



# Newsletter

**Pilton Infants' Academy**

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

[admin@piltoninfants.school](mailto:admin@piltoninfants.school) [www.teamacademytrust.com](http://www.teamacademytrust.com)



## Learning for Life

Friday 27th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we had our first Monday assembly for a few weeks. The topic was Stranger Danger - Safe Not Scared! We discussed that a stranger is someone that we don't know and although most people are kind and friendly, we have to be careful with people we don't know. We shared some simple rules around: not accepting gifts from strangers, not leaving with a stranger and always saying 'No' and seeking a trusted adult for help.

Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Exmoor Zoo on Tuesday. It was a bit damp and drizzly at times but the children and staff really enjoyed the day and learned some interesting facts about the animals there. A big thank you to the staff for organising another wonderful trip and the parent helpers who were able to support the day.

This week the children have been undertaking some quizzes in Year 1 and Year 2. These are our termly assessments which help feed into our overall assessments of the children's progress and identify next steps for their next year.

Thursday was an exciting afternoon as the children moved up to their classes for next year and met the staff and their new classmates. There were some nerves and excitement beforehand but the afternoon went really well and we look forward to our second transition afternoon on Tuesday. It was also wonderful to meet our new Reception children who will be joining us in September. It was their first transition visit. We can't wait to see them again next week!

The Year 2 children enjoyed their visit to Pilton Bluecoat. Unfortunately, Mr Harts (Head of School, Pilton Bluecoat) has been unwell lately and has been in and out of hospital a few times. He's hoping to be back in school just before the end of term but sends his apologies that he is missing all of the transition events. He would love to be in school meeting the Year 2 children and families. We wish him a speedy recovery.

We will be holding our celebration assembly for this week on Monday morning as this afternoon we had Lisa from Barnstaple Library visit to tell the children all about this year's summer reading challenge. The theme is Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors. It's free to take part and the library is a great place to visit with the children during the summer holidays.

Finally this week, a big thank-you to Fullabrook CIC who provided us with a grant to buy lots of wellington boots to help us keep using the field and secret garden all year round. What a lot of wellies!

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.*

Fullabrook CIC  
Funding Local Community Projects



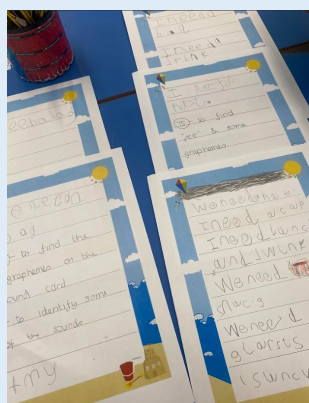
## What have we been learning this week?

### Reception—Kingfisher and Otter Classes

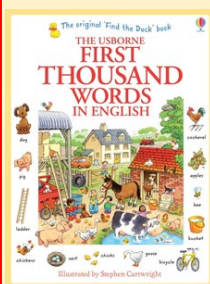
It's been a very busy week for us. The children visited their new classes this week and met the teachers and teaching assistants who will be working with them in Year One. The children came back from the visits in a very excited mood. It's been a year full of growth and progress and the children are ready to continue their learning journeys in Year One from September.

Back in class we have been reading the story "Oi Frog", concentrating on rhyming words. We have also continued with the rock pool theme in anticipation of our trip to the beach on the 9th of July. We have been painting fish, making collage fish and enjoying our small world rock pools in the tuff trays. We have been looking at photographs of tropical fish too, learning about the different colours and patterns they can have.

Next week we will be practising our Sports Day skills, to get ready for Sports Day on Wednesday. The children will also visit their new classes again on Tuesday afternoon.



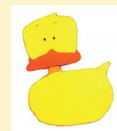
## **First Thousand Words**



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

#### Making predictions.

Choose a couple of pages and talk about what you think might happen next. Children can be reluctant to guess for fear of getting something wrong so model different guesses and show that it's ok to have different ideas. E.g. on pages 10 and 11, you might say "I think the boy is going to get into trouble for sneaking into the shed." Your child might say "I think the boy is going to make something out of wood," Both are good predictions.

