



Newsletter

Pilton Infants' Academy

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Learning for Life

Friday 28th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you had a great half-term break. It's been a busy week, as always, with lots going on. We had a very regal start to the week in Year 1 with Kings and Queens day taking place on Monday. The children had a brilliant day and it was a wonderful way to launch their next unit of history learning about Queen Elizabeth II.

Our assembly on Monday focused on the British values of Tolerance, Liberty and Respect. We discussed them as meaning:

- **Tolerance** - Everyone is different. Everyone has their own way of thinking and that is ok. We can still talk to, play with and work with people who are different to us or like different things.
- **Liberty** - Being able to do things you like, whilst still following the rules and also making sure everyone else can enjoy their freedom too.
- **Respect** - Being kind and fair to everyone.

We discussed why each is so important and also shared ideas and example for how we can show each of the values within school.

This week we have also had parents evenings. Thank you so much to those that came. We had a fantastic turnout. The teachers have reported lots of positive feedback which is wonderful to hear. They also said how much they enjoyed having the time to talk to you about your children, their personalities and progress in school. School always works best as a partnership between parents and staff. Parents evenings are a crucial element to that partnership.

We are delighted to announce that following Reception's Christmas plant sale, the non-uniform day and PTA cake and preloved uniform sale before half-term, we have raised a fantastic £235.53 for the Devon Air Ambulance. Well done everyone!



Next week is the start of our sponsored read. This is a fantastic opportunity for the school to raise money for some amazing books from Usborne. Last year was a huge success and we hope to match or even better it this year. We also have World Book Day to look forward to on Thursday!

Have a lovely weekend. It's looking like the sun will shine.

Best Wishes,

John Mortimer
Head of School

Pilton Infants' Vision: A school community of calmness, fun and positive relationships where all children reach their potential and create the building blocks for future success.

What have we been learning this week?

Reception—Kingfisher and Otter Classes

It's been great to see everyone after the half term break. The children were really excited to see each other. Our focus text this week has been "You Choose". In this story book there are lots of illustrations for the children to look at and then they choose their favourites from each page. After looking at the book the children thought about likes and dislikes of their own and they sorted different things into these groups.

In phonics we are continuing to practise the Phase 3 digraphs and trigraphs which we learnt at the end of last term.

In Writing Club we started to write sentences this week. The sentences started with the stem sentence "I can..." then we added a new word at the end of each sentence; "I can run", "I can sit", "I can hop" and so on. We concentrated on starting at the top left and working our way from left to right making sure we remembered our finger spaces and adding a full stop at the end.

In Maths Club we played a number track game with a partner.

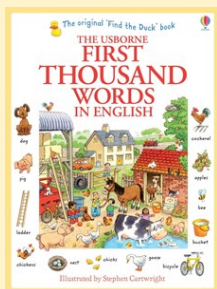
Thank you for attending our parents' meeting earlier this week. It was extremely useful to talk about the children's learning and their progress and how you can help at home.



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

People

Go to pages 40 and 41. What jobs do the people do? Would you like to do those jobs? Why or why not? Which job do you think would be the hardest? Most fun? Most dangerous?

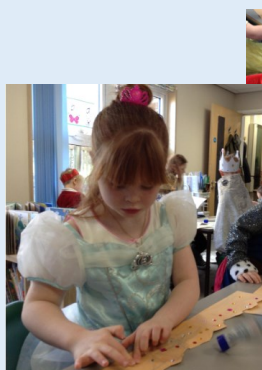
What have we been learning this week?

Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

This week Year 1 began with their Kings and Queens day. We dressed in our costumes and took part in many activities. We made crowns and castles. We worked with a partner to dance alongside our partner in a medieval style dance. It was a really fun day and the children really enjoyed it.

We used our Kings and Queens Day as inspiration for our writing this week and have been writing using past tense verbs to write about what we did. We have explored using 'with' and 'and' to add detail to our sentences.

