



# Newsletter

**Pilton Infants' Academy**

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## **Learning for Life**

Friday 14th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Valentine's Day! We've made it to the end of a short but busy half-term, and what a fantastic week it has been! On Monday, we were thrilled to welcome Kip for a wonderful day of music and storytelling. The children in every class had an amazing time, and we've included some photos and more details later in the newsletter.

Tuesday marked Internet Safety Day, and Mrs. Haynes led an assembly for the whole school, focusing on how children can avoid scams by not sharing passwords, talking to strangers on line or giving out personal information. The children know Smartie the Penguin and his slogan, 'Before you click, click, click you need to think, think, think and tell someone'. You'll find a poster on the next page with some simple tips to help you continue these important conversations at home.

On Thursday, we were visited by Mr. Polak, Miss Carter from the senior leadership team, and Mrs. Poland (Head of School at Swimbridge C of E Primary) for our TEAM school review. This time, we focused on writing. It was wonderful to see the progress the children have made since September! We had the chance to visit lessons, look through books, and chat with the children, all of which showed just how far they've come. It was also a great opportunity to discuss ideas for next steps and how we can continue supporting the children's development. Well done to the children and all the classroom staff for their hardwork and progress.

As we're now halfway through the school year, it's a perfect moment to reflect on how your children are progressing. When we return after half-term, we'll be holding parents' evenings during the first week back. Thank you to everyone who has already booked their appointment. If you haven't yet, there are still some slots available. For parents of children on the SEN register, there's no need to book a parents' evening slot as we have or will be arranging separate meetings over the coming weeks to discuss your child's individual plan in more detail.

We had a fantastic turnout for the Reception Phonics workshop on Thursday afternoon. We know phonics can sometimes feel like a tricky subject for parents and carers, as it's quite different from how many of us learned to read. We hope you found the session helpful, and if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to ask the class teachers.

Today, we've been raising funds for the Air Ambulance with a non-uniform day. So far, we've raised £166.37 and this total will increase after the PTFA bake sale and pre-loved uniform sale this afternoon. We'll be sure to share the grand total with you after half-term. A huge thank you to our new PTFA committee for organizing this event; it's their first one, and we're already excited about all the fantastic ideas they have for future events and activities.

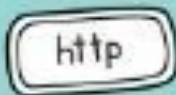
We hope you have a lovely half-term, whether you're staying at home or going away. We can't wait to see everyone back in school on Monday 24th February.

Best Wishes,

John Mortimer  
Head of School

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# HOW TO KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE ON THE INTERNET



Be aware of what your kids are looking at online. Even child friendly sites can be hacked.



Follow your child on any social media platform so you can see what they are exposed to.



Get to know the social media platforms and what they are mainly used for.



Teach your children not to share any personal information or photos online at any time.



Know what sites your kids are on and sit with them when they are online to get a feel for the content.



Make them aware of cyber bullying and let them know to always come to you if someone is not nice to them on social media.



Regulate the amount of time kids are online outside of school requirements.



Have all online activity take place in a common area of the home where others are present.



Remember it is still important to be aware of your child's online activity when they become a teenager.



Apply parental controls where possible, but don't trust that they will catch all inappropriate content.

Check your child's browser history to see what sites they visit.



Ensure they never reply to a message or email from a stranger or upload any photos of people/your home.



## Devon Family Hub Newsletter

The latest Family Hub Newsletter is out now. There are several webinars for parents on topics around supporting children with their emotions or different SEND needs as well as some events specifically for male parents/ carers.

There is also information and articles on topics such as:

- Neurodiversity
- EHCPs (Education Health and Care Plans)
- The advice line
- Potty training
- Tantrums vs meltdowns - the poster below was part of the article.

