



Weekly Newsletter

Week End 19.12.25 (If you would like a paper copy please ask)

WARNING THIS IS A BUMPER EDITION - MAKE A CUP OF TEA AND SIT DOWN AND ENJOY!

This edition will contain: -

- *Introduction from Mrs Davies*
 - *Best Awards*
 - *Progress Awards*
 - *Pantomime*
- *Class with the highest attendance of the term*

- *Best House attendance of the term*
 - *Parent Workshops 2026*
 - *Coffee Morning*
 - *Applications for Primary (Reception) September 2026*
 - *Breakfast and After School Club*
 - *School Council Winter Bake Sale Winner*
 - *The Pines Enchanted Evening*
 - *The Pines Christmas Choir*
 - *Important Dates*
 - *Information sent out this week*
 - *Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards*
 - *Flyers*
-

Introduction from Mrs Davies

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we come to the end of our first term of the academic year 2025-2026, it is a time to reflect and celebrate the great things that have happened.

Challenges

I maybe getting a little older but I feel education is becoming more challenging. The funding for schools is constantly being stretched and as school staff we are frequently being asked to do more with less. There has been a huge increase in SEND needs not just within The Pines but nationally. Some of you will have seen in the news that it is a national crisis and whilst we constantly try our best, it is becoming more challenging to meet everyone's needs.

The vast majority of our parent community have been hugely supportive of the challenges we are all facing and for that, I thank you.

Some great things

This term we have welcomed Miss Philpotts who has become a wonderful addition to our staff team. We have also welcomed our fantastic Reception children into our school as well as new Nursery children. I have loved watching these children settle into our school and watching them grow and learn. I am really proud of our Early Years team.

Our Year 6 cohort enjoyed a wonderful Young Citizens event at Garth Hill College, the children learned so much about keeping safe, along with career opportunities. Our Year 1 class had a fabulous trip to Milestones Museum. It was a wonderful trip and great to see the children learning about the history of toys.

Year 4 had a great time recently at Christmas Unwrapped at our local church. Year 3 visited our local library at Birch Hill

The one thing that I always hear is that the behavior of our children when they are out and about is excellent. I am very proud of our children who go out and represent our school so well.

Teaching and Learning

This term we have been working really hard with the children on their writing. I am so pleased with the progress the children have made, especially those children in Year 3 and 4.

We have wonderful displays across the school that show the progress the children have made in just one term. It really is brilliant to see how well the children are doing. In Year 6 the children have been working really hard in all subjects however the progress that they are making in maths has been really good this term.

Safety

Please can I remind all parents not to approach the school fence during school hours including lunchtimes.

Please remind your children to keep safe over the Christmas holidays. We would advise you to talk to your child about who their safe adults are and where there are safe places near you if help is needed. It's also important to think about safety on the internet and use of mobile

phone apps and games that have 'chat' functions as this can be just as dangerous as a stranger in the street.

Thanks

A huge thanks goes to all the staff at The Pines who work hard every day to support our amazing children. A special thanks to my fellow Headteachers, especially those of the 4 other schools I work more closely with. A big thank you to all the parents and carers who support us on a daily basis and a big thank you to our amazing children.

Christmas Lunch

A huge thanks to Sandra and the ladies in the kitchen for providing a lovely Christmas Dinner for all of the children. Thank you to the staff and governors for helping to set out the tables and a massive thank you to our Year 6 children who helped serve all the food!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very restful holiday. For those of you who celebrate Christmas, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy and health New Year.

