



Newsletter

Pilton Infants' Academy

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Learning for Life

Friday 20th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

A couple of scorching days to end the week. We've been working hard to keep the children cool and hydrated whilst at the same time enjoying the lovely weather outside. The Secret Garden has certainly been well used this week.

The Year 1 children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Ilfracombe on Monday. They visited the Aquarium to learn about some of our local marine wildlife. They also visited the Ilfracombe lifeboat station. This is an integral part of our history curriculum for the term, learning about the history of the RNLI and the Lynmouth Lifeboat story. A huge thank you to the Year 1 team for organising the trip and to the parent helpers who accompanied them for the day.

On Tuesday evening we had our final Local Governing Body meeting of this academic year. We discussed the successes and challenges of this year as well as planning ahead for the next academic year. It was the final meeting for Brian Holme, who has been a governor, and previously was the chair of governors, for the past five or so years. Brian has given a huge amount of time and energy to the school and we thank him for his support.

Also, at the Local Governing Body meeting, we discussed our recent Ofsted visit and report and I was very pleased to be able to share this with you all this week. We've been waiting a long long time for Ofsted to visit, so it was really pleasing to finally have it happen and get the result we feel reflects our school.

On Thursday we had an attendance review with our Attendance Improvement Officer. Our attendance continues to sit slightly below the national average for primary schools. As we move towards the end of the academic year, it is incredibly important to maintain those good attendance habits so that the children are ready to continue them in September. Thank you for all your support in getting the children to school on time every day.

We have lots to look forward to next week. Year 2 are off to Exmoor Zoo on Tuesday, we have Lisa from Barnstaple Library visiting on Friday and on Thursday afternoon it is the first of our transition afternoons where all children will move up to their new classes. It's very normal for children to have mixed feelings heading into this. However, we hope that after their first visit they'll feel more secure and confident. We're looking forward to meeting the new Reception cohort as well who will also be visiting then.

Hoping you all have a fantastic weekend.

Best Wishes,

John Mortimer
Head of School

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What have we been learning this week?

Reception—Kingfisher and Otter Classes

Our learning this week has been around the text "Rock Pools". We've been busy making finger painting artwork about rockpool creatures. We thought carefully about the colours and patterns we painted.

We started to think about our beach trip, talking about what we will need to take with us. We wrote sentences about this starting with either; "I will need..." or "We will need....".

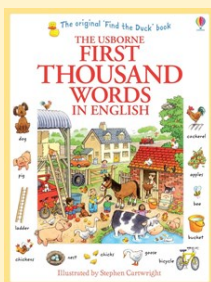
We have been practising our letter formation and making sure we put finger spaces into our sentences.

We continued to use the rekenreks in our maths lessons. This week we have been using both rows on the rekenrek, either moving an equal number of beads or an amount on the bottom row that was "more" than the top row.

Our tuff trays have been turned into rockpools with lots of ocean creatures.



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

I Spy with letter sounds.

Go through the book and play I spy. You can practise some of the letter sounds that your child has been learning in phonics. Make sure you use the letter sound (the sound it makes) rather than the letter name (when you recite the alphabet).

What have we been learning this week?

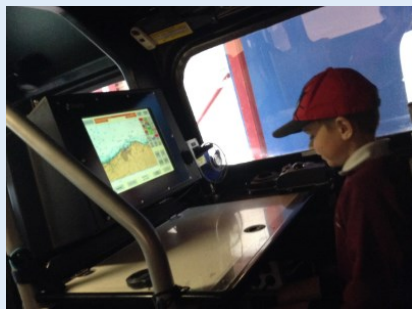
Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

This week Year 1 had an amazing time at RNLI Ilfracombe and Ilfracombe Aquarium. We got to see lots of local sea life and even touched a starfish. We took turns on the different boats and learned about the different job roles within the RNLI. We also practiced getting dressed into waterproofs with life jackets and helmets as quickly as we can just like the RNLI do.

We used our visit to the aquarium to write some fantastic recounts of our trip. Ensuring we spelt key words like saw, went and starfish correctly. The children were so excited by this that we shared some fabulous examples with the aquarium staff.

In maths we have finished our topic on multiplication and division by looking at sharing equally. We know we have shared equally when both groups are the same. At home you can practice sharing different amounts of objects between different groups. For example, share the 10 pencils between 2 people.

