

PVPA NEWSLETTER

Edition 2

Integrity, **Community**, Excellence

24 October 2025

MESSAGE FROM KIMBERLY

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to my staff for giving up their time to ensure the school discos could happen for our pupils!

It has been a busy few weeks at PVPA; Y5 had a visit to Customs House, to learn all about the maritime history of Ipswich, Y6 have enjoyed their residential trip to Roots and 1/2EL and 2J enjoyed a walk to 'the Lairs'. We have also had two special assemblies; a visitor came in to talk to KS2 all about democracy and UK Parliament and we had a whole school assembly, all about the history of Ipswich and its maritime history.

PVPA is in need of some academy council members (a letter was sent out recently). If you are interested, please speak to me, or any member of staff for more information.

Kimberly Morton

Principal

GENERAL NOTICES

IMPORTANT NOTICE - END OF DAY COLLECTION

We are having increasing amounts of pupils that are being collected late from school. A polite reminder that school finishes at 3:15pm and we expect all pupils to be collected promptly from school, unless they are attending an after school club. If you are going to be late to collect your child, please ensure that you contact the school with a reason and an estimated time that you will arrive at school. Thank you for your cooperation.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

A polite reminder that it is the parent/carer's responsibility to inform the school if their child is going to be absent from school. We are making a large number of calls to parents/carers because we do not know why their child is not in school. If we are unable to make contact with a parent/carer, a home visit may be conducted. Please make sure you report any absences by 09:00am preferably by telephone, leaving a voicemail or by email. Thank you again for your cooperation.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - DFE GUIDANCE ON SICKNESS & ATTENDANCE

As winter approaches, we face rising illness related absences from school. While some are unavoidable, many can be reduced and pupils shouldn't miss school on a precautionary basis and can normally attend with a mild cough, cold or headache. Please refer to the guidance [here](#).

CONTACT WITH STAFF

If you ever have a concern with regards to your child at school, please speak to their class teacher in the first instance as they are there to help address your concerns. Class teachers will always pass information on to other members of staff where necessary. You can speak with your child's class teacher at the end of the day or by booking an appointment.

LOST PROPERTY

We are seeing large amounts of lost property and it is only the first half term back into the new school year. A lot of the items are **NOT** named, please ensure **all** of your child's clothing (including footwear, hats, gloves and scarves) are named to avoid losing them! Lost property can be found at the Year 1/2 dismissal doors. Any lost property left here at the end of each week will go to charity.

NEW LUNCH MENU 25/26

Please note that from Monday 3rd November 25 - Friday 27th March 26, we will be following a new lunch menu. This can be found on our display boards by each entrance, via quick links below and on our website.

HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS (YEAR 6 ONLY)

This is a reminder that parents/carers of all Year 6 pupils must apply for a secondary school place for the 2026/2027 school year by **31 October 2025**. The easiest way to complete an application is online and the link can be found by clicking [here](#). If you are unable to complete an online application, please contact the School Office who can provide a paper application form. If you need any support with a high school application, please contact the school.

PUPIL BUDDIES

Our pupil buddies have been selected for the new academic year and they have taken to the role fantastically well. Each class will have a boy pupil and a girl pupil who represents their class and acts as an ambassador not only for their year group but for the whole school. The aim is for them to support new pupils who join the school or if any other pupil needs support or guidance. Tom leads the team of pupil buddies and meets with them regularly, and they can be spotted and signposted by their badges!



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On Thursday 11th December, we will be hosting our school Christmas lunch for pupils in Reception - Year 6. The festive menu is shown here and will be sent out separately nearer the time as well.

Please note that there will be no Pick 'n' Mix, Jacket Potatoes or Tomato Pasta on this day. The only school provided lunch will be the Christmas hot lunch option. Please send your child to school with a home packed lunch if they do not want a Christmas dinner.

Information to sign up will be sent out soon so please make sure you look out for this as we are **unable to accept orders on the day**.



MCAS PARENT APP - IMPORTANT NOTICE

We use the MCAS Parent App as our main platform for communication and we have found that it is more user friendly if downloaded on your phone via the App Store. It has also come to our attention that not everyone is receiving notifications or messages from us.

In order to sort this issue, please go to your mobile phone settings, go to the notifications section and find MCAS and you then need to make sure 'allow notifications' is ticked.

If you need help with this, please come to the school office and we will be happy to help.

YEAR GROUP UPDATES / NOTICES

NURSERY

Our topic this term was called 'Marvellous Me'. We learnt lots about ourselves and our families. We created family trees, drew and painted self-portraits, explored our five senses and learnt about feelings/emotions. We also learnt about healthy eating and discussed the food we like and dislike.

Each week this term, the children have been learning a new nursery rhyme and took part in decorating the character using different materials. At the end of term, your child will come home with a nursery rhymes pack, please practice these at home with your children. The fun nursery rhymes will support children's communication and language development.

