



Newsletter

Pilton Infants' Academy

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Learning for Life

Friday 25th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the summer term at Pilton Infants'. We hope you had a fantastic Easter break. The children have come back talking about lots of exciting adventures which is wonderful to hear.

We've been straight back into a short but busy week in school. On Thursday we had a review with Mr Swait, a school improvement advisor who works with TEAM and has visited the school several times over the past few years. This time, our main focus was on writing. Mr Swait spoke to Mrs Powley, who has recently taken on the role of English lead, and myself, about our writing curriculum and the teaching of writing. We then went to see it in action. We visited several lessons where we saw some very high quality teaching and learning taking place. We also reviewed children's books and spoke to pupils about their learning. The findings were very positive and are testament to the hardwork of the staff and pupils. We also had short discussions with Mrs Thomas about PE and Mrs Hanshaw about science. Again these were really positive and show the great learning taking place every day in our school. Well done to all the staff and pupils.

Some of our Reception children have been busy this week improving their balance bike skills. We've had Kevin and Brad in every day teaching the children how to ride safely and skilfully through the Balance Bikeability programme. The children who have taken part have loved it!

As well as celebrating our weekly learning heroes this week, we also celebrated the children who managed to achieve 100% attendance for the Spring term. There were 43 children from across the school. Each child received an attendance pencil. There are 16 children who still have 100% attendance for the whole school year. Very impressive!

As you may have noticed, over the holiday, we have had an external defibrillator cabinet installed on the front of the building.

A huge THANK YOU to R J Weatherly of RJW Electrical, our electrical engineer for installing this free of charge. This will be a great asset for the local community.



Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Best Wishes,
John Mortimer
Head of School

What have we been learning this week?

Reception—Kingfisher and Otter Classes

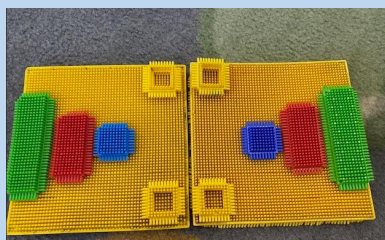
It's been great to see everyone after the Easter break. We started this term with our focus text as "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". We have enjoyed reading the story and we have been writing sentences about 3 new foods which the caterpillar also enjoys. We used the tricky words "I" and "like" to write sentences about these 3 new foods. "I like ham", "I like jam" and also "I like beef".

The children have been learning about symmetry and we have used the primary colours; red, blue and yellow to produce symmetrical butterfly print pictures. We also made symmetrical models in our construction areas.

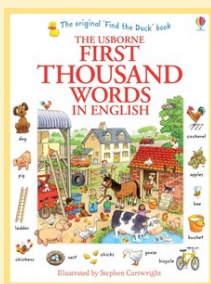
We used non-fiction books to learn about the life cycle of moths and butterflies and we have been studying our own caterpillars which arrived this week. The caterpillars have their own food source which they will eat and eat until they are big enough to form a chrysalis and begin their transformation into butterflies. A caterpillar has to eat so much in the first part of it's life that it doesn't even sleep it just eats and eats. We have started to notice that our caterpillars have grown already in 1 week. If the children in our classes grew as fast as the caterpillars they would be the size of a bus in just 2 weeks!

We also visited the Secret Garden with photos of common British butterflies and we tried to find as many as we could. We will repeat this visit next month to see if there are any more than this time.

Next week our focus text is "The Bad Tempered Ladybird", which is also written and illustrated by Eric Carle.

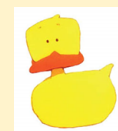


First Thousand Words



The First Thousand Words in English – guidance for parents.

Please make 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

Sport and exercise.

Go to pages 50 and 51. Keeping active is a great way to stay healthy. How many different balls can you count on these pages? Which sports have you tried? Which would you like to try and why? Have you watched any of these on television? Do you support any teams? Draw a picture of a way you like to keep active.

What have we been learning this week?

