



Newsletter



Pilton Infants' Academy

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Learning for Life

Friday 28th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

With three weeks to go until the end of term and even less time until our Christmas performances, the children and staff are busy preparing. There is lots of singing happening all around the school. At the same time, we're still continuing with our normal learning and this week staff are completing their assessments of the children's attainment and progress this term.

Our assembly, to begin the week, was a Jigsaw (PSHE) assembly on our focus for this half term which is Celebrating Difference. We have three Harriets in Year 2 and I suggested to the children that because all three are called Harriet, are all about the same height and were all wearing school uniform, that all three were exactly the same. However, we found that when we talked to them, they are not the same. They shared the same favourite animal, but favourite colours and foods were very different. We discussed how everyone is unique and special and that this makes the world a much more interesting place.

On Tuesday evening, I met with our LGB (Local Governing Body) for our Autumn term meeting. Working in the background, the LGB are a really important part of the school in terms of supporting and challenging the school's leaders and providing a link with the academy's trustees.

Finally this week, a message from Mrs Haynes, and the school council:

This week, the school council met and designed posters to recruit members to help with our 'Eco School'. The posters focussed on three simple things which students can do to save energy and water:

- Turn the lights off (when we don't need them on!)
- Turn the taps off
- Close doors

Each class has chosen an eco-council member to complete these tasks. By doing this, we hope to save some money on the school's water and electricity bills so that this can be used to buy some new equipment for the playground.

This week we also started some litter picking to help keep the school clean and tidy. We will continue to do this one playtime per week. The council members were fantastic role models for the rest of the school. Well done school council! We will be meeting again soon to discuss more ideas for helping to keep our school clean, tidy and energy efficient!

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 focusing on the traditional tale; "Jack and the Beanstalk." We read several versions of this story and talked about what is the same and what is different in each tale.

We have been working together, as Timmy Team Workers, to make a long beanstalk paper chain to see if we could make one that stretched all across the classrooms. We practised our cutting skills by making leaf shapes to attach to the beanstalk.

In phonics we continued with Phase 2, learning v,w,x and y and in Writing Club, this week, we practised the long ladder family.

Within reading we have been practising our blending skills with the decodable books. These will be sent home as electronic books on Friday for you to practise at home. There will also be paper copies of the non-decodable repetitive books, for you to practise whole word reading and using picture clues, in the children's book bags. These are the books with the number on the front. Thank you for all the comments in the children's reading record books.

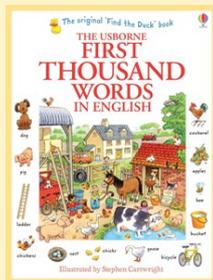
In Maths we learnt about how parts go together to make a whole. We looked at what parts of an object go together to make a whole. For example how the legs, arms and body of a teddy bear fit together to make the whole bear. We also looked at Numberblocks 2 and 3 to see how they are made from square parts to make the whole Numberblock.

Please have a look in the children's book bags for a letter about the Christmas performance. This includes what part the children are playing and also the dates and times of the performance.

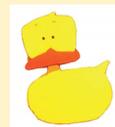
Nest week's focus text is "Little Glow".



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 Seaside

Go to pages 26 and 27. Can you spot the naughty seagull and the naughty girl? What are they doing wrong? What are the different boats for? What is the lighthouse for? If you were there, what would you like to do? Talk about it with a grown up.

What have we been learning this week?

Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

This week we have been learning all about dogs, including an exciting visit from Mrs Haynes' dog, Button! The children loved meeting Button and used the experience to help them practise writing sentences about dogs. We focused on starting our sentences with the tricky words "They like...", for example *They like jumping*. The children have worked hard on using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

In Science, we learnt about amphibians, exploring features such as webbed feet, moist skin, and how they live both on land and in water. The children enjoyed comparing amphibians to other animals we've been studying.