*where all children reach their potential and create the building blocks for future success.*

## What have we been learning this week?

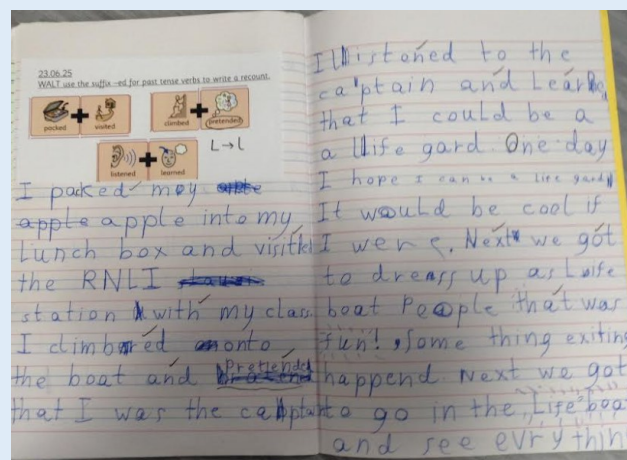
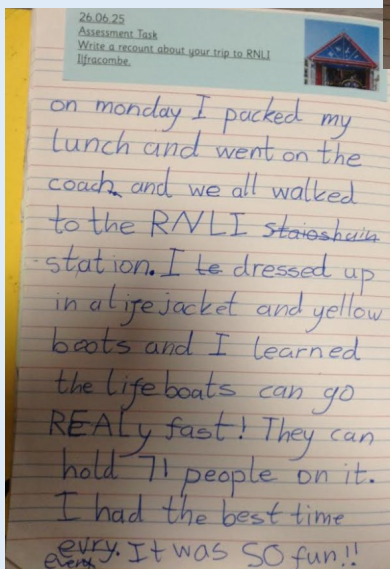
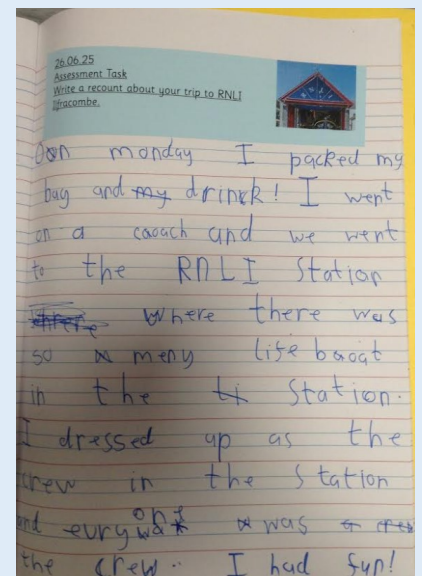
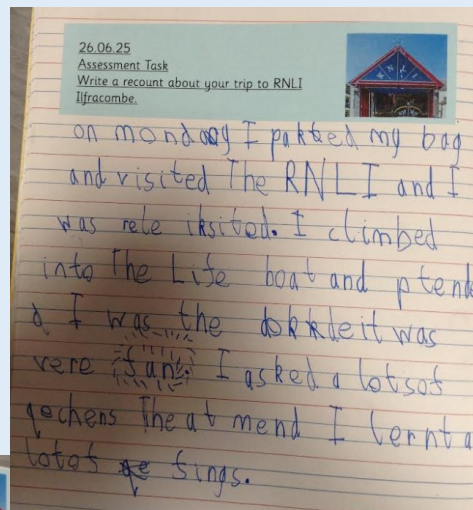
### Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

This week in Year 1 we have recapped past tense verbs and using -ed endings. We used these to write a recount of our trip to the RNLI. We worked on adding in extra details to our writing, for example, how we got there, what we ate, how we felt etc. This will make it more exciting for our reader.

In maths, we looked at the value of different coins and how we could pay for different amounts using a combination of these. We could buy something from the shop for 4p using 2p and 2p or using 1p and 1p and 1p and 1p. The children really challenged themselves to find the way that uses the most or least amount of coins.

History this week had us comparing the differences between past and present RNLI centres. We looked at how their equipment and their buildings have changed by using photographs from past and present.

As part of our PSHE learning we have been learning about our bodies and how we change as we grow. This week we also looked at the difference between boys and girls bodies using the vocabulary of penis and vagina.



