



TPA Christmas Newsletter – Friday 19th December 2025



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for all your support throughout this year. Here are some new updates as well as some highlights.

Instagram



@THEPIONEERACADEMY2011

The Pioneer Academy closed its X (formerly Twitter) account at the end of the last academic year and consolidated all social media outreach to Instagram. All TPA schools have migrated to this platform, and the trust's official Instagram handle is **thepioneeracademy2011**. The account features timely updates on school improvements, showcases sports and music events, shares classroom clips of teachers, and includes recent promotional videos from headteachers highlighting their schools. Please feel free to follow us and share our content. Unbelievably we have had 123,000 visits to the TPA site over recent months - can we make it 200,000 by Christmas?

PE update

Cross Country

We hit the ground running in September with a successful Year 3 & 4 Cross Country event. Everyone demonstrated fantastic determination and enthusiasm as they proudly represented their school. Burnt Oak Junior School achieved overall victory, but all pupils should be commended for their efforts and attitudes. Looking ahead to the Spring Term, the Year 5 and 6 Cross Country will provide another exciting opportunity for pupils to represent their school and test their endurance.

Football

We held football competitions across all 5 of our regions to see which schools would qualify for the Football Finals, and the regional winners were as follows:

Bexley:

Bromley:

Coastal:

Kent and Surrey:

Croydon:

Boys:

Belvedere Juniors

Stewart Fleming

Moulsecoomb

Edenbridge

Woodcote

Girls:

Burnt Oak

Southborough

West Blatchington

Edenbridge

South Norwood



The Football Finals, where the regional winners will battle it out to see who is crowned the TPA champions, will be held in the Spring Term.

Music

Big Smiles and Musical Moments Sounding Out Across the TPA

We have had a vibrant and joyful start to the academic year in music across the TPA. This term, pupils have explored an exciting range of instruments, including steel pans, trombones, French horns, ukuleles and recorders, making the most of every musical opportunity that comes their way. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to explore new sounds have filled our classrooms and corridors with a wonderful musical buzz.

Southborough Primary School Wind Band, whose talented trombonists, cornet players, French horn section and clarinettists have been learning for only nine weeks, delivered a fantastic performance alongside the Scots Guards. It was a triumphant beginning to the Christmas season and a proud moment for everyone involved. Year 4 pupils at Belvedere Juniors also shone through in their cornet and trombone concert supported by Bromley Youth Music Trust (BYMT) and Bexley Music Service. The children's words perfectly capture their enjoyment and growing confidence: "It was so much fun!", "When we all played together, it sounded amazing, I felt like I was in a real band!" and "Sliding the trombone is the best bit!"



Meanwhile, Year 3 pupils at Stewart Fleming Primary School impressed family and friends through their Band on the Run project, showcasing their rhythmic skills, music notation understanding and recorder playing as they performed an array of catchy songs.

Our choirs have also been busy spreading festive cheer across the community, supporting local charities with performances at The Glades Shopping Centre in Bromley and bringing joy to residents in nearby retirement homes. Looking ahead to the Spring Term, we are excited to introduce Toots and Flutes, which introduces children to a range of woodwind instruments such as saxophones, clarinets and flutes, focusing on building rhythmic and ensemble skills that will eventually prepare them to progress into a full wind band. We can't wait to see the incredible musical journey that our young performers will embark on next.

Pioneer in the news

Lots of our schools have done amazing things this term and our local news outlets have published these. Below are just a few examples.



https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2025/10/30/tech-turns-halloween-3d-at-hove-primary-school/#google_vignette

<https://www.thisislocalondon.co.uk/news/25487554.southborough-primary-school-bromley-new-outdoor-play-area/?ref=rss>

<https://london-post.co.uk/local-mp-visits-southborough-primary-school-on-uk-parliament-week/>

New schools joining TPA in March 2026

Effective 1st March 2026, two former University of Brighton Trust schools—Churchwood Primary School and Robsack Wood Primary School— will join The Pioneer Academy. Both schools are located in Hastings, bringing the total number of TPA schools in Hastings to three, alongside Hollington Primary School. This expansion is a positive step that strengthens collaboration among local schools, reduces staff workload, and improves educational outcomes and experiences for children. With these additions, our primary Multi-Academy Trust now comprises 22 schools across seven local authorities.