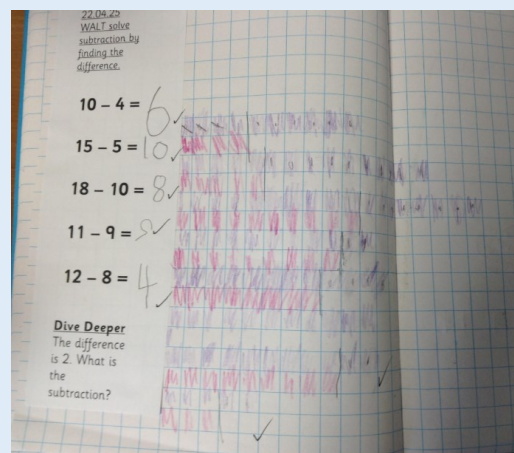
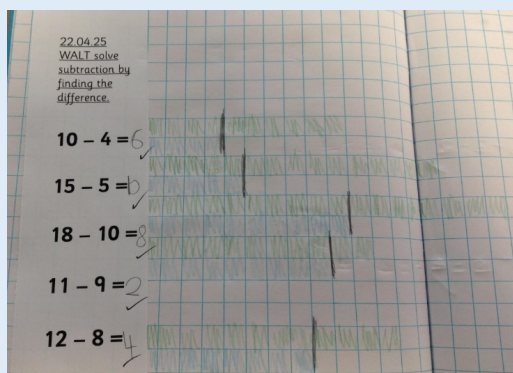
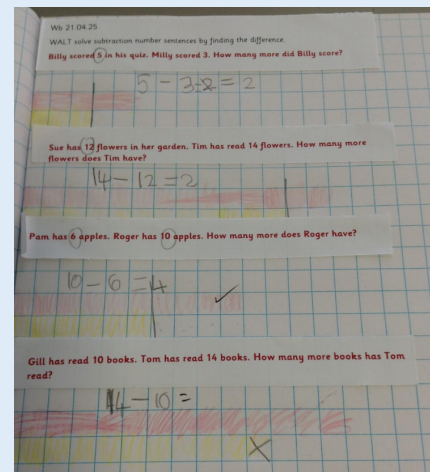
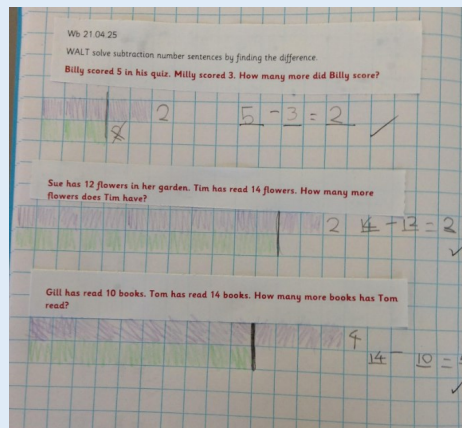
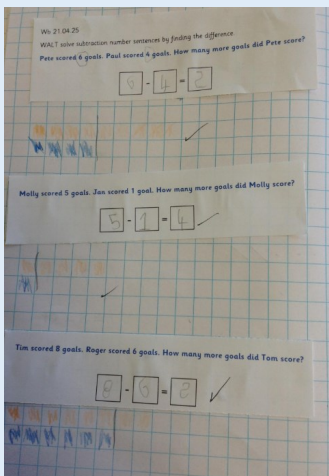
Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

It has been lovely seeing the children back after the Easter holidays. They have all settled back in really well, ready to learn.

In English we have started our new story 'The Storm Whale'. This is about a little boy called Noi who finds a whale washed up on the beach, stranded and in need of help. He takes the whale back to his home and cares for it. As he looks after the whale, Noi forms a great friendship with it, but he soon realises that the whale belongs in the sea and must return home. We have been thinking about the setting of the seaside and describing this. We used our suffix -er in our writing, such as, The waves are louder than a baby crying. The sand is softer than a pillow.

We began our new unit in Jigsaw, all about relationships. We thought about relationships with our families and how all of our families are different.

Our next unit in Science is focused on plants. We started by recognising and naming common plants. The children have all had great ideas and could name a great variety of plants. If you go on a walk with your child, please encourage them to see which flowers and plants they can spot and name.



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.

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.

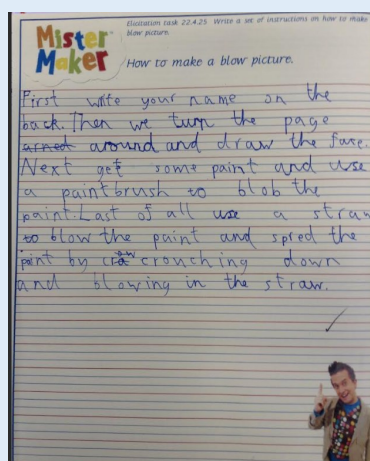
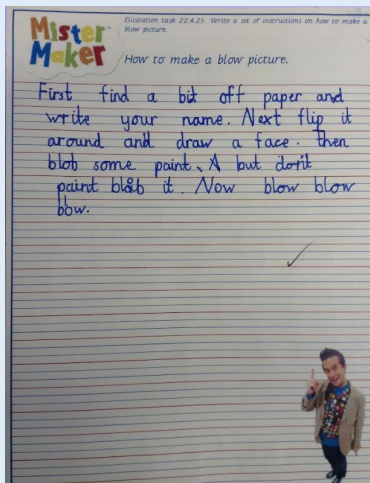
What have we been learning this week?

