



Newsletter



Pilton Infants' Academy

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Learning for Life

Friday 7th November

Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome back! We hope you all had a great half-term.

This week we have focussed on being resilient like our learning hero Bobby Bounce Back. We learned that being resilient means having another go with our learning when it doesn't go right first time. It can also mean bouncing back to feel ok after we've been feeling sad. We talked about some examples of times we need to be resilient such as learning to read, learning to ride a bike or starting a new school. We learned about the magic word 'yet'. So, rather than think 'I can't do it', we can think 'I can't do it yet' and by trying again or sometimes asking for a bit of help we can often get there in the end.

Today we had a small group of Year 2 pupils attend the school's Remembrance event at Rock Park. The children joined other schools from across Barnstaple in marking Remembrance. They laid a wreath and planted some metal poppies in the ground to show that those who were so brave and gave so much to protect us during the wars will not be forgotten. We know that some of you and your children will be taking part in Remembrance events on Sunday. We will mark Remembrance as well, in school, on Tuesday.



A huge thank you to those parents and carers who are reading at home with your children. It is making a big difference to their progress. Just five minutes a day is enough to support good progress. Also, reading stories to your child is so important. It exposes them to new vocabulary, helps the development of their imagination and helps build patterns of language.

A few reminders for next week:

We are having a non-uniform day on Friday to raise money for Children in Need and the NSPCC at the end of our Kindness Challenge week.

At 1.30pm on Thursday at Pilton Bluecoat, the Paediatric Bladder and Bowel Care Service are running a parent information event. If your child is having any toileting issues please come along and find out from the experts. You might have questions around your child suffering with regular constipation, a fear of going to the toilet or ongoing potty training issues. There will be lots of opportunity to ask questions.

The government have launched their Best Start in Life parent hub model. The website can be found [here](#) and has lots of advice and signposting to support parents.

Have a lovely weekend. I know the Y1 children are looking forward to their disco this evening.

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.

November - Diabetes Awareness month

Currently, we have one diabetic child in school. This child has type 1 diabetes. When they started school they didn't have diabetes. The symptoms can come on very quickly.

Below is a bit of information from the Diabetes UK website. Click [here](#) to find out more.

When does type 1 diabetes usually start?

Type 1 diabetes can develop at any age, but more people are diagnosed as children or young adults. If you have type 1 diabetes, your blood sugar is too high because your body can't make a hormone called insulin. There is nothing you can do to prevent yourself from getting type 1 diabetes. Type 1 diabetics require regular insulin injections.

Can you suddenly get type 1 diabetes?

The symptoms of type 1 diabetes tend to come on quickly, over just a few days or weeks, and this is especially true in children. If you notice any of the signs and symptoms it's important they are assessed on the same day by a GP, or local hospital if out of hours. When speaking with them please inform the doctor that you suspect diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes symptoms in young people or children

The symptoms of type 1 diabetes are similar at any age, but you may notice certain things in your child that aren't normal for them.

Spotting symptoms in your child – the 4Ts:

- **Toilet** – your baby might have heavier nappies, or a child who is usually dry at night might start wetting the bed.
- **Thirsty** – your child may ask for a drink more often, finish drinks very quickly or you may notice they generally drink more.
- **Tired** – your child's teacher may let you know they're having trouble staying awake in school, or your baby might start napping more or for longer.
- **Thinner** – your child may feel or look thinner when you're getting them dressed or their clothes may feel looser.

The 4Ts are the most common symptoms of type 1 diabetes but there are other signs to look out for too. They could include genital itching or thrush, cuts and wounds that take longer to heal, and blurry eyesight. These can all be signs of type 2 diabetes too.

No individual is the same. You may also experience other symptoms and the symptoms you may have might not exactly match those of another person. If type 1 diabetes is left undiagnosed, it can make you really ill, really quickly.

Admissions policy for 2027-28: Annual Consultation

Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2027-28. The Local Authority is also consulting on its arrangements – the admissions schemes through which you can apply. You are invited to look at the proposal new policies which are based on policies for this year and next year and to have your say on them.

Our proposed policy is on our admission page and you can see all policies at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy> Further information is here: www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements

The consultation runs between 1 November and 16 January 2026.

Policies will be determined by the end of February and published in the same places by 15 March 2026 next year. You can comment at schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk or by emailing the school.

What have we been learning this week?

Reception—Kingfisher and Otter Classes

This week we have read the story "What the Ladybird Heard". We talked about the different animals in the story and where they live on the farm.

