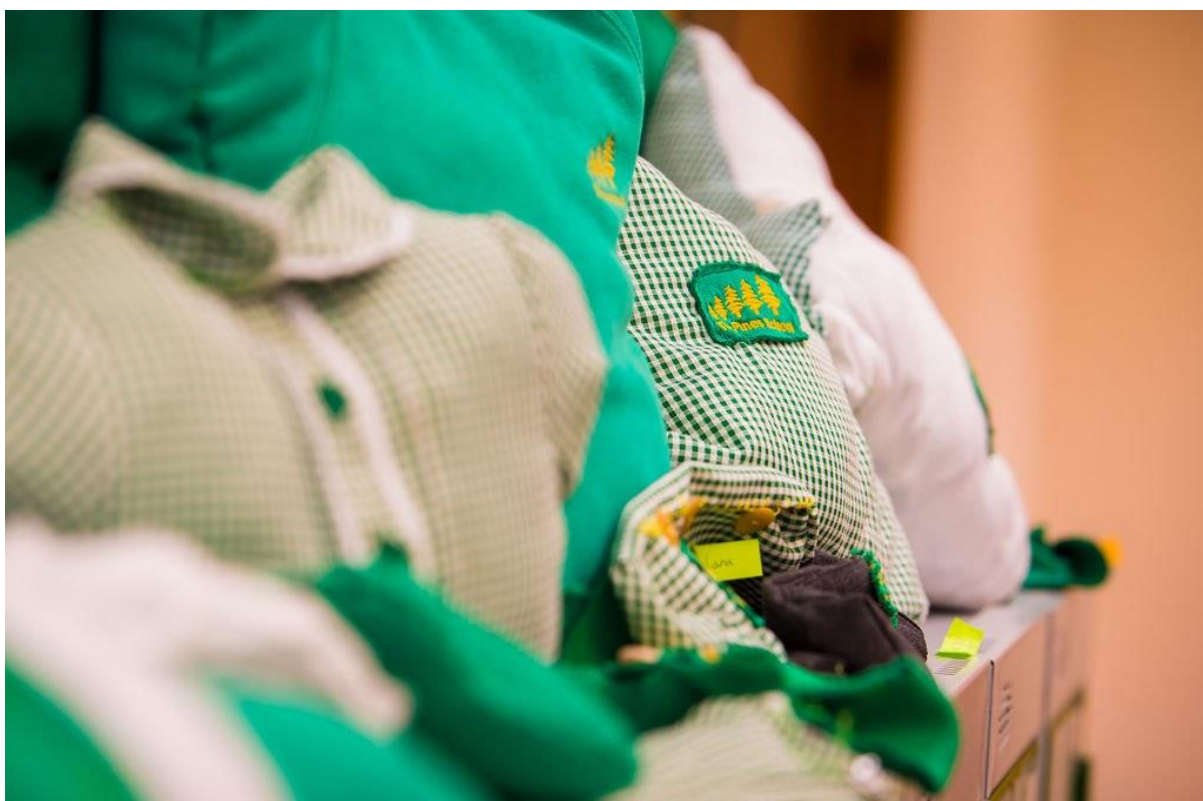




Weekly Newsletter

Week End 13.03.26 (If you would like a paper copy please ask)



This edition will contain: -

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- *Introduction from Mrs Davies*
 - *Head Teacher Awards*
 - *OPAL Spotlight*
 - *Class with the highest attendance of the week*
 - *Best House attendance of the week*
 - *Nursery and Reception Coffee Morning*
 - *Important Dates*
 - *Information sent out this week*
 - *The Pines School Council Red Nose Day - Friday 20th March 2026*
 - *Flyers*
-

Introduction from Mrs Davies

Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you to the parents who have recently shared feedback. I truly value your voice and always aim to listen, even if I can't please everyone all the time. Your thoughts help us continue to grow and improve as a school community.

Celebration of Learning

I have had pupil progress meetings this week and am delighted to share that our children are making strong progress across the curriculum. I have been particularly impressed by the high-quality writing being produced throughout the school and this was celebrated this week during moderation with other local schools.

I know teachers are looking forward to sharing this progress with you during Parents' Evening, and I hope you will enjoy seeing just how far your children have come.

We are looking to re-introduce our learning showcases in the summer term to ensure children get an opportunity to celebrate and share their learning with parents and carers.

