



# Newsletter

**Pilton Infants' Academy**

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## **Learning for Life**

Friday 23rd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredible week we have had to finish this short but action packed half-term. The Reception classes had an amazing trip to Quince Honey Farm on Tuesday... they were buzzing! Poor jokes aside, they had a brilliant day with some fantastic experiences and learning. They also behaved impeccably and were a real credit to themselves and the school. Staff from the Honey Farm commented on what a wonderful group they were.

Also, on Tuesday we had the Year 1 children at Pilton Community College in the morning for a Multiskills Festival. They joined lots of other Year 1 children from across Barnstaple. Again, the children represented the school and themselves brilliantly well. They got stuck in, worked hard and thoroughly enjoyed their morning. A huge thank you to the staff and parent volunteers involved in both trips for making them happen. These experiences are so important for the children.

In amongst all of this, we've also, finally, had our Ofsted inspection this week. Our last inspection was fourteen years ago, so we've been waiting a while! The call came through on Monday and the inspectors were in school on Tuesday and Wednesday. We have to wait for the official report to be published in a few weeks to share the results with you, but we're really pleased with the outcomes.

I'm supremely proud of the children and the staff who really stepped up and showed off to the inspection team what Pilton Infants' is all about - a passionate team of staff who are dedicated to helping our children be the best they can be. Not only academically, which of course is important, but also in developing their personal and social skills and supporting the development of those core learning values of teamwork, compassion, creativity, determination and resilience which set them up as learners for life with a strong moral compass. The Year 2 children who spoke to the inspectors really impressed them with their knowledge, understanding and respect for equality, fairness and different beliefs.

A huge thank you, as well, to you the parents for your support. To those that spoke to inspectors or completed the parent survey - the overwhelming feeling from this was one of positivity which demonstrates your trust and belief in the school. But also, to all of you, for your ongoing support for your children and the school.

The inspection also highlighted the positive impact that joining TEAM has had on the school. The way the senior leadership team support the school and the staff is incredible and the strong links we have with Pilton Bluecoat were really evident.

We wish you all a fantastic half-term break and look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 3rd June.

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

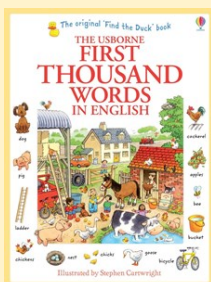
We have had a very exciting week. Our trip to the Honey Farm was brilliant. We took part in 4 different workshops. We dressed up as bees and learnt lots of facts about bees and how they communicate with each other. Then we went to the bee hives and Caroline from the Honey Farm dressed in her bee keeper clothing so she could take out some of the frames from inside the hive. All of the children got to hold the frame through the protective glass and we were amazed by how heavy the honey was in each frame. Then we had a honey tasting session with Marie. She showed us how to remove the wax caps from each honey cell so we could taste the fresh honey straight from the hive. We then had 4 different types of honey to taste and used our senses to look, smell and taste the different honey types to see which one we liked the best. We had a picnic lunch in the play area and had some time to play together before the afternoon workshops. In the afternoon we learnt about seeds and we planted them ready to take back to school. We also had a scavenger hunt around the garden. We had to find lots of different plants and animals.

Back at school we completed lots of bee crafts and wrote to the Honey Farm to let them know what we enjoyed about the trip.

We hope you have a good half term break from school and we are looking forward to hearing all about your adventures when we return to school on Tuesday 3rd June. We have celebrated all of the children this week for the excellent way they represented the school on our trip and also the way they made our special visitors feel very welcome this week.

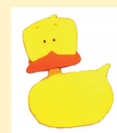


## **First Thousand Words**



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

#### **Prepositions 2**

This week, practice the prepositions in and behind. Go through the book and ask the following types of questions. What is in the washing machine? What is behind the door? Then ask your child to find specific things. E.g. Ask "where is the duck?" and they have to answer correctly using our in or behind. Encourage them to answer in full sentences. E.g. The rubbish is **in** the bin.

## What have we been learning this week?

### Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

This week, in Year 1 we have consolidated our geographical field skills by using the cardinal compass points for north, east, south and west to create a simple route on a map. The children were able to use these to create their own routes to get from a start position to an allocation on a map.

During Maths we looked at counting in 2s. We decided it would be efficient and easy for different contexts, like counting our socks. We have had lots of practice and have spotted that when we count in 2s our numbers must end in 2, 4, 6, 8 and 0.

In English we wrote about our favourite foods, saying which we love and like. We have secured our spelling of these key tricky words. Please continue to practice your tricky word spelling in your child's reading diary as it makes a big difference to their writing and reading skills.

