

Newsletter: Friday 7th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Can you believe we only have one week left of this half term!

We knew that our children were kind, respectful and living without harm and we're always improving upon our best. This was something that we felt was embedded in all of our students and we are so proud of the way they behaved as individuals. When we returned to school in September, we returned with a new set of Core Values and Learning Competencies. We wanted to define what makes a good Pioneer, so our new Core Values are: Responsibility, Aspiration, Compassion, Resilience. We have been discussing these in assembly each weekend finding out about some individuals that we can look up to.

Thanks for your continued support.

Jamie Richards / Kellie Henderson
Inclusion Manager / SENCO

Thought of the week: "Strong people stand up for themselves, but stronger people stand up for others"

Theme for assemblies this week: Black History Month is in October.

This week we spoke about Rosa Parks, who protested against laws that segregated people based on the colour of their skin. People who are black, or of colour, were expected to sit at the back of the bus, but Rosa took a seat at the front and refused to move for a white man. She was arrested, charged and fined, but she also changed the world for standing up (or rather sitting down) for what she believes in.

Some schools still teach a history curriculum which focuses on traditional events and the achievements of white figures. Black History Month gives everyone the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture.

Black History Month is a time for reflection and positive changes for the future. During the event, people can celebrate the outstanding contributions that Black people have made to society across the globe, both today and historically.

We are working towards an inclusive curriculum to ensure that our children are learning about individuals that they feel are representative of them.



October is Black History Month - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

At TPA this October we would like to recognise the importance of celebrating differences between us. We would like to expose our children to cultures that they may not have come across before.

On the last day of term, 14th October, we would love to give our children a multicultural tasting experience - if you think you can provide a dish for the children to try, please let us know - not to contain nuts.

If you feel that you can add something to Black History Month and feel that our students could learn something from you about your culture (music, dance, dress), please get in touch with Mr Richards.

WE HAVE ONLY HAD ONE PARENT VOLUNTEER FOR THIS, PLEASE LET MR RICHARDS KNOW BY WEDNESDAY IF YOU CAN HELP OTHERWISE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD THIS EVENT.



We have one more week to collect items for Thurrock Food Bank.

If you would like to donate a food item, please make sure it is non perishable, you can drop it into the school office.

The food bank urgently need TINNED FISH, TINNED POTATOES, TINNED MEAT, TINNED FRUIT, JAMS AND SPREADS, TINNED TOMATOES, MASHED POTATO, DRIED NOODLES, LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE / SQUASH, BISCUITS.

If you are struggling and require support from Thurrock Food Bank, you can find information here:

<https://thurrock.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/>

Terrific Teeth and the School Nurse

The school nursing team visited today to talk to Nursery, Reception and Year 1. They spoke about healthy foods, good brushing techniques and visiting the dentist.

The school nurse will be providing a drop in service on 2nd November 2022 at 8.40 to allow parents the chance to meet her and ask any questions you may have. She may be able to support with fussy eating, anxiety, sleep, bedwetting and more.

As a school we are able to refer your children to her for a variety of reasons so if this is something that you may think will support you/ your child, please message Mr Richards or Miss Henderson.



Thurrock Adult Education

We are excited to be running a First Aid for Parents Course and a course to help you Aid Your Anxious Child. Details and dates will be released soon.

On 1st November, Thurrock Adult Community College will be at Tilbury Hub leading sessions for those interested in working in childcare (maybe as a teaching assistant or early years practitioner). Please contact them if this is something you would be interested in.

They also offer lots of other courses that are free or have funding available! What do you want to learn?

Email: info@tacc.ac.uk
Call: 01375 372476

Beezee Bodies - for healthy habits and weight loss

We are excited to be working with Beezee Bodies. They are an organisation who will support families wanting to lose weight and become healthier. They are non judgemental and can offer advice from nutritionists to help you and your family be more healthy. We can refer you as a school so if this is something you think may support you please get in touch with Mr Richards or Miss Henderson.



Friends of Pioneer

We are really lucky to have some dedicated parents who have been keeping Friends of Pioneer running successfully and holding events that have raised lots of money to support our school including playground equipment, forest school resources and sensory resources.

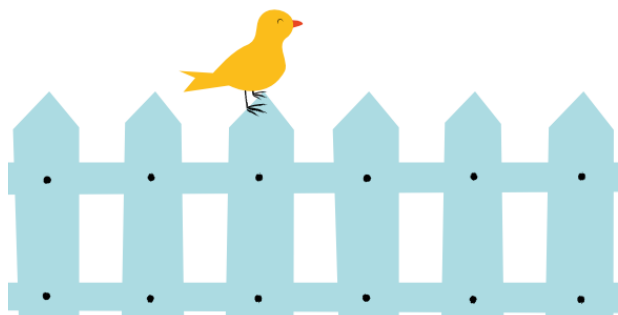
They even contact the Easter Bunny and Father Christmas to make sure Pioneer gets visited! Unfortunately, the team is low on numbers and it won't be possible for them to continue the fantastic work they do without more help. **If you are interested in becoming a Friend of Pioneer or just volunteering some of your time, please contact Friends on FOP@theglc.org.uk**

Support / Advice for Parents

How can I set boundaries?

