



Newsletter

Pilton Infants' Academy

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Learning for Life

Friday 26th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've really enjoyed the sunshine and dry weather this week. The children have been outside a lot. On Monday, our assembly focussed on being grateful, having a 'gratitude attitude' and being thankful for those little things that brighten up our day like a little sunshine or someone saying 'good morning'.

On Wednesday Mrs Haynes hosted a maths challenge event for some of the strongest Year 2 mathematicians from across the TEAM schools. The children got to work with children from other schools, eat lunch together and solve some tricky problems. A big thank you to Mrs Haynes for organising this.

On Thursday we had our first TEAM review of the year. We usually have one each half-term focus on different aspects of our school. Mr Polak (Director of Education) and Ms Leggott (Head of School, Brayford Academy) joined us and we visited phonics lessons in Reception and maths lessons in Year 1 and Year 2. We also discussed our school development priorities for the year. We saw lots of great teaching, great learning and children trying their best. The most pleasing elements were how calm each classroom was and how well established the learning routines are already at this early stage of the academic year. A big well done to all the staff and children for their hard work.

This afternoon, Year 2 have been enjoying meeting and finding out about the author Duncan Beedie.

Our online safety information this week is about YouTube Kids. Although designed for children, and on the whole safe, there are still some risks to be aware of. As always, supervising children when they are online is key. We hope you find it useful.

We've got loads to look forward to next week. The Year 1 classes are visiting Caffyns Farm on Monday (Squirrel Class) and Tuesday (Owl Class); Year 2 have 'Dinosaur Day' on Monday and Hedgehog Class begin swimming next Friday. We also have a small tennis festival in school for Year 1 and Year 2 on Wednesday morning.

We look forward to seeing you again on Monday.

Best wishes,

John Mortimer
Head of School

What have we been learning this week?

Reception—Kingfisher and Otter Classes

We continued our hero topic this week. We focused on real life heroes this week talking about how they help us. Some examples have been; fire-fighters, vets, doctors/nurses, dentists, lifeguards plus many others.

In Writing Club we drew straight, horizontal and vertical lines on our whiteboards. We practised our "crocodile grip" and always starting our drawings at the top left of our boards.

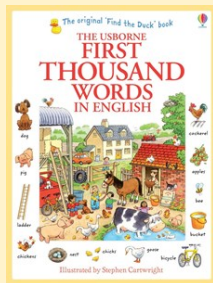
We have been designing our capes in Otter Class and Kingfisher Class have started to paint their real capes ready for our superhero party.

Next week we will begin reading and Maths Club in class. The children will start reading with a wordless book, practising book skills such as locating the front cover/back cover, looking at the left page before the right page, turning the pages and telling the story by using the pictures.

We have also reached the end of Phase One in phonics. Next week we will begin Phase Two which begins by learning the letter shapes and sounds for s, a, t and p.

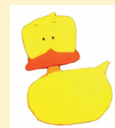


First Thousand Words



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

Count the animals.

Look through the book and try and find all the animals on each page. Can you name them? How many animals can you see on each page? Count with your grown up.

What have we been learning this week?

Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

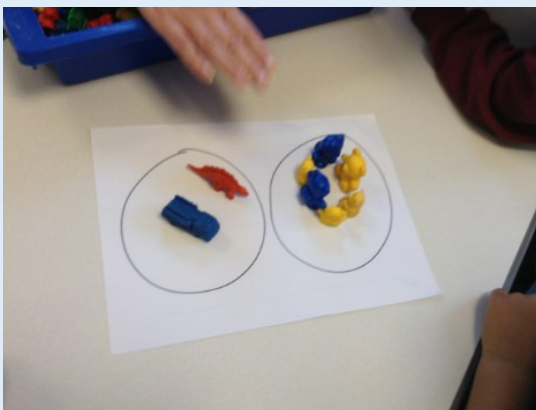
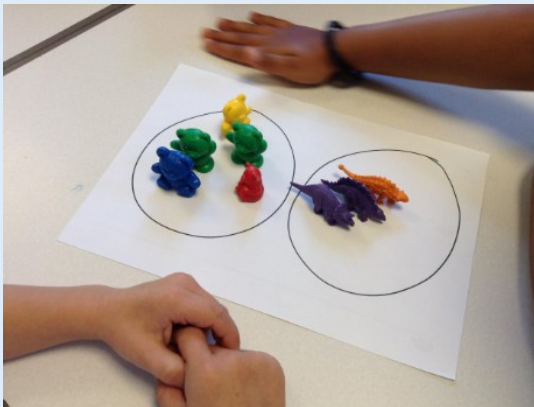
This week in Year 1 we looked at what we might find on the farm. We looked at different pictures and named the key farm animals. We then designed our own farms using pictures, lego blocks and loose parts.

We are looking forward to our Farm Trips next week.

In maths we looked at finding one more and one less than an amount within 10. We used tens frames and counters to represent numbers and then added one or taken one away to find the answer. We then used a giant number line and the frog jumped to show one more and one less on a number line.

This week we have also discussed what it means to feel proud and Talked about what we have done to feel proud. We are proud of our hard work in Year 1 and some children shared their out of school achievements. For example: riding a bike, swimming and gymnastics.

In computing we looked at sorting and organising data into groups based on similarities. Colour, shape or type of animal for example.



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.

