



Newsletter

Pilton Infants' Academy

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Learning for Life

Friday 2nd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We started the week with a lovely assembly on Monday led by Hedgehog Class and Mrs Haynes. The children sang and Makaton signed two songs for the rest of the school. They then taught the rest of the school the actions and we all had a go together. They did a fantastic job and we're very proud of them for getting up and performing to an audience with so much confidence and quality.

I met with the school council this week to talk about the idea of 'calm' as part of our school vision. We talked about what calm feels like and places both within and outside of school where they feel calm. The children had some great suggestions for ways to make the school even calmer such as a calm room/area where they could go, calm music in classrooms, more time to read and even a yoga club. An endless supply of popcorn also seemed high on their agenda!

Our attendance has definitely dropped over the past couple of weeks with chickenpox and scarlet fever as well as some other nasty bugs doing the rounds. As much as we want children in school learning, we want the children to be well. We're grateful to you all for following the recommended advice for time off for the different illnesses. Hopefully we're bug free soon.

I also had a meeting with Mr Harts (Head of School, Pilton Bluecoat) and Mr Thomas (TEAM CEO) this week. We were discussing ideas for how the two schools can work together more closely, particularly with some of our pastoral work and looking to develop lunchtimes. We will be having another meeting next week with the pastoral TAs from both schools to talk further.

Finally, next week is parents evening on Monday and Wednesday. We look forward to seeing you then. The children will be bringing home their Spring Report today. This is our prediction for where we think your child will be at the end of the summer term and how they are as a learner.

Have a great weekend,

John Mortimer, Head of School

PTFA Bake Sale

Hello

Next week, we're hosting our first bake sale of the year on Friday 9th February. We need your help! We are looking for donations of cake to sell — either homemade or shop bought. Please remember not to include any nuts in your bakes as we are a nut free school.

If you are able to, you are very welcome to drop off your bakes on Friday morning at drop-off or in the afternoon at pick-up. If you are bringing your bakes in a container, please label it so we can get it back to you.

All money raised will go to our amazing school and will benefit the children. Thank you in advance for any help you are able to give providing, buying and eating cakes! Many thanks, The PTFA

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

In our Reception classes this week, we have been thinking about our friends. We talked about their qualities and then we wrote a "You are" sentence. We have been working on using a capital letter, finger spaces and full stops when writing.

In maths we have continued our subitising practise. This week we have introduced 10s frames which we matched to the numbers 6, 9 and 10.

On Wednesday we enjoyed our toy day. We drew our toys and talked about them to the rest of the class. We've also enjoyed working together to make our bird feeders.

The children's reports are in their book bags. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Parent's Evenings next week.



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.

Wednesday afternoon parent drop-ins with Mrs Smale

Mrs Smale is our Pastoral TA. She has time set-aside every Wednesday from 2.45pm-3.30pm to meet with any parents or carers who would like to drop-in for a chat and a cup of tea or coffee. Please feel free to come along if you have any questions, concerns or worries. Thank you

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What have we been learning this week?