## 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 have had lots of exciting trips out. We enjoyed our trip to Exmoor Zoo and we learnt a lot about the animals. We had a talk from the zookeepers about the different animal categories. We also learnt about what they ate and how they adapted to their environments.

We also enjoyed meeting our new class teacher. As a reminder Fox Class' new teacher is Mrs Dadswell and Hedgehog Class' new teacher is Mr Hick. They were very impressed with how well the children behaved in their new classes. They will be visiting Bluecoat again next Tuesday.

In maths we have been doing quizzes. The children have worked really hard this year and their scores match that!

Next week we will continue to work on measurement and weights. If you have a chance at home, have a go at making or baking something using weighing scales!



## **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.*

## Useful links, webinars and books for parents from the Esteem Team

### Free parent information sessions:

#### COMMUNICATION & INTERACTION AUTISM WORKSHOPS

Support for Devon parents or carers of children (5-16) who are either on the neurodiversity assessment waiting list or who have received an autism diagnosis.

Sessions are offered 'live' online. To book, email: [educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk](mailto:educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk)

Sensory processing and integration 03.07.25. 9.30am-12pm

Vulnerability and online safety 08.07.25. 10am-12pm

#### REFRAMING AUTISM - AUTISM ESSENTIALS

Autism Essentials is a free, self-paced online course that provides an overview of Autism in a neuro-affirming way. [Reframing Autism course](#)

#### EDUCATION, HEALTH, CARE PLANS EXPLAINED

Wednesday 2nd, July 10-11am

Join Witherslack Group's Parent Partnership Manager, Simone Mattinson for an insightful webinar exploring everything parents and carers need to know about the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process. [Witherslack EHCP event](#)

### Useful Books:

ESTEEM TEAM SUMMER 2025 - If you would like a copy of any of our book lists please email [caraesteem@gmail.com](mailto:caraesteem@gmail.com)

Book lists available:

ADHD (for Parents and Carers)

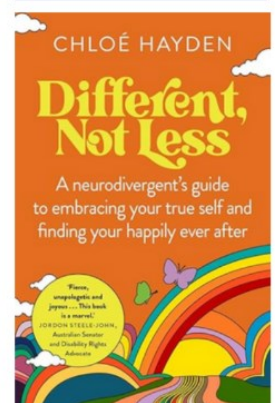
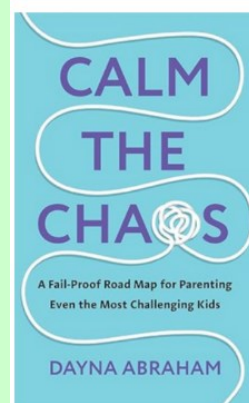
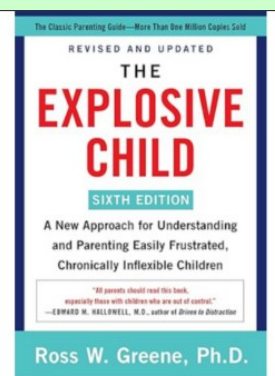
Autism (for Parents and Carers)

Neurodiversity (for Children)

Neurodiversity (for Tweens and Teens)

Demand Avoidance (for Parents and Carers, Young People and Schools)

Burnout (for Parents and Carers, Young People and Schools)



**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.

## Fun with Maths

Have fun with maths at home with your children. Each week we will send home an activity to do at home with your family. We would love to hear how you get on!

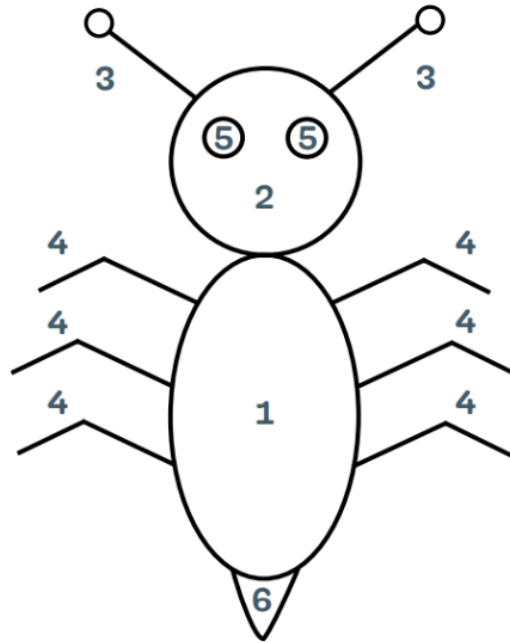
Mrs Haynes (Maths lead)

