

### *WEEK 1 - Friday 8 September 2023*

Firstly, I hope you managed to have a wonderful break over summer and enjoy the pockets of sunshine. It's such a shame that the summer weather began on the last day of the holidays, but it wouldn't be England if it didn't!

As with every year (it really doesn't matter how many years of experience you have under your belt), the nerves set in for educators a few days before we come back into school, and this year was no exception. However, what comes alongside that is the excitement at seeing all of our wonderful pupils again. Tuesday was such a treat, seeing smiling faces flood in through the gates (and also on the faces of the parents flooding out again!). Following that, it has been a wonderful, calm start to the year and a pleasure to walk into classrooms to see our pupils old and new working incredibly hard and producing beautifully presented work.

I would like to acknowledge some emails that we received over the summer break about the disappointment that the reports at the end of the year did not contain the extensive personal comment. If you recall, in alignment with other schools in the Trust, we made the change last year to publish the long report in the spring term so that you have an in-depth insight into how your children were getting on and what still needs to be done before the end of the year. The reports will follow the same format again this year so please look out for this.

Housekeeping reminders please:

Smart watches are not allowed in school for safeguarding reasons.

Swearing on site is strictly prohibited.

Rucksacks are too big for our pegs and classrooms. Book bags and drawstring bags are the only versions that we safely have room for.

Have a super weekend and I will see you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### *WEEK 2 - Friday 15 September 2023*

I cannot believe that we are at the end of week 2 already. Before we know it, Christmas will be upon us!

This week, Year 4 completed their statutory swimming lessons at Haltemprice. I have heard many wonderful success stories and am delighted that once again, the pupils are able to learn how to keep themselves safe near or in water – such an important, valuable skill.

Next week, our wonderful Reception pupils will take part in their sorting ceremony, in which they will be assigned to their new school houses. This is such a gorgeous event and I hope that all attendees have a fabulous time!

Attendance for last week:

Rec - 96.4,   Y1 - 92.8   Y2 - 97.2   Y3 - 98.3   Y4 - 94.3   Y5 - 96.1   Y6 - 93.6

Well done to year 3 who are the winners of an extra break time next week!

New behaviour System

You may have noticed that we have started a new three-step behaviour system as follows:

Warn – Amber: If a child displays low-level behaviours, they are given a verbal warning with a five minute restorative discussion on what they can do to fix their behaviours.

Consequence – Yellow card: If a behaviour continues, or the behaviour is deemed to be at a higher level, the child will receive a Yellow Card (consequence) and a 15 minute reflection time. The class teacher will contact the parent and email will be sent to notify them.

Remove – Red card: For higher level behaviours, a Red Card classroom removal is issued. At this point a child will complete their learning in a different classroom for the remainder of the morning or afternoon session. Additionally, they will lose the rest of their free time for that day. The class teacher will contact the parent and email will be sent to notify them.

Thank you for all your support ensuring that the children have settled into school amazingly.

Also next week, Mr Hutchinson is holding the Y5 and 6 football trials. Again, good luck to those taking part.

Safety notices:

The School Streets scheme is still in enforcement along Seagran and Winthorpe Road. We are regularly receiving complaints from residents that parents are parking illegally during the restricted times along these streets. As I am sure you can appreciate, it is very difficult for school staff to man these as we are busy inside the building safeguarding and teaching your children. Therefore, the East Riding Council have requested that the police do spot-checks on these streets, which may result in a fine if you are parking illegally. Please observe the signs at the entrance to the streets and familiarise yourselves with the times. So far, we have been unsuccessful in recruiting parent volunteers to man this scheme. We would still welcome any support that you can give to make the streets safer for our pupils. If you feel that you would be able to support even one morning or afternoon session per week then please get in touch with the school office. Thank you.

A polite reminder that cycling or scooting is forbidden on the school grounds as this is a safety concern. We politely request that all pedestrians are also aware of small children around them, particularly when running in bad weather, as it has been brought to my attention that a pupil was knocked over last week. Thank you for your continued support.

I have no idea whether I should wish you fun in the sun or the rain this weekend, because the good old forecast changes every time I look. Whatever you are doing, have a super weekend.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 3 - Friday 22 September 2023**

What a lovely week! This week, one of my favourite events of the year happened – the EYFS sorting ceremony! This is the time when our youngest pupils are organised into their houses for their time at Penshurst, and it is wonderful to see all of the excited faces, eager to take their turn.

I also had an amazing time on Thursday being introduced to Marlowe the Wellbeing Lab's adorable baby brother, Sherlock! He arrived just in time for the KS1 pupils to come in from lunch, and every single one of the 140 faces beamed as soon as they saw the duo. So, without further ado, please meet Sherlock! Bet you smiled too!



Next week, Year 5/6 boys and girls football clubs commence, and on Tuesday 26th, Penshurst will be participating in Cross Country at Wolfreton. We wish all of our budding sports personalities lots of luck!

In other news:

We are eager to be able to share with you all of the wonderful things that our pupils have been doing in and around school, and for those of you who follow us on X (formerly Twitter), you will have noticed that we have increased our volume of tweets (are these now called Xs). If you are not currently a follower, you can do so by searching @PenshurstSchool.

For parents of Year 1 pupils, you will notice that the blinds at the classroom windows are now closed at the end of the day when you collect your child. This safeguarding measure has been taken to alleviate the risk of any pupils sneaking past their teacher when they see their parents. Pupils will be released one at a time when their adult has been seen so that staff are confident that all pupils are accounted for. We politely remind parents to form an orderly line to make this process as swift and efficient as possible. Thank you for supporting us to safeguard your children.

Please see attached a guide for parents on the evolving nature of WhatsApp and the risks that this can pose.

I hope you and your families have a fantastic weekend. One of the things that I look forward to most about a fresh week is hearing all about what your amazing children have been doing. See you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

#### ***WEEK 4 - Friday 29 September 2023***

Our sporty pupils have got off to a fantastic start this year; just this week, one particularly speedy Year 6 girl, Clara, made it through to the cross country finals (finishing 3rd in her heat), which are to be held at Cottingham High School. A massive well done to all who took part, and best of luck to Clara for the next round.

Next week (Tuesday 3rd), our Year 5/6 footballers take part in a match at Wolfreton. Best of luck to all playing. Having covered the Year 5 football club (in heels, badly) this week, I am confident that our team have the skills to smash it!

In other news, next week (Thursday 5th) your child will be having their individual school photographs taken. Please ensure they are wearing the correct uniform and their widest smiles!

Polite reminder: if someone else is collecting your child, please, whenever possible, inform the office or your child's teacher before 12 noon so that these messages are passed on and you are not inconvenienced by having to wait. Thank you.

Prevent and Countering Extremism in Young People

Advice and Guidance for Parents and Carers

Any child could be susceptible to extremist narratives.

There are some factors that may make some children more susceptible than others.

Extremist groups tap into young people's insecurities and claim to offer answers and promise a sense of identity that young people often seek.

As part of their recruitment strategy, extremist groups also work to undermine the authority of parents and guardians. This is often done online whilst the children are playing games.

Please find attached further information regarding this here.

The weeks are speeding by! Have (another) fantastic weekend and see you next week for the next instalment!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 5 - Friday 6 October 2023**

This Thursday, it was wonderful to see our pupils looking pristine and smiley as they entered the school ready for their photos being taken. Marlowe and Sherlock decided that they wanted a piece of the action, and here are the out-takes to make you smile! It must be tiring being this photogenic!



Next week, our Year 5/6 girls will be attending a football event at Wolfreton. We wish them all lots of luck!

Other notices:

We are excited to inform you that our progress evenings will be taking place on Monday 16 and Wednesday 18 October. The link to book these appointments has been sent and will become live at 6pm on Monday 9 October. Thank you.

We have noticed that after school, there are a number of pupils, and occasionally families, staying on the school site until after clubs. For safeguarding purposes, we will be vacating the playgrounds at 15:30 and closing the gates until 16:00 when clubs are released. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please ensure your child brings their PE kit in on a Monday and takes it home on a Friday. We have an increase in the number of pupils who are not bringing it in and PE is a legal requirement. Thank you for supporting us to maintain the health of your child.

