



# Newsletter

**Pilton Infants' Academy**

Abbey Road, Pilton, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX31 1JU T: 01271 342579

[admin@piltoninfants.school](mailto:admin@piltoninfants.school) [www.teamacademytrust.com](http://www.teamacademytrust.com)



## Learning for Life

Friday 7th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The biggest highlight of the week, this week, was World Book Day on Thursday. As an infant school, reading is the most important academic area we teach. Reading is the gateway to learning as well as being a window into the wonderful world of fiction and imagination. Therefore, World Book Day is always an important event for us because it promotes reading and more importantly, a love of reading.

On Thursday, there were a whole host of characters on display in school, with lots of amazing costumes from both children and staff, demonstrating the wide variety of books and authors that our school community enjoys. We had a special assembly and all the children have received a World Book Day book token to buy themselves another lovely book to enjoy.



Today marks the end of our sponsored read. From what lots of children have been telling me, they've been very busy reading and collecting sponsorship. We can't wait to find out the total amount raised so that we can invest in some more fabulous Usborne books!

The final reading highlight of the week to mention was Wednesday. We were visited by two of the TEAM Trustees, Mrs Preston and Mrs Kiff. The Trustees perform a similar role to the governors on our Local Governing Body, apart from they oversee the whole Trust rather than just our school. We focused our visit on reading, writing, history and geography. We spoke to subject leaders, looked at children's books and we watched guided reading sessions in Year 1 and Year 2. We also spoke to a group of five children about reading. After being a little nervous to begin with, the children soon started telling us about the books they enjoyed, how they knew they were getting better at reading and how the staff in school help them to improve. They were a credit to themselves and their school.

We've introduced a new toilet pass system for playtimes and lunchtimes this week which the children have adapted to very quickly. They've been really sensible and the system is working well to manage the number of children visiting the toilets at any one time. Also, with the drier weather we have been able to start using the Secret Garden and field a bit more at lunchtimes. The children have loved having the extra space and opportunities.

Our current attendance for the 2024-2025 academic year is 94.3%. This is slightly worse than the national average although our persistent absence figure (the percentage of children with attendance below 90%) is better than the national average which is encouraging. Being at school everyday is really important for children's personal, social and emotional development. Being on-time is also really important for the same reasons. Punctuality is a great habit to establish early. Please get in touch or come to a parent drop-in session with Mrs Smale on Mondays at 3pm, if you are having problems with getting your child to school. We want to help ensure your child is making the best start to school possible to maximize their future potential.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

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

We've had a lot of fun this week dressing up for World Book Day. Lots of excellent costumes. It was great to talk to the children about their favourite book characters, make book marks and look at this year's World Book Day texts.

We have continued to write sentences in Writing Club. We have started to write words containing digraphs in our "I can..." sentences.

In Maths Club we have been learning about more, fewer and equal. We have been using the stem sentences "...has more than..." and "...has fewer than...". When both of the groups were the same amount we called that an equal amount. We have been introducing the Beebots this week. We have been learning how to give the Beebot commands to move around the carpet from one place to another. We have learnt how to debug the commands when they did not work as we expected them to.

Please look out for a Parentmail about Balance Bikeability. This is fun introduction to riding a bike which the children do over several days in April. There will be an online form for you to fill in which means the children are able to take part. Bikes and helmets are provided for these lessons.

Next week our focus text is "Mr. Gumpy's Outing" and we will be counting to 30 and also thinking about the numbers 6-10 as "5 and a bit".

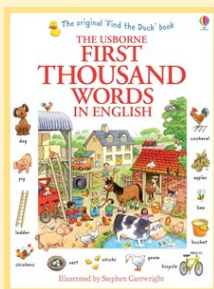
Thank you for all of the sponsored read money so far.



## 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

#### Doing Things.

Go to pages 42 and 43. Practise asking and answering these questions. Encourage your child to answer in full sentences. E.g. What is she doing? She is climbing a tree. Take it in turns to ask and answer the questions. Then take it in turns to play I spy. E.g. I spy with my little eye, someone falling over. Can they find the right picture?

