

Name..... Class.....

L'hebdo

9th September 2016

Menu for week commencing 12th September 2016 **Week 2**

Growth mindset thought for the week

*I'm not telling you it's going to be **easy**, I'm telling you it's going to be **worth it**.*

It is lovely to have the children back in school, looking super smart and keen to learn. We hope that you have all had a great holiday and enjoyed some family time. On Monday and Tuesday, staff were trained on how we can become a Visible Learning school. Staff learnt about how they should see learning through the eyes of the pupils and our pupils will be taught over the year to become independent learners, more responsible for their own learning. On Wednesday, in our assembly, pupils learned about Visible Learning and the very high standards that we will be expecting from them, in all aspects of school life.

Uniform Matters

Whilst most of the children have come back in correct uniform, a small minority of pupils have come back in jean style trousers and very short skirts. Although some shops may label these as uniform, they are not our uniform. We also have a very small number of pupils with extreme hair styles. Please can parents address these issues, as soon as possible, so that staff can focus on raising standards of learning in school rather than follow up on uniform matters? We thank all parents for your support in this matter.

Please can we also remind you that all pupils need to bring a named water bottle into school, that they can carry around with them?

Safeguarding Matters

All staff in school are trained in many aspects of safeguarding but from September 2016 Mr West has become our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at PMS, taking over this position from Mrs Frost. Mrs Hodson and Mrs Frost are our Deputy DSL's. All three staff are trained in Safeguarding matters and follow the Staffordshire Safeguarding Board's policies and procedures.

Please also see attached to L'hebdo guidance from County regarding attendance and safeguarding information.

Online Safety Reminder

With the start of the new term we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone associated with the school about online safety. Children will all be taking part in online safety lessons as part of the computing curriculum, with a particular focus on this at the beginning of the academic year.

We appreciate all the support we receive from parents and carers on this issue and ask that you continue to talk to your children about their online activity. To help and support in this area we would strongly advise visiting www.thinkyouknow.co.uk/parents and www.parentinfo.org, both of which provide excellent advice on a range of online issues surrounding young people. Both these links are available on the school website under Parents-Online Safety.

With everybody's support we can help make the online experience of our children a happy and safe one.

For all Parents/Carers



Dear Parents/Carers

Attendance at school is extremely important and being regularly absent will affect your child's ability to learn and do well.

You may be aware of a recent court case which focused national attention on the fining of parents for taking their children on holidays in school term time.

As a result of this, the County Council are reviewing the rules around unauthorised absence and issuing penalty notices to parents.

Whilst the review is ongoing, head teachers will continue to review all requests for leave in term time and report all unauthorised absences to the county council.

As a temporary measure when a child has more than 10 days or more unauthorised absence over two half terms in a row, then a penalty notice may be issued to the parents/carers of that child.

If you have any questions with regards to this, please contact your Local Support Team. Contact details can be found online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/LST



Helen Riley
Deputy Chief Executive and
Director for Families and Communities

Parents / Carers

No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Stafford, ST16 2DH
Telephone: (01785) 277000
E-mail: helen.riley@staffordshire.gov.uk
Website: www.staffordshire.gov.uk
Please ask for: Helen Riley

Our Ref: HR/PT

Your Ref:

08 August 2016

Dear Parents / Carers

Safeguarding children is a priority and we are aware there is some confusion around private tutoring and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Scheme).

Many tutoring agencies will insist on an up-to date check on all their staff and will provide evidence on request from you. There presently is no legal requirement to have a DBS certificate for someone offering private tuition. The vast majority of people who tutor children have the best of intentions and present no risk. The NSPCC has set out some advice around choosing a suitable tutor and following up references.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/fighting-for-childhood/news-opinion/criminal-record-loophole-private-tutors-must-close/>

We appreciate that there are a number of children accessing extra tuition and this can be valuable in their overall development. Children have the right to be educated in safety and as parents to be confident in the tutor.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Riley".