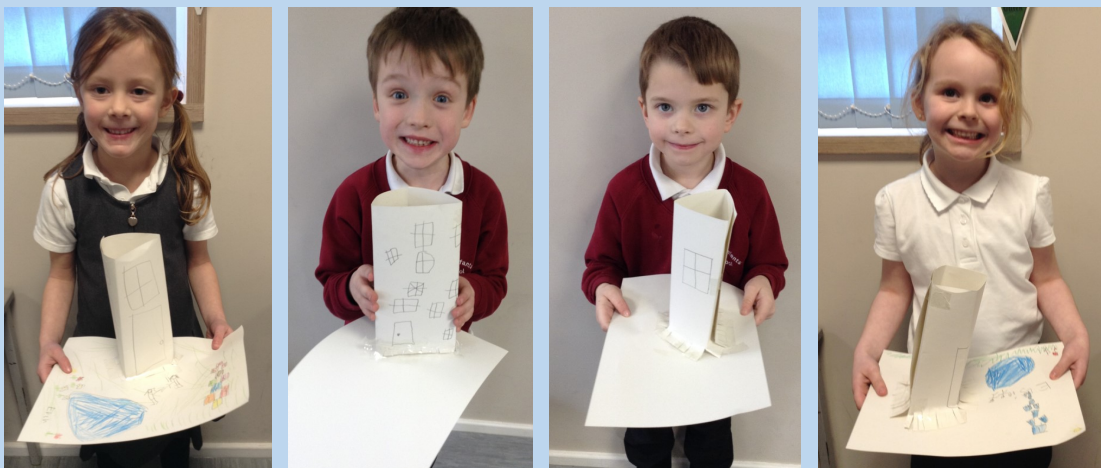
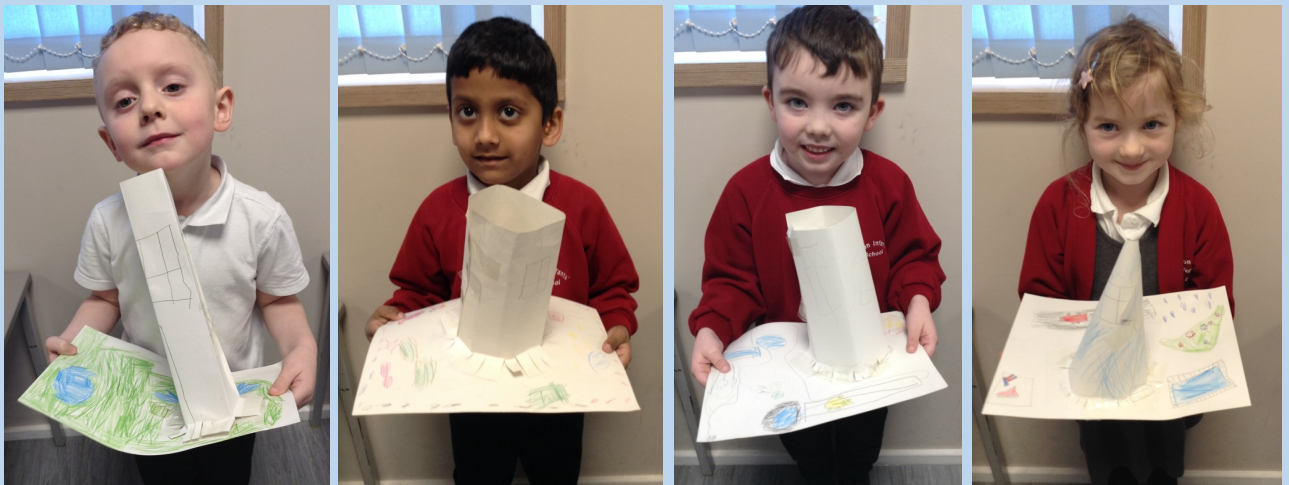
Year 1 — Owl and Squirrel classes

This week during maths we introduced the bar model and used our knowledge of part whole models to identify the parts and the whole.

Within English, we have looked at adjectives and how to use them within our writing to describe a character or setting.

For DT, we created our own structures using different joins. We folded the card to create a crease and cut a flange join and stuck them onto our bases.

In Science, we have begun identifying the properties of materials. This week we have focused on whether the material was soft or hard.



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What have we been learning this week?

Year 2 — Hedgehog and Fox classes

This week, we've continued the story of Little Red Reading Hood. It's been amazing to see how children are taking ideas that other children have suggested and using them in their writing. They are thinking really carefully about the effect of their writing and how it will make the reader feel. You can see the latest installment here.

Little Red set off and skipped down the wiggly path. She saw pink plants and lovely long leaves. To her it was very calm indeed.
(Charlie Cl)

When the storm came over she felt a shiver down her spine. The sky turned black and Little Red Reading Hood heard a boom overhead! (Joe)

As she stepped, twigs broke under foot. Just then, there stood the big, bad wolf right in front of her. The deadly canine rubbed his tummy, licked his lips and his tummy rumbled. He even got his knife and fork ready.
(Abdul)

LRRH approached the path and skipped slowly into the deep green forest with her arms around her heavy books! She saw brilliant birds, red robins and lovely little ladybirds. It actually felt like home and she had a big smile on her face!
(Max)

Suddenly the sky turned dark and her hair stood on end. There was a strike of lightning and her life flashed before her eyes! Suddenly the lush forest wasn't lush anymore. There was a fierce roaring bear, a snake hissing and a fox growling.
(Rhea)

All of a sudden a scary animal jumped out. She slowly started to realise it was the BIG BAD WOLF. He grinned with excitement, licked his lips and he got his knife and fork ready.
(Rose)

We've also started learning about the history of Barnstaple. This week, the children were surprised to learn that Barnstaple had another bridge over the Taw - the railway bridge. We learned about why this was demolished and the station is no longer there.

