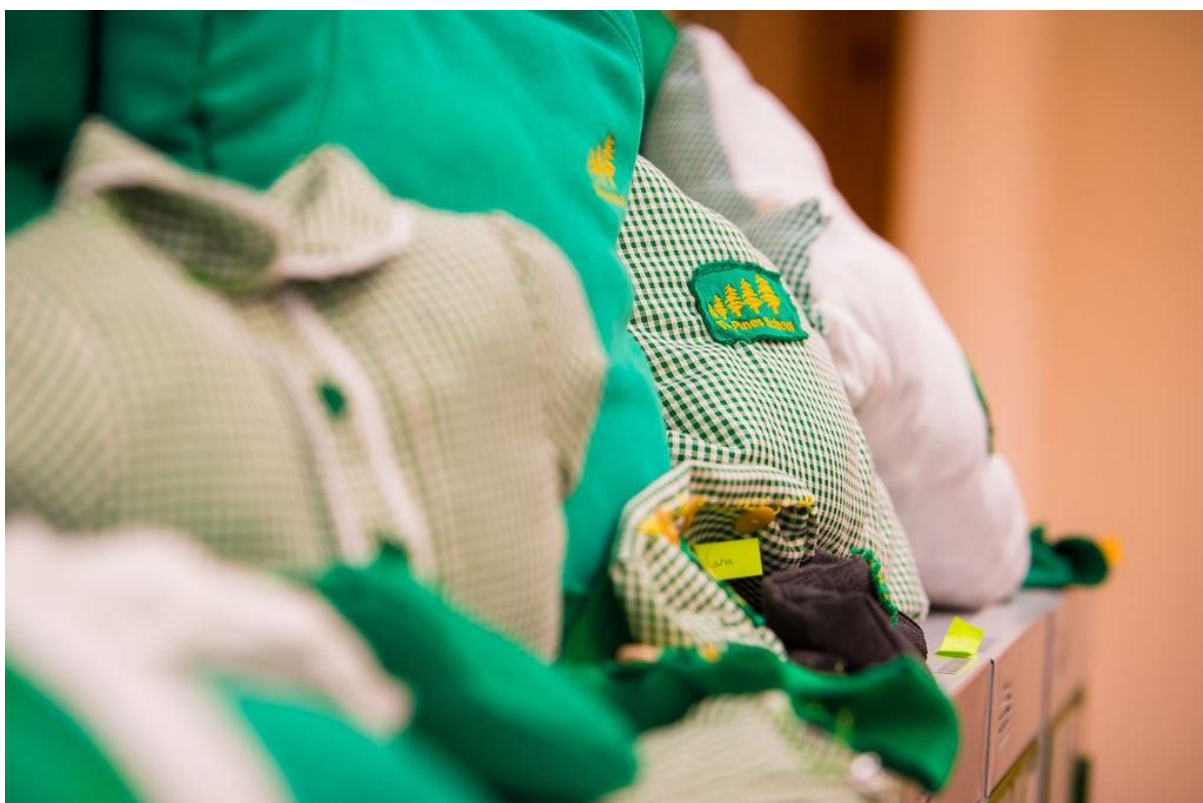




Weekly Newsletter

Week End 17.04.26 (If you would like a paper copy please ask)



This edition will contain: -

- *Introduction from Mrs Davies*
 - *Head Teacher Awards*
 - *Parent Survey Responses - Spring Term 2026*
 - *Spotlight on Learning*
 - *Class with the highest attendance of the week*
 - *Best House attendance of the week*
 - *Reporting Absences*
 - *Coffee Morning*
 - *The Lexicon Remake Project*
 - *Important Dates*
 - *Information sent out this week*
 - *Flyers*
-

Introduction from Mrs Davies

Dear Parent/Carers,

I am really impressed with the way the children have returned to school after the Easter break. It was so lovely to see lots of smiling faces on Monday. In our whole school assembly on Monday we revisited the Zones of Regulation. We have more information on our website.

[*Zones of Regulation | The Pines School*](#)

We also set our expectations and I challenged the children to work hard on their handwriting and their spellings.