Helen Riley
Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

the knot unites



Year 6 only

Year 6

Laches Wood - Monday 3rd October - Friday 7th October

There will be an information evening, next Tuesday, 13th September, starting at 6pm. All kit lists, medical forms and other information will be given out during this evening. If any parents/carers are unable to make the evening, the information will be available on the school's website from Wednesday 14th September and kit lists and medical forms will be sent home with your children during that week.

Just a reminder that all outstanding payments need to be paid by Friday 9th September.

Mrs M Wright

Year 5 & 6 only

Pobble-tastic!

On Thursday, pupils from Year 5 & 6 were challenged to dust off their writing skills and put them to good use composing imaginative and impressive pieces of text. It was an opportunity to showcase their authorial flair by using a spectacular array of adventurous vocabulary and sophisticated sentence structures to engage the reader. They were ably guided by our Literacy team together with Mrs. Robertson, a Pobble trainer, who enthralled and inspired an enthusiastic audience of 100 at a time.

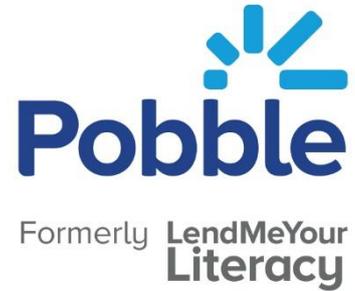
This was the first of three Pobble Days to be held once every term. Now you may be wondering exactly what Pobble is. Let me explain - it is essentially about creating a community of school-aged authors who may have their writing published online. Children are motivated to produce their best work every time they put pen to paper as they know they are writing for a real audience, one that could be worldwide. In addition to having the opportunity of having their own writing uploaded and published, Pobble will give students the chance to evaluate the online work of others - an invaluable tool in developing assessment capable learners. With this in mind, Pobble will support our goal of becoming a Visible Learning school, creating articulate and independent students who know how they are currently performing and understand the steps they will need to take to further improve.

After their initial Pobble session, our Year 5 & 6 pupils were deservedly proud of their endeavours and our Literacy team were too. With your permission, Pobble will alert you to the published work of your child so that you likewise may share in their sense of achievement and celebrate their success.

If you are a parent or carer of a child in KS2, please look out for the Pobble permission slip attached to L'Hebdo to be returned for your child to fully participate in this exciting opportunity. If you have already done so, thank you very much.

Mrs Ashelford

Your child is about to become a published author!



Dear Parent / Carer of pupils in Year 5 &6,

Penkridge Middle School is excited to be using Pobble, a website that allows our school to publish our pupils' writing online.

Publishing our children's work on Pobble allows you to read the writing that your child is producing at school. Giving your child an audience for their writing provides them with a purpose, which we know will impact attainment.

You can even leave a comment on your children's writing to help inspire them even more. Children will also be able to leave comments on other pupils' writing.

All comments are checked by the Pobble team before going live.

What you need to do to give us permission to publish your child's work:

1. Review Terms and Conditions (See website)

Why? We want to ensure the website is safe and secure for pupils to use.

2. Provide us with an email address

Why? We want to let you know when your child's work is published, and we will send you a link to create an account. This will allow you to comment on your child's writing.

3. Visit Pobble.com

Why? An exciting way to engage in your child's learning journey.

Thank you for helping us to inspire our young writers. Please do not hesitate to ask your class teacher or indeed myself if you have any questions. If you are a parent or carer of a Year 5 pupil and have already returned the reply slip, you have done everything you need to do so thank you – your support is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. C. Ashelford

Name of child: _____

Name of parent / carer: _____

Email address:* _____

*This will only be shared with Pobble and no third parties.

If you don't have an email address, please sign to give permission for your child to use Pobble.

