



# Newsletter



**Pilton Infants' Academy**

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

**Learning for Life**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly this week, Mrs Powley would like to say a big thank you for your support and such a fabulous turnout at our Scholastic Book Fair yesterday. We're looking forward to future events. Apologies for any technical issues with payment and signal. If you would still like to order a book then you can order online via the scholastic website address linked here: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay>. Payments will close on 24th November 2025. A big thank you, as well, to Mrs Powley for organising the event.

This week is Road Safety Week and in our assembly on Monday we focussed on three key messages:

- Stop, Look and Listen before crossing the road with a grown-up
- Always wear a seatbelt
- Always wear a helmet when riding a bike or scooter

The children knew lots about this already which was wonderful to see.

Owl Class had an exciting opportunity today. Mrs Thomas is taking part in a maths project with a number of teachers from other schools. Today, those teachers came to Pilton Infants', planned a maths lesson together and then one of them taught the session to Owl Class whilst other teachers observed. The project is all about developing maths teaching and learning by looking at how planning decisions affect learning.

Next week we will begin our regular attendance monitoring as the children have now been in school for 50 days this term which gives us 100 sessions of attendance to analyse. We will be writing to all parents and carers of children with attendance below 95% to make you aware that your child's attendance is lower than expected. We know at this time of the year, one bout of illness can make a significant difference to the attendance figure, however it's useful to identify issues early so that improvements can be made.

Good school attendance and punctuality are habits which are easy to build but also sometimes easy to lose. Good attendance and punctuality are proven to have a significant impact on pupils' achievements and progress during their school journey which in turn have a significant impact on their work and career chances as they become adults.

We know, at times, that there are some illnesses which mean that a child is not well enough to be at school and we wouldn't expect them to be. If you're not sure whether your child is well enough to attend, this NHS guide is a useful tool - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

The Reception children thoroughly enjoyed their disco last Friday. A big thank you to the PTFA, parent helpers and staff who have supported the three discos this term.

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](http://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](mailto:schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk) or by emailing the school.*

## What have we been learning this week?

### Reception—Kingfisher and Otter Classes

We've had another busy week in our Reception classes. The children have enjoyed learning about the Nativity story this week in preparation for our Nativity show at the end of this term. This year the children will be performing "A Wiggly Nativity", which retells the story of the first Christmas. The children have enjoyed listening to and learning some of the songs they will be performing. More information about the show will follow later this term.

We have also been busy decorating the clay pots we made last week. Now the clay has dried, the children chose colours to decorate the inside and outside of their clay pots.

We continued to practise the Curly Caterpillar family of letter shapes to include "a" and "d". Both of these letter shapes begin with the "c" shape first. You will find some practise sheets in the children's book bags for you to practise at home, where to start and which way to write to form the letter shapes correctly.

This week we read the simple, repetitive, non decodable books which the children have taken home to read as well. These books will enable the children to quickly gain success with their reading, as the repetitive structure is picked up quickly by the children. The pictures are there to give clues about the sentences and there are a good number of tricky words included in these texts. When the children have read through the book a few times and they can read it confidently try to turn to a page and pick out one of the words in the sentence. For example, "Can you point to the word my?" "Can you find the tricky word I?" This offers more challenge to the children.

Please continue to read the sharing books to the children as these are ideal for bedtime stories.

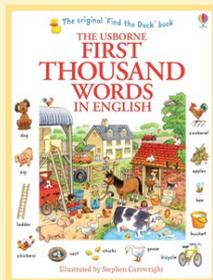
In maths we have been using the language; more, fewer and equal to describe different amounts. We showed the children different amounts of dots and bears and the children had to say which was more than, less than or equal to.

Outside the children have really enjoyed exploring the gloop and they have been sharing the bikes and scooters very well.

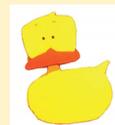
Next week we will be reading the traditional story "Jack and the Beanstalk" and the newer "Jasper's Beanstalk" version.



## 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 Street

Go to pages 12 and 14. Count the cars and name their colour. What other things with wheels can you see? Can you spot the fire engine? Pram? Bicycle? Bus? Taxi? Police car? Steam roller? Motorbike? Truck? What do they do? What noises do they make?