You can see some amazing footage of a train crossing the river from 1898 here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dziGmOLe3KU&t=51s>

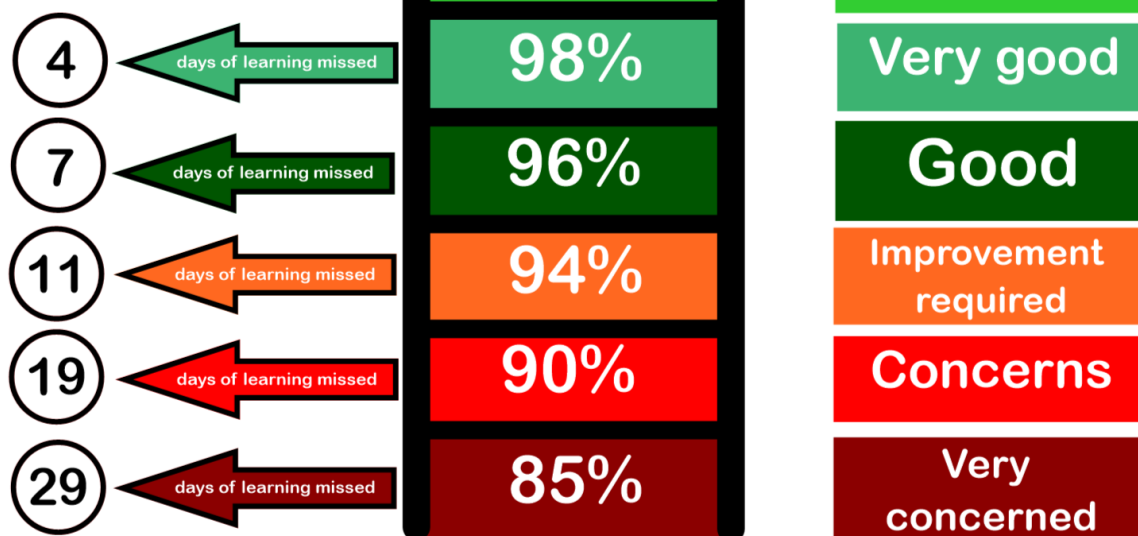


We are planning some history walks over the next few months - more details coming soon.

Thank you to everyone who has been practising the spellings and using the sounds sheet we sent home. It makes a huge difference to the children's writing. Please try and read for a few minutes each day. Your child can read two pages to you while you are cooking tea or washing up. They can write the name of the book in their reading diaries by themselves. We have some children reaching 150 reads at home!

Pilton Infant's School - Attendance Ladder

In a school year, this equates to:



Attendance — Every Day Counts!

Our aim is for all children to have attendance of 96% or more to help them reach their full potential. Our attendance this week is 88%. Our attendance so far this School year is 93.84%.