Mrs Davies







BEST Awards



Be Your BEST

Believe - Excellence - Safe - Team

Congratulations to the following children, who were awarded with our BEST Award this term: -

*Nursery - **Donika***

*Elm - **Jacob***

*Maple - **Quinn***

*Sycamore - **Chloe***

*Willow - **Jessica***

*Oak - **Lily***

*Cedar - **Beau***

*Ash - **Owen***

*Rowan - **Leila-Rose***

*Juniper - **Emma S***

*The Orchard - **Kian***

*The Meadow - **Casey***

Progress Awards



Be Your BEST
Believe - Excellence - Safe - Team

Congratulations to the following children, who were awarded with our Progress Award this term: -

*Nursery - **Jaxson***

*Elm - **Delilah***

*Maple - **Kaci-Lee***

*Sycamore - **Dolly***

*Willow - **Joey***

*Oak - **Reggie***

*Cedar - **Hayley***

*Ash - **Frank***

*Rowan - **Platon***

*Juniper - **Lucas***

*The Orchard - **Tymon***

*The Meadow - **Silver***

Pantomime

Children in Reception to Year 6 absolutely loved the pantomime that visited school on Monday who performed Peter Pan.

A huge thank you to our PTA who paid for this lovely treat for the children.

Class with the Highest Attendance of the term



Be Your BEST
Believe - Excellence - Safe - Team

*The class with the highest attendance of the term is **Cedar** with **97.4%**.*

*Well done to **Cedar Class!***

Best House Attendance of the term



Be Your BEST
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*The best house attendance of the term goes to **Emma Watson** with **95.01%**.*

*Well done to **Emma Watson!***

Parent Workshops 2026

PARENT WORKSHOPS 2025/2026



AUTUMN TERM

Reception	Busy Bags	Friday 3 rd October 2025
Year 1	Maths – 100 Square	Wednesday 5 th November 2025
Year 2	Maths – Criss Cross addition	Thursday 6 th November 2025
ALL	EBSA	Tuesday 25 th November and 2 nd December 2025 1:00-3p.m.

SPRING TERM

Reception	Maths – Magic Pebbles	Thursday 15 th January 2026
Year 3	English	Wednesday 21 st January 2026
Year 4	English	Thursday 22 nd January 2026
Year 1	English	Wednesday 11 th February 2026
Year 2	English	Thursday 12 th February 2026
Nursery	Maths	Wednesday 4 th March 2026

AUTUMN TERM

Year 3	Maths	Tuesday 28 th April 2026
Year 4	Maths	Wednesday 29 th April 2026
Nursery	Messy Writing	Friday 8 th May 2026
Year 6	Transition – parent only	Thursday 4 th June 2026 9:00-11:00a.m.
Year 6	Transition – parent and child	Wednesday 17 th June 2026

Unless specified workshops run from 9:00 – 10:30a.m.

Details about the workshops and how to book on will sent out nearer the time. Mrs Williams – Family Support Worker fsa@thepineschool.org.uk



Be Your BEST
Believe – Excellence – Safe – Team

Coffee Morning



Mrs Williams would like to thank everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning we had in September. We raised a total of £247.63!

*Our first coffee morning next term will be on **Wednesday 14th January 2026** after morning drop off.*

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.



Applications for Primary (Reception) September 2026

*The application process for admission to primary school for children born between 01/09/2021 – 31/08/2022 for Reception in September 2026 is now open. The closing date for applications is national and will close on **15th January 2026**.*

*We are holding our last open morning on **Thursday 8th January at 9.30am**. Please do share with your family and friends who you think may be interested in attending. Please contact the office via email on admin@thepinesschool.org.uk or phone on 01344 426413 to arrange a visit.*

Please click on the following link giving information about the application process: -

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/starting-primary-school>

Breakfast & After School Club Location Change

From the first week back in January, our Breakfast and After School Club will be moving to a new home in the lower building.

Children should be dropped off at the lower building main doors by the lower hall. We're excited to share that our new space that will include a small kitchen for snack preparation, a quiet area for reading and relaxation, plenty of creative play zones for fun activities and an outside area too!

The doorbell will be relocated to the lower building for January, and the after school club phone will remain the same. Please continue to book in the usual way.

Please let after school club know if you have any questions.

School Council Winter Bake Sale Winner

Congratulations to Maisie from Elm Class who won the vote for winter bake sale with her penguin biscuits!