The White Paper and SEND

Many of you may have seen recent discussions in the news and on social media about the government's new White Paper on SEND. This is a large, 118-page document outlining future national expectations for supporting children with additional needs.

One of the key messages is an increased expectation for schools to become more inclusive and to develop or expand resource provisions. As you know, The Pines is already a highly inclusive school, and we already run our own provision.

School budgets nationally continue to tighten, which means resources (including teaching assistants) must be used carefully and creatively and not all classes can have the standard class TA that many schools used to have.

I want to reassure all parents that inclusion remains a strength at The Pines. Our children are kind, welcoming and supportive of one another. This does not mean that we accept poor behaviour—far from it. We are committed to ensuring:

-
- all children have full access to a rich, ambitious curriculum*
 - pupils who display challenging behaviour are supported through appropriate provision*
 - children understand that actions have consequences*
-

I am aware that there is still more to be done and I am continually reviewing plans.

If you would like to read more about the White Paper, you can find detailed information below.

Academisation

The Pines remains a local authority-maintained school. However, many schools nationally are joining multi-academy trusts, and there may come a time when remaining LA-maintained becomes difficult for sustainability.

At present, we work closely with four other local authority schools, sharing INSET days, training and moderation. This model may continue to work well for us, but it is also sensible to explore academisation in the future to understand whether it could be the right option for our school.

Parents will be kept fully informed of any developments, should they arise.

Parent Communication

I want the weekly newsletter to be as useful as possible. If there is anything you would like to see included—regular features, reminders, celebrations or updates—please let the office know, and I will do my best to add it. I would also like to offer meetings with individuals or groups of parents. If this is something you would like, please email Mrs Salmon to arrange. These meetings will need to remain productive and child centred.

Workshops, Coffee Mornings and Learning Showcases

We know that daytime sessions are difficult for some parents to attend due to work and other commitments. If you would be interested in evening workshops or events, please tell us. While we can't promise to accommodate every request, if there is enough interest, we will look at offering more sessions later in the day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Our partnership with families is at the heart of everything we do.

Staffing Update

Tracy Bright our Breakfast and After School Club Supervisor has worked at The Pines for over 6 years and will be leaving at the end of term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tracy for her support and commitment to the school.

Miss Day will also be leaving us at the end of term as she has secured a new position in a specialist school, we are delighted for her but will be sad to see her leave. I would like to thank her for all her hard work and commitment to the school this last year.

Many thanks,

Schools White Paper: One-Page Summary for Parents

The government has set out long-term plans to improve education for all children. These changes aim to raise standards, provide earlier support, and strengthen the partnership between schools and families.

1. Helping Every Child Achieve

- Higher expectations for learning, with more pupils reaching strong GCSE grades.
- Extra support for children from low-income families to help close the attainment gap.
- A national focus on **improving attendance** so children don't miss valuable learning time.
- Schools will monitor how included, safe and supported children feel.

2. Better Support for Children With SEND

The government is proposing significant improvements to early help and specialist support:

- Extra funding for schools to run small-group and targeted interventions.
- A new **"Experts at Hand"** service giving schools easier access to specialists such as:
 - speech & language therapists
 - educational psychologists
 - occupational therapists
- National guidance on best SEND practice for schools.
- Schools will publish updated **Inclusion Strategies** explaining how children with additional needs are supported.

New support plans (from 2029):

- **Individual Support Plans (ISPs):** For all children with additional needs, written with parents.
- **EHCPS:** Reserved for pupils with the most complex needs.

All current SEND rights stay the same until new laws are introduced.

3. Support for Disadvantaged Pupils

- Future funding may be based on **household income**, not just Free School Meal data.
- Additional help for white working-class children, highlighted as a group needing extra support.
- Some areas, such as the North East and coastal communities, will receive targeted programmes.
- The pupil premium strategy statement will be made clearer for families and governors.

4. School Collaboration and Multi Academy Trusts

- The government expects all schools to join or form a **high-quality multi academy trust (MAT)**.
- MATs will be judged on inclusion, standards, and value for money.
- Trusts may need to have **local parent and community engagement** structures.
- Schools will work together locally to support SEND and share specialist resources.

5. Stronger Partnerships With Parents

- **Family Hubs** will offer early support and guidance for families.
- A new online **School Profile** will bring together Ofsted information, results, attendance data and enrichment opportunities.
- Academy trusts may be required to run **annual parent forums**.

