of this year! The children are already planning how to make the rooms their own. I am sure you will agree they have done a fabulous job!



Whilst we have been able to buy new furniture and resources, we would always welcome any preloved games and resources you may have finished with. Please drop them into school.

## Welcomes

A warm welcome to all of the new children and their families who have joined us at Pikemere. We are sure you will soon feel very much part of our Pikemere family.

We also have a new teacher who has joined us this year; Miss Williams, who will be teaching our Year 1 children. I know she has had a super first week getting to know her class and their families.

I would also like to welcome and thank our new Site Maintenance Officer, Mr Wood, and our super cleaning staff, who have worked hard over the holidays, preparing our school so beautifully for the new year.

## Gifts

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, on behalf of myself and all of my team, for all your kind thoughts and gifts at the end of the school year. They were very much appreciated.

May I take this opportunity to remind you of our open door policy. If you have any concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance to see if they can help. If matters cannot be resolved, then please speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team, Mrs Sehné, Mrs Johnson or Miss Beresford.

We have an exciting year ahead of us and we look forward to sharing it all with you.

Kind regards,

*Mrs Gohr*



# Whole School

## Staff, Roles and Classes

### Senior Leadership Team

Mrs Gohr-Headteacher

Mrs Sehné-Deputy Headteacher and Year 4 Teacher (Monday and Tuesday)

Mrs Johnson-Assistant Headteacher and FS1 Teacher (Monday-Wednesday)

Miss Beresford-SENDCO and Year 3 Teacher (Thursday and Friday)

Mrs K Dodd-FS1 Teacher (Thursday and Friday)

Mrs C Fowler-Reception Teacher

Miss H Williams- Year 1 Teacher

Miss E Maguire-Year 2 Teacher

Miss N Smith-Year 3 Teacher (Monday-Wednesday)

Mrs C Stannard-Year 4 Teacher (Wednesday-Friday)

Miss E Rossiter-Year 5 Teacher

Mrs S Dodd-Year 6 Teacher

Mrs J Greenhall-Year 6 Teacher (Monday and Tuesday am-Wednesday all day)

Mrs E Crofts-Key Stage 2 MFL Teacher (Tuesday)

Mr A Ollier-Sports Coach

Mrs J Shortland-HLTA and class cover

Mrs J Chatterton-Dyslexia Teacher/1:1 TA)

### Teaching Assistants

Mrs D Halliwell

Mrs J Ling

Mrs L Smith

Mrs K Statham

Mrs M Hopson

Miss M McNicholas

Miss A Lancaster

Miss O Tonks (Apprentice)

### School Office

Mrs S Williams

Mrs A Morris

Mrs J Spurrier

### Change to Holidays 2019 – 2020

Just to inform you that May Bank Holiday will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (not Monday 4<sup>th</sup>) to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE day. An up-to-date holiday calendar can be found on the school website.

### Morning Routines

We encourage all parents and carers to bring their children onto the playgrounds by 8.45am where teachers can take quick messages (if you need a longer chat, please make an appointment to see the class teacher after school when they can give you more time).

**EYFS/Key Stage 1 -** The children are encouraged to take their belongings into school via the appropriate doors (KS1 corridor door for Reception and Y1 children, Y2 classroom door for Y2). In any case, if children have not started to come into school the whistle will be blown at 8.50am. We would encourage parents to stand back so that the teachers can see all of the children and get them into school safely. Parents are not encouraged to come into the cloakrooms as the children develop their independence at hanging their coats up and putting their belongings away. Please be assured that all our staff will be there to support your child in doing this.

**Key Stage 2 –** As soon as the parents of KS1 children start to come around from dropping the younger children off, the whistle will be blown. KS2 children are expected to collect their belongings and walk to their KS corridor doors where they can put their things away and get ready for the start of the school day.

While we encourage punctuality, if you bring your child into school after the cloakroom doors have been shut at 9.00am, you will need to bring them through the front door and hand them over to the office staff where they will be marked late.

### **School Gates**

We would respectfully like to remind parents and carers that the school gates will remain locked in the morning until 8.30am and children being dropped off before 8.45am remain the responsibility of their parents. Similarly, at the end of the school day, gates will remain locked until 3.05pm when they will be opened to allow parents and carers to access the site to collect their children. On the advice of the Cheshire Safeguarding Team, who audited our provision before the summer holidays, we will be locking all school gates, apart from the KS1 one, at 4.30pm. When collecting your child from an after school club you must access school from the KS1 playground.