Have a wonderful weekend and see you next week!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 6 - Friday 13 October 2023**

We have had an incredibly busy week at Penshurst this week.

Year 4 had a super time making pizzas (and an even better time eating them!). Pop over to our X (previously Twitter) posts to see what else we have been up to. @PenshurstSchool

On Tuesday, our Girls Football Team took part in a tournament. Most of the 10 girls who competed had never played an actual game prior to this and conducted themselves brilliantly. Despite their incredibly hard work, we didn't win the tournament and were up against some tough competition. However, we did manage to finish in 6th place! Some fantastic solo runs and a couple of great goals from Clara (Y6) gave us a fighting chance.

Our pupils had their annual flu vaccines and the medical team administering them would like me to pass on how awesome your children were – to the point where even EYFS and Year 1 pupils were able to give their address, month of birth and parents names. What superstars we have!

Next week, please remember that we have Progress Evenings on Monday and Wednesday.

I would like to give you advanced warning that after half term, Pupil of the Week will move to a Friday afternoon. We feel that this would be a wonderful way for the pupils to end their week, and less of an inconvenience for parents if they could simply take their children home afterwards. Thank you for your continued understanding and support of this wonderful celebration.

Here is a recent article about the risks of children vaping that we thought would be useful for you to take a moment to read.

Some of the children are referring to "hit the blinker" referring to taking a hit for the longest amount of time that the battery will allow (before it blinks).

Other children are purchasing vapes from the Tik Tok shop that look like marker pens, these have high levels of concentrated nicotine which cause a 'high' when inhaled.

Children 'so addicted to vapes they can't last lesson without one' - as mother of teenager who died issues warning | UK News | Sky News

Children 'so addicted to vapes they can't last lesson without one' - as mother of teenager who died issues warning

Headteacher Tony McCabe had the vape sensors fitted in the toilets at St Joseph's High School in Horwich, Bolton. He says a ban will go a long way to helping the problem - but students say it will push vaping underground.

news.sky.com

No Electric Scooters on site

A polite reminder to advise that electric scooters are not allowed on the school site.

Here is some guidance from the police website:

Advice on e-scooter usage | Police.uk ([www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk))

What is an e-scooter?

Electrical scooters (also known as e-scooters) come under the category of “powered transporters”; this covers a range of personal transport devices which are powered by a motor.

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988. Which means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters including the need to have a licence, insurance and tax.

It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces. If you're using a private e-scooter you risk the vehicle being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for no insurance.

If you cause serious harm to another person whilst riding an e-scooter the incident will be investigated in the same way it would if you were riding a motorcycle or driving a car.

Have a wonderful (supposedly sunny) weekend and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 7 - Friday 20 October 2023**

This week, we held the first of our progress evenings and it was so lovely to welcome so many of you to our school, and see you leaving with smiles on your faces. By the end of the second night, I was starving after hearing about all of the families that were going to McDonalds to celebrate! If you haven't managed to attend a session with your child's class teacher to discuss your child's education, please note that they will be arranging telephone calls with you. Additionally, if you haven't completed the questionnaire yet, please do so here.

I have been informed that a very small minority of parents have been cycling down the path and around the school site. Please note that bikes and scooters are not to be ridden on the site, and we work hard to instil this rule into our learners for the health and safety of all stakeholders. I am sure you join us in wanting to set a good example. Please note that you will be approached and asked to dismount by a member of staff. Thank you.

Next week, we will hold our Open Event for children starting Reception year in September 2024. This event will be held on Wednesday 25 October and will start with a welcome in the main hall by our lovely EYFS leaders, and will move into the Reception area for you to have a good look around.

See you next week for the final week before half term. Reminder that the school is closed on Friday 27 October for staff training. I hope you have a super weekend.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 8 - Thursday 26 October 2023**

We have finally reached week 8 of a very long half term, and what a half term it has been.

There have been many changes as we have introduced a new curriculum model for Geography, History, DT, Art and Science. It was wonderful to hear so many parents telling their child's teacher at progress evening about how much their child is teaching them, and I look forward to chatting with pupils from each year group in November to see what they have remembered.

This week, we held our Open Evening for children starting school in September 2024, which allowed new families to come and view what we have to offer. We had many visitors, and they were even greeted by two special guests – Marlowe and Sherlock (the wellbeing dogs), which went down a treat!

When we return from the half term break, our Reception Phonics Workshop will be held on Tuesday 7 November between 15:30 and 16:00.

Polite reminders and notices:

Juice is allowed in packed lunches, but water should be sent in bottles for the pupils to access in the classroom. Teachers have been asked to check this. Thank you.

We have had a case of headlice in Year 5. Please check your child's hair and treat accordingly if you notice anything.

Parents are not permitted on site between 3:30 and 4 as the gates will be closed then. This does include whilst football clubs are practising on the fields. Thank you for your understanding.

Operations - we are currently changing online payment providers as mentioned in correspondence to you recently. ParentPay will cease taking payments on Thursday 26 October at 2pm. After this time, payment can only be made via ArborPay. Please do this by logging into your parent account.

Mrs Greenley, Operations Manager

Safeguarding - there are lots of activities and events during the school holidays in Hull and the East Riding. You can find a full list of all special events and activities at local attractions and from local clubs and classes, both free and paid for to keep your little ones entertained during the school holidays. If you need childcare then there is also a list of the school holiday workshops, clubs and camps running locally here Hull and East Riding Mumbler

PFA - the Monster Mash Disco will take place on Wednesday 8 November. Please refer to the previous communication for times and further details.

Have a wonderful half term, and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 6 November.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 9 - Friday 10 November 2023**

Welcome to a brand new half term – many would argue the best time at primary school due to the lead up to Christmas. This week has been a busy one and it doesn't look like we are taking our foot off the pedal next week either!

Year 6 started their bikeability training, which will finish next week. The learners have been extremely productive and industrious in the classroom, and you can see some super examples of this on X (formerly Twitter) if you follow @PenshurstSchool. The PFA also held a Monster Mash disco and it was, as always, very well attended.

Next week, (Monday 13th) the PFA will hold a film night for Years 3 & 4, on Thursday, Year 4 parents are invited in for the Multiplication Workshop to go through everything you need to know about the statutory multiplication tables check that Year 4 pupils take each year. Also on Thursday, our Year 6 pupils will take part in a Histrionics workshop, and then to top it off, Friday brings us Children in Need. Your child is invited to dress in bright clothes, spots, or Pudsey inspired clothing, to raise money for this wonderful cause.

Polite reminder:

PE kits should be brought into school on a Monday and taken home on a Friday. We have an increasing number of pupils who are not bringing theirs. Please check your child's bag before coming to school on a Monday morning. Thank you.

Looking ahead:

It is the Brake Road Safety week commencing 19 November, to coincide with this, and because the nights are drawing in, East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Road Safety Team are offering to give out some bike lights, to our pupils who cycle to school, to keep them safe. This will take place on the Wednesday morning that week.

Have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 10 - Friday 17 November 2023**

One of the highlights for me this week was seeing a sea of bright and spotty pupils supporting Children in Need. I love how creative our families are with dress-up days and thank you for your continued support

It is always so wonderful to hear about exciting and engaging activities and events that the pupils have taken part in, and this week, Year 6 welcomed a visitor from Histrionics, who captivated our learners whilst talking about World War II. I'm not sure who was more excited – the pupils or Mrs Whitaker, who beamed from ear to ear when she relayed the day's events to me.

We were pleased to welcome parents of our Year 4 learners into school this week to learn all about the Year 4 Multiplication Check, which became statutory a couple of years ago. Thank you to all of the parents who attended this event to find out how to support their child's learning.

Polite reminder:



If your child requires a school meal, and has an appointment or will arrive at school after 9:30, this meal must be pre-ordered, please contact the office to do so. Thank you.

One again, I must remind parents about driving and parking respectfully when dropping off and collecting your children. As communicated previously, we are unable to 'man' the streets as we are busy safeguarding and teaching your children in school. We are now directing residents and other parents to the police with photos of any concerns. Thank you for your understanding.