## What have we been learning this week?

### Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

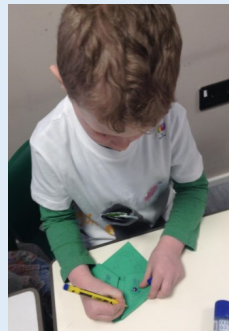
We had great fun together on Thursday for World Book Day. The children loved sharing their costumes and talking about their favourite book characters. We wrote sentences about what we dressed up as, remembering to use our -ed word ending for dressed even though it sounds like it ends with a 't'.

We have been practising using a number line to solve addition number sentences with numbers up to 20. We showed great mathematical skills when noticing similarities and differences between number sentences. For example, If we know  $4 + 2 = 6$ , then we also know that  $14 + 2 = 16$ . Next week we will be continuing with this by linking what we know about our number bonds to 10, to find number bonds to 20.

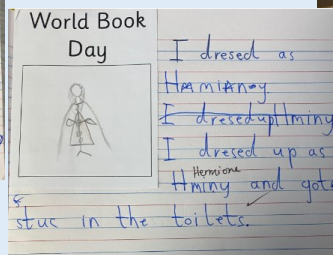
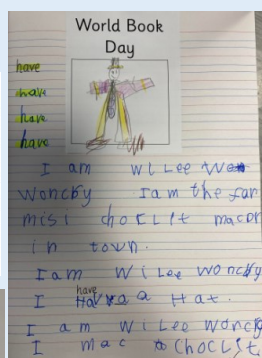
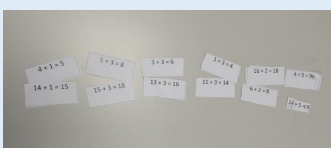
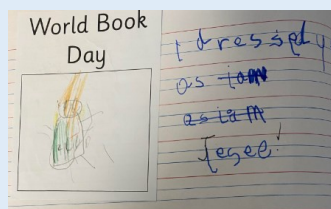
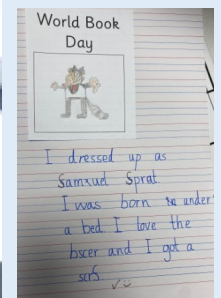
In Year 1 we have also been focusing on how to solve disagreements with our friends and ensuring we are being kind and considerate. We read a story called 'The Squirrels who Squabbled' which reminds us of the importance of working together.

$$\begin{array}{l} 2+6=8 \quad 2+7=9 \\ 12+6=18 \quad 12+7=19 \\ 4+5=9 \\ 14+5=19 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} 3+4=7 & 13+4=17 \\ 3+9=12 & 13+9=19 \\ 11+2=13 & 11+1=12 \\ 1+5=6 & 11+5=16 \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{l} 2+6=8 \\ 12+6=18 \\ 4+5=9 \\ 14+5=19 \end{array}$$



## **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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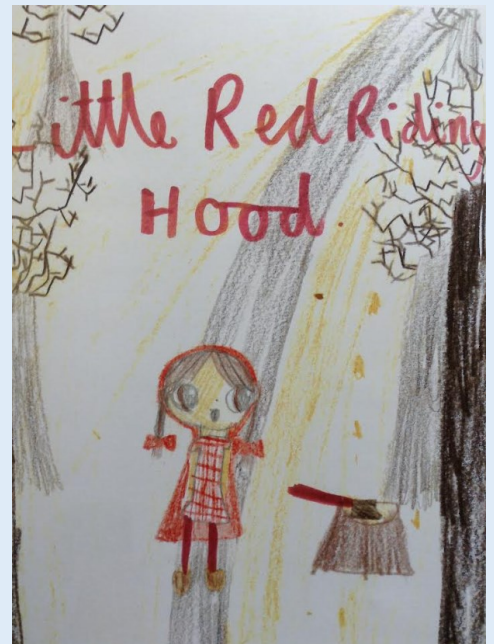
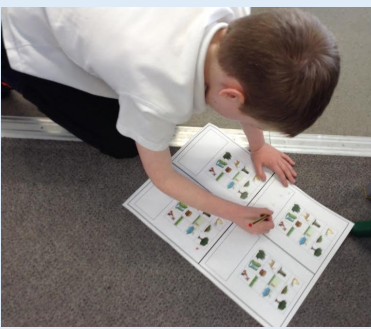
## What have we been learning this week?

