



Newsletter



Pilton Infants' Academy

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Learning for Life

Friday 12th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've enjoyed a really busy and fun week in school as we build towards the end of term. The children are definitely tired, after a long term, but also excited about the upcoming festivities. We continue to keep as much structure and normality as possible as this is really important for helping them to feel settled.

Our assembly this week focussed on the British values of Liberty and the Rule of Law. We looked at how laws are like our school rules – some are to keep us safe, some are to keep things fair and everybody must follow them. We explored liberty as meaning that we can make our own choices, within the law, and that we need to allow other people the freedom to make their own choices.

On Wednesday, there were some fabulous Christmas jumpers and outfits worn which added to the festive feel of our Christmas dinner. The children really enjoyed their lunch, with Christmas music playing and crackers provided by the PTFA. A big thank you to the kitchen team for preparing the lovely meal.

Year 1 and Year 2 also visited the church for their dress rehearsal this week. The children's narrating, singing and dancing was excellent and we can't wait to share this with you next week. The church wardens, as always, were very welcoming and are looking forward to having the church full next week. Year 1 and 2 performed one of their songs in celebration assembly today for the Reception children. Reception have their dress rehearsal on Monday and the rest of the school will be watching.

A reminder of the performances next week

Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas concert at Pilton Church:

Monday 15th December, 2pm, for parents of Fox and Squirrel classes

Tuesday 16th December, 2pm, for parents of Hedgehog and Owl classes

Reception Nativity in the school hall:

Tuesday 16th December, 10am, for parents of Otter Class

Wednesday 17th December, 10am, for parents of Kingfisher Class

Fox Class had their final swim this morning. We have been really impressed with their progress this term with their confidence and skills. They have built on their swimming from Year 1 and it is clear that lots of them have been swimming regularly since Year 1. Swimming is great fun and also a key life skill, particularly living in North Devon. Well done to both the Year 2 classes for their great swimming this term. A huge thank you to the helpers who have given their time each week and thank you to the staff for leading and organising.

The Golden Welly award was again keenly contested this week. There have been lots of children trying extra hard to earn the coveted prize. They've been inspired by Ella, last week's winner.

We hope you all have a restful 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

The children really enjoyed our Christmas jumper day this week. In class we designed our own Christmas jumpers, thinking carefully about the images, colours and shapes to use on them.

In maths we learnt about 2D shapes, focussing on the 3 sided shape; triangle. We used triangles to make card designs. We also used finger printing to add colour to our card designs.

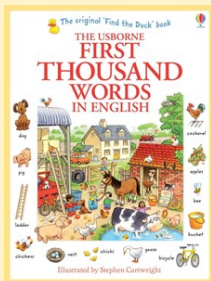
In phonics we completed the final sounds of this term. These new digraph sounds are in the children's phonics packs to practise at home.

During reading we concentrated on the non-decodable texts that are in the children's book bags. The children are using these books to improve their whole word reading and improve their knowledge of the non decodable common "tricky" words. These words include; the, and, he, she, here, go, no, I.

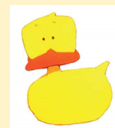
The children are excited to perform the Nativity show next week.
Otter parents/carers, the show is on **Tuesday at 10am**.
Kingfisher parents/carers, the show is on **Wednesday at 10am**.



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

School

Go to pages 28 and 29. Can you find the child that is painting? Colouring? Reading? Cutting? Sticking? Hiding? Making a mess? What can you spot that is the same as your class? What is different?

What have we been learning this week?

Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

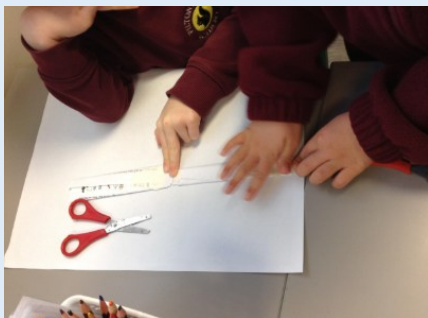
This week in Year 1 we have immersed ourselves in our new model text, Ten Little Elves. The children have enjoyed learning the story and building sentences using the -ing suffix to show what the elves did during the story.

During maths we explored how we can solve subtraction with objects and through drawings. We used contexts to turn our number sentences into maths stories. For example, first there were 10 doughnuts, then Mrs Powley ate 4. Now there are 6 doughnuts. We also made number lines to take home so we can show you our great addition and subtraction skills.

In DT we designed our own landscapes and selected how we will shape the paper and join it to our baseboard to create our own landscape. We are looking forward to creating them altogether next week.