The newsletter can be found here: <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/EvnNezhLv2oSrhxF?ref=Link>

Dysregulation	VS	Tantrum
<b>Is the child watching for a reaction?</b>		
The individual has no interest in how others react to their behaviour.		Depending on the reactions of who is there, the tantrum may change in intensity or nature.
<b>Is the child able to consider their safety?</b>		
The individual may be injured when they become dysregulated.		The individual will avoid getting hurt.
<b>Is the child in control of their behaviours?</b>		
During a dysregulation episode, the individual is not in control of their actions. The person is overstimulated and reacting instinctively to the distress they are in.		The individual is in control of their actions the entire time.
<b>Is this goal-orientated - does the child want something?</b>		
Dysregulation is not goal-orientated. The individual does not make demands before or during the dysregulation episode.		Tantrums are goal-orientated. The individual is trying to get what they want.
<b>Is the child able to calm down once the situation has been resolved?</b>		
Dysregulation episodes can be slow to end. They will slow down once the individual is accustomed to their surroundings. This will happen at their own pace.		Tantrums can end quickly. This can be either once the goal is achieved or the child is tired.

## What have we been learning this week?

### Reception—Kingfisher and Otter Classes

We had a lot of fun this week testing our cars on the ramps. We learnt about gravity and how this force pulls the cars down the ramp. We talked about the difference between sliding and rolling and we thought that the wheels on our cars would help them to roll down the ramp.

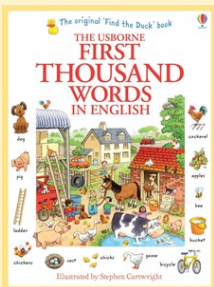
We followed instructions to make porridge this week just like the bears in the traditional story; “Goldilocks and the Three Bears”.

On Monday we enjoyed a visit from Kip, he performed a music and story telling workshop with the children and everyone got a chance to add music to the story.

We hope you have a good half term break from school and we are looking forward to seeing you on Monday 24th.



## First Thousand Words



The First Thousand Words in English – guidance for parents.

Please make 10 minutes to spend on these each week. The focus of all these challenges is on speaking and listening skills. Try to model good speaking and listening skills to your child, for example, making eye contact when you are talking and answering questions in full sentences rather than just with one word. Help your child learn and pronounce new words. Searching through the pictures to find things is an important early reading skill so all of these activities will help develop your child’s literacy.



Thank you in advance for your support. The Reception team.

### This weeks' challenge

#### Clothes

Go to page 39. Can you name the different items of clothing? Which would you wear in the summer? In the winter? Where do you put those clothes? (Link to body parts from last week). What can you put on yourself and what do you need help with? This week, practice getting dressed/ undressed by yourself. Can you do up buttons or a zip?

## What have we been learning this week?

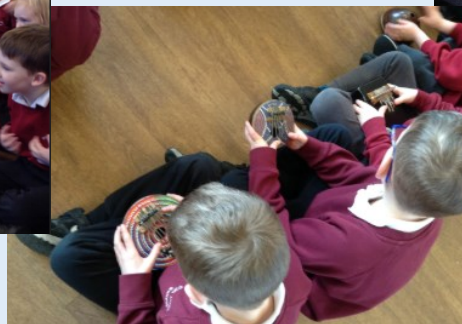
### Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

We started the week with a great music workshop. The children really enjoyed getting to use different instruments.

We have finished our writing on 'The Woods' and the children worked hard writing the beginning of the story. We focused on writing verbs in the past tense correctly including -ed word endings, such as, climbed, turned, hugged.

We continued our learning on the properties of materials in science. This week we had a variety of different objects and had to think about their properties. We used the vocabulary rigid, transparent, waterproof, flexible and opaque. Over half term, practise spotting items around your house and discussing their properties, such as, a window is made from glass which is waterproof and rigid.

In Jigsaw, we shared the story of Pauli the Penguin and the obstacles he faced when trying to reach the sea. We discussed how it feels to overcome obstacles and reach a goal and how we can help our friends and ourselves when we find things difficult.



## **MONDAY** afternoon parent drop-ins with Mrs Smale from 3pm

Mrs Smale is our pastoral TA. Pop in for a chat if you would like to discuss any issues or challenges you are having at home.

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## What have we been learning this week?

### Year 2 - Fox & Hedgehog classes

On Monday, all the children had a fun day of music & stories workshops. We had a visiting musician, Kip, come into school and work with each class. He brought in his violin and ukulele, which the children really enjoyed singing songs to. They loved listening to his stories and playing lots of different instruments to accompany him.