In Maths, we continued our work on addition and began using a number line to solve addition problems. The class even made their own number lines—please use these at home to help your child practise solving addition number sentences, such as $4 + 5 =$. We are now also becoming really confident at automatically remembering our number bonds to 10.



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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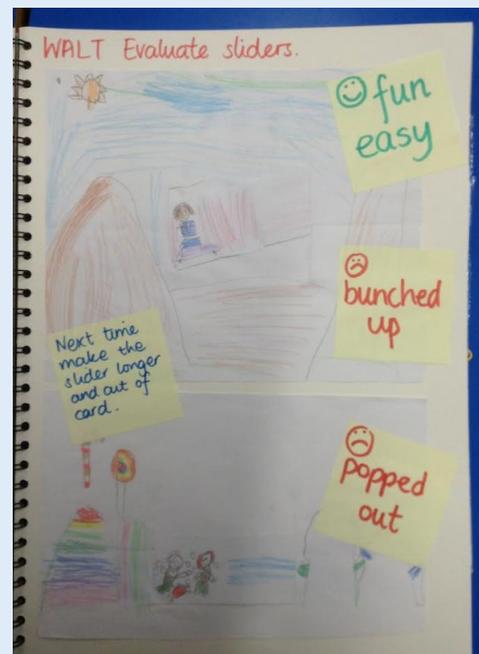
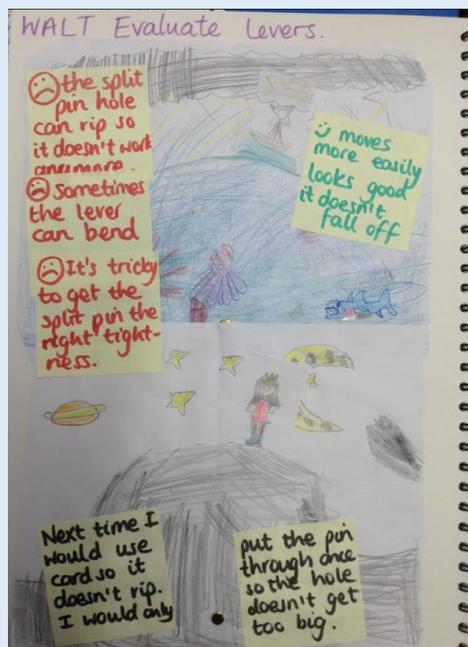
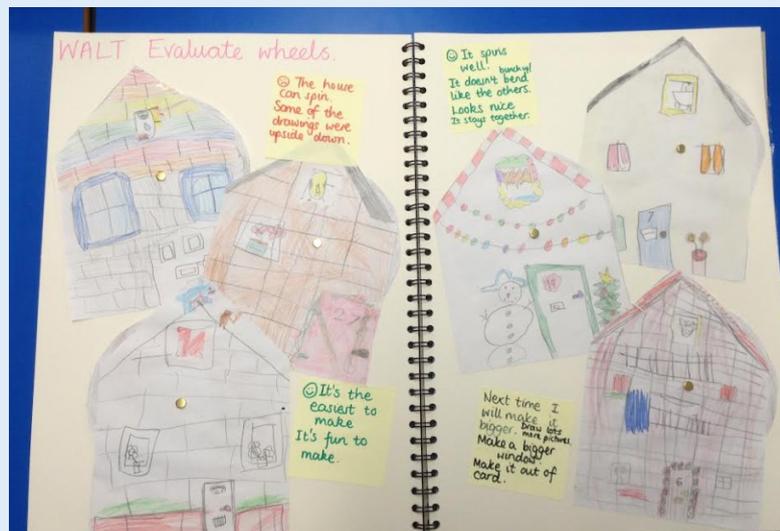
What have we been learning this week?

