



Newsletter

Pilton Infants' Academy

Abbey Road, Pilton, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX31 1JU T: 01271 342579

admin@piltoninfants.school www.teamacademytrust.com



Learning for Life

Friday 2nd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, what a scorcher this week has been! The temperatures have felt more like mid-August than the end of April. The children have been enjoying the sunny weather although in the middle of the week we were making full use of the shade on the field and the secret garden during lunchtime play. Hats, drink bottles and suncream applied are all essential as we move into the summer months.

Our assembly this week focussed on how we could be like our learning heroes Carrie Caring and Timmy Teamworker at lunchtimes through everyone helping to tidy up, making sure everyone is included in games and taking care of the young trees we have growing on the field.

I was very fortunate to accompany Year 2 to Tarka Tennis, on Wednesday, for a tennis festival organised by Pilton Community College for some of the local primaries. The children worked around a number of different activity stations developing their skills for tennis. The children had a great time, represented the school brilliantly and there were some excellent skills on display. A big thank you to Mrs Thomas (PE lead), Mrs Haynes and the rest of the Year 2 team for organising the morning. And a big thank you to the parent volunteers who came and helped.

Year 1 swimming has started today with Owl Class' first visit. There was lots of excitement and a few nerves but they had a good first session and we hope to see lots of progress with their skills and confidence over the next few weeks. Again thank you to Mrs Thomas for organising this and the parent helpers who make it possible. Swimming is an incredibly important life skill, particularly in North Devon where we are surrounded by water, it's important that the children start learning early.

Looking ahead to the rest of the term, the year group teams are busy finalising plans for trips, visits, transition and other events. We have also agreed our dates for our Sportsday afternoon to which parents are invited. We have one Sportsday per year but like to have a couple of back-up dates just in case the weather is not on our side. The dates are:

- Wednesday 4th June - Sportsday first choice
- Wednesday 2nd July - Sportsday first reserve
- Wednesday 16th July - Sportsday second reserve

Finally, today is Miss Willson's last day with us as an MTA. She has worked at the school for the past year but is now moving on to a new job. We wish her all the best and thank her for all her hardwork.

I hope you all enjoy another long weekend. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

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

We've enjoyed the lovely weather this week. Our focus text this week is "The Bad Tempered Ladybird". We have been potato printing onto ladybird templates. We thought carefully about making our designs symmetrical in colour, shape and position.

In Writing Club we practised the tricky words "have" and "some".

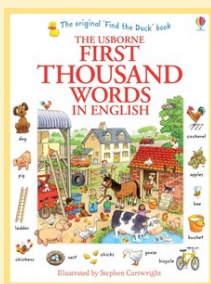
In Maths Club we learnt that the numbers 6-9 are made from "5 and a bit". For example "7 is made from 5 and 2", "6 is made from 5 and 1". We have been using 10s frames to organise groups of objects.

Our caterpillars have grown a lot this week, at least doubling in size. We think they will begin their transformations soon.

Next week our focus text is "The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch". We will be learning about lighthouses, including why they were built and the history behind them.

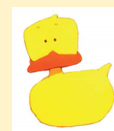


First Thousand Words



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

Colours and Shapes.

Go to page 52. Pick a colour or shape. Can you find anything that is the same shape or colour in the book? In your house? Take a picture (or draw a picture) of all the things you collected

What have we been learning this week?

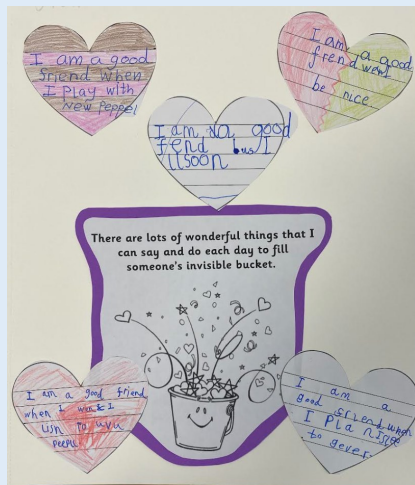
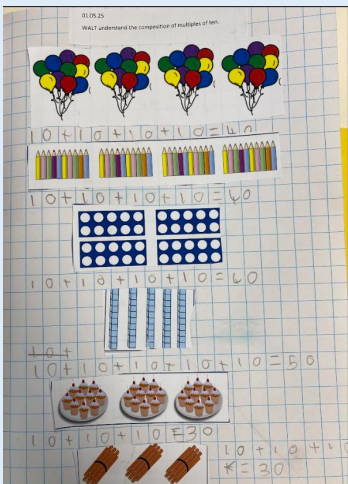
Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

We have been enjoying our English learning on 'The Storm Whale' and the children were excited to read 'The Storm Whale in Winter', which follows on from the first book. We have continued practising using -ed word endings to write the opening part of The Storm Whale, such as, I walked to the sandy beach and spotted a whale washed up on the sand.

During Jigsaw, we talked about what being a good friend means to us. A good friend is someone who is kind, shares, and listens to you, whether you're happy or feeling sad. Sometimes, friends might argue or disagree, but that's okay! If there's a problem, it's important to talk about it calmly and listen to each other. The children all came up with ideas for how they are a good friend and enjoyed making each other smile by giving compliments.

