



# Newsletter

**Pilton Infants' Academy**

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## Learning for Life

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a great week in school as the children are really settling in and beginning to get stuck into their learning. We've got Year 1 trips to the farm coming up soon as well as Year 2 swimming, so lots to look forward to.

This week our Year 1 and 2 assembly on Monday was about democracy. We learned that democracy is about fairness and everyone having a say or a vote. We understood that the person or thing that gets the most votes is the one that is chosen. We thought about how that might make you feel a bit disappointed, if the one you voted for didn't win, but that it was fair because everyone has a say. Learning about this was really important because this week each class have chosen their two school councillors via a democratic vote. Our new school council is:

<b>Kingfisher Class</b>	<b>Owl Class</b>	<b>Fox Class</b>
Ceci & Jacob	Frankie & Benjamin	Harriet & Theo
<b>Otter Class</b>	<b>Squirrel Class</b>	<b>Hedgehog Class</b>
Henry & Mila	Mabel & Archie	Milo & Ella H

Well done to everyone who put themselves forward to represent their class. Mrs Haynes is looking forward to the first school council meeting next week.

We have a large amount of coats and jumpers being lost at the minute. The frequent showers and warm weather means children are taking their coats and jumpers off at lunchtimes. Please ensure that all coats, jumpers, cardigans, shoes and drinks bottles are named. It is incredibly difficult and time consuming for staff to be trying to reunite pupils with unnamed lost items. Thank you.

We get signposted to lots of different resources and courses aimed at supporting parents and families as a school. A couple which have arrived recently and maybe helpful are:

[inourplace.co.uk/cornwall-and-devon/](http://inourplace.co.uk/cornwall-and-devon/) - has a range of free NHS online courses focussed on emotional health, child development and parent wellbeing

Caring for a loved one with an eating disorder - Please also find attached a poster for a four part online course

If you would like to talk about any issues or challenges you are having at home, Mrs Smale, our pastoral TA has a weekly parent drop-in session at 3pm on Mondays.

Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

John Mortimer Head of School

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## What have we been learning this week?

### Reception—Kingfisher and Otter Classes

We started our new topic this week; "Heroes". In this topic we will be looking at both real life heroes and fictional super heroes.

This week we read the story "Supertato". We have a Supertato tuff tray to retell the story in class.

We have started our daily phonics sessions and have been playing "What's in the Box?". This is a box in which there are objects and photographs that begin with the same sound. We then play sound-talk games by saying each sound in a word and blend the sounds together.

We have been practising our cutting skills by making superhero stick puppets.

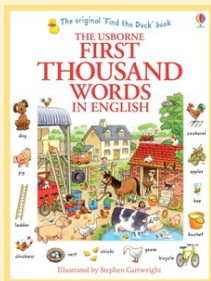
Next week we will begin to make our capes ready to wear at our superhero party. We also begin our daily Writing Club sessions. In these sessions we start by drawing shapes on whiteboards.

Thank you for all of your comments in the reading diaries.

Thank you for reading at home.

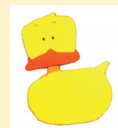


## First Thousand Words



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

### Noisy Animals

Look at the pets on page 49 and the farm on page 24. What animals can you see? What noises do they make? Can you learn some new animals and noises this week ?

## What have we been learning this week?

### Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

It's been another busy but fun week in Year 1. We've started our phonics lessons, focusing on segmenting (sounding out words) and blending (putting sounds together). The children have been practicing these skills daily to help them read and write more confidently.

In maths, we've been learning all about place value to 10. We've been ordering numbers up to 10, using tens frames to help visualise number patterns, and reinforcing the importance of number recognition.

This week in Jigsaw, we explored the concept of rights and responsibilities. The children reflected on their responsibilities, both at school and at home, such as looking after our belongings, tidying the classroom and brushing our teeth.

In Science, we've started exploring the human body. The children enjoyed making split pin people to help them understand the different body parts



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

### Year 2 - Fox & Hedgehog classes

This week we have enjoyed a full week of learning!

In Maths we have learnt all about more than and less than. We even introduced the symbol  $<$   $>$ . We looked at how to compare two numbers and even think of our own examples. Next week we will begin to look at counting in 2's, 5's and 10's. Have a go at counting in these at home!

For Computing we learnt all about IT. We discussed what items in the room were parts of Information Technology. We found lots in the classroom. I wonder if you have any at home? What technology do you use every day?

During Jigsaw we discussed being responsible. We are the oldest in the school and we discussed how we can be responsible and look after our things. At home it would help the children to become more responsible by packing their own school bag, putting their own clothes on and doing more things themselves independently. We are encouraging the children to remember their own things from the playground and at the end of the day. We appreciate your support.

We enjoyed making our very own fox and hedgehog last week using our hand prints. If you look in the classroom you can see them!

The 29th September is DINOSAUR DAY! How exciting. Please wear green or dinosaur style clothing or just comfortable old clothes as we will be making lots on the day.



## **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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# Attendance really matters – here's why...

## In Primary School

Year 6 pupils with 90-95% attendance



30% more likely to reach the expected standard for reading, writing and maths

Year 6 pupils with 95-100% attendance



## In Secondary School

Year 11 pupils with 90-95% attendance



Almost TWICE as likely to achieve grade 5 English and maths GCSE

Year 11 pupils with 95-100% attendance



Perfect attendance!

100%

Days of learning lost in a school year:

Good attendance

96%

7

Concerning attendance

90%

19

Attendance is a habit. A good start at school is essential...

Regular school attendance fosters a sense of belonging and connection within the school community.

Pupils who attend regularly are more likely to develop positive relationships with other children and adults in schools, enhancing their overall emotional resilience and mental health.

Pupils who consistently attend school are more likely to pursue higher education and secure better employment opportunities.

This week's attendance:

We aim for all pupils to have attendance of 96% or more.

Our attendance this week is: 94.12%.

Our attendance this school year is: 94.96%.

## 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

Monday 29th September—Squirrel Class—Caffyns Farm Visit

Tuesday 30th September—Owl Class—Caffyns Farm Visit

Friday 3rd October— Year 2 Swimming starts

Tuesday 7th October—Tempest in for Individual School Photos.

#### 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](#)

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

#### After school clubs for this half-term

### 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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