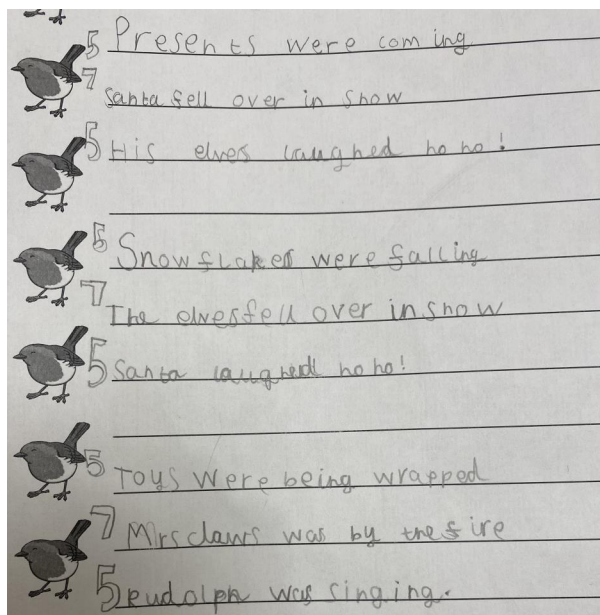
An Enchanted Evening at The Pines

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our Enchanted Evening at The Pines last Tuesday. It was an absolutely fantastic event, filled with festive cheer and plenty of eager shoppers exploring our wonderful stalls. Our school choir treated us to some beautiful singing, and Santa's grotto was bustling with families sharing magical moments. Santa and his elves were delighted to see so many happy faces!

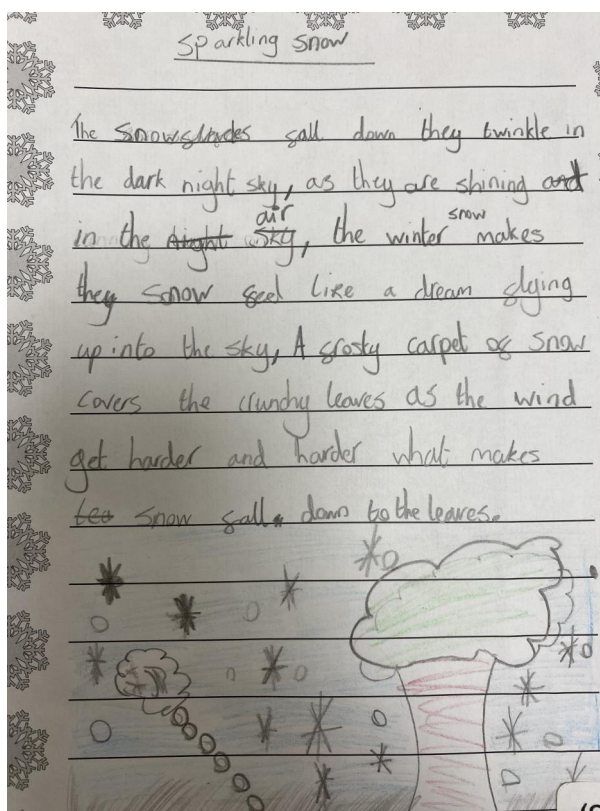
We are incredibly grateful to our amazing school staff and PTA for organising such a brilliant community celebration. Your hard work made the evening truly special.

As a little extra treat, below are a couple of the poems that were on display during the event.

Thank you again for helping us make this such a memorable evening!