We also read the book 'Have you filled a bucket today?' which talks about how we each have an imaginary bucket. If you do or say something kind, it fills up your bucket as well as the person you are being kind to. However, if you are unkind you take happiness out of someone else's bucket and your own bucket.

In Maths, we are learning about the place value of numbers to 50, including how many tens and ones are in each number. We have learnt to count in 10s and discussed that the first number indicates how many tens are in the number, such as, 40 is made from 4 lots of 10. The children spotted patterns when counting in 10s, such as, they all end in a 0.



Number	Draw	+	Number of 10s	Number of 1s
10	0	0	There are 1 10s	There are 0 1s
20	0 0	$10 + 10 = 20$	There are 2 10s	There are 0 1s
30	0 0 0	$10 + 10 + 10 = 30$	There are 3 10s	There are 0 1s
40	0 0 0 0	$10 + 10 + 10 + 10 = 40$	There are 4 10s	There are 0 1s
50	0 0 0 0 0	$10 + 10 + 10 + 10 + 10 = 50$	There are 5 10s	There are 0 1s

What do you notice? 12345 00000



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.

What have we been learning this week?

Year 2 - Fox & Hedgehog classes

This week we enjoyed a trip to Tarka Tennis for a festival with other schools. We had leaders from Pilton Community college to support us with our tennis skills. We did really well to help one another and work as a team. We had a great attitude and gave a good impression of Pilton Infants' School.

In Maths we have continued our work on money. We were given a ten pound budget and some prices of food and we had to decide what to do. We had to make decisions on how many of each product we could buy and how many each child would get. We were great at negotiation and decision making!! Next week we will begin to look at fractions. Have a look this week at finding half of objects and amounts!

During Art we were potato printing! We learnt how to whittle a potato into shape and create patterns and colours just like Orla Kierly. They look so lovely and colourful!

We are looking for donations of things for our art lessons. We need patterned wallpaper (where the pattern is raised) for print making and clean, empty yogurt pots for painting.

If you are able to donate these, please drop them in to classes next Tuesday for attention of Mrs Ruddick in Year 2.

Thank you!



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.

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.

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



Joshua received his Chief Scout Acorn on Sunday at the scouts St George's Day parade and was presented in front of hundreds of people! He's worked so hard over the last 18 months to achieve all his badges and has now received the highest honour in squirrels! He also got picked to be the flag bearer for his section too!

Joshua you look so smart in your uniform.
Well done



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.

Attendance - Every Day Counts!

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

Our attendance this week is 93.6%. Our attendance this school year is 94.18%

This week 143 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.

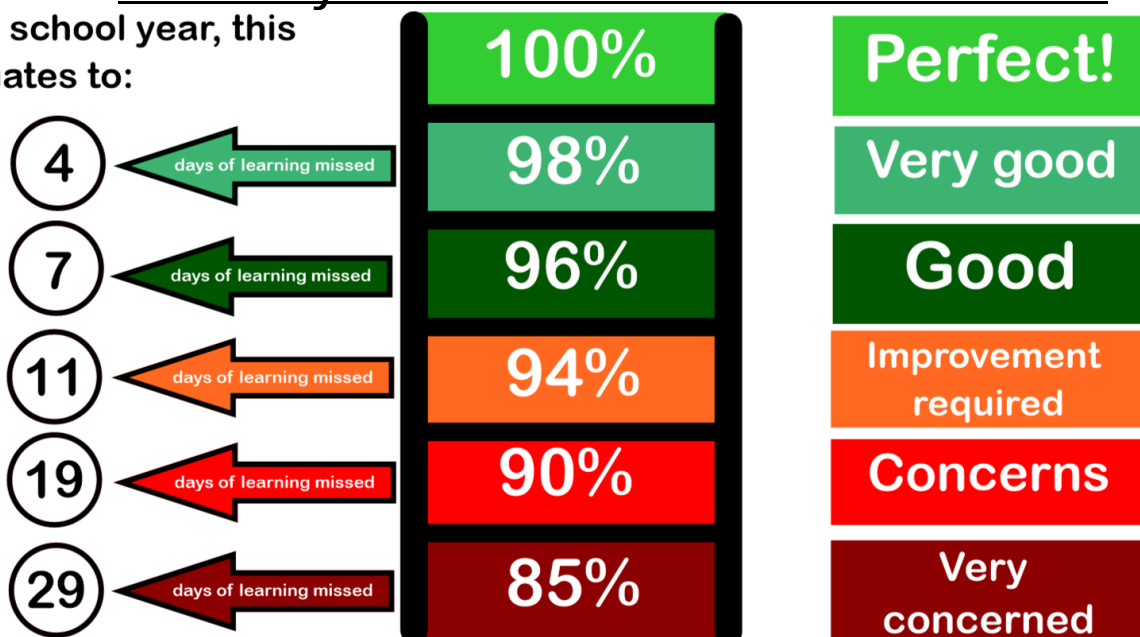
Higher attendance rates lead to improved academic performance, as pupils have more opportunities to learn, join discussions and receive feedback from teachers.

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:



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.

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

Year 1 Swimming lessons —Owl Class 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.