



# Newsletter

**Pilton Infants' Academy**

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## **Learning for Life**

Friday 13th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a super week it has been here at school, filled with fantastic learning, hard work and proud moments!

Firstly, a huge well done to our brilliant Year 1 children, who have shown determination and focus during their Phonics Screening Check this week. The early indications are really encouraging and reflect children and staff's hard work and dedication across the Year. We're incredibly proud of them all. We'll be sharing individual results with you in due course—thank you for your continued support at home too.

On Monday, a small group of Year 2 pupils enjoyed their first visit to Caffyn's Farm. They had a wonderful time exploring and learning, and they represented our school beautifully. They have three more sessions to look forward to. These experiences are really rich and support pupils' personal and social development.

Another highlight this week has been the start of our Year 2 and Year 5 Buddy Programme. This is such a special part of the children's transition to Pilton Bluecoat. Every Year 2 child is paired with a buddy from Year 5, who will continue supporting them next year as they move into Year 3. It's always encouraging to see the older children taking on this role with such care and kindness. They still remember when they were a Year 2 moving up. We know this connection really helps our Year 2s feel more confident and excited about the move ahead.

Despite the downpours, our class photos went ahead on Thursday, and the children looked fantastic—very smart and smiley! We hope you'll be as pleased with the photos as we are. Just a gentle reminder that, for safeguarding reasons, class photos should not be shared on social media.

Squirrel Class had their first swimming session today, and there was a real buzz of excitement! A few first-day nerves were to be expected, but the children took everything in their stride. We can't wait to see how their confidence and skills develop over the coming weeks.

Looking ahead, our Year 1 children are eagerly anticipating their visit to Ilfracombe on Monday. A key part of this trip will be their tour of the RNLI lifeboat station, which ties beautifully into their history curriculum. These hands-on experiences are so valuable—they bring learning to life and help to deepen children's understanding in ways that simply can't be replicated in the classroom.

Finally, we have a new PTFA logo! The winning design has been created by Tilly in Year 2. It was incredibly difficult to choose as the standard of entries was excellent. Well done to all who entered.

Have a lovely 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

This week we've really enjoyed reading 'Oi Frog!' We tried to think of rhyming words for other things. For example "boys sit on toys" and "girls sit on curls". We have been making a lot of frog themed crafts. We made a frog sitting on a log. We practised our cutting skills making a pond picture with frogs and plants.

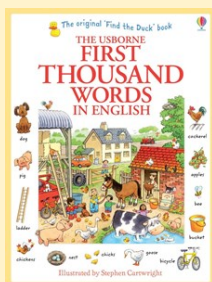
We have been busy with our rekenreks in maths. We have been practising moving the correct number of beads on the rekenrek counting frames.

In Writing Club we wrote sentences with capital letters, finger spaces and a full stop.

Next week we are reading "Rockpools" and we will be learning about the creatures that live in rockpools. We will be thinking about what you need to take on a trip to the beach.

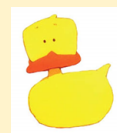


## First Thousand Words



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

#### Uh-oh moments!

Go through the book and find the uh-oh moments –when things have gone wrong. Ask your child to explain what's happening/ what's gone wrong. E.g. on pages 16 and 17: The boy has got his kite tangled up. The boy's boat has fallen over in the pond. What's the funniest uh-oh moment in the book?

## What have we been learning this week?

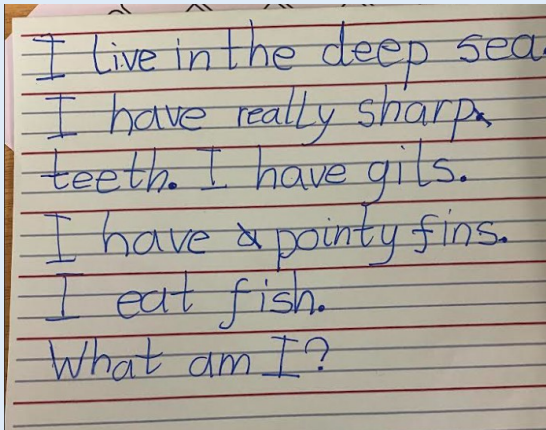
### Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

This week, all of Year 1 have completed their phonics quizzes. They all did really well and we are very proud of them. We don't receive the pass mark until the end of June so will let you know if your child passed with their end of year reports.

