

# TRIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Edition 5

Integrity, **Community**, Excellence

14 February 2025

## MESSAGE FROM KIMBERLY

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a very productive half term and the pupils have been working very hard. Y1/2 had a dance workshop this week which was enormous fun - the teaching team joined in and I think they enjoyed it more than the pupils 😊.

**Kimberly Morton**

Principal

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Parking on Raeburn Road

We have had reports from local residents that parking on Raeburn Road at the beginning and end of the school day is causing issues. We have also had reports of people driving too quickly along the road at these times. This is a polite reminder to consider local residents and safety when driving along and parking on Raeburn Road.

### World Book Day - Thursday 6th March

To celebrate World Book Day this year, we will be having a special assembly and teachers will be reading their favourite book to their class/group. We will not be dressing up and all children are expected to come to school in full uniform.

### Lost Property

We still have a gigantic heap of lost property! Most of which is **NOT** named, please ensure **all** of your child's clothing (including footwear, hats, gloves and scarves) are named to avoid losing them! *If they are named they can make their way back to their owner if lost!* Lost property can be found at the Year 1/2 dismissal doors.

### Nut Free School

Please remember that we are a nut free school. We do have children that have nut allergies and would ask that you be extra vigilant in not sending any nut products in either snacks or pack lunches. This includes peanut butter sandwiches, Nutella and Kinder Buenos.

**Clubs**

The only club not happening after half term is the Mindfulness/Colouring Club. All the other clubs will be carrying on as normal after half term, you do not need to sign up again. They will be starting the first week back after half term on 24/02/25.

**Special Event Lunch Menus**

Over the next term there will be special named lunch menus available. These are booked in the same way as normal lunches and the menus will be advertised on the school notice boards and our website nearer the dates, these dates are noted on the upcoming dates and events sheet below.

**Parenting Signposting**

The Psychology in Schools Team runs a program of parent workshops throughout the year to provide up to date advice and guidance on how parents/carers can support the young people in their life. All the workshops are recorded for you to watch at any time and can be accessed via this [website](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGa3xTAAYLQ). Here is a video which may be useful <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGa3xTAAYLQ>

## YEAR GROUP UPDATES / NOTICES

**RECEPTION**

This half term reception pupils have been learning all about dinosaurs and fossils. The children have loved exploring our dig site and writing about dinosaurs. Next half term our topic will focus on new life!

**YEAR 1/2**

In Year 1/2, our topic focus has been Geography where children have been learning all about the equator. Children have been comparing the different climates of the continents around the equator and to the climates in the North and South Pole. They have also been exploring the different features of a volcano and the effects of earthquakes.

In Year 2, children have been exploring different ways to stay fit and healthy. This has included diet, exercise and hygiene. Year 2 have experimented with what happens to their body when they exercise and what this means for their health.

Please continue to read with your children at home on a regular basis- thank you!

**YEAR 3/4**

In Year 3, during a PSHE lesson pupils were working in teams cooperatively to create their own garden for people with a disability. They had to choose their role; team leader, budgeter or landscaper. The pupils did very well working in their teams and enjoyed creating their gardens'. In science they have been learning about forces and have used magnets to experiment which materials are magnetic and which are not.

In Jigsaw, PSHE Yr 4 made potato heads, they had a competition in their groups where they had to work cooperatively in teams to create a potato person. As a class they then voted on which team was the best. In science the Year 4 pupils have enjoyed learning about electricity and on the first week back to school in Spring 2 they will be making a simple circuit.

## **YEAR 5/6**

Year 5 has been exploring Darwin's Finches and learning about evolution through natural selection. The children conducted an experiment to understand how different beak shapes help birds survive in various environments, simulating Darwin's discoveries with hands-on activities. It's an exciting opportunity for them to see how adaptation works in nature!