This half term is a busy one with Year 6 SATS and Residential along with other year group plans.

Announcements

I am delighted to share that Mrs Allen gave birth to a baby girl - Ada - on 7th April. They are all doing very well.

I am also delighted to share that Mrs Elkins is expecting her second baby. The baby is due in the Autumn.

Congratulations to both Mrs Allen and Mrs Elkins.

Mrs Davies

Head Teacher Awards



Be Your BEST
Believe - Excellence - Safe - Team

Congratulations to the following children who were awarded with our Head Teacher Award this week: -

*Elm - **Adelaide***

*Maple - **Arthur***

*Sycamore - **Carter***

*Willow - **Jacob***

*Oak - **Sapphire***

*Cedar - **Caleb***

*Ash - **Oliver***

*Juniper - **Mason***

*Rowan - **Demi***

*The Orchard - **Jack***

*Congratulations to **Harriet** in **Sycamore class** for being awarded with the golden welly this week.*

Well done to all of the children who have received an award and are demonstrating our school values on a daily basis.

Believe-Excellence-Safe-Team

Parent Survey Responses - Spring Term 2026



Parent Survey Responses – Summary & School Response (Spring Term 2026)

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent parent survey.

Your feedback is incredibly valuable in helping us improve our practice, celebrate what is working well, and identify areas where we can grow.

We had a total of 144 responses.

90% of responses are happy with the education their child is receiving (with a further 9% giving a neutral response)

86% of responses feel the school has high expectations for their child (with a further 12% giving a neutral response)

87% of responses feel their child is supported to attend school (with a further 12% giving a neutral response)

85% of responses feel their child is happy coming to school (with a further 10% giving a neutral response)

A maximum of 6% of respondents answered disagree or strongly disagree on any of the answers.

Below is a summary of the comments received, alongside our responses.

Behaviour, Recognition & Awards

You said:

"There isn't an award for children who are consistently behaving. The BEST award is for the popular children."

We said:

Thank you for this suggestion. We agree that an award recognising consistent demonstration of school values would be beneficial. This will be discussed with the School Council, who will help choose a name for the new award.

The BEST award is not a popularity vote—teachers work closely with children to ensure nominations reflect those showing our values across the school.

Uniform Expectations

You said:

"KS2 children should be wearing full uniform to prepare them for secondary school. Wearing crocs is unsafe."

We said:

Thank you for your views. The reason why we have changed our uniform policy is because of OPAL (outdoor play and learning). We want to encourage more active play throughout lunchtimes, and a more relaxed uniform allows this. We allow children in year 6 to purchase hoodies in the autumn term. This is for a couple of reasons. 1) they are expensive and if purchased at the end of year 6, the children do not get very long to wear them and 2) if bought in the summer, the weather is very hot and it is not healthy for the children to wear them then.

Crocs are **not** part of our uniform and are not safe for OPAL. Staff work with families where footwear concerns arise.

School Quality

You said:

"The school has gone downhill in the past 18 months, and I am moving my children."

We said:

We are sorry to hear this. Leaders are always open to meeting with families to discuss concerns. We understand that every school doesn't suit every child, and parents have the right to choose the setting that feels best for their family.

Support from School Staff

You said:

"The support has been amazing. Mrs Chandler will be missed, and the staff are passionate."

We said:

Thank you for your kind comments. Mrs Chandler will be greatly missed. We are confident our new SENCo will continue to build on the strong foundations she has laid.

Clubs, Activities & Communication

You said:

"There aren't enough clubs this year and fewer external providers. Some event emails repeat the same questions each year."

We said:

This term we are offering seven external clubs (including Yoga, Mad Science, and sports) plus three internal clubs. School staff try to run additional clubs but many also have commitments after school.

We will continue to monitor and improve communication. If there are specific emails you would like us to review, please contact the office.

Parent Involvement & SEN Support

You said:

"I feel my child isn't acknowledged enough, and it's hard to get involved as a quieter parent. Workshops during the day make it difficult for working parents."

We said:

Children are recognised daily through praise, house points, class dots, and visits to the Headteacher.