In maths we have been adding numbers within 20. We have been using counters to represent amounts and tell first, then and now stories. We have been prompting children to count from 10 and not from 1 when they recognise a group of 10. Continue to ask your child to use objects to represent different amounts up to 20 to consolidate learning.



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

This week we have enjoyed learning all about how to keep healthy in Jigsaw. We were able to understand how to keep our minds, bodies and selves healthy. We looked at ways to motivate ourselves to be healthy as sometimes we find it hard to make healthy choices.

We discussed how to be a good friend and about letting all of our friends join in with games on the playground. We enjoyed creating and designing our own games with a partner or group. We designed games with the purpose of sharing with all the children.

In Maths we are enjoying learning all of the 2,5,10 times tables. We learnt and noticed all of the rules for finding 2's,5's and 10's. We were then able to answer word problems based on these times tables. Next week we will begin to look at how multiplication is commutative. We will start to look at how $4 \times 5 = 5 \times 4$.



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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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>

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.

Gardening Club donations

The gardening club would like to get ready to start growing things again. If you have any

- Seeds—flower or veg
- Bambo sticks
- Old CD's (not in cases)

If would be very much appreciated.

Attendance - Every Day Counts!

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

Our attendance this week is 96.36%. Our attendance this school year is 94.25%

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.

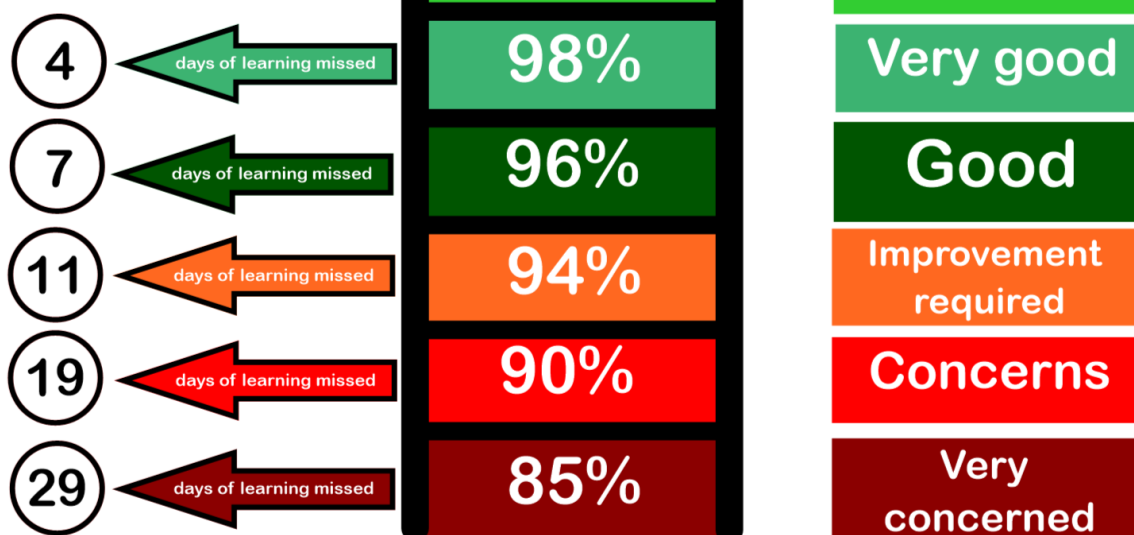
Higher attendance rates lead to improved academic performance, as pupils have more opportunities to learn, join discussions and receive feedback from teachers.

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 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

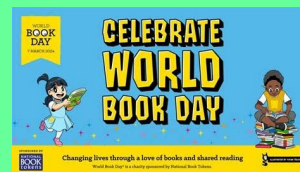
Wraparound care

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 this 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 1 vacancy available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

[0.44 FTE KS1/Reception Classroom Teacher at Pilton Infants' Academy.](#)



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