### Year 2 - Fox & Hedgehog classes

This week in computing, the children worked in teams to write and test algorithms. We were really impressed with how well they followed instructions and took turns.

We had lots of fun on world book day, enjoying reading in the sunshine and making up our own versions of Little Red Riding Hood.

We love to see examples of writing that the children do in their spare time at home. This week, Aysha treated us to a beautifully written and illustrated version of Little Red Riding Hood which we shared with the class. If your child does anything like this at home, please send it in, it's always great to look at and share.



## **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 95.04%. Our attendance this school year is 94.29%

This week 143 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.**

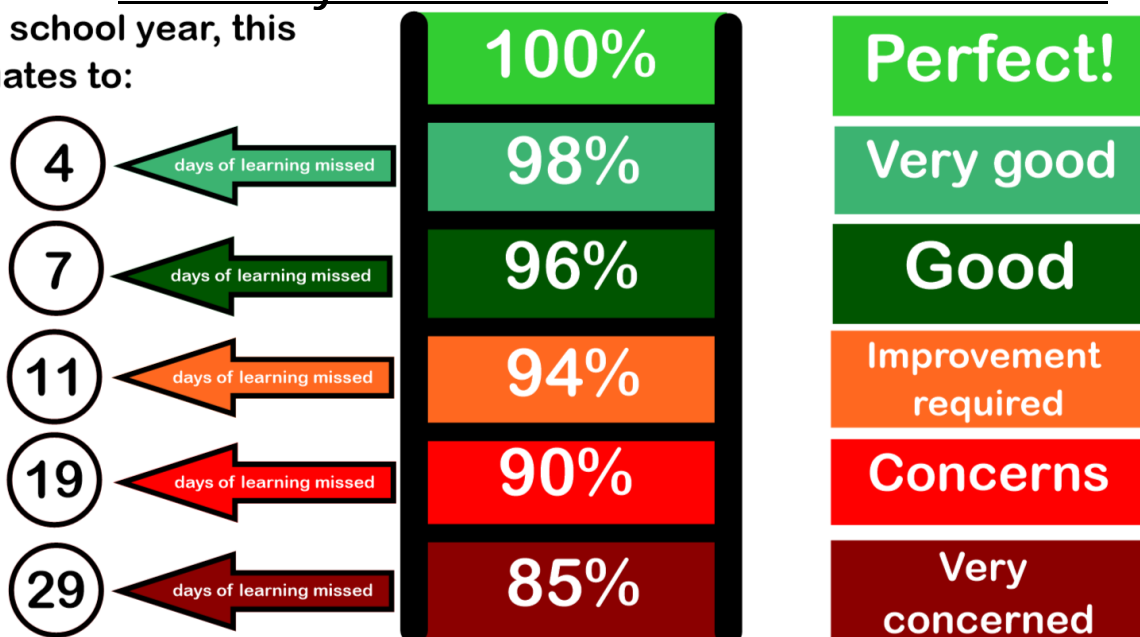
**Higher attendance rates lead to improved academic performance, as pupils have more opportunities to learn, join discussions and receive feedback from teachers.**

**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 Easter - Friday 4th April 2025

Children return to school - Tuesday 22nd April 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

Friday 21st March—Red Nose Day—Wear something red—suggested donation £1

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

Monday 31st March—Year 2 Library visit

Tuesday 22nd– Friday 25th April—Reception Bikeability Balance.

#### 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.

## TEAM Vacancies.



Working in partnership with



Life, Love and Learning to the Full

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:

Meal Time Assistant at Umberleigh Primary Academy.



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