Have a super weekend, and see you all next week.

Message from the PFA – thank you for supporting our Film Night, we hope the children enjoyed it!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 11 - Friday 24 November 2023**

Another exciting and busy week this week.

Year 3 welcomed a visitor in this week to learn all about the Romans. This evening, a selection of our pupils will take part in performing at the Hessle Lights Switch On. This is always a great way to get into the Christmas spirit!

Thank you for your support in moving our Pupil of the Week assemblies to a Friday afternoon. We decided on the end of the day for two reasons – so that the core learning of Reading, Writing and Maths was not disturbed in the morning, and also to support parents with collecting their pupils at home time. Please note that if your child has earned Pupil of the Week, you will need to collect them in the normal way at 3.10pm. Unfortunately, we cannot facilitate parents walking back to classrooms for safeguarding reasons. Thank you for your cooperation.

Message from the PFA:

Friday saw a sea of comfy shoes as we hosted Comfy Feet Friday in aid of the Christmas Fair. Thank you so much for all of your generous donations. My eyes nearly popper out of my head when I saw the haul that had been collected.

Polite reminders:

If you have permission to drive on the school site (due to disabilities, Aces collection etc.), please do remember that there is a strict 5mph speed limit. Although pupils do not walk down the drive, the bends make it difficult to see what may be coming in the opposite direction and there have been near-misses. Thank you.

Note about the Graduate Award from Mr Thorp:

At Penshurst, sparking enthusiasm for learning and ensuring our children develop strong foundational skills stand as our top priorities. To foster academic scholarship and ignite a passion for knowledge, we're reintroducing the Graduate Awards as a core component of our homework studies. This initiative will empower students across all year groups to actively pursue success and take ownership of their learning journey.

Every week, teachers, alongside pupils, will select a topic from our comprehensive resource library, directly linked to their ongoing classroom education. Students are encouraged to prepare for the

Graduate Awards using resource sheets provided by their class teacher and each Friday, students will have the chance to showcase their learning through participation in a quiz.

The Graduate Awards system operates as follows:

1 graduate pass equals 1 token. 5 tokens can be exchanged for a bronze badge.

15 tokens (or 1 bronze badge and 10 tokens) can be exchanged for a silver badge.

25 tokens (or 1 silver badge and 10 tokens) can be exchanged for a gold badge.

Upon achieving a silver badge, pupils are invited to participate in an additional Head of School Award. In this special recognition, children will delve into a 'Little People, Big Dreams' book and undergo a quiz hosted by Mrs Preston, offering a unique opportunity to celebrate their academic accomplishments further. Success in this will result in a specially designed postcard to take home. There are over 100 books that the pupils can choose from.

Safeguarding:

This week I have attached information about free online courses which look at a range of issues that can occur for parents in different situations, including those who are separating. You can scan the QR code to set up a free account and to access the online resources.

## Online relationship support for parents



Parents in this area can now access **THREE ONLINE COURSES** from the relationship experts at OnePlusOne. Learn to cope with stress and communicate better, wherever you are in your parenting journey.



FOR ALL PARENTS

### Arguing better

Disagreements are a normal part of life. How you approach them can make all the difference to you, your partner, and your children. You will learn:

- How to recognise stress and how it can affect you.
- How to support each other through difficult times.
- What causes arguments and how to stop them.



FOR NEW PARENTS

### Me, You and Baby Too

Learn how to navigate the changes that happen in a relationship when a baby arrives, including:

- How you and your partner can support each other.
- How to talk to bring up difficult topics.
- How arguments start, and how to stop them.



FOR SEPARATING PARENTS

### Getting it right for children

When parents are separating or separated, children can often get caught in the middle. Learn how to manage conflict to minimise the impact it has on your children, as well as:

- How to stop a discussion from turning into an argument.
- How to stay calm and listen as well as talk.
- Skills for finding solutions and making compromises.

To access the courses, you will need a smartphone, tablet, or computer, and a good internet connection. They are all FREE to use, so you'll just need to select your local authority area and create an account with a username and password. You can get started by scanning the QR code or visiting: [www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents](http://www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents)



Have a super weekend and see you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 12 - Friday 1 December 2023**

Things are really ramping up in the run-up to Christmas here at Penshurst!

Nursery have held their Stay and Play sessions with parents, Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed their visit from the Planetarium, which supports their learning all about Space. One of my favourite moments of this week was the magic that happened in EYFS on Thursday. Our little learners were all settled, listening to their teachers read a story about the first kiss of snow, when what should happen? They looked out of the window and observed a flurry of exactly that! Yes, the teachers really did make that just happen! 😊

Today, you will have received the first of our Advent Calendar stories to share with your child. Mrs Whitaker had the wonderful idea of creating an advent calendar bursting with Christmas stories, read by our brilliant team, for you to listen to. I hope you enjoy listening as much as we enjoyed making them!

The East Riding Music Hub have asked us to share some information about a signing choir that they would like to create. If you feel that your child would like to be part of this, please click on the following information and complete the application form. Thank you.

ERYC Music Letter.pdf Application form V2 - music.docx

I hope you have a super first weekend of December and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 13 - Friday 8 December 2023**

Penshurst has been jingling all the way to the weekend this week as our productions are underway. My favourite part of this week was attempting to greet all of the Nursery parents whilst 40+ 3-4 year olds tried to get the attention of their mums and dads behind me. Seeing all of the nativity characters really brought back memories of being a little girl in primary school and what a wonderful time (for most) this is.

Alongside this, we held Christmas Jumper day on Thursday which was a delight to see. What a wonderful variety of attire we have to choose from now for the festive period. Often, our faves are the ones that we can see have been lovingly made by families together at home. We would always encourage these, especially in these difficult financial times.

Another lovely sight was as I drove back down Winthorpe Road after attending a meeting offsite this week, see the Reception pupils trundling to the Post Office on their annual trip to deliver their Christmas lists to Santa. Fingers crossed he gets to read them all in time for the big night!

Mrs Smith encouraged pupils to cycle or scoot to school this week as we held our annual Bling Your Bike event. The hot chocolate and festive cheer were flowing!

Finally, the PFA held their annual Christmas Movie Night for Years 3-6, at which our pupils could enjoy a showing of Home Alone – possibly the best Christmas movie of all time.

Speaking of Christmas (a lot!), we have received a few emails expressing the disappointment at only one parent being able to attend the Years 4-6 Christmas production at the church. I must stress that this is a restriction that has been enforced by the church and not the school. We have 207 pupils in the production and initially, the church stipulated 150 in the audience. We managed to negotiate one per family but they will not accommodate more for safety reasons. We were only told this recently which is why we have been unable to explore other options such as additional productions. Should this be the case next year, we will have more time to look into the possibility of extra events etc. Thank you for your understanding.

Polite reminder: Children in Reception year, Year 1 and Year 2 should enter the school in a morning via their classroom doors, and children in Key Stage 2 should enter via the KS2 doors. The doors at the side of the main school reception will not be open. I will reiterate this in an assembly but would be grateful if you could please inform your child of this so that they are not stood waiting. Thank you.

With the run up to Christmas, there are many families accessing the Disney+ app to watch films. As with any apps, there are potential risks.

Please see attached more information on what to look out for.

Have a wonderful weekend and as always, I look forward to seeing you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 14 - Friday 15 December 2023**

Our penultimate week has been yet another busy one.

We kicked off the week with a wonderful performance from Chaplins Panto. 'Oh no you didn't!' we hear you cry! (Sorry!!).

Our beautiful Reception / Year 1 productions were held this week and I would like to thank all who attended to support the pupils in their superstar roles.

Our annual Christmas lunch was held on Wednesday and I thoroughly enjoyed boogying down the aisles to festive music whilst the pupils tucked into a delicious Christmas Dinner.

Today, our wonderful Rocksteady Band will perform to their parents after rehearsing for months to reach stardom. As I type this, this event is yet to happen but I am sure it will have been a fabulous one.