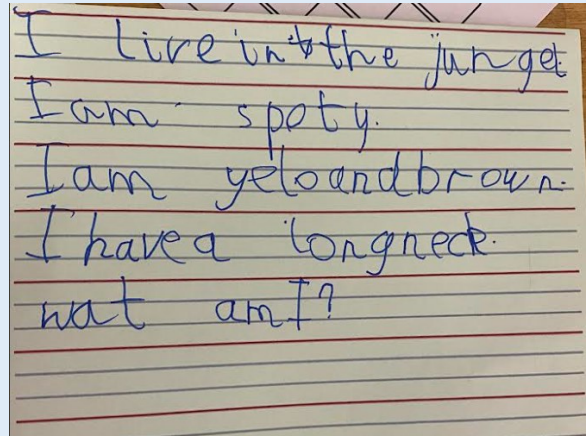
This week in English we wrote riddles about animals. We worked really hard to go from a vague clue to an obvious one. The riddles are really exciting to read and show the children's understanding of description well.

In Maths, we looked at showing groups using an array. We put counters in rows or columns to neatly present it. We read number stories and represented the groups in arrays to find the total. We found the total by counting in our 2s, 5s or 10s to be efficient mathematicians.

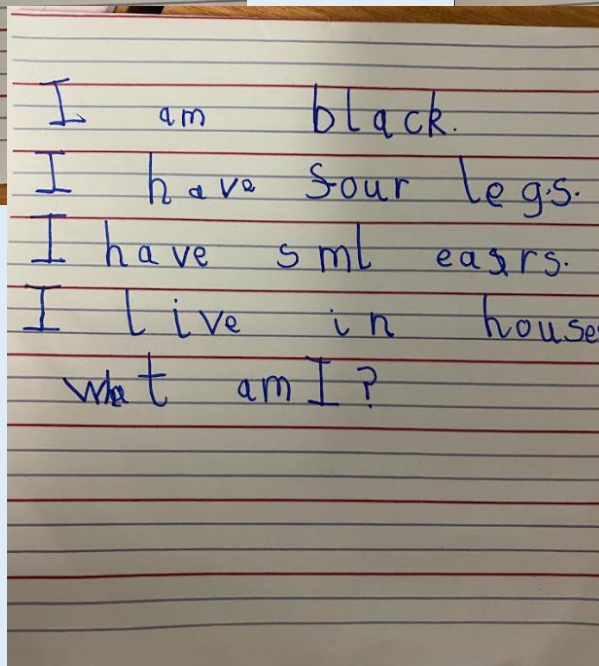
In History, we began looking at the history of the RNLI and we are very excited for our trip on Monday. We will learn more about their role and their history throughout the topic.



I live in the deep sea.  
I have really sharp  
teeth. I have gills.  
I have pointy fins.  
I eat fish.  
What am I?



I live in the jungle.  
I am spoty.  
I am yellow and brown.  
I have a long neck.  
What am I?



I am black.  
I have four legs.  
I have small ears.  
I live in houses.  
What am I?

## **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

**\*Important date\*** Next Wednesday is our junk modelling day - the children can come to school in old clothes that can get messy and covered in glue/paint! We are looking for donations of old newspapers please.

We have been reading and writing about The Tin Forest in class. We decided, because we've been learning about plastic pollution, to rewrite the story as The Plastic Forest. This week, the children used pictures of plastic items to design their own forest filled with British animals (see attached).

Next week, we will use real plastic to make models. Thanks to everyone for your donations of plastic. Well done to Timmy who made this fantastic model of a fox. We are feeling very inspired!