We learnt about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot and this is why we still have fireworks around the 5th of November. We made firework pictures using pipe cleaners to print firework shapes onto black paper.

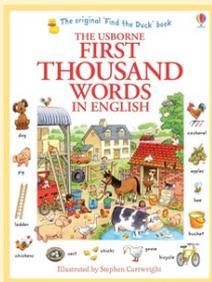
We have continued our learning in our daily phonics sessions and we are now ready for our first phonics quiz next week to see how many sounds the children can remember.

All of the sounds we have learnt so far are in the children's phonics packs in their book bags.

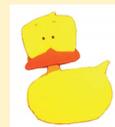
Next week we will be learning the story of Rama and Sita. We will be making clay thumb pots. The children are excited about the Reception disco next Friday.



First Thousand Words



The First Thousand Words in English – guidance for parents. Please take 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

Animals

Go to pages 18 and 19. Learn the names of the animals. Can you spot any with 4 legs? 2 legs? Wings? Fur? Scales? Stripes? Spots? Can you spot any that can swim? Fly? Slither? Which do you like the best and why?

What have we been learning this week?

Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

This week in Year 1 we have finally finished our clay animals! We worked hard to roll, pinch and join to clay using slip. We left them to dry over half term and painted them when we came back. The children have been very creative and they look amazing.

In maths we have been looking at bonds to different numbers. Using counters of different colours to show the two parts of one number we found all the ways to make 5, 6, 7 and 8. We have been able to use our pattern finding skills to work systematically (in order) to record our bonds.

We have worked on forming our capital letters correctly this week and learned that we use them for a variety of reasons. We use them for days of the week, months of the year, names of people and places and at the start of a sentence. We then used these to write the names of our favourite characters from children's shows.

In RE, we learnt the Nativity story and retold it using pictures. We were able to identify the key people and places in the story. We shall continue to look at the story in more depth as we approach the festive period.

This term in science we will be looking at different animal groups. We started this week by looking at mammals and learnt that they all have fine hair and fur on their bodies. That means that we are mammals! We were able to draw our favourite mammals and reason as to how we know an animal is a mammal or not.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Year 1 disco tonight.



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.

What have we been learning this week?

Year 2 - Fox & Hedgehog classes

This week we have been doing lots of learning! In Maths we have been learning all about 2 digit numbers. We looked at how a 2 digit number is made of tens and ones. We looked at how if we know $4 - 2 = 2$ then we also know $44 - 2 = 42$. They link together as the ones have changed but the tens have stayed the same. Next week we will begin to look at adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers.

In Computing this week we have been learning how to take photographs. We have learnt how to zoom in and make our photos clear. We were very good at taking action shots and selfies!

We also created our own playground games to teach the Reception children how to play. We aim to put these on the playground soon - so keep an eye out for them!!!

Next week Fox class will be going swimming. Please make sure you have a swim hat, swimming costume and towel. It would be extremely helpful if you can practise getting changed independently at home and to come in trousers your child can easily take off.



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.

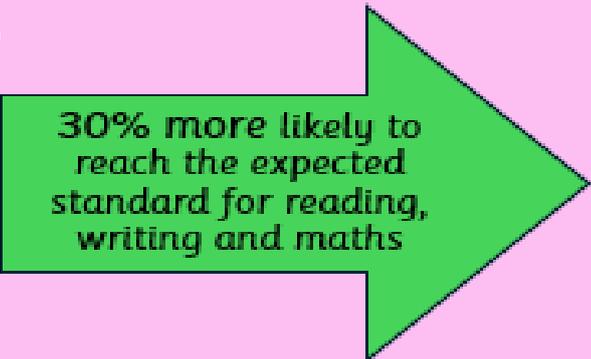
Attendance really matters – here's why...

In Primary School

Year 6 pupils
with 90-95%
attendance



30% more likely to reach the expected standard for reading, writing and maths



Year 6 pupils
with 95-100%
attendance

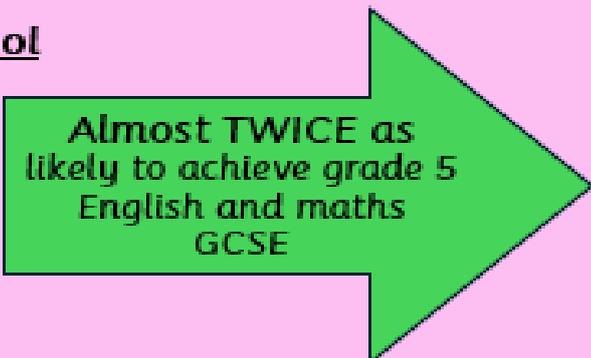


In Secondary School

Year 11 pupils
with 90-95%
attendance



Almost TWICE as likely to achieve grade 5 English and maths GCSE



Year 11 pupils
with 95-100%
attendance



Perfect attendance!