In other news:

'Responsibility' is one of our core values and I have recently spoken to all our pupils about the need to take a collective responsibility for ensuring that all rubbish and packaging is properly disposed of in the dining hall at lunchtime. I am pleased that the pupils have responded positively to this. I was particularly pleased that Year 6 pupils engaged with this discussion maturely and saw the need for everyone to take responsibility and to respect our school. We have also added some additional supervision into the canteen to ensure that these standards are maintained.

Reminders:

Once again, I have been asked to remind parents about safe driving and parking down Winthorpe Road and Penshurst Avenue. Thank you to parents who are now reporting any dangerous activity to the police – they are the ones that can enforce fines etc so please ensure this is the step that you take should you see something of concern. A powerful way to look at it is ‘What if it were my child that was involved in an accident that I caused?’. Thank you for supporting us in ensuring all pupils are safe.

Next Thursday (21st), please remember that school closes at 2pm. As this is not the normal finishing time, pupils will not be allowed to walk home alone and will need to be collected. Thank you in advance.

Next week, you will receive your child’s termly report with their current grade. I know that the wording of this has caused some confusion previously so I wanted to offer some clarification on here. If your child is graded as B, this means that they are working significantly below where they should be at this point in the year. If they are a W, they are working towards where they should be but accessing some of the work successfully. If they are graded as N, this means that they are currently on track to reach National Standard (at least where they should be at the end of their year) and where they should be. If they are A, they are smashing the current work and accessing challenge activities. Should you need any further clarification on this, please contact your child’s class teacher. Thank you.

Have a super weekend and I will see you next week for our final week of the term.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 15 - Thursday 21 December 2023**

We have just wrapped up the final week of what has been an incredibly long term.

Changes to staff, the curriculum, the environment.... you name it and we have undergone it. We are seeing some really wonderful work being produced from our hard-working learners and look forward to seeing what they are capable of next year.

This week, the productions came to a close with Years 2 and 3 keeping up the festivities on Monday and Tuesday and Years 4, 5 and 6 closing the events on Thursday at the church. The first time I heard the singing properly was at the rehearsal on Wednesday and it really brought a smile to my face. I am sure the same happened to you if you were in attendance.

Our EYFS has been busy this week with our January starters to the Nursery attending a stay and play session with parents, as well as our Reception Year pupils getting stuck into a Christmas Craft afternoon with their parents on Wednesday.

Our Christmas Advent Calendar stories are still available to watch. We really hope you are enjoying snuggling down and viewing them with your children each day. These will run right up to Christmas Eve.

On behalf of all of the staff at Penshurst, we would like to wish you lots of love and the merriest of Christmases. See you in 2024!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 16 - Friday 12 January 2024**

It was lovely to welcome parents and learners back this week after what I hope was an enjoyable and restful break.

We have launched back into our sporting fixtures this week with the Year 5/6 girls cup match Vs Anlaby Primary on Friday afternoon. At the time of writing this, the match had not yet taken place so I will keep you posted on the results next week.

Speaking of PE, previously, we have communicated that thanks to your generosity, we now have plenty of spare uniform at school (bigger sizes still welcome). However, we would be very grateful if you could donate any PE kit items that no longer fit your child (e.g. house-coloured or white t-shirts, shorts, jogging bottoms etc). Black school shoes would also be welcomed.

Why do people go into teaching? Obviously, there are many different reasons, but I'm fairly confident that should you ask staff at Penshurst, the most common ones would be a love of spending time with children and making a difference to their lives, and a desire to support younger generations to better themselves and reach their full potential. You put your trust in us each and every day by leaving your children in our care, and it is an honour to be able to educate, nurture and support them. Daily, we reflect on our school values with the learners, and the staff work tirelessly to role-model these to them. Furthermore, we absolutely love chatting to our parents and believe that we have a positive, respectful relationship with our local community. Mutual respect is paramount in maintaining this type of relationship and staff carefully consider their approach towards parents in any difficult circumstances. We are very fortunate that in 99% of our conversations with parents, staff receive the same mutual respect back. We politely remind you that we all want the best for your children and that the only way to achieve this is to ensure mutual respect and consideration is present. Thank you.

Enjoy the weekend and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 17 - Friday 19 January 2024**

This week has been a week of greeting little red noses and rosy cheeks as the learners have been in and out of the building in the freezing temperatures. Whilst it is dry and not too slippery underfoot, we will continue to encourage the learners to get fresh air outdoors at break and lunchtime. Therefore, please ensure your child comes to school in clothing and footwear that is suitable for the conditions.

Last week, as I was typing the blog, the Year 5/6 girl's football team were busy battling against Anlaby Primary in a match. After an exciting and competitive game with some excellent skills exhibited, we were unfortunately defeated, by one Anlaby pupil scoring an epic 7 goals! Move over Millie Bright!

As I type this, our 5/6 boys are battling on the field against Brough Primary. Let's wish them lots of luck!

I am looking forward to sporting fixtures increasing over the coming weeks and will keep you up to date with our progress. For now, I hope you have a super weekend and will see you on Monday.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 18 - Friday 26 January 2024**

Congratulations to all who made it to the school gates this week without being blown away in the process! I do hope you have all managed to (literally) weather the storm this week. At one point, I did lay awake in fear of my 220 year old chimney!

As always, a whole host of exciting activities have been taking place in our classrooms this week. Year 1 have been experimenting with primary colours and using these to create artwork inspired by Piet Mondrian. Year 3 have learnt all about how shadows are formed in Science, and have investigated whether opaque, translucent and transparent objects cast them. Year 4 have been learning about different parts of the digestive system and have new words in their vocabulary bank such as Bolus, Oesophagus and Enzymes. For more information on all of our latest learning, please visit our X (formerly Twitter) page!

Your child may have come home and mentioned a new resource that we have introduced this week called Reading Plus. This is designed to increase reading fluency and also improve comprehension. We will be allocating time within the school day for your child to access this, but they are also able to do so at home. Before your child can really get their teeth into it, they must sit an initial assessment which we have timetabled over the past week. Once they have completed this, you will receive further information including your child's login details. Please feel free to use this in addition to, or instead of, your child's Reading Record. Thank you for your continued support.

Last week, at the time of writing my Blog, our boys' football team were battling against Brough Primary and it was a narrow defeat at 4-3 to Brough. Once again, a huge well done to our brilliant team.

In other news:

As previously mentioned, when driving on the school site, please remember that there is a 5mph speed limit. There is a sharp, blind bend on the drive, and we have staff who cycle along this daily. Please note that if this limit is not adhered to, permission will not be granted to access the drive. Thank you for helping to keep us safe.

All that remains is to wish you a fantastic weekend. See you next week!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 19 - Friday 2 February 2024**

This week has been another exciting learning week for our Penshurst Learners, who have participated in a huge range of activities, including: Nursery making porridge for the 3 bears as part of their Goldilocks and the Three Bears week; Reception tasting a variety for exotic fruits and considering the best vocabulary to describe them; Year 1 looking at oceans and seas surrounding the UK and learning about the 10 commandments in RE; Year 2 creating wonderful music on glockenspiels; Year 4 learning all about lines of latitude and longitude in Geography; Year 5 learning all about Ancient Greeks and engaging in hot seating discussions; Year 6 dissecting animal hearts; and our budding gardeners harvesting some of the produce from the allotment. This is to name but a few. Head over to our Twitter page to find out more.



Year 6 parents will have received a letter this week informing them of an information session after half term. In this session, we will give information about what can be expected in SATs, let you know how you can support your child, supply you with some useful resources to support your child and answer any questions that you may have. We would encourage all Year 6 parents to attend this insightful session.

Just a reminder that next week is the final week of this half term.

Have a super weekend and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 20 - Friday 9 February 2024**

We have reached the final week of this half term, and it has been busier than ever!