Please remember to send your child in a coat, bag of spare clothes and a water bottle and don't forget to name the children's belongings. Thank you.

RECEPTION

This term, Reception have been busy exploring some wonderful stories, including *The Gruffalo*, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, and *Where's My Teddy?* Alongside these favourites, we've also enjoyed non-fiction books such as *Eyes, Nose, Belly, Toes*, which helped us learn around how our bodies move, and *The Senses*, which helped us learn all about our senses and how they work. The children especially loved taking part in a taste test to discover how we use our sense of taste!

We've also been learning about where we live and celebrating the many different languages spoken around the world and within our own classroom. In maths, we've been exploring the sizes of different objects and creating our own 2- and 3-colour repeating patterns. It's been a busy and exciting time of learning and discovery in Reception!

YEAR 1

Year 1 have had a fantastic term filled with exciting learning across all subjects! In English, we have enjoyed reading *The Rainbow Fish*, *Peace at Last*, *Can't You Sleep*, *Little Bear?* and *Six Dinner Sid*. These wonderful stories have inspired our writing and discussions about friendship, kindness, and caring for others.

In Maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction, using dienes, number lines, counters, and part-part-whole models to help us solve problems and explain our thinking.

In History, we've been exploring how childhood has changed over time, looking closely at toys and clothes from the past and comparing them with those we have today.

In Science, we've been learning about the weather, the seasons, and plants — and we even got to dissect and label the different parts of a flower! It's been a busy and fun-filled term of curiosity and discovery for our Year 1 children.

YEAR 2

Year 2 have had an exciting term. We have been reading *The Proudest Blue*, *Hansel and Gretel* and *The Wizard of Oz*. We have used these books which we have read to help us with our writing, where we have been retelling stories and describing characters and settings. In Maths, we have been focussing on addition and subtraction with two-digit numbers. We have practised using dienes, multilink and our part-whole models to help us with this. In History, we have been looking at how trade has changed the foods we have in the UK today. We looked at how Christopher Columbus discovered The Americas, and how he discovered many exotic foods, which we eat lots of today! Science this term has been incredibly exciting. We have looked at plants and seeds, we have grown our own cress seeds and seen how these have grown. We have also been on a woodland walk, where we identified different trees and used a tally chart to record how many times we saw each species of tree.

YEAR 3

In 3S this term we have started learning French. We are very enthusiastic as a class about our French lessons and thoroughly enjoy having simple conversations together. Do ask the children to say 'Hello' and ask 'How are you?' in French as we practice this every week and are excellent at this!

We are also working hard in our maths lessons. So far this term we have worked on number sense, place value and graphs.

In shared reading we have just finished our first book called 'The fastest boy in the world', and are moving onto our new book, 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl!

In our science lessons we have been learning all about states of matter and how we can observe these changes taking place. It has been a busy first term for Year 3, but it has also been one filled with lots of positive learning opportunities and experiences!

YEAR 4

A huge thank you to **Gainsborough Library** for hosting our visit! The children had a brilliant time taking part in a creative activity.

Our pupils got straight into the fun, joining in enthusiastically with the interactive session before, of course, borrowing lots of exciting new books to enjoy. Happy reading, everyone! This visit was perfectly timed, coming right after we finished our shared reading book, '**Emil and the Detectives.**' The class thoroughly enjoyed reading about young Emil, who travels alone to Berlin only to have his money stolen on the train! It was a fantastic story of **courage, resourcefulness, and teamwork** as Emil and his gang of new friends work together to catch the thief.

YEAR 5

Year 5 has been learning all about the human body, focusing on the circulatory system. We carried out a fun and slightly messy experiment to explore what blood is made of — using coloured water, smarties, marshmallows, and raspberries to represent plasma, platelets, white and red blood cells! We also discovered how our **double circulatory system** works, with blood travelling from the heart to the lungs and then around the rest of the body.

In English, we're nearly at the end of our class book *Cirque du Freak* — four chapters to go! The suspense is building, and we can't wait to find out what happens next! Year 5 has had a fantastic two weeks of learning through science and storytelling.

YEAR 6

Year 6 had an amazing time this week on their residential trip. Children were able to take part in a variety of activities including; bushcraft, abseiling, high ropes, archery and fire starting! The pupils showed our core values of excellence, integrity and community representing PVPA well.

Year 6 have also been learning all about the industrial revolution in history this half term and did some brilliant writing on the impacts it had on Britain. Fantastic job year 6!

A reminder to all year 6 parents that the deadline is fast approaching for parents to register their child for secondary school, please ensure this is done ASAP.

SEU1

SEU 1 has had a busy and exciting few weeks! In Science, we've been learning about plants and have planted our own bean seeds to observe their growth. Reception students focused on the "Marvelous Me" topic, exploring themselves and their families, while Year 1 delved into history to see how childhood has changed over time.