6. A Clearer Complaints Process

- A new digital system will make submitting and tracking complaints easier.
- Clearer expectations for how quickly issues should be resolved.
- Complaint panels may need:
 - an independent member
 - an independent SEND expert (for SEND-related cases)

7. Behaviour and Exclusions

- Schools will be able to supervise pupils **on-site** during suspensions to avoid lost learning.
- Schools may be required to set work for excluded pupils.
- Ofsted and the DfE will monitor exclusion patterns to prevent unfair practices.

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 - **Delilah***

*Maple - **Malia***

*Sycamore - **Lizzy***

*Willow - **Charlie B***

*Oak - **Ferne***

*Cedar - **Klara***

*Ash - **Noah***

*Juniper - **Seryn***

Rowan - **Marcelo and Annabelle**

The Orchard - **Ollie**

Congratulations to **Maci** 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

OPAL Spotlight!

Hello, this week myself and Miss Philpotts delivered an OPAL play assembly having a recap of all our zones and introducing something new called an OPAL play ranger which the children have been signing up for. Wheeled play has been very successful this week, the children have enjoyed making their own tracks using cones and then discussing how they could improve it even further.

I have been working on our art area outside and filling it with lots of resources and making it really accessible for the children. Some children have loved using colouring books and crayons to make some lovely pictures.

Opal Wish list- 3 wheeled scooters, and colouring pencils.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Edwards





Class with the Highest Attendance of the week



Be Your BEST
Believe - Excellence - Safe - Team

*The classes with the highest attendance this week are **Cedar and Oak** with **100%**.*

*Well done to **Cedar and Oak!***

Best House Attendance of the week



Be Your BEST
Believe - Excellence - Safe - Team

*The best house attendance this week is **Malala Yousafzai** with **95.56%**.*

Well done - who will it be next week?

Nursery and Reception Coffee Morning



Our next coffee morning we will be holding in school will be for parents and carers of Nursery and Reception. This will be to talk to you about future 5 to Thrive sessions that we would like to run in school.

*The Coffee Morning will be held in the upper hall after drop off on **Monday 16th March**. If your child attends Nursery in the afternoon you are welcome to attend as well. It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible, there will be coffee and biscuits available. Please let me know if you would like to attend fsa@thepinessschool.org.uk*

Kind Regards

Mrs T Williams

Family Support Advisor

BFG - CONFIDENTIAL

Five to Thrive

Support your child's brain development.

"Your child's body grows better when you give it good food. Your child's brain grows better when you do five things that feed the growing brain."

Respond-Engage-Relax-Play-Talk

- Importance of supporting brain development.
- Supporting children to be able to self-regulate and manage behaviour.



 **The Pines School Coffee Morning**
Monday 16th March 2026
9am

Important Dates



-
- **16.03.26** - Nursery and Reception Coffee Morning / Learning Showcase - Year 4 Greek Day
 - **17.03.26** - Willow Class Parents Evening held in person in the Lower Hall 3:30 - 5:30pm (to secure your time slot you will receive an email inviting you via notifications@primarysite.net)
 - **18.03.26** - Parents Evening held in person in the Lower Hall 3:30 - 7:00pm (to secure your time slot you will receive an email inviting you via notifications@primarysite.net)
 - **19.03.26** - Parents Evening held in person in the Lower Hall 3.30 - 5.30pm (to secure your time slot you will receive an email inviting you via notifications@primarysite.net)
 - **19.03.26** - Y5/6 (Home) Football Match The Pines V Fox Hill

- **20.03.26** - Red Nose Day (children are invited to wear something red, Pyjamas or official merchandise - contribution is on the school gateway)
 - **25.03.26** - Spring Disco in the top hall Reception, Y1, Y2 & Yr 3 - 3.30pm - 4.30pm / Yr 4, Yr5, & Y6 - 4.40pm - 6pm (Tickets can be purchased via the school gateway within the payment section).
 - **26.03.26** - Y5/6 Tag Rugby Tournament Tournament / Elm Class School Trip
 - **27.03.26** - Celebration Assembly at 9.00am / Term Ends at 2.00pm / After School Club finishes at 5.00pm
 - **30.03.26 to 10.04.26** - Easter Holidays (Bank Holidays Good Friday 03.04.26, Easter Monday 06.04.26)
 - **13.04.26** - Children return to school at 8.40am
 - **06.06.26** - Save the Date Summer Fayre
-