### **Playing at the beginning and end of the school day**

We would like to remind parents that children are not allowed to bring balls to school to play with on the playgrounds or the field before or after school, this includes leather footballs. We have explained to the children that there are too many adults and young children around at these times and we have had a number of accidents where both children and adults have been hurt. This also applies to children who come to school on their scooters. Once they are on the playgrounds they should not be scooting around. We appreciate your support with this.

### **Medical**

It is vitally important that any children who require an inhaler have them in school at all times. The inhaler must have a prescription label on the inhaler itself, not just the box and any devices, like volumatics, must also have your child's name written clearly on them. Any child requiring an inhaler must have a completed Asthma form which can be obtained from the website or the school office.

Any prescribed medication that needs to be administered during the school day should be brought to the school office. This must be accompanied by a medical form, which can be downloaded from the website or provided by the school office. We can only administer prescribed medication in school.

### **Sickness and diarrhoea**

Please note that all instances of diarrhoea or vomiting require an absence from school of 48 hours from the last episode. If your child is sent into school before this time, our office staff will contact you to ask that you collect them. They will also ring if a child tells us they have been sick. This policy ensures the health and well-being of ALL children and staff in school.

### **School Uniform**

We pride ourselves on how smart our children look in their school uniform and we appreciate parents support with this. We are aware of the expense of school uniform and do everything we can to reunite lost uniform with its owner. However, this is only possible when it is named, so please name everything! Uniform can be purchased from Smart Uniform in Newcastle and the Alsager & Sandbach Saddlery. Please remember we no longer keep any stock on site of water bottles or bags.

### **Water Bottles**

As part of our healthy schools initiative, please ensure that your child brings a named water bottle in order to keep them hydrated throughout the school day. Please fill bottles with **water** only as leaking bottles of squash cause stickiness and ruin children's work on their tables. Juice can be sent in with packed lunches.

### **Curriculum Brochure and Welcome Letters**

Individual class curriculum brochures and welcome letters are available to view on the school website from today.

### **PE**

Your children's Class Welcome Letter will have told you when your child needs particular equipment, but please note that in PE, ALL long hair MUST be tied up and ALL jewellery MUST be removed, including earrings.

It is recommended that all children have a spare pair of socks in their PE bags, especially those who usually wear tights with their uniform, as they have to remove them before getting changed for PE.

### **Headwear**

We appreciate it is the fashion for children to wear elaborate headbands and bobbles but these are not always appropriate for school. Please may we ask that any headwear is kept as simple as possible.

### **House Colour Reminders**

As a reminder, Pikemere's team colours are: **Ash**-Red **Elm**-Green **Oak**-Yellow **Beech**-Blue

### **Class Rewards and Star Awards**

We are very keen to celebrate hard work, good behaviour and effort in everything that our children are involved in, both in and out of school. As a result, we have many opportunities to recognise these key skills throughout school ranging from team points, class dojos, pupil of the day, 'shout-out boards', stickers and star awards. Each class teacher uses their own individual systems, therefore children may receive a combination of the rewards, but not necessarily all of them, throughout the year.

On Fridays, we have a whole school celebration assembly where a whole range of achievements are recognised. If your child has achieved something outside of school that they would like recognising or celebrating, like a badge at Cubs or Brownies a sporting achievement or even a fundraising success, please can they speak with Mrs Sehné. We also have an 'Introducing...' musical segment, where children who play musical instruments can play these as the children walk in and out of assembly. If your child would like to do this, please ask them to speak with Mrs Sehné who has a rota for this.

### **It's Good To Be Green**

Here at Pikemere School, we aim to provide a happy atmosphere in which staff and parents work together for the welfare of all our children. We expect the children to behave as well in school as you would expect them to behave at home and take responsibility for their actions. Three years ago, we introduced a whole school approach to encouraging good behaviour and it has had very positive feedback from parents, children and staff alike.

For those of you who are new to Pikemere, we are hoping that your child has told you about our new Good to be Green behaviour charts in each classroom. They are helping to provide us with a consistent approach to dealing with behaviour in school, as well as providing an excellent model of behaviour that we know promotes learning. We encourage the children to listen carefully, follow instructions, join in with discussions, take turns and use their manners at all times.