All parents—SEND or not—are welcome to coffee mornings and PTA events. PTA meetings are usually held around 6pm, and everyone is welcome.

We are exploring more evening training sessions. Past evening sessions were poorly attended, but we will try again with more notice.

Support for SEN & SRP

You said:

"There is too much focus on children with EHCPs and the SRP, and not enough support for SEN children without plans."

We said:

As written about in a recent newsletter – the new White Paper from the government has set out that all schools will need to be more inclusive with all schools having resource basis in future. We consider ourselves to be ahead of the curve with our SRP.

We aim to follow national expectations for inclusion, and our SRP allows children with the highest needs to access targeted teaching. This also frees mainstream staff to use specialist advice and support more effectively.

Children on the SEND register without EHCPs receive support through quality-first teaching, ordinarily available provision, and interventions.

Support staff are allocated based on need across the school. Some classes will naturally have more support than others.

Homework & Academic Updates

You said:

"No homework or projects were given. We don't get enough updates on progress."

We said:

Homework is a topic with mixed views nationally, and some secondary schools are phasing it out. We ask that families continue to support reading and times tables practice at home.

Stretch & Challenge

You said:

"My reception child needs more challenging maths resources."

We said:

Thank you. We will review our early maths resources and add more challenge options on the school website and within class provision.

Meals, Feel Good Fridays & Trips

You said:

"My child misses Feel Good Fridays. School dinners are boring. Chips have no salt. There aren't enough trips."

We said:

We have many curriculum commitments but are increasing enrichment opportunities (please see below). As a maintained primary school, we follow the National Curriculum and have a lot to "fit in" across the year.

Meal feedback will be shared with our provider; salt is not added due to health guidelines.

Each year group has at least one trip per year. Rising transport costs and limited voluntary contributions mean we must balance trips with budget requirements.

Enrichment

We are looking at ways we can ensure our curriculum is in line with the National Curriculum but also ensures the children are getting lots of different opportunities such as working in our allotment, bush craft skills, art projects and many more opportunities.

Parental Engagement

- Thank you to all the parents and carers who turned up to parents evening and completed the parent survey. It has been very valuable having the feedback (good or bad).
- There has been a huge increase in the parental workshops that have been put on and the uptake has improved this year. We would love to put more workshops on in the evening but unfortunately if they are not well attended, we will not be able to keep them going.
- We are looking at putting more learning showcases on and more events for parents to attend. If you have any suggestions of what you would like, please let us know.
- PTA – this is the parent teacher association. This is a group of parents and teachers who meet at least termly and raise money for the school. The PTA would love some more support so if you are able to join or offer some help for events, they would be very grateful.
- If you would be able to offer help to be a volunteer please contact Miss Champion. We are looking for people who can listen to readers, help in the classroom, help with gardening on a regular basis. You will need to have a DBS check but we would love some more help.

SEND Updates

Our new SENCo, Mrs Smith, joins us on 1st May. She will review SEND processes and meet with families during the summer term. It will be a great opportunity for you to have your say about what has worked well and what changes you would like to see.

All support plans—learning, behaviour, attendance, and positive handling—will be streamlined into **Individual Support Plans**.

Successes This Term

- Winners of the Maths Olympics
- Quarter-finalists in Tag Rugby
- Improved athletics placements
- Significant academic progress in Year 6
- Strong performance from Year 4 in multiplication tests
- Many successes across all year groups

Spotlight on Learning

This week, there has been some amazing writing happening across the school! Year 2 have been working really hard on their handwriting, especially getting the descenders and ascenders (dangly and tall letters) in the right place.

Year 3 have been loving the story 'The Iron Man'. They have written some impressive descriptive pieces with excellent vocabulary choices.

In Year 5, some children independently chose to write a persuasive letter to Miss Phillpotts with some very convincing arguments.

What a great start to the Summer Term!

