



Another Chapter of The Pencil Point!

Written by: Mrs Gurd

This half-term has been an exciting one for our student-led newsletter. We were thrilled to welcome our biggest group of students during the enrichment block so far - many new faces alongside some familiar faces returning to the team! Although our meetings were less frequent this half-term, that did not stop us from coming together with enthusiasm and creativity to produce another engaging issue.

Our writers brought a wide range of ideas to the table, inspired by their own interests and curiosities. Inside this edition, you'll find pieces exploring geography, world politics, local history, creative writing, favourite video games, singers, animals, and much more. Using different modes of writing (typing, writing, voice-to-text, and lots of editing) students worked hard to get their articles completed in the short amount of time. Every article reflects the voice, effort, and imagination of our team.

A huge well done to the following students:

Year 5: William B, Tyler
Year 4: Zackary B, Keeley, Anuki, Theo, Eddie, Felix, Harry B, Jesse and Autumn
Year 3: Reggie, Blake
Year 2: Akindu

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of The Pencil Point as much as we enjoyed creating it.



Our School Banner: A Piece of Axminster's History

Written and edited by: Mrs Gurd and various members of The Pencil Point

If you've walked along Axminster's main street, you might have spotted the colourful banners celebrating our town's history, creativity and community. One of those banners is extra special to us - our school banner, created through Axminster Chamber of Commerce back in 2024.

Axminster has a long history of craftsmanship and pride, from its famous carpets to the strong community spirit that still shapes the town today. The banner project links modern Axminster to this past by sharing local stories and values in a creative, visual way for everyone to enjoy.

Our school banner was designed by Year 5 and 6 students two years ago. They worked together to share ideas, sketch designs and agree on a final concept before presenting it to the banner committee for a digital redesign. Their original idea showed the ACPA shield breaking through an acorn in the centre of the banner, symbolising growth and achievement. With the students' permission, the professional designers made a few small changes so the message was as clear and powerful as possible, while still staying true to the children's vision.

Seeing their ideas turn into a real banner was a fun, engaging and interesting experience for everyone involved. Within just a few months, the students watched their teamwork and creativity come to life, proudly displayed in Axminster for the whole community to see.

The students also wrote a blurb about the school and the design, which can be found on the website:

"Axminster Community Primary Academy: At our school, we love learning. We are passionate about everything we do; we know that our lessons help us grow - from the tiniest acorns (our nursery students) into the large oak trees in the upper year levels. The school vision ('Achievement for All') is the centre of our educational mindsets - every single one of us is able to learn, grow and achieve, even though we all learn differently."

This is a mind set of Axminster Primary Academy that still holds true today. To find out more about our banner - and to explore the many other banners celebrating local stories along Axminster's main street - visit <https://axminsterbanners.co.uk/>. It's a brilliant way to see how our town's history, creativity and young voices come together.



Roblox Review

Written by Jesse and Harry (Year 4)

Roblox: Blox Fruits is a very popular game where players train to become masters of swordmanship or powerful 'Blox Fruit' users. They fight enemies and bosses and try to level up. Mostly, you are supposed to collect and 'eat' fruits that give you super natural powers. I would rate Roblox: Blox Fruits a 10/10. I would recommend this game if you play Roblox. It is a really good game and is not like regular Roblox. It is very fun. If you are allowed to play videogames, or you like Roblox, I would recommend you trying Roblox: Blox Fruits.

Friends interviews

Written by Autumn (Year 4)

Two of my best friends are Darcy and Winnie. They are both in Year 4 with me and I wanted to interview them for my article.

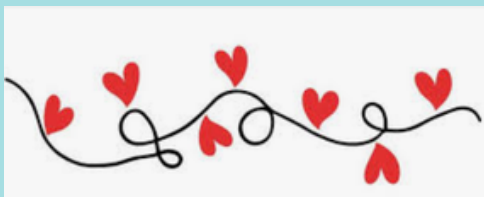
Darcy was born on January 26th and is 9 years old. Winnie was born on January 24th and is also 9 years old. Their birthdays are really close together! Binky is another friend of mine and she is born on the 25th of June and is 8 years old.

I also interviewed Mrs Lemmer because I like her a lot. She is 28 years old.

Poetry Corner

My Mum

Written by: William B (year 5)



My mum
is the best mum
to dad.
She is
funny
because she
tells
good jokes.
She is
brave
because she
puts
the spiders
in a cup and paper
and gets them
outside.

World Politics

Trump's Big Takeover

Written by: Anuki (year 4)



Donald Trump is the 47th and current president of the U.S. He has been in that position once before, 2017 to 2021.

In the U.S, people are happy with their decision of voting Trump, but what about other countries? Some of them don't agree. Here's an example:

On the 3rd of January, just a few weeks ago, approximately at 2:00 in Venezuela, a helicopter landed on a building called Fuerte Tiuna, where Nicolas Maduro, the president of the country, was staying. Then it started. There was a huge explosion, people who lived nearby said it was "enough to shake houses" and "it felt like an earthquake." For the people, it was a terrifying experience. What made it worse was that 100 people were killed.