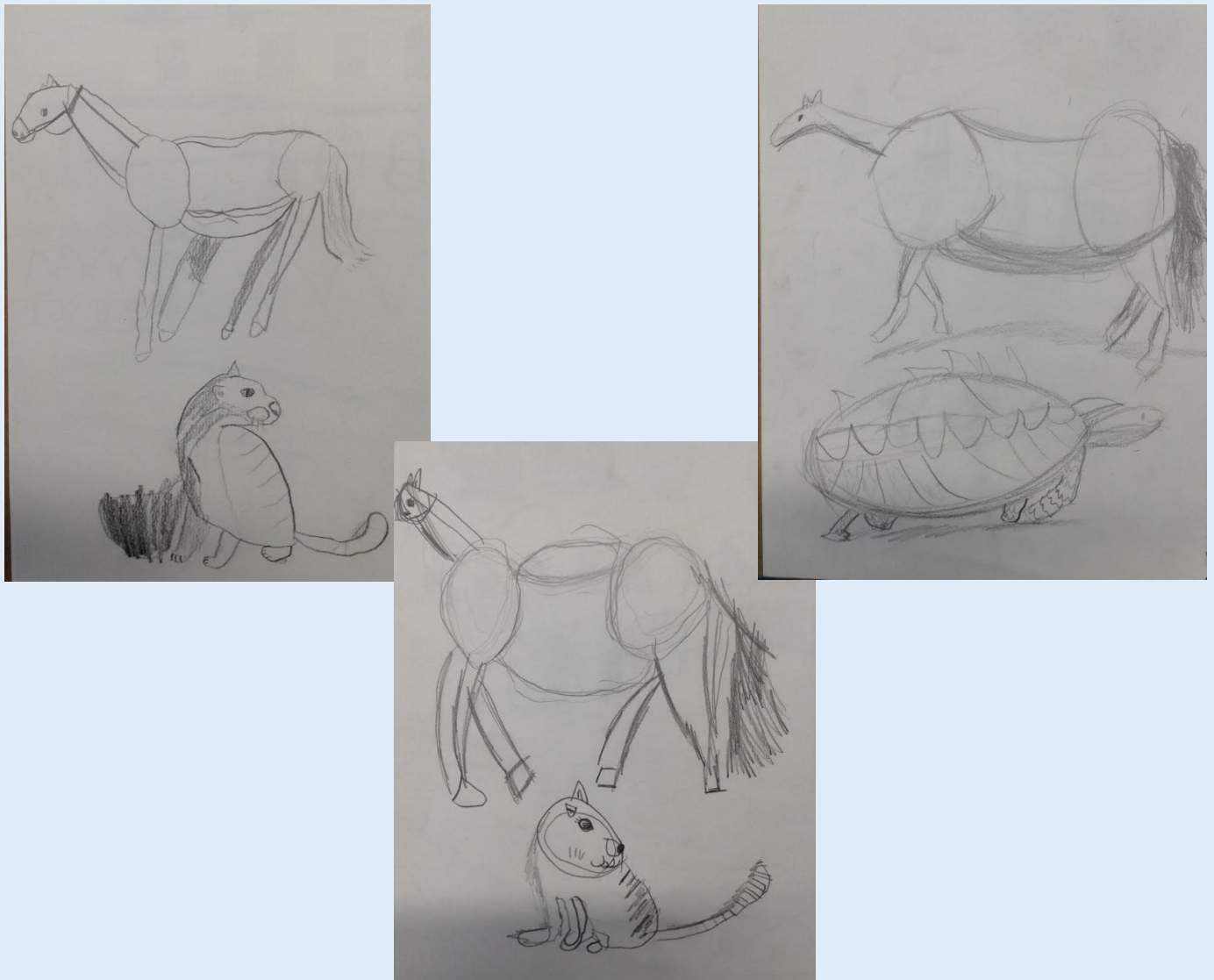
What have we been learning this week?

Year 2 - Fox & Hedgehog classes

In Art, we've been learning to use drawing pencils in different ways. We learned that we can sketch the main shapes of something we are trying to draw before we add detail. We learned that sketching means you can make several light marks before you 'get it right' and that you can use the side of the pencil to shade darker areas. Below are some of the results.

Next Monday is Dinosaur Day. The Year 2 children can wear green/ wear something with a dinosaur on it/ wear old clothes which they can get messy in. We will do lots of fun craft activities and learn lots about different dinosaurs.

Next Friday, Hedgehogs start swimming lessons. Please make sure, long hair is tied up to go under a swimming hat, boys are wearing trunks or shorts above the knee and that everything is named, including the towel. Please send children with loose bottoms (no tights/ leggings as these are hard to put on damp legs). It would be helpful to practise getting dry after bath time over the next week as children will be expected to change themselves.



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.

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: 94.87%.

Our attendance this school year is: 94.54%.

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

Monday 29th September—Squirrel Class—Caffyns Farm Visit

Tuesday 30th September—Owl Class—Caffyns Farm Visit

Friday 3rd October— Year 2 Hedgehog Class Swimming starts; - 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th October & 7th November. Fox Class 14th, 21st, 28th November & 5th & 12th December

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](#)

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



Life, Love and Learning to the Full

Working in partnership with
 SWIMBRIDGE



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 4 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

TEACHING ASSISTANT & MTA
at Horwood and Newton
Tracey Community Primary
School

Cleaner at Pilton Bluecoat Church
of England Academy.

Cleaner at Pilton Infants'
Academy.



Cover Supervisor at Pilton
Bluecoat Church of England
Academy.

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