Mrs Taylor and Mrs Whitehouse

Class with the Highest Attendance of the week



Be Your BEST
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*The class with the highest attendance this week is **Sycamore** with 99%.*

*Well done to **Sycamore Class!***

Best House Attendance of the week

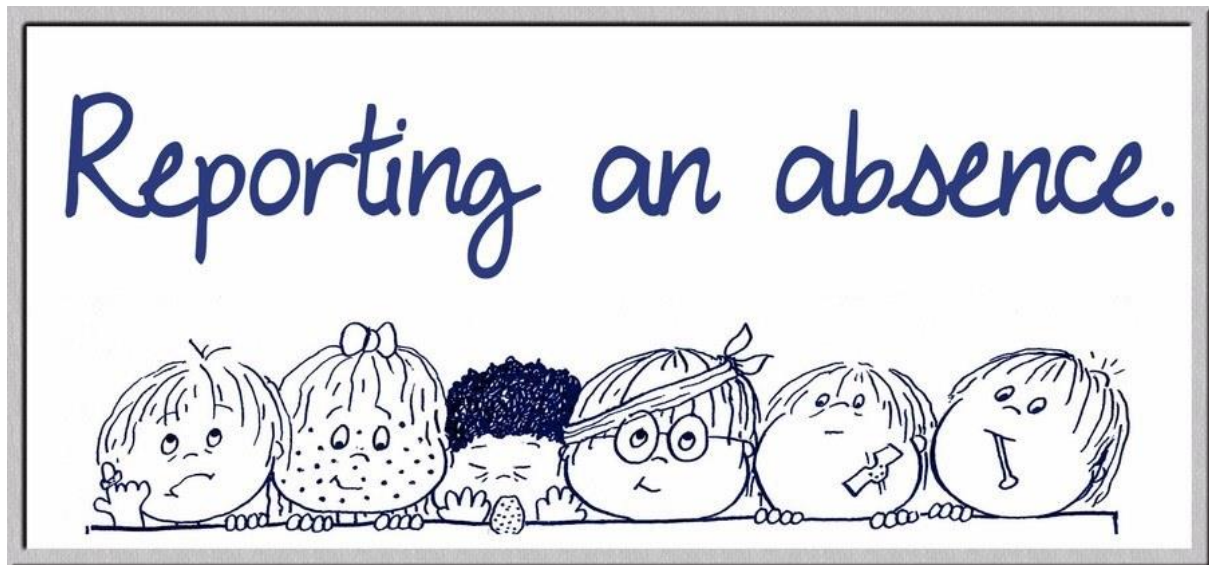


Be Your BEST
Believe - Excellence - Safe - Team

*The best house attendance this week is **Marcus Rashford** with **95.31%**.*

Well done - who will it be next week?

Reporting Absences



*If your child is absent from school due to illness or an appointment they may have, please notify us by **9.30am**, either by leaving a message on the school absence line, Tel no. **01344 426413 option 1** or by emailing **Mrs Williams** on fsa@thepinesschool.org.uk including your child's full name, class and reason for absence.*

Coffee Morning



*Our first coffee morning this term will be on **Wednesday 22nd April 2026** after morning drop off, please come to the upper building where Mrs Williams will meet you.*

If you haven't been before, please come along. It would be lovely to see some new faces to join us for a coffee, biscuits and a chat. You are welcome to bring your little ones too.

The Lexicon Remake Project

<https://www.thelexiconbracknell.com/news/A-new-community-recycling-campaign>



Important Dates



-
- **22.04.26** - *Coffee Morning after morning drop off*
 - **27.04.26** - *Nursery and Reception 5 to Thrive Session at 9.00am*
 - **W.C 27.04.26** - *Extra Curricular Clubs commence*
 - **28.04.26** - *Year 3 Maths Workshop at 9.000am / Brain and Behaviour Workshop 6.15pm*

- **29.04.26**- Year 4 Maths Workshop at 9.00am
 - **04.05.26** - May Bank Holiday
 - **06.05.26** - Nursery and Reception 5 to Thrive Session at 9.00am
 - **08.05.26** - Year 4 Trip to Marwell Zoo / Nursery Messy Writing Workshop at 9.00am
 - **11.05.26 to 14.05.26** - Year 6 SATs Week
 - **15.05.26** - Year 2 Trip to Beale Park
 - **18.05.26 to 22.05.26** - Year 6 Residential Trip to Mill on the Brue
 - **19.05.26** - Understanding Behaviour Workshop at 9.00am
 - **25.05.26 to 29.05.26** - May Half Term (25.05.26 - May Bank Holiday)
 - **01.06.26** - Children return to school at 8.40am
 - **05.06.26** - Year 5 Trip to Winchester Science Centre /Understanding Behaviour Workshop at 9.00am
 - **06.06.26** - The Pines Summer Fayre 12:00 - 3:00pm
-