On Twitter, you will discover a wide variety of exciting activities including: Nursery pupils comparing the size of objects relating to Goldilocks and the Three Bears; Reception pupils creating Transient Art using loose objects; Year 1 creating Positive Affirmation posters during their Wellbeing Afternoon; Year 2 learning all about health, the positive effects of exercise, and testing what it does to your heart rate; Year 3 using Digimaps to explore human and physical landmarks; Year 4 creating incredible tie-dye masterpieces in Art; Year 5 engaging in activities that explore what is fair and unfair / kind and unkind, and demonstrating how to empathise with others; Year 6 becoming news reporters and composing a report about natural disasters in the local area; and our Gardening Club working incredibly hard to prepare the raised beds for planting new seeds

Our Year 6 Parent Information Evening will take place on Monday 19 February at 4.30pm. If you have a child in Year 6, you will have already received notification of this, but we will also send a reminder during the half term break. During this session, you will be given essential information about the statutory Year 6 SATs tests, details on how we prepare for this in school and advice on how you can support your child through this period.

Reminders:

The current cycle of after-school clubs is now finished. New clubs will begin after half term (week commencing 26th February). Please note there will be no clubs in the week commencing 19th February

We have had a report of head-lice in Year 4. We would advise that you check your child's hair should you have any concerns and treat accordingly.

I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 19th February!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 21 - Friday 23 February 2024**

Welcome back to another half term. I hope that you managed to enjoy some quality family time together last week, despite the poor weather.



I would like to start by thanking the Year 6 parents who were in attendance at the information evening on Monday. I hope you found it informative and that we were able to answer any queries that you may have.

On Tuesday night, we were dazzled by a sea of party clothes as we welcomed our boogying pupils into the Friendship Disco. I'm not sure who enjoyed dancing most – the children or Miss Careless! Mr Key and Mr Thorp were also throwing some funky shapes whilst DJing too! It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces come together in one place. Thank you for supporting this event which helped to raise funds for the Year 6 residential trip.

Also on Tuesday, we hosted the Year 5 football match against Kirkella. The playing from both teams was excellent although it was a worth win for Kirkella.

As always, if you would like to see what your children have been learning this week, please head over to X (formerly Twitter) where you will see an array of exciting activities that have taken place.

Polite reminder:

It is forbidden for scooters and bikes to be ridden at any point on the school grounds, by either pupils or parents. I am sure you can appreciate that this is for the safety of all pedestrians. Thank you for your cooperation.

Once again, I would like to remind you that if there is an issue with parking on the roads around the school, please call 111 and report this to the police. I would also suggest that photographic evidence is obtained. Please note that the school have neither the staff to man the streets nor the power to issue fines.

This week there is an exciting FREE art exhibition happening in Ferens Art Gallery -Hull, I'm sure our budding artists (and their families) would enjoy it so I've outlined the details below.

Jason Wilsher-Mills: Are We There Yet?

24th February 2024 - 2nd June 2024

Join us at the Ferens for a colourful journey into the imagination and experiences of disabled artist Jason Wilsher-Mills!

Created in response to disabled communities in Hull, Wakefield and Manchester, Jason's theatrical portraits and sculptures reflect aspects of his personality, memory, and disability. This family friendly exhibition is suitable for all ages and includes Augmented Reality (AR) and interactive experiences.

Jason's fun, empowering and insightful creations will excite and move you. Through this exhibition you'll gain a greater understanding of our world and how those with disabilities experience it.

Alongside the exhibition will be an exciting and accessible programme of events and activities for all ages. This includes a talk by Jason in May, baby sensory sessions, storytelling, relaxed openings, workshops delivered by artists, and craft sessions.

Jason Wilsher-Mills: Are We There Yet? – Hull Museums and Galleries

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Did you know that every Saturday, starting from this weekend, Humber Street Gallery are running 'Arty Bods' workshops? Aimed at children 5-11 they cost £5 a session (or pay what you can).

download.png

(Moderate)

It goes without saying that if you do attend one of these sessions, we'd love to hear about it!

Have a fabulous weekend. I look forward to seeing you next week!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

**WEEK 22 - Friday 1 March 2024**

I am excited to share with you a brief recap of a number of events that have taken place this week.

TCAT Learner Conference (Thursday, February 29th):

The TCAT Learner Conference was a fantastic opportunity for a random selection of our learners to engage with various learning experiences and gain insights into their educational journey. The event featured interactive workshops, informative presentations, and engaging discussions that were focused on the theme of Sustainability. I was incredibly proud to witness Penshurst learners amongst the most enthusiastic attendees to share their ideas.

The conference fostered an environment where teachers, and learners from across the Trust could collaborate to support the academic and personal development of each learner. We believe that such events contribute significantly to the success of our educational community.

SEND Bowling Event (Friday, March 1st):

On Friday, March 1st, the SEND bowling event aimed to celebrate diversity and promote an atmosphere of camaraderie among learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It was heartening to see learners of all abilities come together to enjoy a day of fun and friendly competition on the bowling lanes.

Year 5 transition workshop (Friday, March 1st):

Education is a journey, and for learners, transitioning from primary to secondary school marks a significant milestone. Recognising the importance of a smooth transition, the dedicated staff of Penshurst collaborated with the Head of Year 7 at Hesse High School and arranged a workshop that aimed to ease the transition process, create a seamless educational experience, and foster a supportive learning environment.

The workshop covered a range of topics, including academic expectations, extracurricular activities, and the social aspects of transitioning to a larger school. The goal was to demystify the secondary school experience, address any concerns learners may have, and create a positive anticipation for the next chapter in their educational journey.

We look forward to future opportunities to create enriching experiences for our learners.

As always, head over to our X page for the full range of exciting learning experiences this week! See you next week!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 23 - Friday 8 March 2024**

As we reach the end of another busy week, I would firstly like to thank you for embracing the spirit of World Book Day this week and encouraging your children to dress up as their favourite literary characters or a key word. This has supported your child in a number of ways:

**Fostering a Love for Reading:** Your active participation in World Book Day sends a powerful message to your children about the importance of literature. You've supported us in showing them that reading is not just a task but a source of joy and inspiration.

**Building Confidence and Creativity:** The creativity displayed in the costumes was nothing short of amazing! From adventurous pirates to enchanting wizards, each outfit reflected the unique personality and imagination of your child. By supporting their choice to dress as a word, you've not only encouraged creativity but also boosted their confidence to express themselves in a fun and imaginative way.

**Promoting a Sense of Community:** Your active involvement in World Book Day has contributed to building a sense of community within our school. The collective effort to celebrate literature and showcase the diverse characters from beloved stories fosters a spirit of togetherness and unity.

Thanks also to Hesse Bookshop who visited Penshurst this week to help our avid readers exchange their book tokens for exciting reads. I look forward to the learners sharing these with me.

As I mentioned last Friday, a number of our learners attended a special bowling event that day in which they competed against schools from across the city. I would like to offer my sincere apologies as in my excitement to tell you about the event, I omitted to mention that not only did Penshurst win first place in the competition, but one of our fabulous learners in Year 2 (who had never been bowling before) scored the highest in the whole competition! What an incredible achievement! Let's hope this becomes an Olympic sport!

A full range of exciting learning opportunities can be viewed by heading over to X. Happy browsing and see you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 24 - Friday 15 March 2024**

As we wrap up another eventful week here at Penshurst, we wanted to take a moment to share some of the highlights.

**Red Nose Day:** On Friday, Red Nose Day was celebrated with a dazzling sea of crimson schnozzles. This year, we took the difficult decision to not dress up for this event as it was very close to the previous dress-up event, and we are conscious of the burden that this may place on our families.

**Rocksteady Concert:** The stage was set alight this week as our budding rockstars took centre stage for the much-anticipated Rocksteady concert. From electrifying guitar solos to soulful vocals and groovy beats, our students captivated the audience with their musical prowess and infectious energy. It was truly inspiring to witness their confidence and passion shine through as they showcased months of hard work and dedication. A huge round of applause to all involved in this event.

Once again, I would like to direct you to X (formerly Twitter) where you will see a range of fantastic learning opportunities that have taken place this week.

Next week

We are delighted to share some exciting upcoming events that promise to ignite the imagination and showcase our students' sporting prowess. From magical adventures to exhilarating matches, there's something for everyone to look forward to!