Year 2 - Fox & Hedgehog classes

This week, the children started learning about writing instructions. To begin with, we learned to make blow pictures from Mr Maker (you can find a video on Youtube). The following day, the children had to write some instructions on how to do it. They made a good first attempt at instruction writing and next week we'll learn more about how to write and organise them. You can see some photos of the blow painting lesson and instructions below.

We also learned how to use the words 'place', 'plonk' and 'throw' instead of 'put'. See if they can use them correctly at home.

We are collecting clean yogurt pots to use in our art lessons. If you have any, please pass them to Mrs Ruddick in Fox class.



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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Be Tick Aware

Enjoy the great outdoors but #betickaware As more outdoor activities take place during the spring and summer it is important to be aware of the risk of ticks to both children and adults. Ticks are more common from spring to autumn and can spread infections like Lyme disease.

Infection rates are three times higher in Devon than the England average. Please take a look at the attached information and advice to help reduce the risk of tick bites, understand the importance of checking for ticks after activities, and what to do if you find a tick bite or experience symptoms. [#betickaware \(UKHSA poster\)](#)



SEND

Below is a link to a SEND Family Beach and Nature Day. It is on Saturday 7th June at 10.00 in Croyde. To book a free place please follow the link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/send-family-beach-and-nature-day-tickets-1285810025399>

Sporting & creative achievements



Ivy moved up in swimming from stage 1 to stage 2. What a great skill to have. Well done Ivy.



Opal 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.

Attendance - Every Day Counts!

Our aim is for all children to have attendance of at least 96%.

Our attendance this week is 96.07%. Our attendance this school year is 94.2%

This week 156 children have 100% attendance.

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

Why is attendance so important?

According to the Department for Education's data:

Pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to develop positive relationships with peers and teachers, enhancing their overall emotional resilience and mental health.

Regular school attendance fosters a sense of belonging and connection within the school community.

Pupils who consistently attend school are more likely to pursue higher education and ultimately secure better employment opportunities.

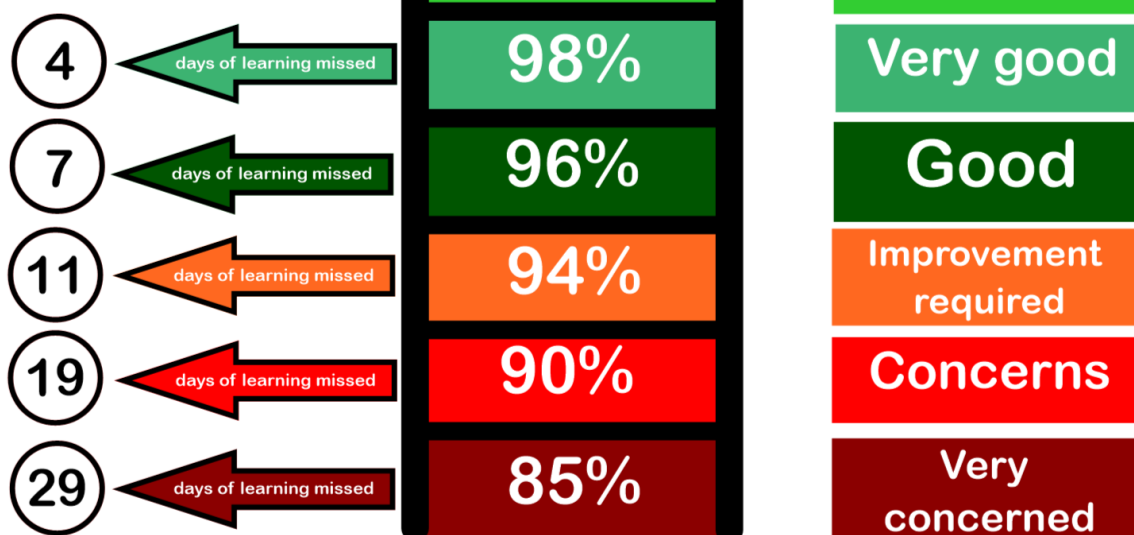
Higher attendance rates lead to improved academic performance, as pupils have more opportunities to learn, join discussions and receive feedback from teachers.

Pupils with good attendance records are more likely to achieve better grades.

Pupils who are chronically absent are more likely to feel isolated and disengaged as well as being at higher risk of not continuing their education after secondary school.

Pilton Infant's School - Attendance Ladder

In a school year, this equates to:



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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

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2025—school is Closed

Children finish for Half-term - Friday 23rd May 2025

Children return to school - Tuesday 2nd June 2025

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

Wednesday 30th April—Year 2 Tennis Festival.

Friday 2nd May—Year 1 Swimming lessons start—Owl Class 2nd, 9th 16th & 23May & 6th June.

Squirrel Class 13th, 20th, 27th June, 4th & 11th July.

Tuesday 20th May—Reception Quince Honey Farm Trip.

Thursday 12th June—Class photos with Tempest.

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	Reception + Y1
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.