We have been looking at beat and rhythm in music. We also explored notes and pitch. We used boomwhackers to play a song as an ensemble (that is when everyone plays a part). It required some amazing listening skills.

On Wednesday we walked up to the church for our dress rehearsal. The singing sounded amazing and we are really looking forward to showing all our hard work to you on Monday and Tuesday. Thank you to all our parent helpers who have helped make it possible.



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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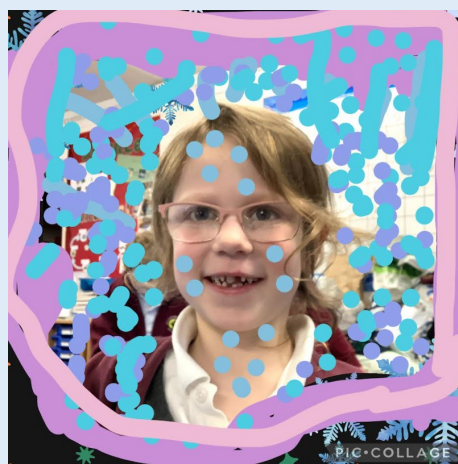
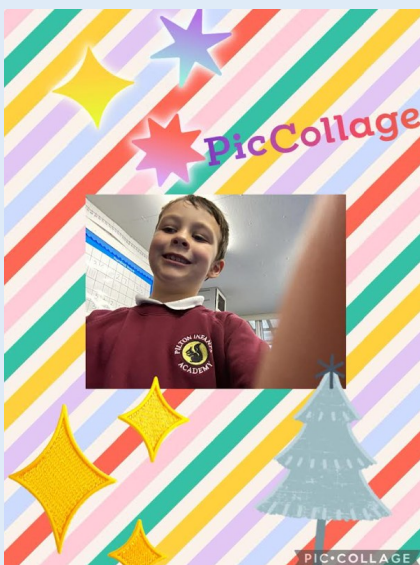
What have we been learning this week?

Year 2 - Fox & Hedgehog classes

This week in maths we have been learning all about adding and taking away tens. We did really well to notice how the ones stayed the same and the tens changed. We were able to take away lots of different amounts of tens using our 1's knowledge to help. Next week we are going to start looking at shape. Have a go at finding different shapes in the house.

We are making Christmas cards in DT. We designed our very own moving Christmas card, that we cannot wait to share with you next week. We had to do lots of fiddly work such as using a split pin. We worked hard on colouring our cards and bringing our designs to life. Look out for these in your child's bookbag next week.

This week we have had a practise at the Church for our school production. We were very well behaved and we cannot wait to show you the performance on Monday and Tuesday afternoons! At the end of the performance we will need to take the children back to school to get changed. Please can you wait behind to give us a head start and then walk your way back to school to pick your child up.



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: 94.28%.

Our attendance this school year is: 93.25%.

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

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>

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

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

1.1 SEND TEACHING ASSISTANT

EDV/2025/BCPS/90334

Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

The appointed person will work in close partnership with the relevant class teachers and will help to support pupils to engage with their learning. In-service training will be provided where...

- 📍 Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8LJ
- 🕒 Fixed Term | Part-Time
- 💷 £13.26 Hourly
- Grade: C | 27.5 Hours per week (MONDAY TO FRIDAY 08:45AM – 3:30PM) | Fixed Term | 38 weeks Term Time Only

New • Apply by Midday, Monday 5th Jan, 2026 • Job start: ASAP

Cook

EDV/2025/WCEPA/75406

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

1.1 SEND TEACHING ASSISTANT

EDV/2025/BCPS/45528

Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

The appointed person will work in close partnership with the relevant class teachers and will help to support pupils to engage with their learning. In-service training will be provided where...

- 📍 Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8LJ
- 🕒 Fixed Term | Part-Time
- 💷 £13.26 Hourly
- Grade: C | 30 Hours per week (MONDAY TO FRIDAY 08:45AM – 3:30PM) | Fixed Term | 38 weeks Term Time Only

New • Apply by Midday, Monday 5th Jan, 2026 • Job start: ASAP

Cleaner

EDV/2025/PBCEA/44027

Pilton Bluecoat Church of England Academy

This is a part-time, permanent cleaning position, working 13.75 hours per week (2 hours 45 minutes per day, Monday to Friday). Hours are to be worked outside of the school day from 3:30pm.

- 📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- 💷 £12.84 Annually (Actual)
- GRADE: B | 13.75 HPW (2 HOURS 45 MINUTES EACH DAY | 3:30PM – 6:15PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY) | 41 WEEKS

Meal Time Assistant

EDV/2025/UPA/14675

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)

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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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