Year 2 has been learning about Food and Trade, discovering the origins of different foods. Our recent Food Technology lesson was a delicious success! Linking to our shared reading story, "Handa's Surprise," we made fruit skewers. The children had a wonderful time using their senses, actively exploring the fruit by smelling, feeling the textures, and, of course, tasting them.

PE sessions have been a major highlight, especially gymnastics, as the children enjoy climbing the apparatus, balancing, and swinging.

Please ensure you check Tapestry daily for regular updates and photos of all the great learning happening in SEU 1.

SEU2

In SEU2, we have been exploring the concepts of big and small using a variety of everyday visual objects. The children have also been enjoying messy play and developing their fine motor skills through activities like gloop and moon sand. They've been using different tools to manipulate textures while learning visual key words to describe the actions they're using.

The children have been engaging well during Bucket Time and have shown great interest in the story "Where's My Teddy?". This inspired some fantastic artwork, including creating their own teddy bears using food, which encouraged sensory exploration and trying new foods.

We've also been singing our favourite family songs and creating beautiful family trees featuring photos of loved ones. As a special project, the children made picture frames in art to display their family photos, which they proudly took home to share with their families.

SEU3

We've had a busy and wonderfully productive few weeks in SEU 3, exploring some exciting topics and working hard on our core skills.

The world of plants and seasons has been our main focus in science. The children have loved our hands-on activities, including "Plant Art" and "Growing from Seed." We are all excited to observe the amazing changes as these plants grow over the next few weeks!

We are working hard on our fine motor skills each day. The children have been practicing letter formation and using scissors with greater accuracy. These essential tabletop activities are great for strengthening their hand muscles and improving precision. Our PE sessions have focused on ball skills. The children are really enjoying practicing catching and throwing to one another, which is excellent for improving their hand-eye coordination. We will be continuing to explore emotions each week, as well as focusing on art and creativity.

MUSIC

After half term we will be recording our charity christmas song 'Christmas Jumper Day' in aid of Save the children.

We ask that your child brings a christmas jumper or christmas accessories on the following days for recording:

Monday 3rd November - 6G, 6K, 5A, 3/4D, 4S

Wednesday 5th November - 3S, 1N, Nursery, SEU2, 2J, 1/2EL

Friday 7th November - SEU1, 5B, SEU3, RP, RP2

They will need to wear their uniform for the remainder of the day so please send them to school wearing school uniform.

If you would like to practise at home with your child/children please follow this link:

 [Christmas Jumper Day \(Lyrics\)](#)

If your child is having instrument lessons, please make sure that you make payment via the MCAS app at the start of each half term. If payment is not made, your child will lose their place and their space will be given to someone else. If you have any issues with the payment, please speak to the office.

Dates for Christmas performances will be coming out 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 27th - Friday 31st October	Half Term Holiday	Whole School
Monday 3rd November	Back to School	Whole School
Thursday 6th November	No afterschool Netball Club	Yrs 4 -6
Friday 7th November	No afterschool Gymnastics Club	Yrs 2 & 3
Friday 14th November	Wear Sportswear for Children in Need	Whole School
Monday 17th November	Parent Lunch 11:45 - 12:15pm	Reception
Tuesday 18th November	Parent Consultations (Information TBC)	Whole School
Wednesday 19th November	Parent Consultations (Information TBC)	Whole School
Wednesday 19th - Tuesday 25th November	School Book Fair	Whole School
Monday 24th November	SEUs Closed for Staff Training	SEU 1, 2, 3
Thursday 27th November	Nasal Flu Vaccine - Session 2	Whole School
Friday 28th November	Newsletter Edition 3	Whole School
Monday 1st December	SEND Coffee Afternoon 2:00pm - 3:00pm	SEND Families
Thursday 4th December	Parent Lunch 12:00 - 12:30pm	Year 2
Monday 8th December	Parent Lunch 12:00 - 12:30pm	Year 1
Tuesday 9th December	IA Orchestra Day	Music students (by invitation)
Thursday 11th December	Christmas Lunch Day & Cosy Jumper Day	Whole School
Friday 12th December	Christmas Fair 3:30pm - 6:00pm	Whole School
Monday 15th December TBC	School Concert 9am - 10am (Info TBC) School Concert 2:30pm - 3:30pm (Info TBC)	Whole School
Thursday 18th December	Parent Craft Workshop (Info TBC)	Whole School
Friday 19th December	Newsletter Edition 4	Whole School

Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January 2026	Christmas Holidays	Whole School
Monday 5th January 2026	Inset Day - School Closed to Pupils	Whole School
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Start of Term	Whole School

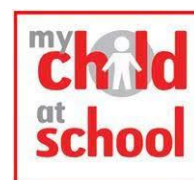
QUICK LINKS



[School Lunches](#)



[Term Dates](#)



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



[PE Timetable](#)