



# PANSHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Holt BEd (Hons).

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

A very successful first week back at school with our new children in Reception and Nursery settling in really well.

The 'soft start' to the day is going smoothly and we have decided to continue with this for a few more weeks at least. This allows parents the opportunity to drop the children off from 8.30am - 8.40am which may be helpful if people are then going on to work. The children are quickly becoming used to the early morning classroom routines which give them time to wash their hands, change their shoes, complete some quiet reading or early morning tasks and then be ready for lessons to start promptly at 8.45am.

## Reading

Over the last few years, we have spent time encouraging the children with their reading especially 'Reading for Pleasure'. Reading is such an important life skill but also a great form of escapism for both adults and children. The children will be bringing home books from school, however, as they get older we understand they often wish to read their own books from home - if you are struggling to find suitable books for your child to read, please remember the book lists for KS2 children on the school website or alternatively talk to the class teachers as they will have ideas to help.

<https://panshanger.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/subjects/english/>



All children will be bringing home a new reading record to start this academic year, these are slightly different for each 'phase' as they contain information in relation to key words & spelling patterns etc. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have a blue covered book / Years 3 & 4 have a green cover and Years 5 & 6 have a purple cover. We are asking that parents hear their children read as often as possible (a minimum of 4 times a week) then write the date / title of the book and a short comment as to how well the child read and any problems with sounds etc. The children read regularly in school e.g. individual reading time, whole class reading, guided group reading and also when asked to find information e.g. reading a text in science.

## September Challenge

The September Challenge for the children in KS1 & 2 was sent out via email last week. This is an optional task but many children completed each one last year. For this month, maths has been set relating to shape work. Please make sure the work is of a high quality (to allow it to be displayed within the school). The finished work can be handed into the class teacher or emailed directly to me [head@panshanger.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@panshanger.herts.sch.uk)



Panshanger Primary School

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## Buddy Assembly



The children have experienced their first buddy group meeting in almost 2 years! Buddy groups are made up of children from Reception to Year 6, they meet approximately once a month and the Year 6 children are responsible for helping their group complete a task. It is an excellent way for the children to get to know each other better, it can give the younger children an

older child as a friend and gives the Year 6 children valuable leadership skills. For this first meeting we did not include the Reception children as we felt they were not quite ready for this experience yet. The children worked so well together and Year 6 did a great job - demonstrating their growing confidence and some excellent leadership skills - well done.

## Blue Peter Badges

Congratulations to the children in Year 4.

Last year, the class all worked very hard to achieve the Blue Peter Green badge. Excellent news as this reflects the work they did to help the environment.



## 'Summer Fair'

On Friday, the school held a belated 'Summer Fair'. We had been forced to cancel this in July due to Covid restrictions. Early in the morning, PTA members made a very brave decision to carry on with the fair as the weather forecast was potentially awful - possible thunder and lightning with 80% chance of rain. Thankfully that weather did not materialise and at some points during the afternoon it was almost too hot.

THANK YOU to all the PTA members who helped plan / set up or man a stall during the afternoon / evening. These events are for the children and without the help of the PTA members they could not happen. There was a great atmosphere on the playground with a variety of pupils ranging from our current nursery children all the way up to past pupils well into their secondary school careers.



## Photographs

The children have had their individual and sibling photographs taken in school today. A slip will be coming home in book bags with details of how to order. The photographs will be available to view online from tomorrow (Tuesday). All orders will need to be placed by **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September** to get free delivery back to school.

Mrs Holt  
Headteacher

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