The people in the helicopter were the U.S (and they were doing it on Trump's orders). They took Maduro into the helicopter, along with his wife, Cilia Flores. Trump states that Cilia is not only supporting her husband, but the "sidekick to the crime". Maduro is said to have done many bad things to the U.S and Venezuela itself, including selling drugs, stealing, and Economic Collapse. Maduro and Cilia plead that they are not guilty, but there is not much evidence that that is true. But neither is there much proof that Trump is telling the truth either.

But, though most of the citizens of Venezuela are scared and confused, some are actually excited and celebrating. They say that Maduro was "never any good for Venezuela". They (some of them) are just as happy as the U.S, who are now going to have more oil.

Oil is a big success in Venezuela. It has many oil preserves, estimating 303 million barrels, and is even known for it. Now, Trump states that they will use the oils, and also claims that Venezuela stole the oils to just make them famous.

At the moment, Maduro is being held in detention. (No, he is not writing lines at school...) It is a prison called Metropolitan Detention Center.

There is NO EVIDENCE that what Trump says is true, but neither is there for Maduro.

You can never really know what Trump is about to do next! But you never know, I might be wrong!



My Cat Pumpkin

Written by: Keeley (year 4)

My cat is called Pumpkin and he is really special because he is really different from other cats. Other cats are grateful for what they get but Pumpkin... no! When he gets a load of food, he wants more and he eats off the floor trying to make us feel bad and think hes being starved but he really is not! He eats everything. Even our other cat's food. But it's okay because she always steals his food back.

Pumpkin also knocks everything he sees off the counter. Whenever a cup of milk is on the counter, he knocks it off and starts to drink it. I think every cat on our street does not like him very much... and I do not blame them he is pretty annoying and very mischievous.

Fun facts about orange cats:

Orange cats are predominantly male (roughly 80%), owing to the gene on the X chromosome needed for their orange colour. They are not a specific breed, but rather share a "tabby" pattern (striped, spotted or swirled) and are marked by a 'M' on their forehead. Orange cats appear in four patterns: mackerel (striped), classic (swirled), spotted, and ticked. They are also known for being outgoing, chatty and affectionate. They also often develop small black, harmless freckles on their nose or lips as they age. "Orange" cat is a colour, not a breed. Orange cats can be found in breeds like Persian, Main Coon, and British Short hair.

The gene to make these cats orange is a male-dominant gene. This means that because the gene for orange fur is on the X chromosome, male cats only need one copy of the gene (from their mother) to be orange, but females need it from both parents. This explains why roughly 4 in 5 orange cats are male.



Kittens

Written by: Tyler (Year 5)

Kittens are great climbers and are lazy. They love people and they want attention because they love people. They are good at chatting. Animals and kittens are cute because if you have a cat look at its face and its eyes. Their eyes are blue and green and black because they are born with coloured eyes. If they're missing, don't worry because they are there. They will come home in 2 or 3 days. And if they don't come home, just go look for your cat because it might be in danger or gone.



Critter Corner - Continued

Moles

Written by: Akindu (year 2)

Moles are subterranean, digging animals that find their way by touch. The European mole's scientific name is *Talpa Europaea*. A mole can dig up to 18 feet [about 5.5 meters] in just one hour. They also have an extra, sixth claw on each front paw that acts like a thumb to help them dig more efficiently.

One type of mole, the star-nosed mole, can breathe underwater for about 10 seconds before coming up to the surface.

Did you know mole spit is poisonous? This helps them to catch worms and grubs to eat. While considered garden pests, they are beneficial by aerating soil, improving drainage, and consuming insects that damage plant roots. Female moles are called sows and babies are called pups.

Males tend to be larger than females, but there is no difference in colour. Juvenile moles leave their nests around 4 weeks of age, at which point they are approximately the same size as adult Eastern moles. Because they cannot see well, they use their highly sensitive, downwards facing snouts to smell and feel for prey. They are usually 15cm long.

They mostly eat earthworms and other kinds of grubs. They normally spend their lives underground and do not encounter humans much. They live up to 3 - 4 years and are eaten by owls, buzzards, foxes, badgers, stoats and weasles. They weigh around 70 and 130 grams. They can swim up to half a mile [8.0km.], but they can dig 12- 15 per hour and that is how fat they dig!!! A mole tunnel is called a molehill. They are experts at digging.

Here are some other types of moles.

- . marsupial mole
- . star nosed mole
- . eastern mole
- . american shrew mole
- . desman
- . uropsilus





Fireworks

Written by Reggie (year 3)



I'm writing about fireworks. It was very cold in 2026 and Australia Fireworks are very cool. Fireworks are very cool for people watching them. If they see them, anyone will think they are really really like a shooting star. Fireworks are very good in 2026.

Fireworks are made in China and Africa. They are used to celebrate. Although some people do not celebrate with fireworks. England is a very small country but if you live in England, you might think it's very big. We see fireworks in London on New Years and also during Guy Fawkes Bonfire Night. But they also do it in Africa, Australia and other countries around the world. Fireworks are very cool.

Global Glimpses

Russia

Written by: Felix (year 4)

Have you ever been to Russia? I have been on holiday before and recommend it, if you ever get the chance.