100%

Days of learning lost in a school year:

Good attendance

96%

7

Concerning attendance

90%

19

Attendance is a habit. A good start at school is essential...

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

Pupils who attend regularly are more likely to develop positive relationships with other children and adults in schools, enhancing their overall emotional resilience and mental health.

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

This week's attendance:

We aim for all pupils to have attendance of 96% or more.

Our attendance this week is: 93.26%.

Our attendance this school year is: 93.74%.

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 Christmas - Friday 19th December 2025

Children return to school - Tuesday 6th January 2026

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 14th November - Fox Class Swimming 14th, 21st, 28th November & 5th & 12th December

Friday 14th November—Reception Disco—6-7 pm

Friday 14th November—Children in Need & NSPCC —Non-uniform/Something sporty with Sports shoes - Suggested donation £1.

Wednesday 10th December— Infants Christmas dinner & Jumper day

Monday 15th December—KS1—Fox & Squirrel Class—Christmas concert at Pilton Church, 2pm

Tuesday 16th December—KS1—Hedgehog & Owl Class—Christmas concert at Pilton Church, 2pm

Tuesday 16th December—Reception—Otter Class— Christmas performance—School hall, 10am

Wednesday 17th December—Reception - Kingfisher Class—Christmas performance—School hall, 10am

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 this link:

[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 | Y1 & Y2 |
| 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 Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies



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

<https://www.teamacademytrust.com/vacancies>

We Currently have 1 vacancy available at TEAM Multi-Academy Trust:

Trustee with Financial Expertise

EDV/2025/TMT/20736

Team Multi-Academy Trust

TEAM Multi Academy Trust are seeking a Trustee with Financial Expertise - Help Shape the Future of Education in North Devon

📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU

🕒 Permanent | Part-Time

£ Voluntary

55 Days Remaining • Apply by Midday, Wednesday 31st Dec, 2025



***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.*

PILTON INFANTS' ACADEMY

PTFA



WHAT IS A PTFA?

Parent-Teacher-Friends-Association

We are a volunteer-run organisation consisting of parents, guardians, carers, family member, school staff and administrators who work together to support the school and their pupils' educational experience through lasting memories

OUR AIM & ASPIRATIONS

We are committed to providing safe, educational, fun and memorable opportunities for our families and friends of the infants academy community.

HOW TO CONTACT US

f Pilton Infants' Academy PTFA
✉ piltoninfantsptfa@gmail.com



WHAT DO WE DO?

We organize and host a wide range of events, activities and fundraisers for the students, parents and the school. These can be in forms of Bake sales, Discos or even seasonal events like Christmas & summer Fates.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Autumn Bake Sale
- Discos
- Christmas Fates

WHY JOIN THE INFANTS' ACADEMY PTFA

WE'RE INCLUSIVE

The PTFA welcomes all parents, carers and family members to join and get involved. The more people involved the better as this allows us to plan and host more activities and events for the pupils and even the parents and families. We'd never turn down a helping hand.

LEARN NEW SKILLS

Each person has something they can bring to the PTA. Designing posters, planning events, great at budgeting? We can all constantly learn from each other and help each other improve

WE'RE FLEXIBLE

We understand everybody has different daily schedules, whether that's work, school, clubs or even just family days. We don't require 24/7 commitment nor do we require you to volunteer every time we have something upcoming. If you only want to help in planning or if you'd rather help with the events on the day itself that's perfectly fine and we'll always appreciate any type of help we can get

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!

We'd love the chance to be able to hear your suggestions or opinions to help us to continue to improve and provide the most beneficial events and activities for everyone.



HELP CREATE LASTING MEMORIES

Our children are only in school for a few years but they will remember and cherish the difference we made. From the fun events and activities to using the resources our PTFA provided for them to use in school. Future Pupils and families will benefit too.

STAY CONNECTED & UPDATED

The PTFA provides a chance for parents to connect with each other as well as provide events and activities that gives a chance for students, families and everyone to bond over. It also allows you to be updated first hand and aware of any upcoming news and events the school or PTFA will have



INTERESTED? CONTACT US NOW

f Pilton Infants' Academy PTFA
✉ piltoninfantsptfa@gmail.com

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