1 - A Winter Haiku Poem by Jacob (Year 3)

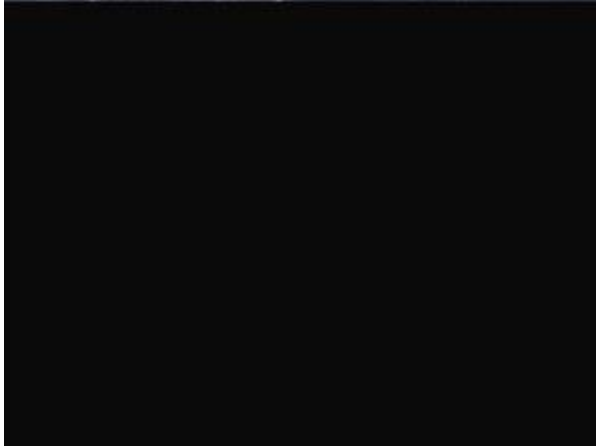
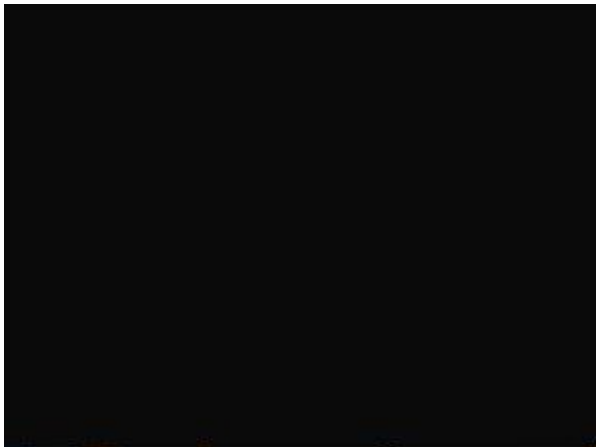


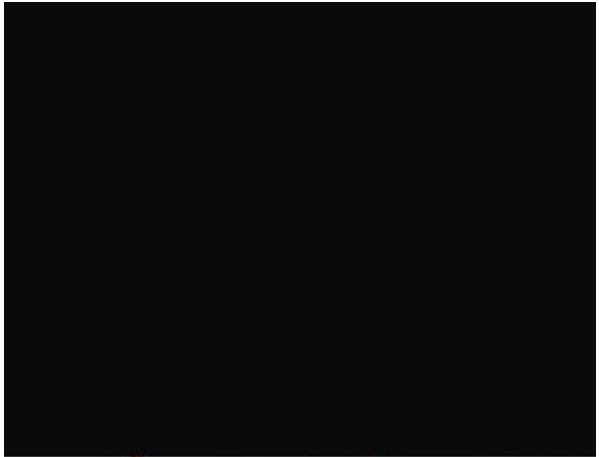
2 - Sparkling Snow by Rhylea (Year 4)

The Pines Christmas Choir

What another amazing season of singing we have had with our Christmas choir! They have all been absolutely brilliant and performed not once but four times! We began at the Easthampstead Baptist Church Community Carol Service on Thursday 4th December, before opening The Pines Enchanted Evening on Tuesday 9th. Our final public performance was in The Lexicon town centre on Sunday 14th December and they blew the crowds away. Ava and Rio performed stunning solos. We ended with a performance to everyone at school yesterday in our end of term singing assembly. Thank you so much to the whole choir and everyone who came to watch them, bringing the Christmas spirit with them!