**Harry Potter World Trip for Year 5:** Calling all aspiring witches and wizards! Our Year 5 students are in for a magical treat as they embark on an enchanting journey to Harry Potter World. Set against the backdrop of the iconic wizarding universe created by J.K. Rowling, this trip promises to be an unforgettable experience filled with wonder, excitement, and endless opportunities for adventure. From exploring the hallowed halls of Hogwarts to sampling butterbeer at Hogsmeade, our students will immerse themselves in the spellbinding world of magic and mystery. We can't wait to see the awe and delight on their faces as they step into the pages of one of literature's most beloved tales.

**Year 5 and 6 Boys and Girls Football Event at Hymers:** On the sporting front, our Year 5 and 6 boys and girls are gearing up to showcase their skills and teamwork at the football event hosted by Hymers. With their eyes set on victory and their spirits high, our teams are ready to take on the competition and demonstrate the true essence of sportsmanship and camaraderie. Win or lose, we



know that our students will give it their all and make us proud with their passion, determination, and grace.

Here's to many more weeks filled with laughter, learning, and memorable moments ahead. Have a super weekend!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 25 - Friday 22 March 2024**

This week has been another busy one with exciting activities and learning taking place at Penshurst, much of which, you can follow on X (formerly Twitter).

This week has been an incredibly sporty one with 2 days of football events taking place at Hymers on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Year 5/6 boys were up first and after an exhausting and competitive day, were defeated on penalties. Next, the Year 5/6 girls took to the field and were triumphant in winning their play-off section! Both teams were a credit to the school and a credit to our families.



As I drove to work this morning, I noticed our excited Year 5 pupils heading in the opposite direction on their Harry Potter trip. I wish them a wonderful visit and can't wait to hear all about it when they return to school after Easter.

Sadly, the typical British weather stopped play for our Holi colour festival on Wednesday. Some year groups are choosing to 'play it by ear' and see what the weather is doing each day. Rest assured, a child sporting an array of bright colours will be heading home to you in the near future.

In other news:

We have again noticed that energy drinks/Prime drinks have been creeping into packed lunch boxes. Please do not send your child with one of these as they are laced with caffeine, stimulants and sugars which, as confirmed by the NHS website, are not healthy or suitable for children. Please continue to provide water for the classroom and a juice drink or water for lunch. We will replace any energy drinks with water and return them to the pupil at the end of the day. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please note, we have a reported case of Headlice in Year 6.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break, filled with chocolate and quality down-time, and I look forward to welcoming you back on the 8th April.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 26 - Friday 12 April 2024**

Welcome back to the final term. I am incredibly excited to see what the Summer term has to offer. One thing I know for sure - I will be frantically walking the corridors of Penshurst in a bid to burn off all of my Easter indulgence!

I hope you managed to make some lovely memories over the Easter break and I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing these with your children this week.

Lots of information to share this week!

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Message from Mrs Smith – Head Gardener and Eco-Extraordinaire!

It is that time of year again when gardening club get really busy with planting - we are always really pleased with the many items we get donated and would ask that if you find yourself with spare/preloved items, such as pots, planters, tools that you will donate them to us, along with any seeds, cuttings, plants. please leave for the attention of Mrs Smith or Mrs Holmes.

Many thanks

Mrs Smith

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A reminder that the PFA Bingo Night will be held on Wednesday 24th April. You will, by now, have received information about this. We would love you to come and support this event to raise funds for the Year 2 trip to

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Health and Safety Update (Measles)

Measles continues to be on the increase in the UK. Since the 5th February there have been 192 laboratory confirmed cases of measles, with 13 of them in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Advice to give to parents: If a child has measles, they should stay off nursery or school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears, and avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system. They need to see a GP and should alert the GP surgery before attending since measles spreads easily. Clinicians are required to notify all suspected measles cases as soon as possible to their local health protection team (HPT), both as part of surveillance and so that timely public health management can be undertaken.

Measles is caused by a virus, there is no specific medical treatment for it. The virus has to run its course. A child who is sick should drink plenty of liquids, get lots of rest, and stay home from school, daycare, and other community or group activities to prevent spreading the infection.

The main symptom of measles is a red-brown blotchy rash. Patients may have cold-like symptoms for a few days before the rash appears. The initial symptoms of measles develop around 10 days after infection. These can include: cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, sneezing and a cough, sore, red eyes that may be sensitive to light, a high temperature (fever), which may reach around 40C, small greyish-white spots on the inside of the cheeks. A few days later, a red-brown blotchy rash will appear. This usually starts on the head or upper neck before spreading outwards to the rest of the body.

Please follow government guidelines if you child has measles.

Have a super weekend and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 27 - Friday 19 April 2024**

Another week jam-packed with learning has taken place this week at Penshurst. Amongst it all, below is a small selection to whet your appetite.

Year 1 and 2 have had a great time learning about body parts in French and Spanish respectively and singing songs to help this knowledge stick.

Year 3 learned all about botany in their Science lessons as they explored the parts of a plant this week.

Year 4 have been getting creative and experimental with oil pastels in Art.

Year 5 have continued to love Reading Plus online and are excited about the improvements in their fluency.

Year 6 are excited to have started a new and exciting book – Wonder (I can highly recommend) – this week, and have been discussing the author's choice of language.

In addition to all of this, the Gardening Club have been busy bees weeding and planting vegetables. We are hoping for a bumper crop this year!

To get a better insight into some of the exciting learning, please head over to X (formerly Twitter) to see more!

We have noticed that some learners in the dining hall are taking a couple of bites of their main meal and then moving straight onto their pudding, or not eating very much of their packed lunch as they are keen to get outside. Obviously, if we see them, we ensure they have eaten adequately, but we cannot monitor every child. If you suspect that your child could possibly be one of the learners who is keen to play rather than eat, please could you remind them of the need to re-fuel for their afternoons. Thank you for your support.

Reminder

A reminder that on Wednesday 24 April, we will be holding our PFA bingo night. Please come along for a fun evening, aimed at raising funds for the Year 2 trip to Woldies Lavender Farm. Thank you for all of your support.

Have a great weekend. See you next week!

Message from Mr Groak, Headteacher, Hessle Academy

I would like to thank all parents/carers of pupils in Year 6 for their support during the past week following the decision that pupils would not be permitted to wear their hoodies in class. This decision was taken in good faith in order to ensure that all children were fully focused on the next few weeks of their education and I am pleased that pupils have shown great maturity in accepting this decision, even though it has disappointed them.

I have held several conversations with pupils including a meeting with four pupils chosen to represent their year group and I was impressed by their maturity and the way in which they put their views across. We managed to 'disagree agreeably'. I committed to reviewing this decision, in consultation with staff and pupils following the SATs.

I accept the criticism that this decision could have been communicated more clearly both to pupils and parents/carers and will fully take that on board and apologise for any upset that it caused in your household.

Thanks again for your support and dialogue.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

#### **WEEK 28 - Friday 26 April 2024**

Once again, a busy week of learning has passed here at Penshurst.

During the Nursery Beep Beep day, we learnt all about road safety and actions that help us to Stop, Look and Listen.

In EYFS, Winnie the Pooh is crusading to save the bees! He has recruited our fabulous learners in Reception, who have been busy potting seeds ready to plant with their families at home. Don't forget, you don't necessarily need a garden – a window-box or pot would suffice.

Learners in KS2 have all been engaged in their reading on Reading Plus, and are keen to be the child who has the most words read! Thank you for any support with this at home.

Also this week, we held our annual PFA Bingo Night which helped to raise funds for the Year 2 trip to Woldies Lavender Farm (Ooh – another way to help our buzzy little friends!).

On Monday, 5AD will be attending MKM stadium for a day of core learning in a sports environment. We hope they have a wonderful day!

A polite reminder that smoking (including vaping) is not allowed anywhere on the school site. Thank you.

I hope you have a super weekend. I look forward to welcoming the learners back on Monday.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

#### **WEEK 29 - Friday 3 May 2024**

Well that's not how we expected our week to begin!



We knew that our Ofsted inspection was well overdue (by about a year and a half) and that they could visit any day now. And yet.... when the phone rings and the lead inspector is on the other end of the line, it is a complete shock and totally unexpected!

It has been a packed couple of days with 3 inspectors travelling frantically across both sites for numerous meetings, chats with our learners, lesson drop-ins and conversations with our parents. For the latter, I thank you for your support and overwhelmingly positive comments.