Reporting Absence

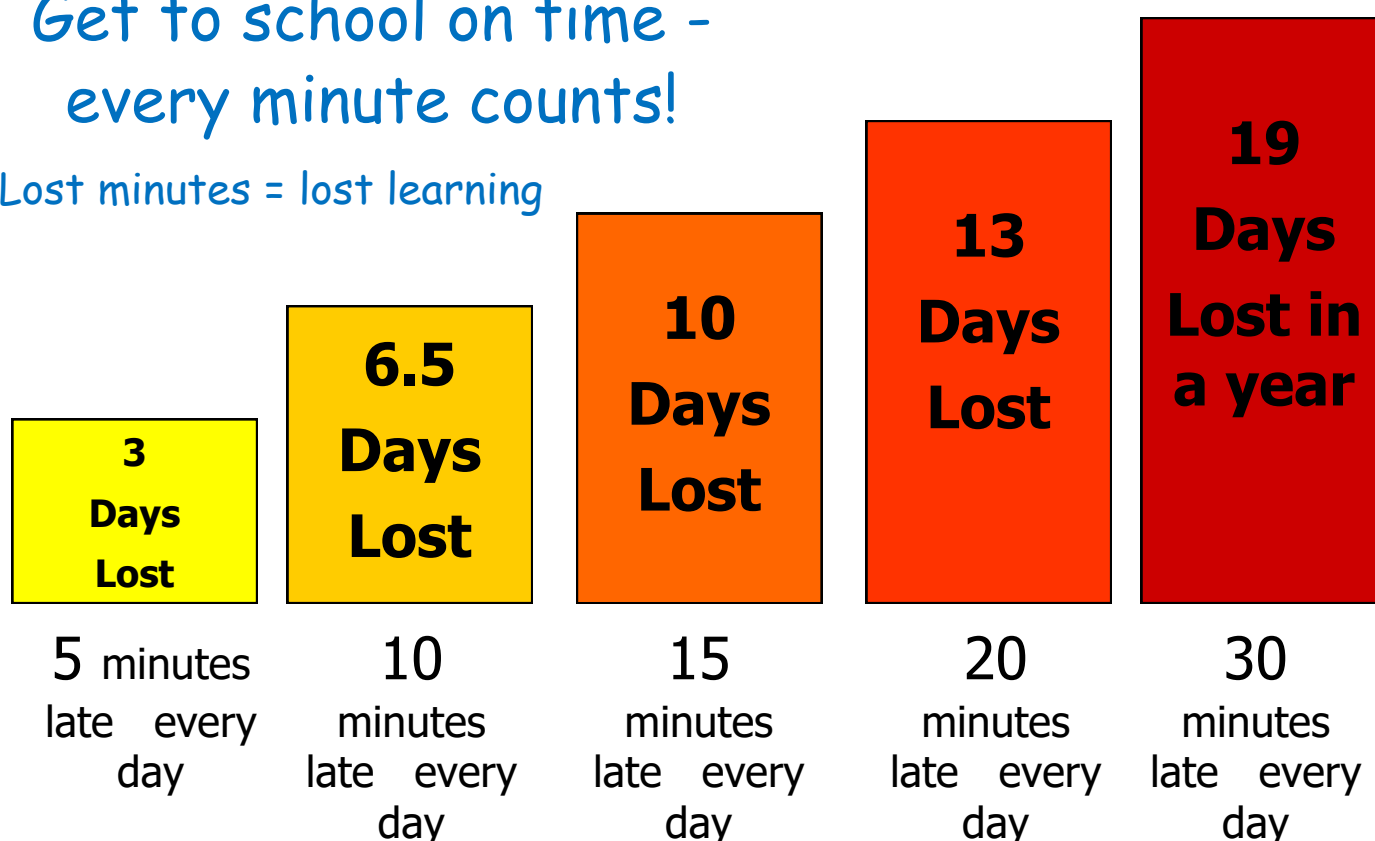
If your child is unwell, please phone or email the school before 9.30am to report your child's absence.

T: 01271 342579

E: admin@piltoninfants.school

Get to school on time - every minute counts!

Lost minutes = lost learning



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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 February half term - Friday 9th February

Children return for the second half of the Spring term - Monday 19th February

Children finish for the Easter break - Thursday 28th March

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 5th and Wednesday 7th February - Parent evenings - all year groups

Friday 9th February - PTFA Bake Sale—after-school

Tuesday 5th March - Year 2 Theatre Trip - The Queens Theatre

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

W.c. 11th March and 18th March - Active Travel weeks

W.c. 11th March—Science week

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 these links:

[Breakfast Club Link](#)

[Afterschool Club Link](#)

After school clubs for this half-term

Club	Provider	Day	Time	Year group
Football	The Goal Getters	Tuesday	3.30pm-4.30pm	Year R
Tennis	Devonshire Tennis Academy	Wednesday	7.55am-8.40am	All
Gymnastics	Devonshire Tennis Academy	Friday	3.30pm-4.30pm	All
Sing and Sign	Miss Jury and Miss Holland	Monday	3.30pm-4.20pm	All

Coats

Please ensure your child has a named coat in school everyday, particularly now as the weather is getting wetter and colder. We try to get outside everyday, unless the rain is torrential.