



Newsletter

Pilton Infants' Academy

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Learning for Life

Friday 21st March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel was the focus of our assembly on Monday this week. We've taken part in this active travel challenge for the past few years. It's easy to take part in, lots of fun and has many benefits. We want as many children as possible to walk, scoot or cycle to school over the next two weeks. We will be keeping a tally of active journeys in classes and competing against other schools around the country. Travelling actively is a great way to start the children's days. It wakes up their bodies and their brains so that they are alert and ready to learn. There also the benefits of reducing traffic to make the roads safer, the area quieter and the air cleaner.

We had our half-termly TEAM review this week with Mr Polak (Director of Education), Miss Ratcliffe (Head of School, Witheridge Academy) and Mr Norton (Head of School, High Bickington Academy). Our focus for this review was our Geography and History curriculum. The visitors spent time with Mr Daunton, our History and Geography lead, looking at our curriculum plan, looking at the children's books and speaking to pupils about their learning. It was a very positive review and the children in Year 1 and 2, who were spoken to, remembered lots of their learning from this year and previous years.

We've had a lot of fun today wearing red and raising money for Red Nose Day. We've raised a fantastic £173.73 for Comic Relief. Thank you for supporting this.

You will receive a consultation document today regarding our plans to change the age range of the school in order to start our own on-site nursery provision. We have been working on this idea for the past couple of years since becoming involved with TEAM Multi-Academy Trust. We're very excited at the prospect of having our own nursery and the benefits this will have for the families and community of Pilton as well as the school. We feel it will create a much smoother transition into school for the children who attend and would allow for earlier identification of needs to enable support to be put in place at an earlier stage for pupils who need it. Your views on this are really important to us. Please read the consultation document and respond with any thoughts or queries you may have.

Finally, this week I have spoken to a few classes about rough play and play fighting at playtimes and lunchtimes. We don't permit play fighting as it can too easily result in people becoming hurt or upset. It also goes against our school rules of being safe and being respectful. We have talked about other things that the children can do and we had an assembly on Wednesday where the Year 2 children shared with the rest of the school some new playground games which they have created.

Have a great weekend!

Best Wishes,

John Mortimer

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What have we been learning this week?

Reception—Kingfisher and Otter Classes

We've enjoyed the lovely weather this week. We've been learning more about plants and we have been planting sunflower seeds. We have planted them in soil, given them water and placed them on the window sill so they all get plenty of sunlight. Now we are waiting for the first shoots to appear.

In Maths we built number towers. Once we had the towers we practised hiding towers behind other towers. We worked out why the lower numbers could hide behind the higher numbers.

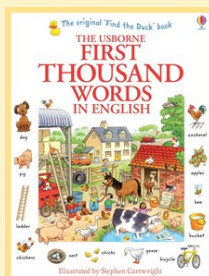
In Writing Club we have been writing sentences with words containing a digraph. For example we wrote; "The light is dim". We have been painting flowers, thinking carefully about the shapes and colours of the plants.

We enjoyed Red Nose day on Friday and we learned more about the work that this charity does.

Next week our focus text is Elmer and we are focusing on writing the tricky word "he".



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

Days

Go to page 46. Do you know what day it is? Try and learn the days of the week. What days do you go to school? Which is the best day of the week and why? This week make a diary, Ask your grown up to write the day and then you can draw a picture of what you did on that day? What do you do at different times of the day? What do you do in the morning? In the evening? At night?

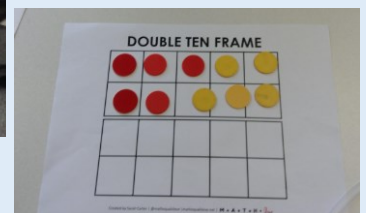
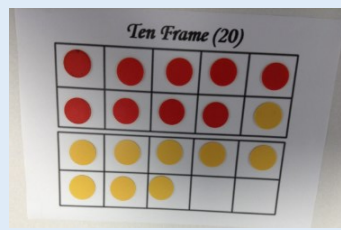
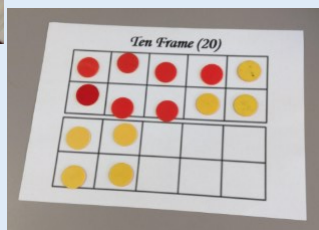
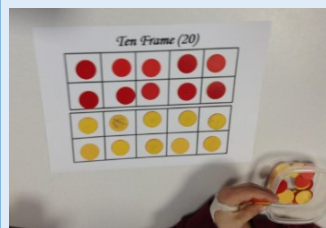
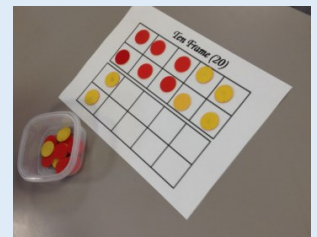
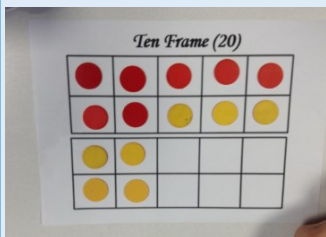
What have we been learning this week?

Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

We have had fun exploring doubles in Maths and now know that a double is when we have the same number twice, or the same and same again. We found doubles with lego, looked at representing doubles on a tens frame and enjoyed playing doubles games with dice. We have also been noticing patterns in number sentences with near doubles. For example, if we know $4 + 4 = 8$, then we also know that $4 + 5 = 9$.

In English we have been continuing our writing about The Three Little Pigs focusing on the tricky words that we can not sound out: Once, there, was, little, house. We had great fun building the pigs' houses and seeing if we could blow them down! We found out that the brick house was the strongest.

In RE, we have been learning the Easter story and thinking about how our choices affect not only us but others around us.



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've really worked on our teamwork skills in lots of different lessons. On Monday we had a day of Geography where we designed and made our own maps of Fox or Hedgehog Towns using pictures of the human features that we made the week before. The children had to add a river, connecting roads and think carefully about where you would put the different buildings. Next week, they will convert this to a tourist map using a key so visitors will know where to go.

In Computing, the children used their maps and a Beebot to write, test and debug algorithms. They were really good at sharing, taking turns and taking care of the expensive equipment.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help with the library trip which takes place on Monday 31st. If anyone else can help, particularly with Hedgehog class, please let your child's teacher know. If your child is already a library member and would like to borrow a book on our trip, you can send their card in from next week. Please make sure it's named and these are handed straight to the class teacher.



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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Attendance - Every Day Counts!

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

Our attendance this week is 94.04%. Our attendance this school year is 94.25%

This week 146 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.

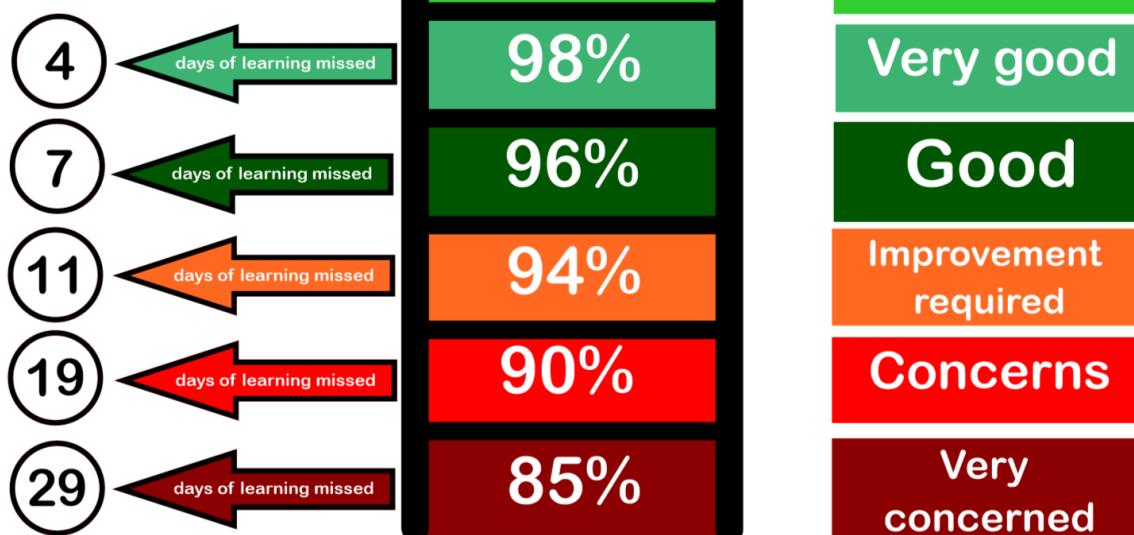
Higher attendance rates lead to improved academic performance, as pupils have more opportunities to learn, join discussions and receive feedback from teachers.

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

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

Monday 31st March—Year 2 Library visit

Wednesday 2nd April—SEND Coffee morning for Y2-6, 9-10am in Pilton Bluecoat Hall.

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 3 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

Breakfast Club - Playworker at Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

1.1 SEND Teaching Assistant at Pilton Bluecoat Church of England Academy

1.1 SEND Teaching Assistant at Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School



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