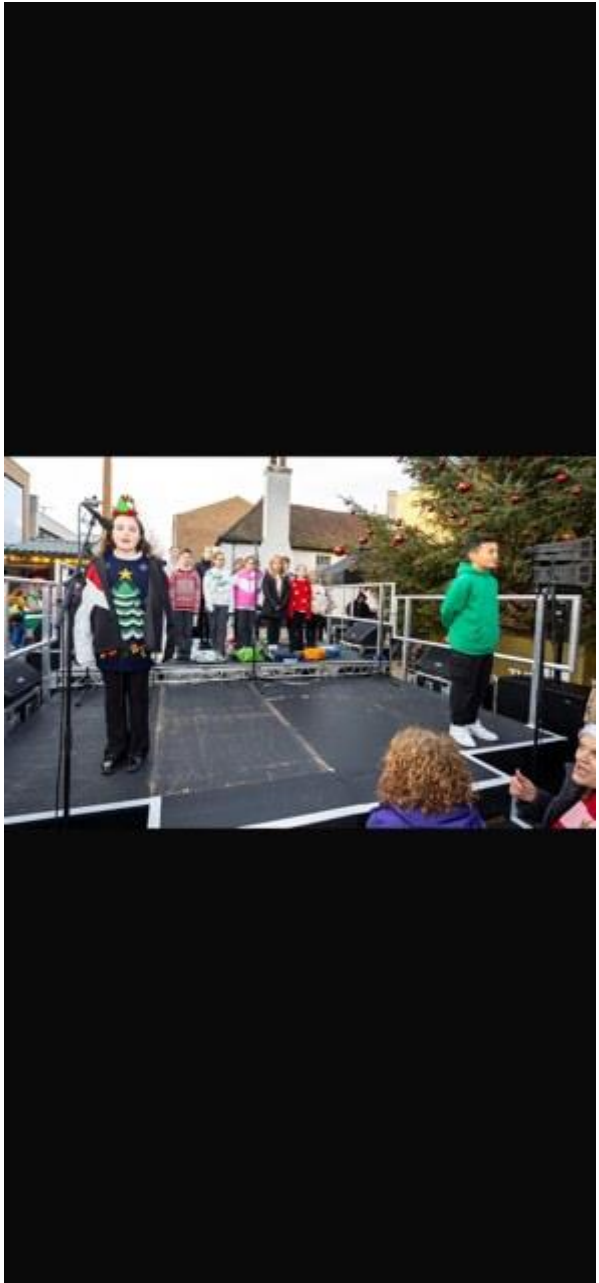


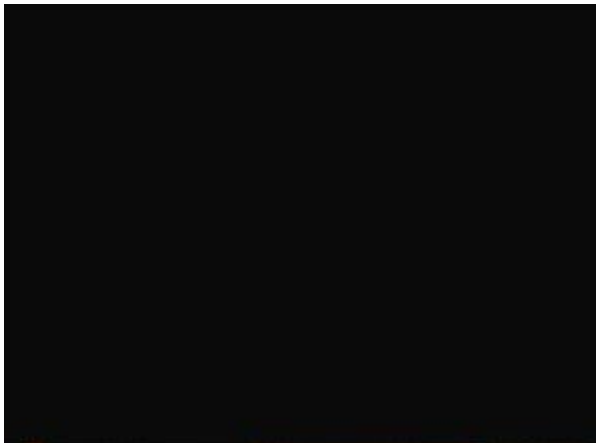




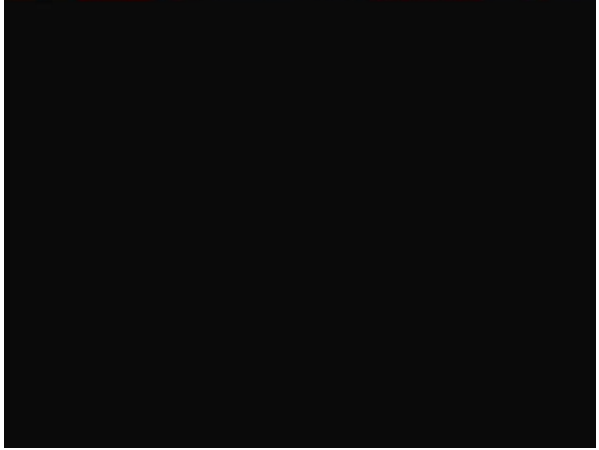
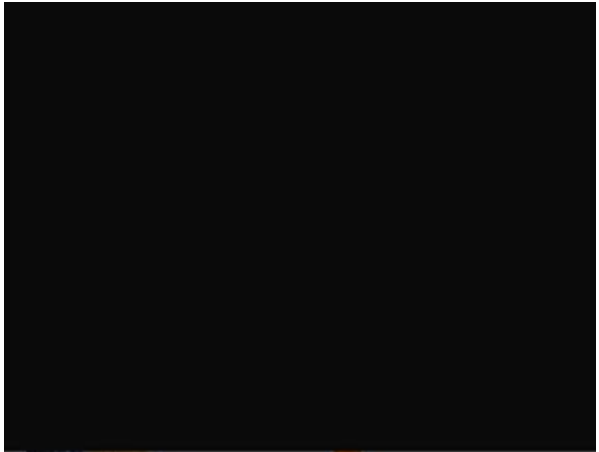