In Jigsaw we discussed what it was like being a baby. Thank you to those that brought in baby photos.



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 had a brilliant time making our plastic forest. The children were amazing at working in teams to join plastic, cover it and paint it. We heard lots of conversations with the children negotiating, encouraging one another and helping out. We were very proud of them and their lovely models!

Next week, we are going to Exmoor Zoo. The weather looks hot! Please make sure the children have the following:

- plenty of water to drink
- sun cream applied before they arrive at school
- a sun hat or cap
- shoulders covered (not vest or strappy tops please)
- covered feet (no sandals or flip flops).
- a bag to carry all their things in, including a school packed lunch if you have ordered one.

For parents who are helping - we are aiming to leave around 9:15am. You are welcome to drop off and stay, you will need to sign in with the main office.

Thanks!



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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Gardening Club

Pilton Infants' – How Does Your Garden Grow?

Our Gardening Club has been busy this year, and their hard work has really paid off! As you can see from the photos, they've successfully grown a wonderful selection of vegetables. A big well done to all our little gardeners!



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SEND

Below is a link to a SEND Family Beach and Nature Day. It is on Saturday 28th 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-1405549479329?aff=oddtcreator>



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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 93.93%. Our attendance this school year is 94.07%

This week 139 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.

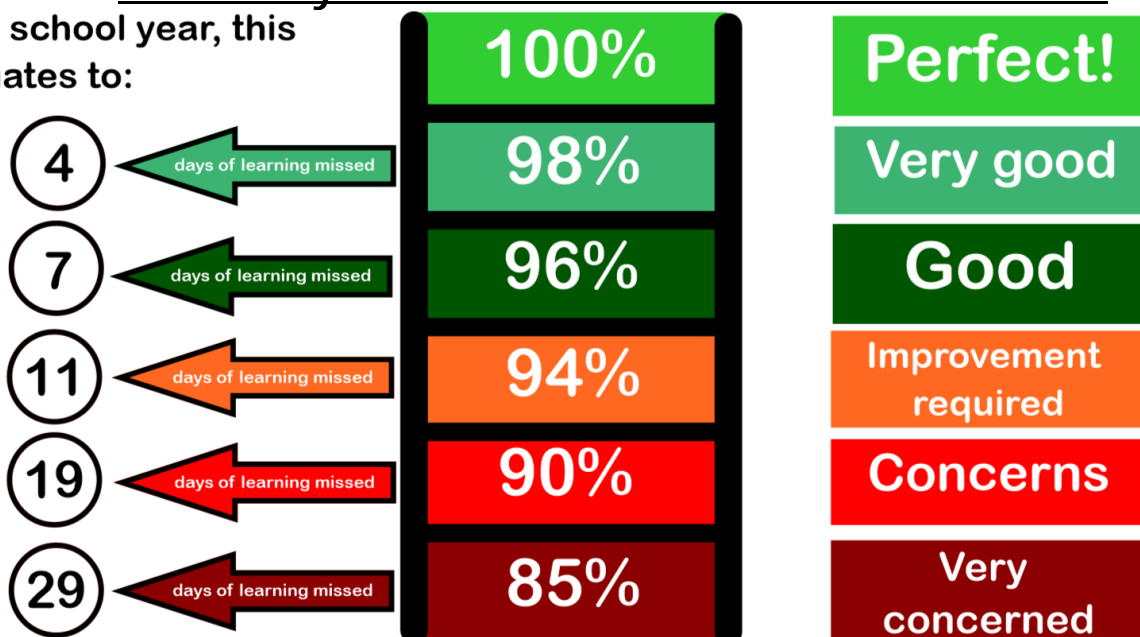
Higher attendance rates lead to improved academic performance, as pupils have more opportunities to learn, join discussions and receive feedback from teachers.

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 27th June, 4th & 11th July.

Tuesday 24th June—Year 2 Exmoor Zoo Trip.

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

Wednesday 9th July— Reception—Beach Trip to Saunton Sands.

Tuesday 15th July—Year 2 Parents Evening.

Wednesday 16th July—Sports day Back-up 2

Wednesday 16th July—Year 1 & Reception Parents evenings.

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



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

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

Meal Time Assistant at
Pilton Bluecoat Church of
England Academy



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