Information sent out this week



-
- *What we are learning in Nursery this week*
 - *What we are learning in Reception this week*
 - *Ash Class PE*
 - *Nursery Messy Writing Workshop 08.05.26*
 - *5 to thrive Sessions (Nursery and Reception)*
 - *Year 3 Maths Workshop 28.04.26*
 - *Year 4 Maths Workshop 29.04.26*
 - *Parent Survey Responses - Spring Term 2026*
 - *Understanding Behaviour Workshops*
 - *Year 5 Winchester Trip - 05.06.26*

- *Extra curricular clubs - Term 5 (Reminder)*
 - *Juniper Class Dot Reward - Thursday 16th April*
 - *Rowan Class Dot Reward - Thursday 16th April*
 - *Choir Practice - Thursday 16th April*
 - *Maths Booster Session (Thursday 16th April) Cancelled*
 - *Sponsored Read (Update)*
 - *Nursery Donations*
 - *Date for your diary 28.04.26 Brain and Behaviour Workshop 6.15pm*
 - *Sycamore Class Dot Reward - Tuesday 21st April*
 - *Y6 Residential*
-

Flyers

-
- *'Helping our children stay safe'*
-



 **myclothing**

Save 10% On School Uniform
VALID UNTIL 31 JULY '26

Save 10% with code **SSPEND10** at checkout



SHOP NOW AT
www.myclothing.com

*offer excludes bundles, clearance items and events hoodies



Friends of The Pines

HELPING HANDS

Want to help the children of your school join our WhatsApp group to be notified of any events coming up that the PTA need help with for more info speak to any member of the PTA






WHY JOIN?



8 REASONS TO JOIN OUR PTA

1. YOUR CHILD BENEFITS

The PTA is an important part of the school and helps to enrich your child's school experience. We support the school by helping to provide new playground/sports equipment, IT equipment, fun activities for the children and much more!

5. BECAUSE IT'S FUN

Be part of the team which organises the best events and get-togethers. Debrief over a glass of wine (or two). Suggest your most hair-brained idea and watch as it catches on and everyone wants a piece of the action. Laugh. Cry. Be there for each other.

2. TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As well as fundraising, the PTA organises events which add so much to our children's school experience. Our PTA organises the School Disco, Christmas Market and the Summer Fair, along with many more fun events. This creates a real sense of community and benefits our children.

6. BE BETTER CONNECTED

Create closer links with the head teacher, teachers and staff. If you're new to the school, the PTA is an excellent way to find out how things work and become part of the community.

3. FEEL INVOLVED

As a parent or carer in our school you are already a member of the Parent Teachers Association (PTA). Every parent is welcome to our meetings and we love to see new faces. Please consider coming along to our meetings, or volunteer an hour of your time at an event.

7. IT'S NOT JUST FOR MUMS

Everyone is welcome, grandparents, aunts or uncles and it's especially important to have dads and male carers represented, as male role models are crucial in children's upbringing. Dads can bring different skills; they can bring a different perspective, and they can bring other dads.

4. ITS TOTALLY FLEXIBLE

Whether you're a full-time parent or working nine to five, anyone can get involved. It's less commitment than you think and you don't always have to attend meetings. Small jobs like putting up a poster, helping sort uniform or running a stall keeps everything running smoothly.

8. KEEP THE PTA GOING

As parents move on from the school, there is a real danger that there will no longer be a PTA. Please do consider helping, maybe teaming up as a group of parents, to keep the PTA going, year after year.

Email : pta@thepinesschool.org.uk



Did you know we have a school lottery?

What is it?

Your School Lottery is an exciting weekly online lottery for parents/carers who want to get involved and support the school's fundraising efforts.