Signed: _____

For all pupils

Physical Education update:

In Physical Education (PE); your child/children will follow a broad and balanced curriculum; learning through various activities. Please look at our curriculum map on our website for further details. Please note that this is subject to change. To aid you in knowing what is being taught and the kit required, we publish the information in the newsletter prior to it starting. The modules for this half-term will be published in next Friday's newsletter. Your child will learn through Sportshall Athletics prior to this and will only require their PE top, shorts, socks and trainers for this.

Each activity then will require specific kit. Pupils are to attend PE lessons with all their kit so that learning can take place from the moment they enter the PE department. It is important for you and your child to know that pupils will receive lunch-time detentions for kit or part of kit that is forgotten on three or more occasions in a half term.

Useful things to know:

- Your child will be able to participate fully in a lesson if they have all the kit required for the activity.
- Please ensure all kit and uniform is named. In the event of loss of an item of kit or uniform, then anything found is put in the 'lost property' boxes at the end of the PE corridor. Please encourage your child to look in these boxes if they have misplaced/lost something.
- In the event of your child abstaining from PE; then a separate note must be provided and signed by the parent/carer. They must also change into their kit and take an alternative role in the lesson. We understand that this won't always be possible.
- A towel is required when the lesson is football. Pupils are encouraged to demonstrate good hygiene, washing their arms and legs, as time does not permit a full shower.
- Black tracksuit bottoms are an option during the colder months if the teacher deems it necessary to wear them. Please bear in mind that your child still needs shorts when the weather keeps us indoors.
- It is important that your child wears the appropriate top for the weather (i.e. red top/black sweater - cold days, white top -warm days)
- Pupils with long hair must have it tied back. For safety reasons, ear studs, watches and charity/friendship bands are to be removed at the beginning of PE lessons and when participating in any other physical activity.
- If your child wants to have his/her ear pierced, then can we suggest the start of the summer holidays so that it can be removed for PE lessons when they start back in September?
- If you choose to have the ear/s pierced at any other time then the parent of the child should supply him/her with something to cover them during the lesson. Please note that your child will be unable to participate in activities where the piercing poses a risk even if it is covered up.
- Please encourage your child to keep their nails short, especially in games like basketball/netball.
- Aerosols/deodorant aerosols are not allowed in PE/School.
- Please encourage your child to be hygienic and not to wear their kit under their uniform before or after the lesson.
- Appropriate sports footwear should be worn for the lesson; that has adequate grip and support for the activity being taught. School shoes are not appropriate.
- If you have any questions/issues about kit or the above points then please contact the PE department on 01785 355548

Year 5's only:

All pupils in 5SC (Miss Cochrane) and 5JB (Mrs Baker) will receive a letter regarding swimming in Year 5. **If you have a reason for your child to wear goggles, then please ask your son/daughter to collect a letter from the main office.** Please take some time to read these letters, so that you are aware of when and if your child requires their swimming kit. Swimming is on Tuesdays and the module begins next week; Tuesday 13th September.

Extra-curricular PE clubs:

The clubs that we provide in the PE department are led by PE staff; Mr Sutton and Mrs Harwood. We do use outside agencies or coaches who provide clubs for the pupils of our school. For example, Sandra's School of Dance who has been working with our pupils for many years and representing our school in the annual dance show at Wolgarston. Any clubs provided by the PE staff are **free** and are part of our extra-curriculum. Dance and other clubs will be at a cost to you. However, we do use some of our 'Sports Premium' monies to support new activities, such as golf, taught by Tom Gibbs from the Three Hammers Golf Club.

We aim to publish the extra-curricular club timetable in the coming weeks after confirming the activities, days and staff. We look forward to offering these clubs to our pupils at Penkridge Middle School. So please encourage them to get involved and have fun!