Working in education is not just about imparting knowledge and skills. There is so much more to it than that. Staff at Penshurst come to work because they are passionate about providing the best possible care and education for your child. Although an inspection is stressful, it is a great opportunity to demonstrate what a school does so well, which is exactly what we did this week. I am incredibly proud of the Penshurst community (staff, learners, parents and governors) for pulling together and supporting one-another practically and emotionally over the last few days.

One of my highlights was speaking to a learner in Reception who asked me 'When are the people coming to talk to me?' I was so tempted to take him to the final feedback meeting with me!

Unfortunately, we must now wait for the report to be written and agreed before we can share any information about the outcome. But for now, I would once again, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, like to thank you for your continued support.

Other news:

This week, our budding Year 5/6 girl's footballers played a home game against Westfield. Although we were defeated, we 'put up a fight' and both sides played fantastically.

We have had reported cases of headlice in Years 1 and 4. Please check your child if you suspect they may be affected and treat if necessary. Thank you.

Once again, we have had reports of children scooting and biking on the site and someone almost being knocked over. Try as we might, we cannot man every part of the site and must enlist your support. Please ensure your child is walking with their transport when they are on the site.

Should this continue, we will refer to CCTV footage and ban repeat offenders from bringing scooters, bikes or balance bikes on site, where necessary.

Thank you.

Enjoy the bank holiday weekend! See you on Tuesday!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 30 - Friday 10 May 2024**

In the world of education, Ofsted is such a milestone to overcome. The three-day weekend could not have come at a better time to allow everyone involved to recuperate after the event. As a thank you to all of your children for their impeccable attitude, willingness to share their thoughts, and their conduct during the two days, they will receive a packet of sweets today. Their manners and attitude were a testament to you all.

This week, our Year 5 Boys played a fantastic match in which they successfully defeated the opposing team 3-2 in the first game (2 goals scored by River and 1 goal scored by Blu) and were

defeated in the second game, despite Archie and Bradley's outstanding performance in goal and River running his legs off! A sterling effort all round!

Alongside this our Year 6 Boys versus Kirkella Primary won both of their games (Home and Away) 1 - 0 and 2-1, this was a truly entertaining night of football played in blistering heat. All of the boys were exceptional, and their behaviour and attitude were a credit to our school.

Next week, we take on the next challenge of the Year 6 SATs. Our learners have been working incredibly hard all year and making so much progress with their mocks. As always, we will be holding SATs Breakfasts from 8am on Monday – Thursday for Year 6. On Friday, Year 6 are invited to come in comfortable clothes or pyjamas. I am sure you will all join us in wishing our superstars the best of luck!

For more information on the learning that has taken place this week, as always, please head over to X (formerly Twitter) to find out more.

Finally, if you're looking for something to do over the impending half term, there are some fun events happening at Ferens Art Gallery. As always, please let us know if you take part, we love to hear what our little artists have been up to.

What's on – Hull Museums and Galleries

I hope that the good weather that we have been having continues into the weekend and that you are able to take some time to relax. See you next week!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 31 - Friday 17 May 2024**

We have come to the end of another busy week, and this week's big event was our Year 6 SATs papers. The staff are so proud of how hard the cohort have worked this year, and particularly this week as they took on the challenge. This spans over 4 days, involving 6 papers, and perhaps it's just my age, but the questions do seem to get more challenging each year. Nevertheless, our resilient learners have rocked up and given in their all. It has been wonderful to see so many enjoying the SATs breakfasts this week too, and it's always lovely to see staff from other year groups mingling with them. Marlowe and Sherlock even made an appearance. In fact, being such a dedicated supporter of Penshurst learners, Marlowe asked his mummy if he could stay for the full morning on Wednesday in case anyone needed a cuddle. Now, we patiently await the results!

Other year groups have, as always, been engaging in wonderful things, which you can see over on X.

Our EYFS learners have enjoyed listening to music and expressing how it makes them feel. Year 3 have been exploring the work of artist Kehinde Wiley, and creating their own masterpieces inspired by him. Year 4 have been experimenting with materials to create structures, whilst our clubs have been super busy too with tie dye in Art Club and bearing the fruits of their labour in gardening club!

Another important event this week was the Year 6 Boys Football V Willerby Carr Lane, in which I am delighted to say we won one match 2-1 and drew 1-1 in the other after a penalty from Cobie.

Other information:

As the weather gets warmer, please do not send suncream with your child. Please ensure this is applied before they come to school.

A reminder that school closes on Friday 24 May for half term, reopening Monday 3 June.

Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you for the final week of this half term – where is the time going?

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 32 - Friday 24 May 2024**

We have reached the end of the penultimate half term. How quickly this year has flown by!

This week, we have once again been busy with sporting fixtures.

On Thursday, a selection of KS2 learners attended Hymers College for the Pho3nix Kids Triathlon by Brownlee Foundation. This event was an opportunity for the learners to showcase their sporting prowess in a range of disciplines and a great time was had by all.

Also this week, our Year 6 Boys Football team played against Anlaby Acre Head, drawing one game and sadly suffering a defeat in another. Nevertheless, all players played well. Thank you if you came to support the players.

We also held our Year 6 Residential Information Evening this week, in which our Year 6 staff delivered essential information about their child's upcoming adventures.

In the classroom, it has been another incredibly busy week. Reception have been busy building their own electric circuits whilst moving up to Year 4, the learners have exhibited excellent technology skills whilst creating a geodesic dome (I had to Google this – think Crystal Maze if you are old enough!). For more on all of the wonderful learning, please head over to X (formally Twitter).



I hope that you have a wonderful half term. A reminder that school reopens on Monday 3 June. I look forward to welcoming you all back.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 33 - Friday 7 June 2024**

Welcome back to the final half term of this year.

As always, an array of learning has been taking place this week, from Reception learning all about how clouds are formed (and having a super time using this knowledge when spotting clouds) all the way to Year 6 getting busy experimenting with electrical circuits in Science. Outside, Gardening Club were met with an abundance of strawberries upon their return from the half term break this week. For more information on this week's learning, please head over to X and browse our posts.

Below is a message from Mrs Smith:

'The Great Big Green Week' is happening next week. On Monday, the plant swap will take place. Tuesday is the day that uniform can be swapped. On Wednesday, you are invited to come and swap books, and Thursday will provide an opportunity to swap clothes. Finally, Friday hosts the Pick & Mix Swap.

These events will be a fantastic opportunity for families to access pre-loved items. Although we have called it a swap (bring something and exchange for something else), please do not worry if you have nothing to contribute. Come along anyway as there maybe something that you would like to take.

To support the event, on Tuesday, we have representatives from the REUniform charity along with Emma Hardy (Labour candidate) visiting the school. Please come along and support any event that you can.

We have been notified by parents that some children who arrive at school on their own are playing and cycling in the middle of Winthorpe Road before the school gates open. If your child travels to school alone, may we advise that you chat to them about the importance of road safety awareness. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff to supervise the roads at the start of the day. Many thanks for supporting us in keeping your children safe.

Whatever you are doing this weekend, I hope it is enjoyable, and I look forward to seeing you all next week.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 34 - Friday 14 June 2024**

The final term is always so very busy with assessments and this week, we have been in the thick of it once again.

Following the SATs before half term, last week, our Year 4 multiplication checks were completed, and the children were all so confident and calm. This week, our Year 1 learners have been busy completing their Phonics Screening Check and they have all coped fantastically. The results are released in the next few weeks and I look forward to sharing these with you all.

Elsewhere in school this week, an array of activities have taken place. Our Year 5 learners visited Hessle High School for a computer workshop and a super time was had by all. We welcomed the parents of our September Reception cohort to an information evening and a tour around our

Reception learning environment. On the field, our Year 5/6 girls football team played their final matches this week against Anlaby Acre Heads, and although they were defeated, all played incredibly well. Thankfully, rain didn't stop play!

Last year, our Trust held their first ever Staff Awards to recognise the hard work and dedication that their employees demonstrate. If you remember, last year Mrs Adams, Miss Careless and Mrs Smith were the Penshurst winners. Last night, I am proud to inform you that Mrs Petch, Miss Dinsdale, Mrs Holmes and Mrs Maynard in the school office received awards for our school. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating them.