**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.*

Mountain Warehouse discount voucher



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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 95.26%. Our attendance this school year is 94.07%

This week 150 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.**

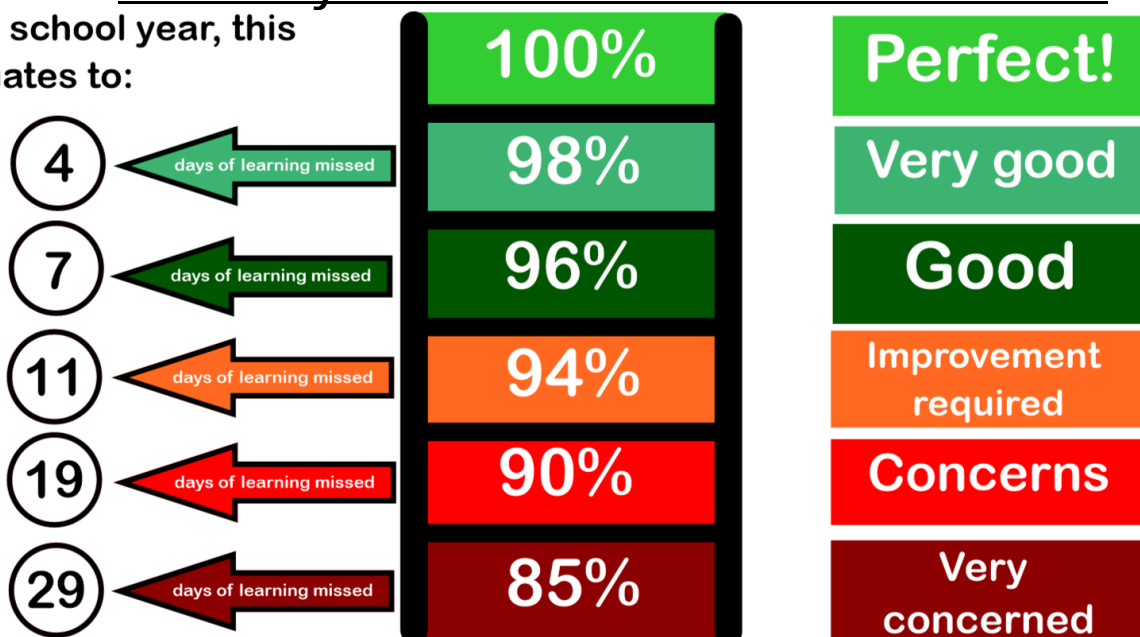
**Higher attendance rates lead to improved academic performance, as pupils have more opportunities to learn, join discussions and receive feedback from teachers.**

**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 Summer– Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Children return to school - Thursday 4th September 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 —Squirrel Class 20th, 27th June, 4th & 11th July.

Monday 16th June—Year 1 RNLI/aquarium Trip

Tuesday 24th June—Year 2 Exmoor Zoo Trip

Wednesday 2nd July—Sports day—Starting at 2pm on the Pilton Bluecoat field.

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 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



Working in partnership with  
 **UMBERLEIGH**  
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Life, Love and Learning to the Full*

Part of **TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST**

APPLY NOW DIRECT WITH 

For more information and how to apply directly with My New Term please visit our website

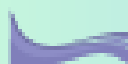
<https://www.teamacademytrust.com/vacancies> or <https://mynewterm.com>

We currently have 7 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

**PLAYWORKER: AFTER SCHOOL CLUB at Horwood and Newton Tracey Community Primary School.**



**Early Years Playworker: After School Club at Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy POST 1**



**Meal Time Assistant at Umberleigh Primary Academy.**



**Early Years Playworker: After School Club at Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy POST 2**



**1.1 SEND Teaching Assistant at Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy**



**0.44 FTE EYES CLASSROOM TEACHER at Umberleigh Primary Academy.**



**1 FTE CLASSROOM TEACHER (SUITABLE FOR EARLY CAREER TEACHERS) at Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy.**

