



The Pinvin Fed-Express

Newsletter Issue 7 - March 2018



'The Beast from the East'

Just when we thought it was safe to remove the snow closure procedures from the Fed-Express, 'The Beast from the East' and 'Storm Emma' joined forces and had something to say about that! Blizzards, strong winds, drifting snow and bitter cold created some of the most testing weather experienced in the UK for years. Along with thousands of other schools across the country, we were forced to close the schools at midday on Thursday after being given more precise information by Worcestershire County Council about the predicted snow storm, which had been due to set in on Thursday evening, with the updated forecast to arrive in the Pershore area around 2pm that afternoon. Obviously our duty of care is to ensure our pupils and staff remain safe and that all stakeholders are able to make their journeys home in such conditions safely; therefore we felt it necessary to begin early closure procedures on the Thursday and made an early decision to close all three Collaboration schools the following day - after discussion with our Cluster First Schools and Pershore High School - at dusk that evening. We fully appreciate that snow closures can be difficult for parents and carers so would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support in collecting your children as soon as you were able and for your support in taking the difficult decision to close the schools. We hope you managed to enjoy the snow and make the most of the 'Beast' and 'Emma'.

Image below: Eckington awaiting the snow ploughs



South Worcestershire Parenting and Family Support

A support group for parents of children aged 0-19 who have a diagnosed or undiagnosed additional need. The group meet once a month, with refreshments available and guest speakers. ****Every 2nd Friday of each month, 9.30-11.30am****

Blossom Vale Children Centre, Abbey Road, Pershore, WR10 1DF. Tel: **01386552388**

Contact: Nicki Perrins, Action for Children



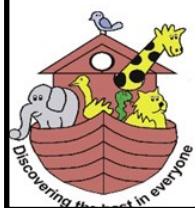
BloodHound Project inspires STEM learning

Until last year, the only BloodHound I had heard about was the breed of dog; who knew there were two kinds?! For those of you who haven't heard about the BloodHound Project: It is a UK-led, global project to build a supersonic car that will not only beat the current land speed world record but also smash the 1,000mph barrier! It has four wheels (not legs!), is 7.5 tonnes, 135,000 brake horsepower; the ultimate jet and rocket powered car! So what's that got to do with Pinvin?! Well, we felt the project was the perfect way to bring real-world science, technology, engineering and mathematics to the classroom. For a month in February, learning in STEM subjects (Science, Technology and Maths) was devoted to designing & making a rocket powered car. The children worked in small groups to design and make the most streamlined and sturdy car they could from some simple materials. They captured their work through video-diaries and on 9th February, with support from the Bloodhound SSC schools' team, they fired their rockets and raced their cars along a 30m track with the fastest reaching over 100mph!

Supporting our Y6 children through SATs

In the last edition we told you how well the Y6 children were doing in their preparation for SATs in May. As well as a duty to support them academically, we also have a duty to support them emotionally through their first significant educational milestone. After the success of last year's '**Stress Buster SATs Support session**', we are pleased to offer another support session, lead by a member of the '**Relax Kids**' team, for parents and carers of Y6 pupils. The session will be held in **SNMS hall on April 23rd 2018 @ 5.00pm** (children are welcome too) and will offer guidance to adults about ways they can support the children through this period with relaxation techniques & positive affirmations. Further details will follow on a separate communication.





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POPs Playground Project

As you may be aware the POPs (Pals of Pinvin School) have been working to raise much-needed funds to resurface the Pinvin Playground and to introduce new markings for games and play activities. The funds raised by our parents will supplement the Government funded Sports Premium which aims to raise participation in physical activity and sport. The POPs calendar has been almost bursting at the seams this year with successful events including weekly Thursday Tuck-Shop; two family challenges (to design a Christmas bauble for our school tree and to design the new POPs logo - the winning design was created by Flo Taylor (Y2) and will be used on POPs publicity materials; two discos and a Christmas party, which included a visit from FC and involved a great deal of glitter! Future events promise to be as exciting as the ones the children have already enjoyed:

- *Chocolate Bingo - Thurs 22nd March*
- *Pop Stars Talent Show - Fri 27th Apr*
- *Family Quiz Night - Thurs 21st June*
- *End of Year Party - Thurs 12th July*

We hope that you can support these events and the wonderful work that the POPs have been doing for the school over many years. Raising funds for the playground will have a really positive impact on the learning in PE and Games as well as improving the playground provision at playtimes. I'd like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to the POPs team for their ongoing endeavours.



Mid-Year Reporting to parents—Stakeholder feedback

Since the last edition of the Express, we've held a series of very positive parent consultation meetings across the three schools, and had a record number of parents and carers in attendance; this highlights the positive working relationship between parents and teachers as key stakeholders in a child's education and the support we have from you all—thank you. As you will know, we trialled a new mid-year report to parents and are keen to gather stakeholder feedback on the format. If you would like to make some comments regarding the reports or the structure of parent consultations please email Mrs Chatterton: rcl9@st-nicholas.worcs.sch.uk

Safeguarding update

Safeguarding Audit On the 28th of February, the Pinvin Federation underwent a safeguarding audit conducted by the DOWMAT. Our safeguarding auditor was 'impressed with the overall culture of safeguarding that has been developed at the Federation'. We received positive feedback across a range of elements in the domain.

Mobile Phone Agreement The Federation is a 'Mobile Phone Free Zone' and we would like to remind Parents and Carers that the mobile phone agreement for pupils to bring mobile phones to the school is for children from Y5 and above only. We do ask though that parents consider carefully before signing the agreement as we do not actively encourage the use of phones. However, we do appreciate that for some children, especially those travelling on school transport, that this is something that some parents consider necessary. Please remember that phones should be turned off at all times whilst on the school site.

Supporting children in making positive choices to safeguard themselves Our Safer School Police Officer, Jenny Humphries, will be visiting both schools over the course of the next month to lead several assemblies to develop pupil awareness of how to keep themselves and others safe. Pinvin First School will hold one around awareness of 'Stranger Danger'-they will play the '999 game' so that they understand who to contact for help in an emergency and the kind of information they might be asked to give by an operator. St Nicholas will have two assemblies: one based on bullying, e-safety and respect of oneself and others, and the second will be about social responsibility and anti-social behaviour. We look forward to welcoming her into school - her previous visits have proven highly informative and engaging.

And finally... The Pinvin Federation pupils do us proud

Two weeks ago we welcomed four visitors from the Raysfield Federation of Schools in Chipping Sodbury. The Executive Headteacher, two Heads of School and an office administrator from the Infant and Junior schools near Bristol were interested in how we operate our two schools and were eager to gain a child's perspective of what being a member of a Federation meant to them, as well as find out what they liked or disliked about the two schools working so closely. They had been told about the positive teachers and the wonderful children we have before their visit and I can assure you they didn't let us down. I was very proud to take the visitors around the two schools; the visitors were astonished by the maturity and confidence of the children they met and asked that this was passed on to you all.