All children need love, guidance and to have rules and boundaries. Rules and boundaries help families to understand how to behave towards each other, and what's OK and not OK. But the best way to go about this will vary based on your child's age and stage of development. All children are different and develop and reach milestones at different rates.

You can find more UK-wide information at [nhs.uk/conditions/baby/babys-development](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/babys-development)



Top tips...

for all ages

- Keep guidance simple and consistent.
- If your child is behaving in a way you don't want them to, clearly explain what you want them to do instead.
- Be available and make time for your child, so they will come to you when they feel something is wrong or they are upset.
- Keep talking and listening to your child even if at times it feels like a challenge. Start listening from a very early age and set a pattern for life.
- Review family rules as your child gets older and recognise the different needs of children living at home. For example, you shouldn't expect the same from your 12-year-old as you would from your four-year-old.
- Get support from friends and try any good ideas they have found helpful.
- If you are struggling and feel things are getting out of hand, get advice from your GP, a health visitor, or your child's teacher.

for babies – toddlers

- Introduce boundaries from an early age.
- Reflect to your child that you know how they may be feeling – for example, saying "I know you're frustrated," if your child is struggling to do something.
- Share your own feelings if you find it helps to relieve your stress – for example, "I know you're tired but I'm tired too."
- Try to avoid using orders and ultimatums.

for school age – teenagers

- Be willing and give your child opportunities to show they can be trusted.
- Avoid criticism wherever possible. If your child has done something wrong, explain that it is the action and not them that you're unhappy with.
- Try to avoid getting trapped in petty arguments. There are rarely any winners!
- Consider ways to negotiate or offer choices as your child gets older.

Forest School is back!

Year 1 and 2 and Hawkings have been accessing Forest School over this half term,
Nursery and Reception will be joining us next half term!

Forest School is an all weather experience, through the seasons, where mess and dirt is unavoidable but so is learning through play and nature! Here are some photos of the last few weeks, I am sure you've heard all about it!



SEND

This week we take a look at fine motor skills and handwriting. Our fine motor skills are how we move our small muscles and are needed to complete a number of activities, such as writing, cutting with scissors, dressing, brushing our teeth and hair and feeding ourselves.

If your child has difficulty with their fine motor skills, you'll notice that they struggle with:

- Writing
- Drawing
- Playing with construction toys
- Cutting with scissors
- Threading beads
- Putting together jigsaw puzzles
- Doing up buttons, zips and shoelaces
- Using a knife and fork
- Washing and drying their hands
- Opening packets

There are many things at home you can do to support these skills. Activities like threading beads, playdough, using tweezers, picking up small items. Here is a link for lots more ideas

<https://www.littlelifelonglearners.com/2020/03/8-activities-to-develop-fine-motor-skills-at-home.html/>

If your child struggles with their handwriting it is good to practice at home. Here are some top tips:

1. Make Practising Fun

Offer your child a special pencil or a rainbow of colored ones. Don't just give her words to copy. Try simple word puzzles, anagrams, a game of hangman, or ask her to brainstorm lists around a theme to give writing practice a purpose.

2. Encourage Drawing and Puzzle Games

In order to develop the physical requirements of writing — [holding a pencil correctly](#), posture, control, dexterity, coordination — the more time your child spends manipulating objects, the better. Even using silverware can help him develop his fine-motor skills.

3. Pinpoint the Problem

Common handwriting problems lie in four main areas: letter formation, sizing, spaces between words, and line-alignment. Focus your child's practice on the letters or concepts that challenge her and make sure she's using two hands to control the paper.

4. The Right Tools

If your child's struggling with a regular pencil, try a smaller or shorter, kid-sized one. Ensure he has a good eraser handy so he's not afraid of making mistakes

5. Writing Outside the Box

A foggy mirror, patch of mud, or bowl of leftover sauce make great surfaces. Whether your child's practising with his fingers, a stick, or a pencil, inspiring his creativity will lend appeal to writing.

If you are concerned about your child's fine motor skills. Please contact me (Miss Henderson) via Dojo.

Pupil Leadership

Our Eco-Warriors and School Council are already taking action! The Eco-Warriors have been busy designing posters and over the next half term they are going to see what they can do about litter and carry out a nature observation. We are working towards the Green Flag Award for our school.

The school council also had their first meeting this week. Next week we will be interviewing some Year 6 children for our Head Pupil position.



At Pioneer - Bullying is not OK, bullying bothers us!
If you have any concerns about bullying at our school, do not delay, please get in touch with Mr Richards or Mrs Bell, we are really keen to tackle bullying head on and stand up against bullying. You can also share yours/ your child's experiences of bullying here:
<https://forms.gle/hxYyMCLdDVJRWyW66>



Keeping Children Safe - Our Safeguarding Team

If you are concerned about the wellbeing of any child at our school you can speak to any member of our safeguarding team.

If you are worried about a child who doesn't attend our school, or you are concerned outside of school hours, you can report concerns directly to Thurrock Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub on - 01375652802

If you believe someone is in immediate harm you should call 999.