There is at least **one guaranteed cash winner for our school each week** plus the chance to win the £25,000 jackpot.

The best bit is that 40p from every ticket goes directly back to the school.

How to get involved?

Tickets cost £1 per week.

They offer flexible payment options: pay by direct debit, monthly or one-off ticket bundles, or just for the Super Draw!

Sign up to our page on Your School Lottery today to have a chance of winning a share of great prizes! Each ticket you purchase makes a huge impact.

https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/the-pines-school?utm_campaign=cause-page-social-share&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_content=Hyperlink

Raise funds for us for FREE

with easyfundraising



Join as our supporter today at:
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause
Just search for:

FRIENDS OF THE PINES PTA

8,000+ retailers will donate to us whenever you shop with them



Start at the
easyfundraising
website or app



Click out
to where you'd
like to shop



Checkout:
prices are exactly
the same!



The retailer sends
a % of your spend
to easyfundraising



They pass
it on to us
:)

Plus, you'll get...



Exclusive retailer offers



Competitions



A warm feeling inside!

Over
£60m
raised for UK good causes

£0
extra cost to anyone

Is your child entitled to free school meals?





Children who attend a Bracknell Forest school and whose parents or carers receive certain benefits, may be eligible to claim free school meals.

Free school meals are a good way to ensure that your child eats well at lunchtime, and you can save yourself time and money.

Plus, if you are eligible to claim free school meals your application will trigger extra government funding for your child's school. This funding is called Pupil Premium, and it will be invested in your child's school to improve educational outcomes.



Don't miss out - apply today!

www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/free-school-meals



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THE PINES

SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

Autumn term 2025

INSET DAY: Wednesday 3rd September 2025

INSET DAY: Thursday 4th September 2025

INSET DAY: Friday 5th September 2025

Term starts on: Monday 8th September 2025

Term ends on: Thursday 23rd October 2025

INSET DAY: Friday 24th October 2025

October half term holiday: Monday 27th October to Friday 31st October 2025

Term starts on: Monday 3rd November 2025

Term ends on: Friday 19th December 2025

Christmas holiday: Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026

Spring term 2026

INSET DAY: Monday 5th January 2026

Term starts on: Tuesday 6th January 2026

Term ends on: Friday 13th February 2026

February half term holiday: Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026

Term starts on: Monday 23rd February 2026

Term ends on: Friday 27th March 2026

Spring holiday: Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April 2026

Bank Holidays: Good Friday: 3rd April 2026, Easter Monday: 6th April 2026

Summer term 2026

Term starts on: Monday 13th April 2026

Term ends on: Friday 22nd May 2026

May half term holiday: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026

Bank Holidays: Monday 4th May 2026, Monday 25th May 2026

Term starts on: Monday 1st June 2026

Term ends on: Wednesday 22nd July 2026



THE PINES
SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

Autumn term 2026

INSET DAY: Tuesday 1st September 2026

Term starts on: Wednesday 2nd September 2026

INSET DAY: Thursday October 22nd

INSET DAY: Friday October 23rd

Term ends on: Friday 23rd October 2026

October half term holiday: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2026

Term starts on: Monday 2nd November 2026

Term ends on: Friday 18th December 2026

Christmas holiday: Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027

Spring term 2027

INSET DAY: Monday 4th January

Term starts on: Tuesday 5th January 2027

Term ends on: Friday 12th February 2027

February half term holiday: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027

Term starts on: Monday 22nd February 2027

Term ends on: Thursday 25th March 2027

Spring holiday: Friday 26th March to Friday 9th April 2027

Bank Holidays: Good Friday: 26th March 2027, Easter Monday: 29th March 2027

Summer term 2027

Term starts on: Monday 12th April 2027

Term ends on: Friday 28th May 2027

May half term holiday: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027

Bank Holidays: Monday 3rd May 2027, Monday 31st May 2027

Term ends on: Tuesday 20th July (End of term assembly on Monday 19th July and Year 6 Leavers assembly on Tuesday 20th July)

INSET DAY WEDNESDAY 21st JULY

The Pines School



Be Your BEST
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Our Vision and Values

