



Newsletter



Pilton Infants' Academy

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Learning for Life

Friday 14th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has certainly been a bit of a wet week in school, particularly today. We try to get the children outside as much as possible as outside play is really important for children's development. We use our wellies so that they can still access the secret garden and parts of the field. It was a welcome change on Thursday to have a dry, sunny lunchtime!

This week we have been like our learning hero, Carrie Caring, in doing things to help others. We took part in the NSPCC Kindness Challenge all week. Our challenge was to fill our buckets with kindness. Each class has had two buckets with kindness challenges written on. They have worked to meet all the challenges and even add some new ones of their own. Simple things like helping to tidy up, holding a door open or talking to someone new are small acts of kindness that can make a big difference to people.

Today has also been about helping people. We've had a lovely day for Children in Need – the children really enjoyed wearing something different and taking part in the Joe Wickes Activate Children in Need Challenge. In total we have raised £156.91. This money will be split between the NSPCC and Children in Need. Thank you for your donations.

On Tuesday, the whole school took part in a short Remembrance assembly. We looked at why we have Remembrance, the symbolism of the poppy and everyone took part in a two minute silence.

Unfortunately, we are coming into the time of year when there are lots of bugs and illnesses circulating. We've had quite a lot of children in Reception away this week with a tummy bug. Please reinforce with your children the importance of washing hands after visiting the toilet and before eating. Thank you.

We hope that those of you who attended the information session with the Bladder and Bowel team on Thursday found it useful. The team have offered to come back again and also to support with queries that we may have.

You will have noticed the new gates on the driveway are getting closer to being ready. They will hopefully be live in the next couple of weeks. We will send out more information about this soon.

Finally, a big thank you to the PTFA. We are hosting our third and final disco of the term tonight – The Reception Disco! The Year 1 and Year 2 discos have been excellent and have run really smoothly thanks to the hard work that has gone in from the PTFA members and other helpers. I'm sure the children will love it!

Have a great 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.

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 been learning about Diwali. We made diva lamps out of clay and we will be painting them next week.

In writing club we have been practicing the curly caterpillar family letters 'c, a, d and g'. In maths club we have been working on counting to five and learning the song 'five little peas in a pea pod press'.

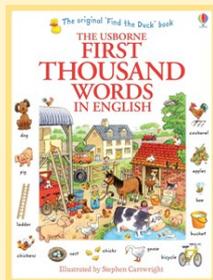
We also took part in the whole school assembly to observe the two minute silence for Armistice day.

Thank you for all your contributions towards Children in Need. The children had a great day in their sporty clothes completing the Joe Wickes challenge.

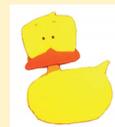
We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Reception disco later!



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

The Farm and the Country

Go to pages 22 to 25. How many different animal babies can you find? What are the names of the animals and their babies? What do they look like? How do they move? Can you move like some of these animals? Can you gallop like a horse or hop like a rabbit?

What have we been learning this week?

Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

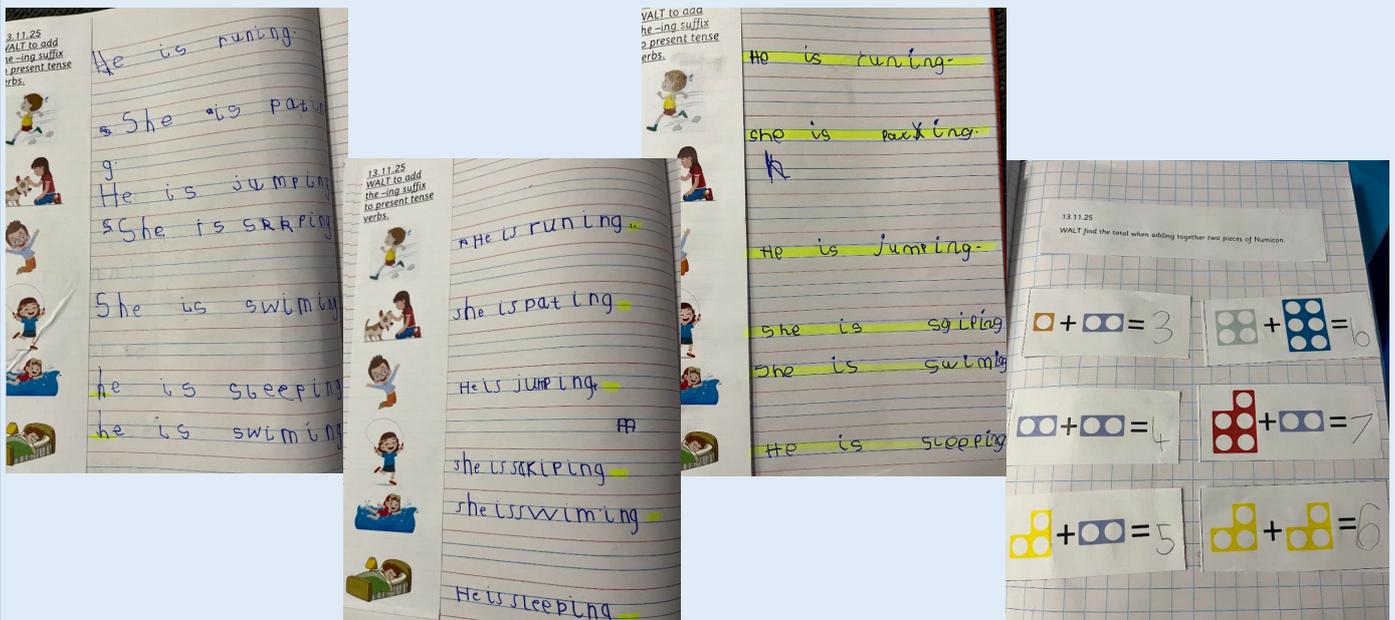
This week, in Year 1, we have been using resources to find the total when adding two parts to make ten. We then used our pattern spotting skills and we noticed that you can swap the parts around when you add together. For example $4+6$ is the same as $6+4$.

