



Newsletter

Pilton Infants' Academy

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Learning for Life

Friday 12th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a really lovely first full week in school. The children are settling in well to their new classes and building relationships with each other and the staff. Our 'All About Me, All About Us' project has been a wonderful way to start the term.

From next week, we'll gradually build into the more regular timetable of learning in each year group and start diving into our topics for the term. We will send out curriculum newsletters early next week with more information on the learning for the term.

Our focus Learning Hero this week has been Carrie Caring. For Year 1 and Year 2, this was the topic of our assembly on Monday, whilst the Reception classes have introduced Carrie Caring in class.

We describe being caring as having a kind heart.

- We look after **people, places and things**.
- We **help** people.
- We **think** about how other people are **feeling**.

We've been spotting and praising lots of pupils for being like Carrie Caring this week.



Along with the newsletter, please find an updated flowchart guide for parents and carers on How to Raise a Concern as well as the latest Parent and Carer Code of Conduct for our trust – TEAM MAT. Schools and families working in partnership to support children is the most effective way to support their growth and development.

Please also find a parent guide to screentime attached. During the year we will regularly send out information on different aspects of online safety, which can be a really challenging area for parents and schools to support pupils with, as things in this area evolve very rapidly. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any queries or concerns and we will do our best to support with this. This week's guide has useful links at the end, on how to set up parental controls on a whole range of devices.

We hope you 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

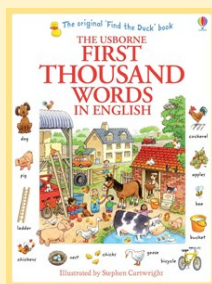
We would like to say a big well done to all of the children for completing their first full week in our Reception classes. We have had a lot of fun in our inside and outside learning areas. We have been learning about self portraits and thinking about what details to add to them. We have been learning how to be a super listener and how to be a super sharer. We have worked together in small groups as well as whole classes.

We have painted a large Kingfisher and a large Otter to display in our classrooms.

Next week the children will start to bring their bookbags home. We start by putting a sharing book in the bookbags and these will be changed weekly. The children start each day by choosing one of the lunch options. It is helpful if you could look at the options for each day with the children at home so they know what to choose. The menu is attached to the newsletter each week.

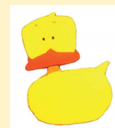


First Thousand Words



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

Pets Challenge

Look at the pets on page 49. Do you have any pets? Which animal would you like as a pet? This week, look through the book find all the different pets in the pictures.

What have we been learning this week?

Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

What a fantastic start to the year we've had in Year 1! We've really enjoyed getting to know the children and helping them settle into their new classroom.

This week, we've been learning all about being part of our class community. We talked about how each of us is an important part of our class, and the children added their handprints to our class owl and squirrel to show how we all belong together.

We also talked about good listening using Mr Potato Head to help us think about what good listening looks like. The children were brilliant at spotting how we can be great listeners and team members.

There's been lots of lovely discussion about working well with our friends and we began exploring the Zones of Regulation to help us understand our feelings. We talked about what we can do if we feel cross or angry and how to help ourselves feel calm again.

The children have all had a super first week and are settling in really well. It's been lovely getting to know them and seeing their confidence grow each day.

Book bags will begin going home next week – we'll send more details soon.



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

This week, we taught the children about the learning pit. This is where we are in the process of learning and we can feel frustrated, confused or stuck. We talked about the different ways you can get yourself out of the pit and that it's a normal part of learning. The teachers shared times they have been in the pit.

Please encourage your child to talk about times that they were in the pit at school and the things they did to try and help. This helps build independence and resilience. Share your own examples too. Please see the image below for more information.

We've also enjoyed listening to 'Chocolate Cake' - a brilliant poem by Michael Rosen. Here's the link to watch at home: [Chocolate Cake | POEM | Kids' Poems and Stories With Michael Rosen](#)
Thank you to those who have already started reading at home with their children. Let us know if you have any questions or issues.



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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Attendance - Every Day Counts!

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

Our attendance this week is 95.21%. Our attendance this school year is 95.54%

This week 142 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.

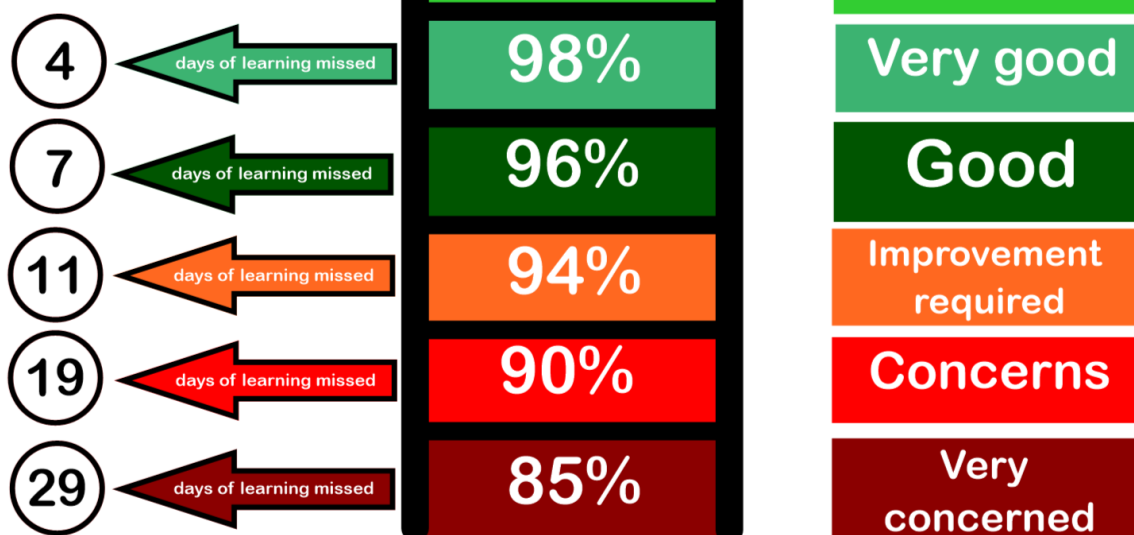
Higher attendance rates lead to improved academic performance, as pupils have more opportunities to learn, join discussions and receive feedback from teachers.

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 Christmas – Friday 19th December 2025

Children return to school - Tuesday 6th January 2026

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

Friday 26th September—Author Visit

Friday 3rd October— Year 2 Swimming starts

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.

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TEAM Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies



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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 1 vacancy available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

Assistant SENDCO at Team Multi-Academy Trust



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