## What have we been learning this week?

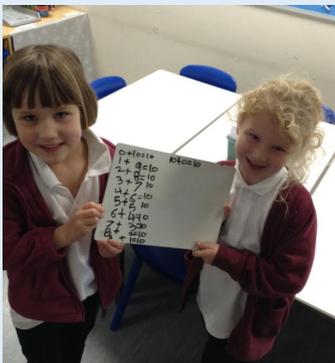
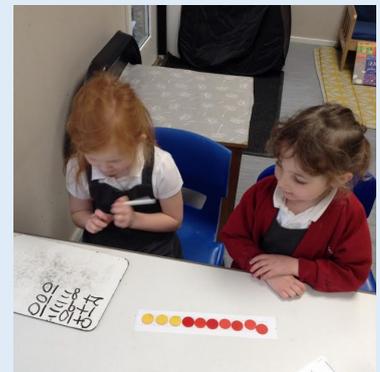
### Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

This week in Year 1 we have been learning number bonds to 10 and spotting facts and patterns in our numbers. We investigated and discovered a helpful rule: there is always one more number sentence than the number you are finding. For example, there are 11 different ways to make 10! The children really enjoyed exploring this and creating their own number bond families.

In Science, we learnt all about birds including their features, how they move, and what makes them different from other animals.

In English, we practised using capital letters to write sentences about what different characters are doing. We came up with ideas such as Elsa is reading and Stitch is jumping. The children worked hard on segmenting and blending verbs to help them spell these new action words.

In Jigsaw, we thought about ways we can show kindness and make other people smile. We shared the story *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* and talked about all the little things we can do to be “bucket fillers” in our classroom.



**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.

*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?

### Year 2 - Fox & Hedgehog classes

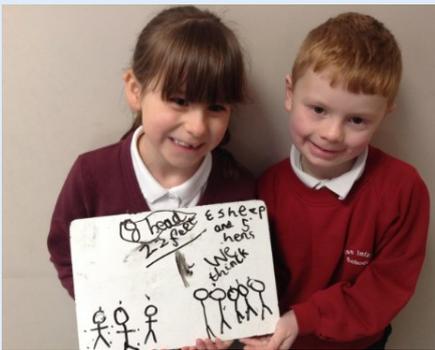
This week has been a busy week! We have been learning all about adding across the 10. This is quite a tricky concept, so we learnt about how to do it in two ways:

1) counting on from the largest amount and 2) partitioning (chunking) the smallest number until we get to ten and add the rest. This would mean when we add  $8 + 4$  we add  $8 + 2$  to make 10 and then 2 more. It is really important that your child knows how to chunk up smaller numbers to help answer problems like this. Otherwise it takes up a lot of brain power to do the small number chunking. At home this week have a go at chunking up smaller numbers into two parts.

In Computing this week we learnt all about how to take a 'good' photograph. We did this by making sure all the content was in the frame, the content was in the middle and that the photo was clear. I think our photography skills have really improved. - next week we are going to think about how to change the lighting of our photos.

Please start to bring in the costumes for the nativity over the coming weeks. We are so looking forward to starting our rehearsals!

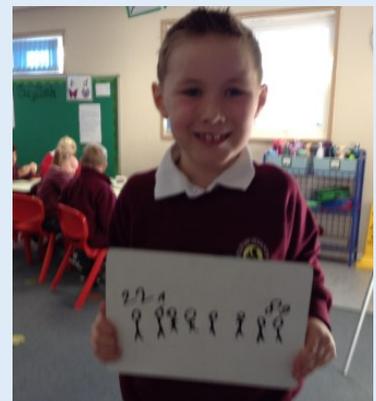
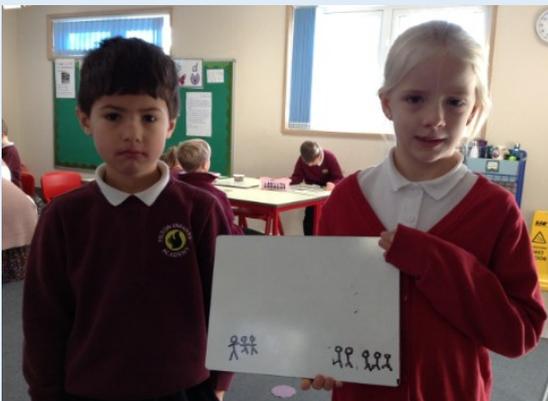
This afternoon the children had a go at answering this tricky problem - they worked so hard and had great resilience answering it.