Some quotes from the children:

"He was very good at playing the violin. I liked singing songs with him"

"I was all great!"

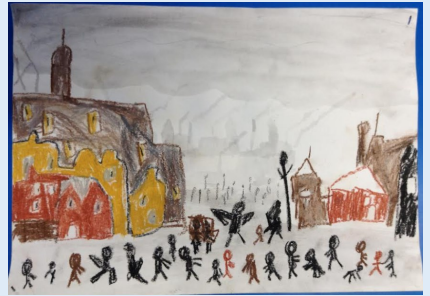
"I loved singing the funny songs."

"It was fun! I really liked playing on the instruments at the same time as Kip playing his violin."

"I can remember the animal song we learnt by heart."

The children have been learning about different landscape artists and we focused on Lowry who showed the art world with paintings of industrial areas of the country like Salford. The children have worked hard over the past few weeks to create their own piece in the style of Lowry. They used watercolour to make the faint background which made it look like buildings were far away in the background. Then they used oil pastels to draw the closer buildings and the crowds. They did a fantastic job - you can see some below.

Please try to read with your children over half term.



## **We are a nut free school**

Please don't send your child to school with any products containing nuts.

We have children and staff with severe nut allergies.

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## OPAL donations

Thank you very much for the OPAL donations which have been coming into school this week. The children and staff really do appreciate them. Over the next few weeks, we would be grateful for any more donations of:

- Spare / no longer needed wellies sizes 7 (EU24) to 5 (EU38)
- Old adult clothes for dressing up – shirts, blouses, jackets
- Sturdy ride on vehicles / push chairs
- Colouring books
- Small toy cars
- Board games (ages 3-8) and jigsaw puzzles (up to 50 pieces) for our games groups

Also, if children could have a named pair of wellies which could be kept in school that will help us access the field and secret garden more frequently.



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## Attendance - Every Day Counts!

Our aim is for all children to have attendance of at least 96%.

Our attendance this week is 94.2%. Our attendance this school year is 94.14%

This week 152 children have 100% attendance.

### Reporting Absence

If your child is unwell, please phone or email the school before 9.30am to report your child's absence:  
T: 01271 342579 E: admin@piltoninfants.school

## Why is attendance so important?

According to the Department for Education's data:

**Pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to develop positive relationships with peers and teachers, enhancing their overall emotional resilience and mental health.**

**Regular school attendance fosters a sense of belonging and connection within the school community.**

**Pupils who consistently attend school are more likely to pursue higher education and ultimately secure better employment opportunities.**

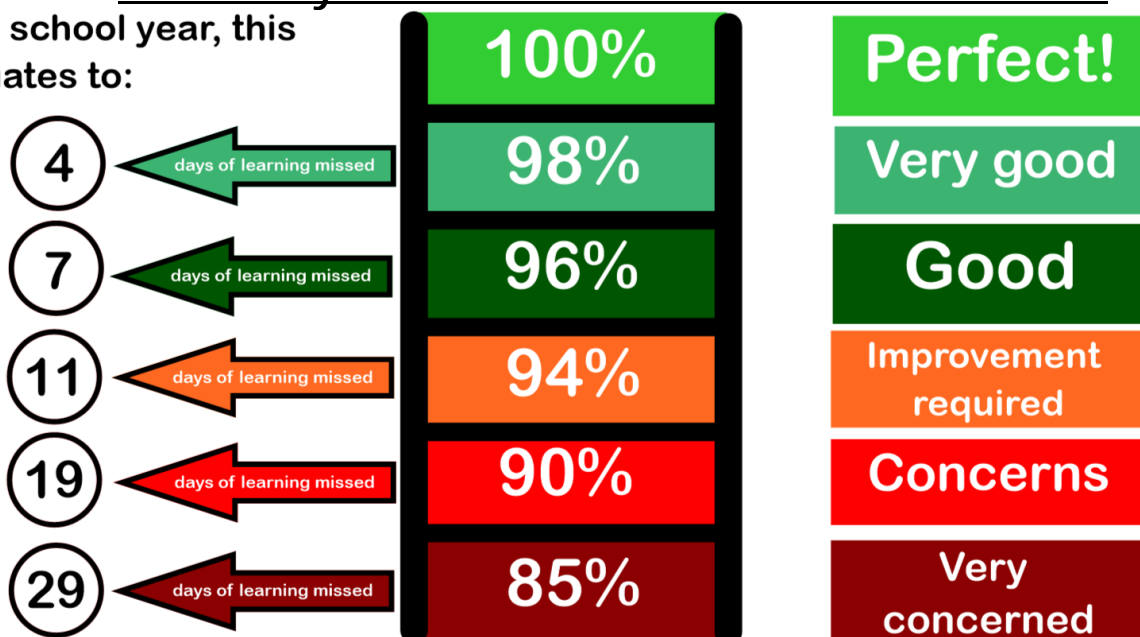
**Higher attendance rates lead to improved academic performance, as pupils have more opportunities to learn, join discussions and receive feedback from teachers.**