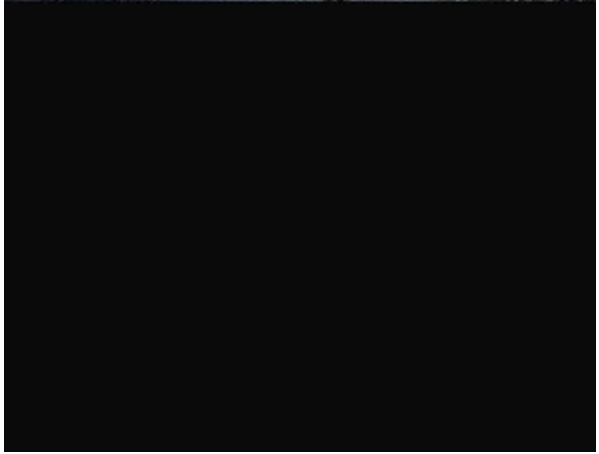
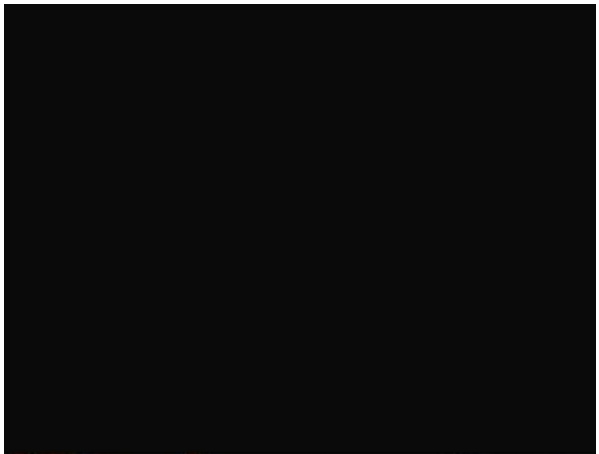


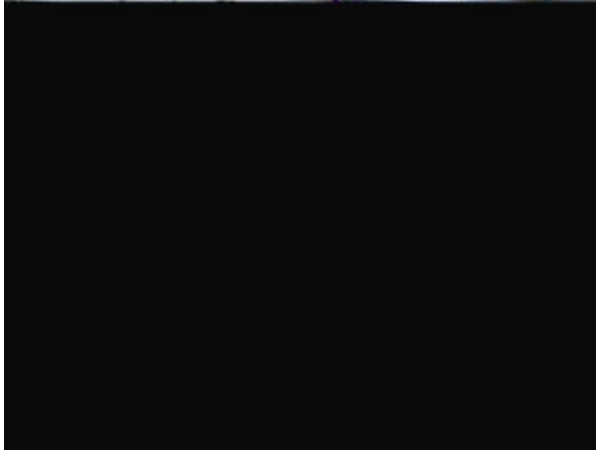
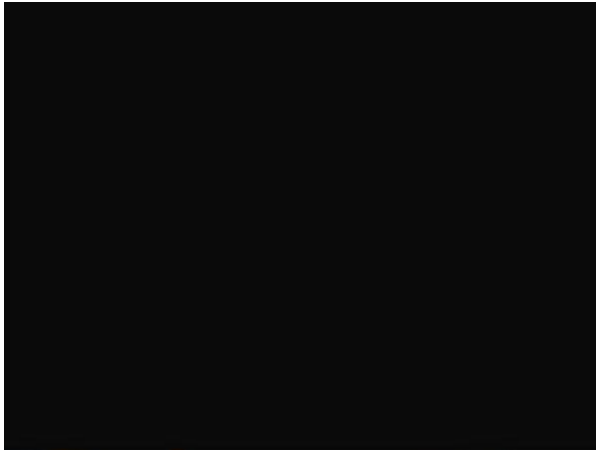




