In English we introduced verbs as 'what doing' to the children. A verb is an action word or it is something you can do. We liked playing the verb or not verb game, where we named different items and verbs and the children had to tell us if it is a verb or not. We learned that when a verb is happening right now we add the suffix -ing. We used these to write sentences such as: He is running, She is sleeping.

We looked at how we can stay safe online and read the story of Smartie the penguin. We discussed what to do when we feel unsure and anxious about what we see online and we all agreed that going to a grown up (at home or at school) would be the best thing.

Science had us looking at birds as our next group of animals. We looked at the key features of birds and are able to label the different birds. We also challenged the misconception that all birds fly. We learned that penguins don't fly because they swim and ostriches are too heavy to fly.

We had great fun joining Joe Wicks for his activity masterclass for Children in Need. Thank you for all your donations.



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 working on our resilience. We have been focusing on our character 'Carly Can Do'. We have noticed how well the children are trying again. Please encourage your child to try again when something goes wrong. As they get older it is great to see them use their own initiative when they are unsure about what to do. We ask them in school, what do you think you should do? This helps them to connect what they could do with making the right decisions. We saw this in DT this week when the children were creating joins. They needed to test out lots of joins, including some that were hard to use such as split pins. They worked so well together!

In Maths this week we are working on adding 1 digit numbers across 10. This can be tricky, so we started off by adding by counting on, for example, $9 + 5$ we would go 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. We then looked at adding to the nearest 10 and partitioning the smallest number. So we would do $9 + 1 + 4$ to find the answer. We will continue to work on this next week. See if they can remind you of their bonds to 10 at home this week!

The children will be bringing home their roles in the Christmas Play. The costumes (items) should be really easy to resource, but if you have any issues please do come and see your child's teacher. We can always help find something for your child to wear. Thanks for your help with this.



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.

Sporting & creative achievements

Charlie has been named our Swimmer of the Month!
Congratulations, Charlie! Keep up the fantastic work.



Theo has moved up to stage 4 at swimming lessons. He has worked really hard over the last few weeks to achieve this Well done Theo.

Fun with Maths

Have fun with maths at home with your children. Each week we will send home an activity to do at home with your family. We would love to hear how you get on!

Mrs Haynes (Maths lead)

Two dogs, Paddy and Monty, are playing in the woods with a ball.

- How many tails?
- How many noses?
- How many balls?
- How many legs?
- How many ears?

Are there any more questions you could ask?

Draw another animal who could play with them and would make one more tail to count.

Helpful hints: Talk about the same, different, double, one more than, one less than, ensure your child points and counts, talk about one back leg that cannot be seen but should be counted!



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: 92.74%.

Our attendance this school year is: 93.64%.

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

Tuesday 25th November— Flu immunisations

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**

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

We currently have 3 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

Trustee with Financial Expertise

EDW2025/TM5/28736

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

Meal Time Assistant

EDW2025/UPA/34675

Umberleigh Primary Academy

The appointed person will work as part of a team of Meal Time Assistants managed by the Head of School. In-service training will be provided where appropriate.

📍 Dorridge Hill, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AD
🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
£ £12.65 Hourly
3 Hours per week (12PM - 1PM TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY EACH DAY)

New • Apply by Midday, Friday 28th Nov, 2025 • Job start: ASAP

SPECIALIST TEACHING ASSISTANT

EDW2025/BCPS/19692

Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

We're looking for a caring, motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our school community and play a key role in supporting our pupils' learning and development.

📍 Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8LJ
🕒 Fixed Term | Full-Time
£ £13.90 Hourly
Grade D | 30 hours per week (08:30AM - 3:30PM MONDAY - FRIDAY) | We understand that availability varies, if you're only able to only commit to a few days per week, we're open to appointing two candidates to share the role.

15 Days Remaining • Apply by Midday, Friday 28th Nov, 2025 • Job start: ASAP



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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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