Russia is a wonderful place to visit. It is the biggest country in the world! There is a lot to do in Russia especially if you like the snow. It snows a lot in Russia. Lake Baikal is the deepest and oldest lake in the world. It holds 20% of the world's unfrozen fresh water.

Lots of authors and famous musicians have come from Russia. Including Leo Tolstoy. He wrote a big book called War and Peace. As well as the person who wrote the music for famous ballets - like the Nutcracker.

They were an important country in history. They fought against the USA in the Cold War and mine resources like gold and diamonds.

Yuri Gagarin was Russian and he was the first person to go to space in 1961. Russia is known for many important inventions like the periodic table for chemistry and the invention of synthetic rubber.



Narrative Nook

Lego News

Written by: Blake (Year 3)

Note from Editor (Mrs Gurd): Blake has written a news report from the fictional location of Lego World. He has written in the voice of a news anchor telling the nightly news report.

Breaking news!

A ship has crashed in the midi stock. The fire department is on scene and the firefighters are trying to help the ship out but people are stuck in the ship. Hopefully, they are not drowning. We currently have no reports but are hopeful they won't drown and everyone will stay safe.

Wait! There's some more information coming in ...

Now, there has been a crash landing with a ship in the South West! Can you imagine? A shipwreck! I wonder if there is gold on the ship? If there is, that could mean that the treasure will be lost under the sea forever. That would be unfortunate. I hope everyone is okay.



Continue 'Lego News' on page 7 : See 'Lego News' Continued



School Happenings

Panto Pandemonium!

Zackary (Year 4)

We had a pantomime on the 23rd of January 2026 we were visited by M&M Productions came to our school and performed their version of Snow White. They were the same company that came and performed Beauty and the Beast last year, but it was different actors.

From the hilarious moments to the brilliant performances, the children were completely captivated and couldn't stop laughing, cheering, and joining in!

People dressed up and we had a lot of songs and it was alright for me, but I know that a LOT of other people definitely liked it.

I do hope they come back for another show soon!



Showbiz Buzz

Billie Elish - Singer and Songwriter

Written by: Zackary (Year 4)

Billie is a famous singer all around the world having millions of fans all around the world.

My favourite song is "You should see me in a CROWN". But she has a lot of other good ones (in my opinion). Her songs can be sad or upbeat. A sad song example might be "Lovely" and an upbeat example might be "Bad Guy".

She is always kind to her fans and if she has to she stops the concert to save people in danger. She has been to many countries to do concerts and is very capable of making her fans behave. In some concerts she makes the whole crowd silent even if there are 20,000 people or more. I think this is incredible considering it is hard for our whole school to stay quiet at assembly time sometimes.

If you haven't listened to her before, I recommend finding her playlist and trying a few of her songs.



Wet play

Written by Eddie (Year 4)

Wet Play is what happens when it is too wet to go outside. Usually it has to be raining very hard. When this happens, we stay in the classrooms and play with our friends inside the room. During wet play, you can sit in the teacher's chair, play games including ball bounce (At least in Foxes class). In order to play ball bounce you need 2+ players you have 2 different colours ping-pong balls and a wall behind it. You need to bounce it on the wall and try to get it in a grid kind of thing. You also pick a card and what ever shape you get you bounce the ball on the wall and try to make the shape with the balls but if you fail you can not take the balls out of the grid until your turn is over and then the other person does the same shape until you do it. There is about 45+ cards. If you tried to do all the cards, it would take around 1-2 hours. Usually people do 10 cards during wet play.

Another thing we can play is Jenga and in order to play you need to have 2+ players and you stack the wooden blocks. You need a 3 by 3 stack in lines and make it decently high and try to pull a block out and put it on top and try not to knock the tower over. If you do you LOOSE! And the other person says "good game." That means the other person WINS! When you lose, you also need to say "good game". Because it's polite. Wet play isn't as fun as going outside... but it is better than being soaked!



Narrative Nook

Lego News - Continued

Written by: Blake (Year 3)

Note from Editor (Mrs Gurd): Blake has written a news report from the fictional location of Lego World. He has written in the voice of a news anchor telling the nightly news report.



In other news, there has been some exploding fireworks that must have been sabotaged. These fireworks went off too early, at midnight yesterday night. An investigation is continuing to find out if the sabotage is what actually happened, so they haven't caught the bad guy that might have done the sabotage. So, we're going to need extra police help to see if anyone did sabotage it last night.

What is the point of sabotaging a firework show? Everyone likes fireworks, right?

More breaking news coming in ...

A bike show someone has been riding a motorbike off the big hill and done a flip but when the biker flipped, the bike in the air they could not get back on it safely while in mid-air. Unfortunately, he was seriously injured but hopefully he is okay in the hospital.



In the northwest, there has been a bus breakdown. We are learning that some kids were coming back from a camp but the bus needed to swerve. This caused it to go down into the forest, off the track. I have heard that the bus went spinning round in circles, hit a tree and landed upside down!



Well, that's all I have to say for now. But come back next week for some more exciting LEGO World Breaking News.

Goodbye!