In computing we learned how to add capital letters to our writing by using the shift key. This aided us in recapping our knowledge of capital letters in sentences. We used these to write a missing poster of our teddy bear called Ted.

On Tuesday, we all crossed the road to Pilton Community College for our multiskills event. There were over 200 children from different schools around Barnstaple and each event was hosted by the Year 7 sports leaders. The children were beautifully behaved. They listened to the sports leaders and all tried really hard with all the activities. They were exceptional Timmy Team Workers and Carly Can Dos and represented Pilton Infants really well.



## **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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## What have we been learning this week?

### Year 2 - Fox & Hedgehog classes

What a busy week we've had! Monday was Rainforest Day - the children learned lots of facts about the rainforest, we learned more about Marina Silva in History and the children did some fabulous mono printing.

As you know, we had some important visitors in school and the children did us proud. They were really well behaved and spoke to the inspectors confidently about their learning, behaviour and attitudes. They even taught the inspector something new from their RE lessons! Well done to them all!

Save the date! We are planning a Year 2 trip to Exmoor Zoo on Tuesday 24th June. The trip will cost approximately £13 and more details will follow after half term.

Over half term please try and read with your child. The more confident they are at reading, the easier they will find accessing the curriculum in Year 3. Little and often is the best approach.



Have a lovely half term break.



## **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>



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## Attendance - Every Day Counts!

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

Our attendance this week is 92.32%. Our attendance this school year is 94.04%

This week 141 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.**

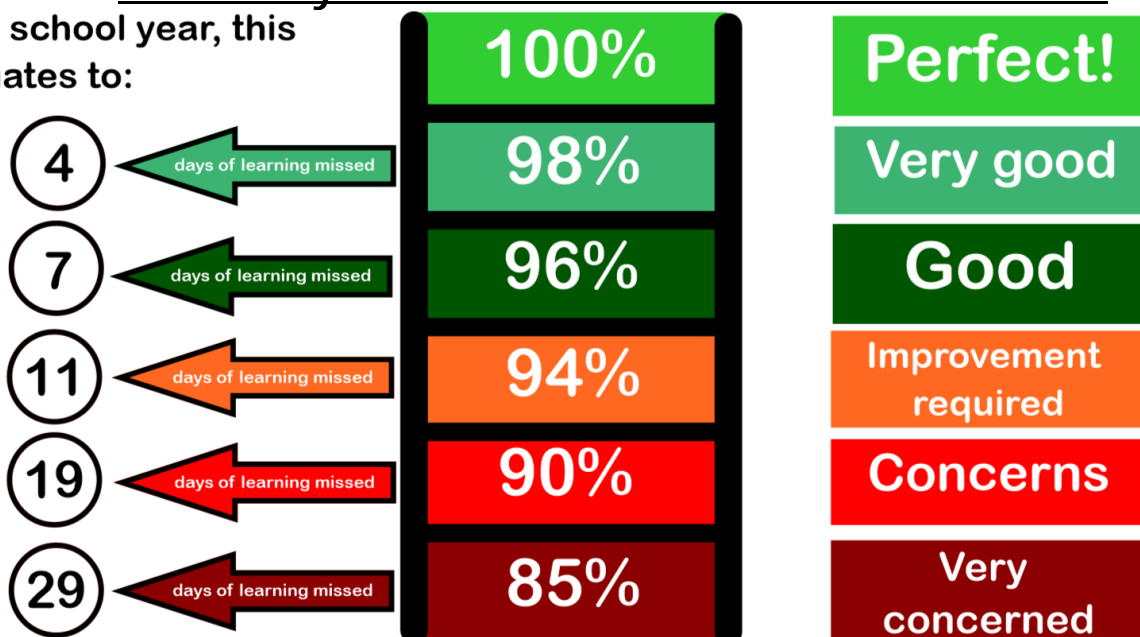
**Higher attendance rates lead to improved academic performance, as pupils have more opportunities to learn, join discussions and receive feedback from teachers.**

**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

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

Children return to school - Tuesday 3rd 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 6th June. Squirrel Class 13th, 20th, 27th June, 4th & 11th July.

Wednesday 4th June—Sports Day—Starting at 2pm on the Pilton Bluecoat field.

Thursday 12th June—Class photos with Tempest.

Tuesday 17th June—Year 1 RNLI/aquarium Trip

Tuesday 24th June—Year 2 Exmoor Zoo Trip

Wednesday 2nd July—Sports day Back-up 1

Wednesday 16th July—Sports day Back-up 2

##### 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 next 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



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

We currently have 1 vacancy available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

Teaching Assistant (Maternity  
Cover) at Pilton Bluecoat Church of  
England Academy.



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