Year 6 have been learning about forces in science, they were particularly enthusiastic when learning about how the force of gravity changes on different planets. The children were able to make connections to our Earth and Space topic, which they learnt about earlier in the school year.

We have all especially enjoyed our geography topic this half term, in which we explored our 'Dynamic Earth'. We looked at earthquakes and how a country's wealth impacts how they deal with the impacts of an earthquake- the pupils thoroughly enjoyed this topic and some great discussions were had!

## **SEU1**

We have had a busy term with lots of learning taking place in our class. In Maths, Reception have been learning about length, weight and capacity. In Year 1 we have been adding and subtracting numbers to 20 and in Year 2 we have been solving multiplication and division equations. In Reception we have loved learning about dinosaurs, exploring fossils and skeletons. In Year 1 and 2 we have created volcanoes and earthquakes whilst learning about the Earth.

## **SEU2**

The children have continued with their learning about 'New Life'. They have explored the life-cycle of a butterfly, a frog and humans. The children particularly enjoyed listening to a song about a tiny caterpillar where we added different actions. In maths they have been consolidating their number recognition and sorting objects into different groups. The children have been carrying out different activities to help develop their fine motor skills, using resources such as play-dough, scissors and pegs.

**SEU3**

In SEU 3, our topic focus has been Geography where children have been learning all about the equator. The children have been learning the names of the 7 continents and discussing the different climates and how it is really hot when you live near the equator.

In science we have been learning about different materials and their properties and exploring what materials are waterproof.

The children have been taking part in tasks and activities to enhance their fine motor skills, we have focused on being kind to one another in PSHE and helping each other to achieve goals.

**MUSIC**

In Music we have been exploring lots of different styles of music this half term and have had a brilliant time learning 'Try Everything' from Zootopia in our singing assemblies. If your child is in R-Year4 you can ask them what the British sign language for 'try' is!

If you would like your child to start instrumental lessons, please fill in this form:

<https://forms.gle/eomHPJb5So4ekZRp6>

We currently have spaces in Cornet (trumpet), Flute, Clarinet, Singing, Piano.

Following on from the success of last year's outdoor music festival, we would like to invite parents to join us for more fantastic performances on Monday 7th July 2025. More details to follow soon.

## UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

Please find all of the upcoming dates or events which are happening at Piper's Vale;

Date/Time	Event	Year Group(s)
Monday 17th - Friday 21st February	February Half Term	Whole School
Monday 24th February	Start of Spring Term 2	Whole School
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day	Whole School
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day Lunch Menu	Yrs Rec - Yr 6
Wednesday 26th March	Class Group Photos	Whole School
Wednesday 2nd April	SEU1, SEU2 & SEU3 - closed to pupils	SEU Pupils
Friday 4th April	Newsletter - Edition 6	Whole School
Monday 7th - Monday 21st April	Easter Holidays	Whole School
Tuesday 22nd April	Staff PD Day - School closed to pupils	Whole School
Wednesday 23rd April	First day of Summer Term 1	Whole School
Wednesday 23rd April	St Georges Lunch Menu	Yrs Rec - Yr 6
Monday 28th - Tuesday 29th April	Year 4 Residential Trip	Year 4
Monday 12th - Thursday 15th May	SATs Exams	Year 6
Thursday 15th May	Italian Day Lunch Menu	Yrs Rec - Yr 6
Monday 26th - Friday 30th May	May Half Term	Whole School
Monday 2nd June	Start of Summer Term 2	Whole School
Tuesday 17th June	King's Birthday Party Lunch Menu	Yrs Rec - Yr 6
Monday 7th July	Summer Music Festival	Whole School
Wednesday 23rd July - September	Summer Holidays	Whole School

## QUICK LINKS



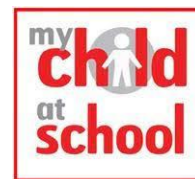
[School Lunches](#)



[Term Dates](#)



[PE Timetable](#)



[MCAS \(Parent App\)](#)