**Play the game of 'Beetle' by taking turns to throw a die. If you throw a 1, you may draw a body; 2 is for the head; 3 is for two antennae; 4 is for six legs; 5 for the eyes and 6 will give your beetle a tail. First one to finish is the winner.**

Who will be first to complete a beetle? When you have won, you can add a nose and mouth!

Have fun!

**Helpful hints:** Any number of people can play this game; you can make the game harder by saying that you cannot add antennae or legs until you have the head or body. Also you could say that you can only draw a single leg (or eye, or antenna) each time you roll a 4 (or 5, or 3), rather than all of them.



## 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>



## Attendance - Every Day Counts!

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

Our attendance this week is 95.64%. Our attendance this school year is 94.11%

This week 151 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.**

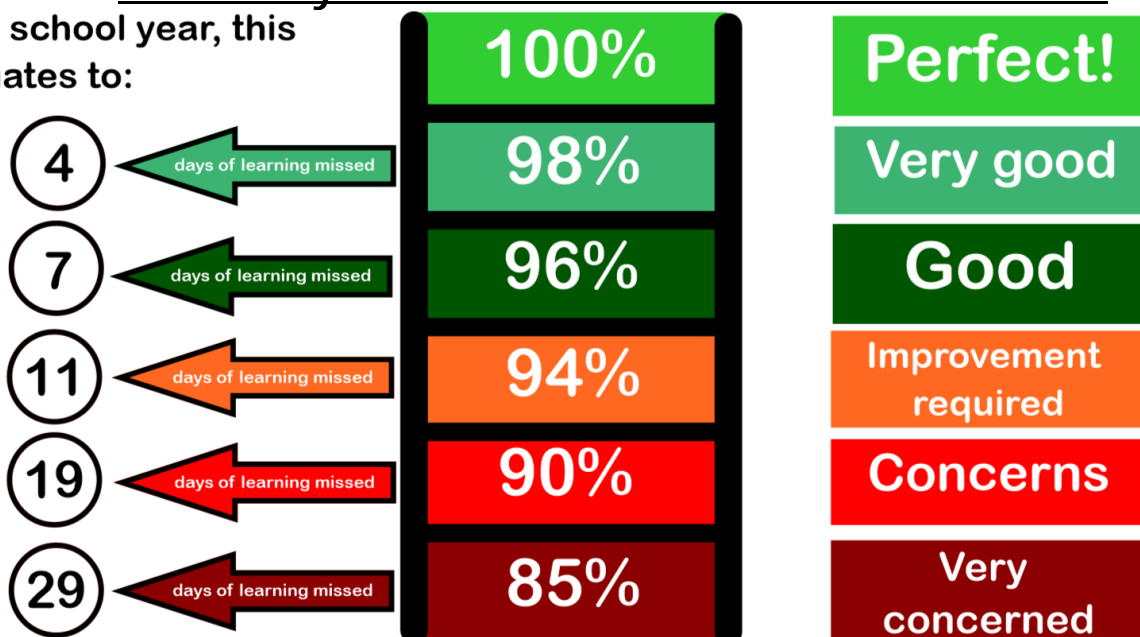
**Higher attendance rates lead to improved academic performance, as pupils have more opportunities to learn, join discussions and receive feedback from teachers.**

**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

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 4th & 11th July.

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—Parents Open Evening. Whole school.

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  
 SWANBRIDGE  
1-48 FORD ROAD



*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 5 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

0.48 FTE Classroom Teacher (Music)  
at Team Multi-Academy Trust

APPRENTICE – EYFS NURSERY  
ASSISTANT at Beafield Community  
Primary & Nursery School

Meal Time Assistant at Pilton  
Bluecoat Church of England  
Academy

Early Years Playworker: After School  
Club at Witheridge Church of England  
Primary Academy (1)

Early Years Playworker: After School  
Club at Witheridge Church of England  
Primary Academy (2)



*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.*