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

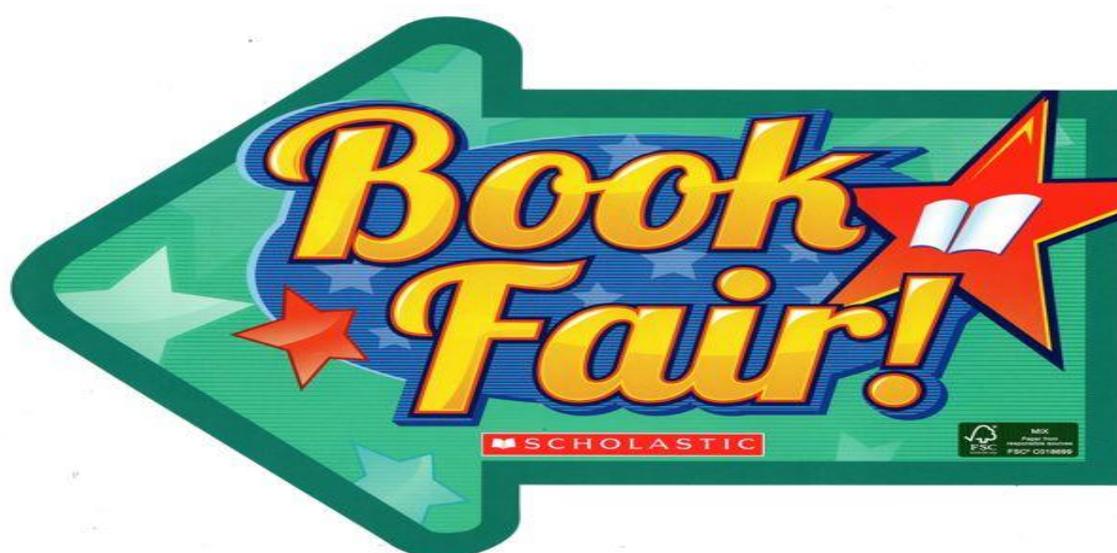
Mr Sutton

Head of PE

Scholastic Book Fair

23rd – 27th September

Venue: Penkridge Middle School



With **reading** being such an important factor in a **child's learning** and progress, we have organised the return of our annual Scholastic Book Fair. Children will have the opportunity to browse and purchase a new and exciting book during the lunchtimes of the above dates. Please ensure your child has their money safely secured and clearly named.

In addition, we would like to invite parents and carers in on **Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th September 3:30pm- 4:15pm** to come and have a look at the books on offer too.

It is likely that books will run out or we may not have the book that you have spotted in the brochure. If this is the case, please let us know as we are able to order directly from Scholastic.

Look forward to seeing you there!



OUR PARENTS' FORUM

Our Parents' Forum is run for parents and will be a great opportunity for parents to meet up and gain an insight into key aspects of school life.

Furthermore, it will be a unique opportunity for parents to be briefed on, and influence decision making about whole school initiatives and plans for the future. Parents will be invited to contribute their ideas and opinions on important matters working alongside teachers and leaders to make significant improvements as the school continues to develop.

We warmly invite you to attend our first meeting on **Wednesday 28th September 2016 18h00-19h00 in the Small Science Lab.**

If you are interested in attending the meeting, please complete this reply slip and return it to the school office by Friday 16th September 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Watkins via the school office.

I look forward to seeing you!

Mr C. Watkins

Parents' Forum

Parent name.....

Name of child..... Year group.....

Mobile phone number for communication.....



Sandra's School of Dance



Is returning to Penkridge Middle School.

Every Thursday 3.30/4.30pm

This club is open to all year groups at the cost of just a £2.50 a class,
Payable on a weekly basis to the dance teacher.

Limited places so please complete form below and return to the main office
By 15th September to secure your place.

CLASS START DATE WILL BE THURSDAY 22nd SEPT.



SANDRA'S SCHOOL

After school dance

Penkridge middle school.



OF DANCE.

club.

Child's name.....Class.....

Emergency telephone no'.....

Any medical info.....

I will be sending £2.50 each week for my child's dance class.

Signature.....

name.....parent/guardian