On a farm there were some hens and sheep.

Altogether there were 8 heads and 22 feet.

How many hens were there?



## **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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## Sporting & creative achievements

Isla has worked so hard to achieve this at her swimming lessons and with school. She's faced her fears, and her water confidence has grown so much over the half term holiday.

Really well deserved!



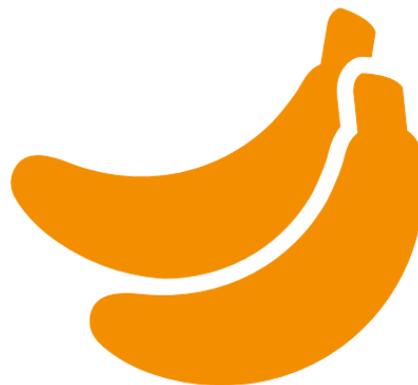
## Fun with Maths

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)

### **Find some fruit or vegetables (such as an apple or potato or similar).**

1. Find 3 different ones - which one do you think will be the heaviest?
2. Now hold them in your hand one at a time - were you right?
3. Can you find 3 things which you think will be lighter than a potato?
4. Can you find 3 things which are heavier?
5. Find your 5 favourite toys - can you put them in order, lightest to heaviest?



# 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: 92.95%.

Our attendance this school year is: 93.56%.

## 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 28th November - Fox Class Swimming 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 7 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

## Trustee with Financial Expertise

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### 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

## AFTER SCHOOL PLAYWORKER LEAD

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### Umberleigh Primary Academy

Do you have a few spare hours during the week and love working with children? Are you local to Umberleigh and/or can reliably commute? Then we want to hear from you!

- 📍 Dorridge Hill, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AD
- 🕒 Temporary/Fixed Term | Part-Time
- 💷 £13.26 Hourly
- 🕒 Grade C | 7.5 HPW (15:30PM – 17:00PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY)

New - Apply by Midday, Friday 5th Dec, 2025 - Job start: 6th January 2026

## Administrative Assistant

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### High Bickington Church of England Primary Academy

We are seeking to appoint a flexible and committed administrative assistant to support the Head of School and Trust Business Manager in the daily operation of our school front office and reception...

- 📍 High Bickington, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AY
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- 💷 £13.26 Hourly
- 🕒 Grade C | 20 HPW (MONDAY TO FRIDAY 08:30AM - 12:30PM)

New - Apply by Midday, Friday 5th Dec, 2025 - Job start: 6th January 2026

## Meal Time Assistant

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### 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 26th Nov, 2025 - Job start: ASAP

## Cleaner

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### Pilton Infants' Academy

The appointed person's will be managed by the Premises Manager and Head of School. In service training will be provided where appropriate.

- 📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- 💷 £12.65 Hourly
- 🕒 Grade A | 10HPW (2 HOURS PER DAY TO BE WORKED AFTERNOON/ EVENINGS) | 41 WEEKS

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

## SPECIALIST TEACHING ASSISTANT

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### 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

## AFTER SCHOOL PLAYWORKER

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### Umberleigh Primary Academy

Do you have a few spare hours during the week and love working with children? Are you local to Umberleigh and/or can reliably commute? Then we want to hear from you!

- 📍 Dorridge Hill, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AD
- 🕒 Temporary/Fixed Term | Part-Time
- 💷 £12.84 Hourly
- 🕒 Grade B | 7.5 HPW (15:30PM – 17:00PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY)

New - Apply by Midday, Friday 5th Dec, 2025 - Job start: 6th January 2026



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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](mailto: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](mailto:piltoninfantsptfa@gmail.com)

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