Year 2 - Fox & Hedgehog classes

Over the past few weeks in design technology, the children have been learning how to make pictures with moving parts. They made pictures with sliders, levers and wheels. They learned that a prototype is the first go at making something and that it might not be perfect. We evaluated our designs and discussed what was good, what didn't work and how to make improvements next time. You can see some of their designs and ideas in the photos.

If you haven't already brought in your child's costume items, please can we have them next week as we are starting our rehearsals.

Thank you to everyone who has donated craft materials for our art week. Through your generosity we now have more than enough so please do not donate any more as we have nowhere to store it. Thank you all so much.



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



Elliot has attended parkrun at Rock Park 11 times completing his half marathon.

Way to go Elliott!



Last Saturday Ivy passed stage 2 in swimming, she's worked so hard on her confidence this year.

Well done Ivy!

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)

Puppy multiplication fun

Some puppies are playing on the beach.

Each puppy has 1 waggy tail; 1 wet nose; 2 floppy ears; 2 bright eyes; 4 long legs and 5 clipped claws on each foot.

There are 10 puppies on the beach – how many long legs? How many wet noses? How many floppy ears?

There are 5 puppies playing ball – how many waggy tails?

How many long legs? How many bright eyes?

2 puppies are digging a hole! How many clipped claws?

Can you make up some more questions (and answers!) about the puppies on the beach? You can change how many puppies there are if you like.

Helpful hint: Drawing the puppies helps to see the repeated addition or multiplication.



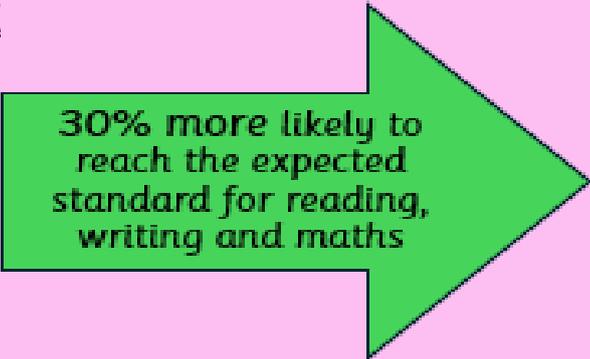
Attendance really matters – here's why...

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

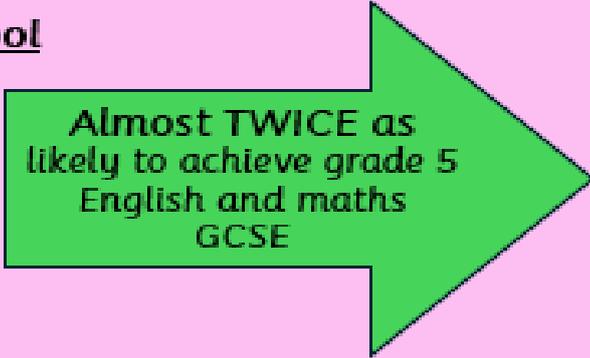


In Secondary School

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: 89.02%.

Our attendance this school year is: 93.14%.

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 5th December - Fox Class Swimming 5th & 12th December

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 8 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

Trustee with Financial Expertise

EDV2025/1M1/20756

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

EDV2025/1M1/20757

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

EDV2025/1M2/20442

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

EDV2025/1M1/14473

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

Cleaner

EDV2025/1M1/20447

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

EDV2025/1M2/15160

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

EDV2025/1M1/20776

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

Cook

EDV2025/1M2/20446

Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy

Witheridge C of E Academy are looking for someone special to lead our school kitchen and provide nutritious, delicious meals for our pupils and staff.

- 📍 Fore Street, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 8AH
- 🕒 Permanent/Term Time Only | Full-Time
- £ £13.26 Hourly
- GRADE: C | 32.5 HPW (MONDAY - FRIDAY) | 38 Weeks

New - Apply by Midday, Wednesday 10th Dec, 2025 - Job start: 6th January



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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

 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

 Pilton Infants' Academy PTFA
 piltoninfantsptfa@gmail.com

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