Information sent out this week



-
- *What we are learning in Nursery this week*
 - *What we are learning in Reception this week*
 - *Parent Workshop Healthy Brains 24.03.26*
 - *Learning Showcase Year 4 Greek Day (Reminder)*
 - *Nursery Stay and Play Session 24.03.26*
 - *5 to Thrive Coffee Morning*
 - *Larch Class Dot Reward*
 - *Red Nose Day - Friday 20th March 2026*
 - *Residential Parent Meeting - 24.03.26*
 - *5 to Thrive Coffee Morning - 16.03.26*
 - *Reception Class Teddy Bear Hunt at South Hill Park - Thursday 26th March 2026*
 - *Spring Disco Wednesday 25th March 2026 (Reminder)*
 - *Topic - Maple Class*
-

The Pines School Council Red Nose Day - Friday 20th March 2026

The Pines School Council want to bring the laughs for Comic Relief! We will be hosting a 'BEST JOKE' competition on Friday 20th March! Each class are going to vote for their favourite joke performed by a member of their class and then the school council will hear all entries during celebration assembly. Get thinking about your funniest joke this weekend if you would like to enter!

They would like to run a bake sale on Red Nose Day after school on Friday 20th March. Please see attached flyer for more information.

Thank you!

THE PINES SCHOOL COUNCIL

**RED NOSE DAY
CAKE SALE!**

**RED NOSE DAY**
FRIDAY 20 MARCH

Be Your BEST
Believe - Excellence - Safe - Team



Can you bake something red, funny or circular?

Friday 20th March
after school on the KS1 playground

The school council would like your help in raising money for Comic Relief!

We are hosting a bake competition on Red Nose Day and are looking for the most red, most funny and most circular bakes!

To enter the competition please bring your bakes to the office on the morning of Friday 20th March.

Please make sure your cakes are named and an allergy form filled out or ingredients written.

The school community will judge the winners!
All cakes will then be sold at the end of the day.
(Large cakes will be sliced)

If you also want to buy some cakes for us to sell, we would really appreciate that too!

Thank you!



Red Nose Day Cake Sale

Friday 20th March

Childs Name: _____

Childs Class: _____

Please tick all allergens that are present in your cake below. Nuts and peanuts are already crossed out as we are a nut free school and so bakes should not contain these.

If you are unsure of the allergens, please just record all the ingredients below.

						
Celery	Cereals containing gluten	Crustaceans	Eggs	Fish	Lupin	Milk
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

						
Mollusc	Mustard	Nuts	Peanuts	Sesame seeds	Soya	Sulphur Dioxide
☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please list the ingredients in your bake (don't worry about the quantities)

Many Thanks,
The Pines School Council

Flyers



Spring Disco
Wednesday 25th March
Upper Hall

R, Y1, Y2 & Y3:
3.30 – 4.30
Tickets cost £5.00 (includes
drink & 2 snacks)

Y4, Y5 & Y6:
4.40 – 6.00
Tickets cost £3.00

Tuck shop open. CASH only.
Please no more than £5.
Children bring money at their
own risk

Tickets on sale via the school gateway app.

Parents and Carers of Children with SEND
Parents and carers who feel their child may need their support to take part in the school disco are encouraged to discuss this with Mrs Chandler (SENCO), Miss Philpotts (DHT) or Mrs Davies (HT) so that suitable arrangements can be considered. Families are encouraged to consider whether the noise and atmosphere of a disco will feel comfortable for their child, and to make the decision that best supports their needs. Any parent or carer who wishes to attend in order to support their child is warmly welcome to join the PTA, and a DBS check will be required for this.



PRESTIGE SPORTS COACHING

EASTER SPORTS CAMP

SAVE THE DATE

WEEK 1: MON 30TH MARCH - THUR 2ND APRIL

WEEK 2: TUE 7TH APRIL - FRI 10TH APRIL

WILDRIDINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL
£20 PER DAY
AGES 5-11 YEARS

BOOK NOW
www.prestigesportscoaching.com/holiday-camps

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. IT'S 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



Be Your BEST
Believe – Excellence – Safe – Team

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
Believe - Excellence - Safe - Team

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Our Vision and Values