TPA Teacher Conference 2025

This year's Annual Teacher Conference was held on 2nd November 2025. Due to increased attendance, the venue was moved from Bromley (no longer sufficient in size) to Lingfield Racecourse; a location that better accommodates teachers from the South Coast without excessive travel time. The conference again centered on Special Educational Needs (SEND), with the theme "Get it right for pupils with SEND, get it right for all pupils." Keynote speaker Gary Albin discussed practical strategies to adapt and vary teaching so all children receive support and challenge in every lesson; he also served on the government's SEND group for the recent curriculum and assessment review completed a couple of months prior. The event was reported as a great success, with 383 teachers attending learning together and improving teaching for all our pupils across TPA.



CEO Stakeholder Visits

As CEO, I conduct frequent school visits, including dedicated stakeholder visits designed to deeply understand each school's context. These visits involve direct conversations with children, parents, governors, and staff, classroom quality checks, and broad engagement about school experiences. Insights gathered through discussions and multiple learning walks feed into a mini action plan developed with headteachers, to improve each school for its stakeholders. This year's stakeholder visits have been uplifting due to the quality of our provisions, enthusiasm of our pupils and by strong parental participation. I believe that these engagements help schools become more child-focused and aligned with community needs and I would like to thank every member of staff, child and parent for their commitment to our community schools.

New LED Lights across the MAT



TPA invests significantly—over £1million annually—to improve school sites and learning environments, ensuring staff and pupils have high-standard buildings to work and learn in. This year, as part of this capital investment, the trust has replaced every single light in every school, regardless of age (including fixtures 20–30 years old), with LED units. This upgrade improves the consistency and quality of lighting to support learners, while primarily reducing energy costs and the schools' carbon footprint. In total, over 4,000 lights were replaced, supporting a move toward a net zero target. The trust reports a reduction of 576 tonnes of carbon, equated to 27,429 trees or 54.9 acres of forest, and projects energy bill savings of £293,000 over a 10-year period.

Christmas Community Meal Events

TPA hosted its annual free Christmas Community Meal in 19 of its schools this year. Headteachers widely reported that these events were the best to date, characterised by strong positivity among children, parents, and the wider community—so much so that they felt like the pinnacle of the term. The gatherings brought families together for a warm, celebratory evening. The trust credits its catering partner, Nourish Contract Caterers, for making these events possible and we thank them for their ongoing efforts to provide high-quality food to children and families.



The Pioneer Pupil Passport



We continue to actively fundraise for The Pioneer Pupil Passport to ensure that all our pupils are exposed to a range of opportunities and experiences during their time with us, and this has been a key focus at TPA for some years now.

One of the ways that we are able to fundraise is through Your School Lottery which has raised over £700 alone. Tickets cost just £1 per week and you can sign up using the QR code. If you sign up before 20th December, you will be entered into the Christmas Golden draw £10,000 cash bonanza where you could win £5000 with The Pioneer Pupil Passport also winning £5000!

Christmas Message

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our fabulous staff for their dedication to our schools and your children. I would also like to thank our parents/carers for your backing and support.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe, happy Christmas break. As we all know, these are particularly difficult times for many people across our communities. If you are experiencing any hardship, please speak to your school leaders, who will be able to support you or signpost you to an organisation that can help. Our schools are at the heart of our communities; please do not feel isolated, we are all here to serve and support you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Lee Mason-Ellis'.

Lee Mason-Ellis
CEO

Website: www.thepioneeracademy.co.uk

Instagram: [thepioneeracademy2011](https://www.instagram.com/thepioneeracademy2011)

Facebook: The Pioneer Academy