



Newsletter



Pilton Infants' Academy

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Learning for Life

Friday 5th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a busy first week of December and is starting to feel very Christmassy... apart from the weather! There are lots of Christmas trees and decorations all around the school and lots of singing and Christmas rehearsals taking place.

Our focus this week in assembly was on lunchtimes and a reminder of the school rules. At this time of year when everyone is a little tired and a bit excited it can be easy to forget some of the little things that keep everyone safe and having fun, such as walking in the classrooms and around the school or remembering to look and listen when someone is talking to you. We also announced that there is going to be a new award given out each week for lunchtimes... The Golden Welly!

Each week, the Golden Welly will be awarded to a class, group or individual who have been amazing that week. It was very exciting to present the first Golden Welly award in today's assembly!



On Wednesday we had a TEAM review. Mr Polak (Director of Education) came in and we looked at reading across the school. Mrs Powley, our English and Phonics lead, met with Mr Polak to look at this term's phonics data for Reception and Year 1 and discuss how this is shaping the phonics teaching for next term. We then visited Owl Class, both Year 2 classes and both Reception classes during the morning to observe their reading sessions. The quality of reading teaching was consistently high across the school and the children's enthusiasm and work ethic was excellent. We also looked at a sample of reading diaries from every class. The amount of reading taking place at home was fantastic and it was brilliant to see a range of parent, staff and child comments within the diaries. A huge thank you, to you the parents, carers, older siblings and grandparents who support the children with their reading at home. It really does make a massive difference. Five to fifteen minutes every day makes a huge difference.

We had a martial arts workshop on Thursday which the children really enjoyed. Each class had a 30 minute taster session to learn some basic skills and understand when they should and should not use martial arts. A big thank you to Mr Kelly for coming in to teach the children and to Mrs Thomas for organising the event.

Next week is looking even more festive. We will continue to rehearse and the Key Stage 1 children will be visiting the church for a rehearsal. We also have Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumper day on Wednesday.

We hope you all have a lovely 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.*

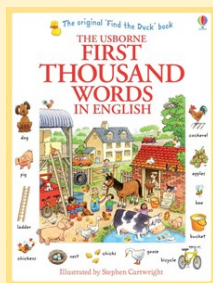
What have we been learning this week?

Reception—Kingfisher and Otter Classes

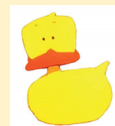
It's been a fun week getting ready for our Christmas show. We've been practising on the stage for the first time this week and the children's singing is sounding great. We have started to fit the costumes and are really looking forward to performing the show in the final week of school. Our middle room has been transformed into a Santa's Grotto, complete with sleigh and dressing up clothes. We have continued with our daily phonics sessions and the latest three sounds are in the children's book bags. We had an exciting visit from a Taekwondo instructor on Thursday morning. He taught us some new skills in a fun PE session.



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 Garden and the Park

Go to pages 8 and 9 and then 16 and 17. How many different birds can you see? Can you learn the names of some of the birds and their babies? Can you spot any when you are out and about in Barnstaple this week?

What have we been learning this week?

Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

This week, Year 1 have written some amazing information booklets about dogs. We recapped the key features of a sentence and made sure we presented our work neatly. Next week we will look at Ten Little Elves by Mike Brownlow as our next unit of writing. Your child has a copy of our text map to learn the story. Please spend five minutes practising this at home.

During maths we introduced subtraction. We look at subtraction as taking away, initially. The children were able to spot that there will be less at the end of the story. We then used counters to show different number stories and contexts and practiced taking away and telling the story.

In DT, we experimented with different paper shaping techniques (scrunching, rolling and folding) and decided that rolling is the best for a tree because it is long and round.

We really enjoyed our martial arts workshop on Thursday with Mr Kelly. The children learned about the focus and concentration needed for martial arts and had fun keeping fit and exercising too. We were full of laughs and giggles as well. Thank you Mrs Thomas for organising a great event.

Please remember to read each day for 5 minutes. Just a small amount everyday makes a big difference in children's ability to read fluently, talk confidently and understand the world around them through stories. Keep recording in your reading diaries (or have the children copy the title themselves) to earn your next reading certificate.



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

This week, the children have started to learn the Christmas story using a story map. We will stick this into reading diaries next week so that you can practise with them. Retelling a story verbally helps children when they come to write it.

We had an exciting martial arts session yesterday and the children enjoyed learning about balance and four key moves. You can see some photos here:



Thank you to everyone who has supplied costume parts and volunteered to help walk the children to the church.