Important Dates



-
- **05.01.26** - INSET DAY
 - **06.01.26** - Spring Term starts for children (8.40am)
 - **08.01.26** - Open Morning for September 2026 Reception starters
 - **W/C 12.01.26** - Extra curricular clubs commence
 - **15.01.26** - Closing Date for applications for admission to primary school for Reception September 2026 / Magic Pebbles Maths Workshop (Reception)
 - **21.01.26** - Year 3 English Workshop
 - **22.01.26** - Year 4 English Workshop
 - **11.02.26** - Year 1 English Workshop
 - **16.02.26 to 20.02.26** - Spring Half Term
 - **16.02.26** - Children return to school at 8.40am
-

Information sent out this week



-
- *What we are learning in Nursery this week*
 - *What we are learning in Reception this week*
 - *Ash Class Dot Reward - Wednesday 17th December*
 - *End of Term Reminders*
 - *Magic Pebbles Workshop 15.01.26*
 - *School Nursing Newsletter December 25*
 - *Willow Class Dot Reward - Thursday 18th December (Reminder)*
 - *Letter from Mrs Davies to Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4 Parents*
 - *Breakfast and After School Club Location Change*
 - *Sycamore Class Collection Day*

- [Year 6 PE Days - Spring Term 2026](#)
 - [Year 2 Moving Classroom Social Story](#)
 - [Year 4 Moving Classroom Social Story](#)
-

Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards



Pride of Bracknell Awards

Nominations are open for the Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards 2026. These awards have been celebrating the achievements of outstanding individuals in the local community since 2005. Award categories include:

- School of the Year
- Teacher of the Year
- The John Nike Pride of Bracknell Forest Award (Adult & Young Person)
 - Sport & Achievement Award (Adult & Young Person)
 - Team of the Year

- Young Person in Business
- Business of the Year
- Charity of the Year
- Long-Standing Service to the Community Award

To nominate or for further information please visit <https://prideofbracknell.com/>

Flyers





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MON 22ND DECEMBER

TUES 23RD DECEMBER

9AM - 3:00PM OR
EARLY DROP OFF AT
8:30AM



AGE: 5 - 11 YEARS

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5-12 Year Olds to 3pm

4 Year Olds to 1pm

£27.50 Per Day £21.50 Per Day

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5-12 Year Olds to 3pm

4 Year Olds to 1pm

£27.50 Per Day £21.50 Per Day

U-SPORTS.CO.UK/HOLIDAY-CAMPS



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SEN CHRISTMAS CAMP
23RD DECEMBER 2025
10AM - 2PM
WELLINGTON FITNESS, DUKE'S RIDE,
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OFSTED REGISTERED

Play. Learn. Grow. Join the Cobras this Christmas.

Celebrate the season with some holiday hoops! Join us for 2 festive days of basketball, skill development, competitive games, and new friendships this Christmas

Please bring Packed Lunch & Water Bottle, a Basketball if you have one.
 HAF Attendees will receive a free Packed Lunch

£38 A DAY
 CHRISTMAS CAMP
 22ND DECEMBER
 23RD DECEMBER



AGES: 5-16 YEARS
 10AM - 4PM AT
 KINGS ACADEMY, BINFIELD,
 RG42 4EX

WWW.COBRASBASKETBALLCLUB.COM

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

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

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Click out
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it on to us
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Competitions



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£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



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



Be Your BEST
Believe - Excellence - Safe - Team

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Bracknell

Berkshire

RG12 7WX

01344 426413

admin@thepinesschool.org.uk

<https://www.thepinesschool.org.uk/>

<https://twitter.com/thepinesprimary>

<https://www.facebook.com/thepinesschoolbracknell>

Our Vision and Values