**Pupils with good attendance records are more likely to achieve better grades.**

**Pupils who are chronically absent are more likely to feel isolated and disengaged as well as being at higher risk of not continuing their education after secondary school.**

## Pilton Infant's School - Attendance Ladder

In a school year, this equates to:



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## PARKING PERMITS FOR FAIRVIEW CARPARK

**DO NOT PARK ON ABBEY ROAD OR PRIORY CLOSE FOR DROP-OFF OR PICK-UP**

Let's keep the road safer for everybody travelling to school.

Contact the school office (admin@piltoninfants.school) for a free parking permit for Fairview car park.

Thank you

### Dates

#### Term dates

Children finish for Half term - Friday 14th February 2025

Children return to school - Monday 24th February 2025

A full calendar of term dates for this year and next year can be found here

<https://www.pilton-inf.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=63>

#### Trips, visits and events

Monday 24th February - Year 1 Kings & Queens day.

Monday 24th February - Reception Parents evening

Tuesday 25th February - Parents evenings

Wednesday 26th February - Parents evenings

Monday 1st—7th March—Sponsored Read

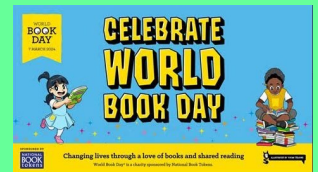
Thursday 6th March—World Book Day—Dress as your favorite character.

Friday 7th March—Otter class parents Phonics Live 9.05am

Friday 14th March—Kingfisher class parents Phonics Live 9.05am

Monday 24th March—Friday 4th April—Active Travel—Big Walk and Wheel weeks

Monday 31st March—Year 2 Library visit



#### Wraparound care

Our Breakfast and After School Clubs are run by staff from North Devon Primary Sports every day from 7.45am before school and until 5.30pm after school.

For more information and to book, please use these links:

[Breakfast Club](#)

[Afterschool Club](#)

#### After school clubs for next half-term

Club	Provider	Day	Time	Year group
Football	The Goal Getters	Tuesday	3.30pm-4.30pm	Year 1&2
Tennis	Devonshire Tennis Academy	Wednesday	7.55am-8.40am	All
Gymnastics	Devonshire Tennis Academy	Friday	3.30pm-4.30pm	All

### Jumpers/Cardigans Coats, Hats & Water bottle

Please ensure your child has a named jumper/cardigan, coat, hat & refillable water bottle in school everyday.

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## TEAM Vacancies.



Life, Love and Learning to the Fall

Working in partnership with



Part of **TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST**

APPLY NOW DIRECT WITH **mynewterm**

For more information and how to apply directly with My New Term please visit our website

If you are interested in working for TEAM MAT, all vacancies are listed here: -  
<https://www.teamacademytrust.com/vacancies> or <https://mynewterm.com>

We currently have 5 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

- 0.6 FTE Classroom Teacher at Brayford Academy.
- Casual Afterschool Club Playworker at Wetheridge Church of England Primary Academy.
- 1.1 SEND TEACHING ASSISTANT at Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School
- Meal Time Assistant at Urecliffe High Primary Academy.
- 0.44 FTE KS1/Reception Classroom Teacher at Pilton Infants' Academy



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