The Year 2 team

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



Esme was brave enough to enter and compete in the Southwest Karate Championships (she only started karate 8 weeks prior) and came home with 2 bronze trophies. Mum was so proud of her for entering, then competing despite being really nervous and unsure - super brave. She was obviously chuffed it resulted in trophies!



To top it off she has been awarded student of the month in karate. She's not so chuffed that she has to give that trophy back next month.

Quinn has gone up to stage 4 at swimming....he was super chuffed with himself....all the hard work payed off!



Well done Both of you!

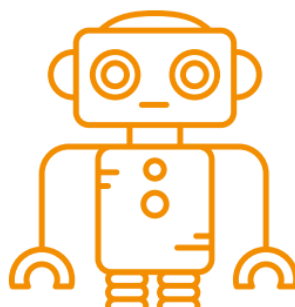
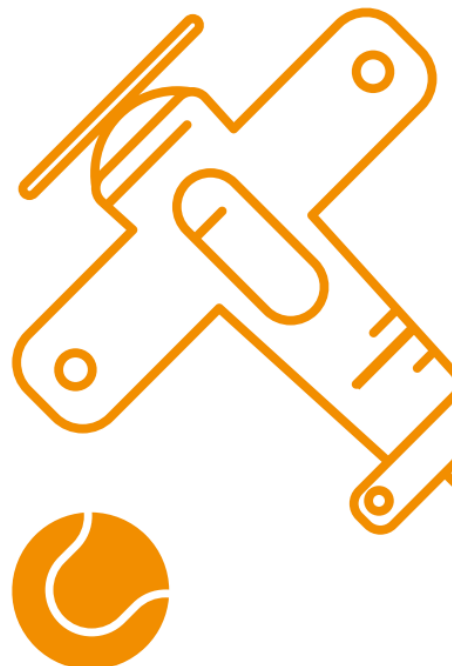
Fun with Maths

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)

Choose 5 of your favourite toys.

Put them in order from shortest to tallest.
Are any taller than the length of your hand?
Now put them in order from lightest to heaviest.
Are they in the same order?
Which are in a different place?
Find 5 things in the food cupboard.
Estimate which will be the lightest and heaviest.
Feel them in your hands - were you right?
What is the lightest piece of food you can find?



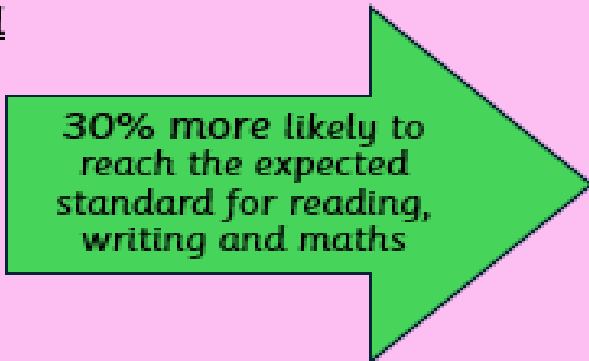
Attendance really matters – here's why...

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

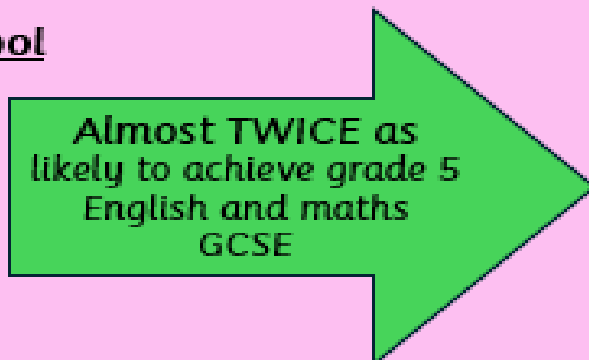


In Secondary School

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: 94.22%.

Our attendance this school year is: 93.19%.

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 12th December - Fox Class Last Swim

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

APPLY NOW DIRECT WITH 



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

Part of TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Trustee with Financial Expertise

EDV/2025/TMS/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

Administrative Assistant

EDV/2025/HBCERA/44963

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)

AFTER SCHOOL PLAYWORKER

EDV/2025/URA/66770

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)

Cook

EDV/2025/WCEPA/73406

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

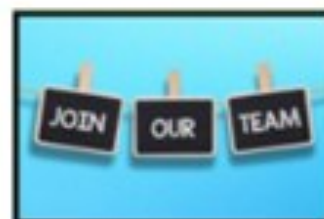
AFTER SCHOOL PLAYWORKER LEAD

EDV/2025/UPA/93739

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)



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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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