Each child starts each day with a green card showing that, "It's Good To Be Green". During the day, all children who follow the school rules will stay on green. However, any child who makes the wrong choices about their behaviour will be asked to move their card. They turn their card so that it is standing up. If they go on to make a further wrong choice, they will be given an amber warning card and will miss 5 minutes of their playtime. A further breach in behaviour results in a red consequence card. They will then be spoken to by a senior leader and may have another consequence depending on the type of inappropriate behaviour, e.g., a child who hurts another child may have to make a sorry card or miss part of their playtime. Amber and red card behaviour is recorded in the class behaviour book and parents are spoken to.



We also wish to recognise the children who stay on green and so have spoken to them about something new we will try this year. If a child stays on Green for the autumn term, they will achieve a Bronze certificate, if they continue to stay on Green for the spring term they will achieve a Silver certificate and then in the summer term they will achieve a Gold certificate. So the maximum certificates a child can achieve is Gold. A child who doesn't achieve a Bronze certificate in the autumn term, could have a brilliant spring term and achieve it then. Those children who achieve their Gold certificates will receive a special reward at the end of the year.

### **Curriculum Workshops.**

Curriculum workshops provide an invaluable opportunity to find out more about specific class routines and teaching points. They take the form of a short presentation from class teachers, with the chance to ask questions afterwards. Please note these will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September from 4pm – 5pm. There will be four different workshops- EYFS, Year 1 and 2, Year 3 and 4 and Year 5 and 6. If you have more than one child at Pikemere, we suggest you go to the older child's workshop. There will be a crèche provided if you require it.

### **Parentmail**

A reminder that all payments should be made through Parentmail for dinners and trips. New families will be registered over the next week. Snack payments should be sent with your child on the day in a small named purse/wallet. (Y1-Y6 only)

Please remember to update Parentmail with any changes to mobile telephone numbers or email addresses.

**We will only be sending Data Collection sheets out to the new Reception Class this year as a consequence of the new GDPR regulations. Therefore, it is imperative that parents notify school in writing of any changes to contact details or personal circumstances. This is in addition to updating Parentmail.**

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Mrs Shortland and the School Council are organising their hugely successful Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Donations of cakes would be gratefully received. If any parents are available to help on the day please let Mrs Shortland or the school office know. Doors open at 9am and the event will finish at about 10am. Entrance is £1 for a drink and a piece of cake. Parents can attend on their own or ask for their children to join them once they are in the hall. They can buy additional cakes if they so wish. If anyone has any raffle prizes they would like to donate this would be appreciated and will assist with our fund raising.

### **School Website**

Copies of all letters and newsletters are on the school website [www.pikemereschool.com](http://www.pikemereschool.com), along with a wide range of helpful information including sports activities, after school clubs and holiday dates. Please refer to the website on a regular basis to ensure you have all the relevant up to date information. Medical forms are also available on this site.

### **Coats**

Now the weather is beginning to change, can you please ensure that your child has a coat in school. We are hoping that the children will be able to access the school field throughout the year at playtimes and lunchtimes. As the weather gets colder and wetter, to protect not only the children's clothes and shoes but the floors inside school, we will be asking them to change their footwear. Therefore, please make sure that your child has their wellies, old trainers or walking boots in school at all times.

### **Pikemere Holiday Club**

Please keep a look out for more information regarding our October Half Term holiday club.

### **After school Clubs**

Please see the correspondence from individual clubs for their start dates and times.

These will be available on the website by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September [www.pikemereschool.com](http://www.pikemereschool.com)

### **Family and Friends of Pikemere School (PTA)**

Welcome to a new year of school and a new year of FFOPS.

Whether you're new to Pikemere and your child is in Reception or if you've been with us for a while, what better way could there be to meet other parents than to get involved with the fun events that we hold here throughout the year?

The money we raise each year through a variety of events such as end of term Discos, Bingo, gift shops, ice cream Fridays and the Christmas fair have gone towards funding;

- The purchase of I-pads
- Building of an outdoor classroom
- Science and History weeks
- Subsidised school trips
- In school Theatre Company visits
- Playground developments

We even help out with school supplies, resources and community events.