Next week, we are scheduled to host our annual sports days. I have everything crossed that this will be able to go ahead given the changeable weather. Should we be lucky enough to have nice weather, please remember to bring a chair or blanket to sit on, that your child will need suncream applied before they arrive in school and that there are no available toilets for parents as we still have learners around the building who are having their sports day at a different time. In case of poor weather, please do keep checking for notifications.

Another event that is dependent on decent weather is our annual Brake Walk, which is due to take part next week. Once again, please keep your eyes peeled for notifications, and if you are able, please come and support our learners on the streets. Thanks for your continued support.

Whatever the weather, and whatever you have planned, I hope you have a super weekend and will see you all on Monday!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 35 - Friday 21 June 2024**

What an incredibly busy week, full of trips, sport, raising awareness and talent!

We kicked off the week on Monday with Year 2 learners visiting Woldies Lavender Farm near Malton. Despite the rain, a super day was had by all, and this was a brilliant way to consolidate their learning all about plants!

The next 2 days were (or at least were scheduled to be) all about sport! On Tuesday morning, the weather held off for our KS2 sports day which was a huge success. Unfortunately, as we neared the end of the KS1 event in the afternoon, the heavens opened, and this had to be cancelled, along with the Nursery event. With only a couple of activities remaining for the KS1 event (and a packed calendar for the rest of the year), we have decided that it would be unfair to ask parents to come back out to support just 20 minutes of remaining activities. However, a new Nursery date will be confirmed shortly as none of this event was able to take place. Thankfully, on Wednesday, the sun shone brightly on the Reception Sports Day and the event was again a success. We would like to say a big thanks to our parents for continuing to support such events and we look forward to welcoming you to the next one.

P Factor returned to the Penshurst stage this week, brimming with talent in a variety of fields. As educators, it is easy to get caught up in the delivery of a tight curriculum and to forget about the talent that our learners possess in other areas. Events such as these are a wonderful opportunity for children to demonstrate their individuality and to really shine! It is even more rewarding to see those children who maybe lack confidence take the bull by the horns and embrace the opportunity

to show the world (or at least the Penshurst community) what they are made of. Thank you again to all of the parents and family members who came to support the event.

The final big event this week was the annual Brake Walk, which is intended to raise awareness of the need to drive safely, particularly near children. As a road user, it is impossible to miss our sea of high-vis clad children, some of whom were even interviewed by Viking FM at the event!

I would like to take this opportunity to raise the subject of parental permissions for such events. When we inform parents about these, we endeavour to give as much notice as possible so that you have time to give permission for your child to take part using the correct form. The need for advanced notice is twofold: it gives us the planning time to ensure we have adequate staffing and safeguarding measures in place for the safety of all concerned. It also prevents a backlog of last-minute administrative duties for our staff in the office. Although 3 separate notifications were sent to parents (and an extension to the deadline), we had around 120 learners without permission on the morning of the walk. Ordinarily, this would mean that those learners were unable to take part, but this did not sit well with me, as the majority of our children love this event. On this occasion, we worked hard to resource the processing of last-minute permissions so that our children did not miss out. Unfortunately, this is unsustainable for future events, and so I urge parents to please read carefully any communications from the school and ensure they act swiftly to avoid disappointment. After all, we are working towards a common goal of exciting experiences for your children. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Finally, our Year 6 learners will embark on their 'rite of passage' that is the residential next week. I have everything crossed for a safe trip and good weather. I am sure they will have an awesome time.

All that remains for this week is to wish you a wonderful weekend and see you next week!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 36 - Friday 28 June 2024**

This week, our fantastic Year 6 learners embarked upon their annual residential trip to PGL Caythorpe Court. When I first started working at Penshurst in 2014, I attended the residential as a Year 6 teacher. A lot has changed since then and when I was lucky enough to visit them on Tuesday, I was bowled over by how impressive the place, the staff, the activities and most importantly, our learners, were.

On one of the hottest days of the year (so far at least!), our learners completed a raft of exciting activities such as climbing, zip-wiring (is that even a word?), canoeing, fencing, problem solving and much more. The energy of the PGL staff was unwavering and there was no opportunity for our learners to be bored! Year 6 behaved impeccably (the clocks in the tents were apparently a huge success – try it at home, parents) and represented the school beautifully. I could not be prouder! Head over to X to see what your children got up to!

It would be remiss of me not to thank our wonderful staff who gave up their time to escort Year 6 on the trip, which could not have taken place if they had not volunteered. Thanks too to Mrs Whitaker and the team for the meticulous organisation! I look forward to attending again next year!

The other year groups have continued their exciting learning journeys in the absence of Year 6 this week. On X, you will be able to browse a range of activities, including Year 2 building tall structures in DT, Year 4 exploring figure and form in Art, and Gardening Club getting excited about their crops!



Next week, please come along and support our PFA Summer Fair on Wednesday. The increasingly popular 'Gunge the Teacher' will once again take place so make sure you stick around!

Enjoy the last of the sun this weekend, and I look forward to seeing you again on Monday.

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 37 - Friday 5 July 2024**

It's been all about the events this week!

On Wednesday, we held our PFA Summer Fair, which was once again a huge success. I would like to thank all of the families that came to support the school. I am sure you enjoyed the gunging of the teachers as much as the children did! Maybe next year we can shake it up a bit and ask for volunteers for 'Gunge the Parents' too? Answers on a postcard please! I would like to say thank you to Mr Jennison for being a great sport and allowing people to throw wet sponges at him with Mr Thorp! You are a star!

Also, this week, our Year 4 learners enjoyed an exciting trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the children represented the school so beautifully. One of the best things about working in education is when children make priceless comments like the golden moment from this trip - 'Isn't nature beautiful. I think this is my favourite day now.' We are so proud to be able to make positive memories with our fantastic learners.

By the time you read this, we will also have rocked out at our Rocksteady concert – another wonderful opportunity for children to showcase their talents.

On Monday and Wednesday of next week, we are holding our Progress Evenings. If you are unable to attend either of these days, your child's class teacher will contact you to make a telephone appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Also next week, we will be holding our annual transition days in which learners will spend time with their new teachers. These will be Wednesday to Friday. I hope that your child has a wonderful time and is buzzing for the new year when they leave on Friday.

For posts on the events above and more, please head over to X. We are delighted to see that more and more people are accessing this and supporting our learners.

Have a wonderful weekend. I will see you next week as we head into our final fortnight of this academic year!

Mrs Preston

Head of School

### **WEEK 38 - Friday 12 July 2024**

It has been a busy penultimate week here at Penshurst!

We kicked it off (no football pun intended) with the first of our Progress Evenings on Monday, and the second taking place on Wednesday. As I sat in the front office greeting parents, it was lovely to hear the wonderful comments that were being made as family members were leaving. Thank you so much if you were in attendance, for supporting your child's learning journey. If you were unable to

make it, your child's class teacher will be making contact with you to catch up before the end of the year.

We also held our transition days this week, in which your child had the opportunity to meet and spend time with their new teacher. I hope that they came home full of beans and excited for the year ahead!

By the time you read this, Year 4RH will have visited Hull Truck Theatre Friday as part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Associate Schools Programme. I am sure that all learners will have had a brilliantly dramatic time!

Although we are sympathetic to the cost of living and the fact that we have one week remaining of school, we are seeing a big increase in the number of learners wearing trainers and crocs at school. I kindly ask you to refer to the uniform policy, which states the correct shoes to wear. If your child's footwear is broken or they have grown out of them, please ensure the correct footwear is worn upon their return in September.

Our final week looks to be just as busy (we can rest in the holidays, right?). Most of the events will focus around our Year 6s who will sadly leave us for pastures new after next week. Please remember that our Nursery last day is Thursday 18th July, and that school closes on Friday 19th at- 2pm after the picnic.

Whatever you plan to do this weekend (I am sure Football features for many of you), I hope you have a super time. See you on Monday for the final week!

Mrs Preston

Head of School