We have a small core of parents who are the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary (required for charity status) and a band of other parents who help out with the organisation and smooth running of events. Inevitably each year we lose some of those parents as their children move onto the next school, so it's key that we get new parents coming through right from Reception to take on the small task of getting involved.

The PTA (Family and Friends of Pikemere) is a forum for exchanging ideas, meeting other parents and getting to know the school. Attend the meetings throughout the year to make suggestions and provide your input or just to see what goes on.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September which will be a no obligation "come and see what we do" to all parents and guardians. If you want to get in touch, catch us about on the playground, message us via facebook @friendsofpikemere or speak to Mrs Sehné, our PTA teacher rep.



# EYFS and Key Stage One

## EYFS

The terminology can be confusing. EYFS is the Early Years Foundation Stage which is made up of children in the Pre-school (FS1 Caterpillars) and Reception (FS2 Butterflies)

## KS1

KS1 is children in Years 1 and 2.

## EYFS Passwords

In order to keep all of our children safe at the end of the school day, we use a verbal password system. Please inform your child's class teacher if anyone different is scheduled to collect them from school, and provide them with a verbal password that has been previously agreed with school. We recommend that all children are collected by an adult over the age of 16.



# Key Stage Two

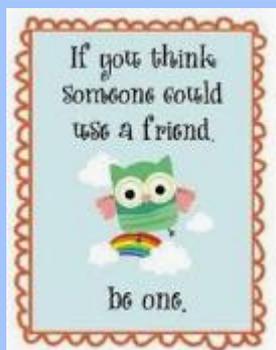
## KS2

KS2 is children in Years 3 to 6, sometimes called the Juniors.

## Walking Home

For the safety of all of the children, if you would like your child to walk home unaccompanied please ensure this is marked in your child's planner. If this changes throughout the year, please notify the school office in writing.

## And finally...our positivity quote



## Diary Dates

11.09.19	Curriculum Workshops- EYFS Years 1 and 2 Years 3 and 4 Years 5 and 6	4.00pm - 5.00pm
24.9.19	First meeting of the Family and Friends of Pikemere School	3.30pm
25.09.19	Primary Safeguarding Conference	9.30am - 2.30pm
27.09.19	Macmillan Coffee Morning in school hall.	9.00am - 10.00am
1.10.19	Pikemere Harvest Festival – Donations for Alsager Food Bank – details in next Newsletter	

5.10.19	One World Celebration - CIVIC CENTRE	9.30am - 1.00pm
10.10.19 - 16.10.19	Book Fair-details in next Newsletter	
15.10.19	Tempest Photographs	8.30am - 12.00pm
22.10.19	Parent consultations- book appointments through Parentmail	3.30pm - 6.30pm
24.10.19	Parent consultations- book appointments through Parentmail	3.30pm - 6.30pm
24.10.19	Fluenz Team (Nasal Spray - FS2-Y6)	9.00am - 2.30pm
25.10.19	<b>Break up for Half Term</b>	
4.11.19	<b>INSET day</b>	
5.11.19	Children back to school.	
Friday 8.11.19	Year 6 Class Assembly	9.00am - 10.00am
Wednesday 13.11.19	Year 5 Class Assembly	9.00am - 10.00am
Wednesday 20.11.19	Year 4 Class Assembly	9.00am - 10.00am
Wednesday 27.11.19	Year 3 Class Assembly	9.00am - 10.00am
6.12.19	EYFS Christmas production for parents and family members-details to follow	9.30am - 10.00am
9.12.19	Key Stage 1 Christmas production dress rehearsal	
10.12.19	Key Stage 1 Christmas production matinee	2.00pm - 2.45pm
10.12.19	Key Stage 1 Christmas production evening performance	6.00pm - 6.45pm
16.12.19	Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Concert at Christ Church Alsager-all KS2 children to attend please	6.00pm - 7.00pm
18.12.19	EYFS/Key Stage 1 Christmas parties - details to follow	
19.12.19	Key Stage 2 Christmas Parties – details to follow	
20.12.19	Whole school Christmas Carol concert at Christ Church Whole school Christmas lunch	
<b>20.12.18</b>	<b>Break up for Christmas</b>	
<b>6.01.20</b>	<b>Spring term begins</b>	