



# Newsletter

**Pilton Infants' Academy**

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## Learning for Life

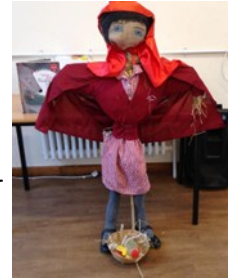
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's certainly starting to feel autumnal at the moment. We've had several groups of children carrying out 'Autumn hunts' around the school this week. They've really enjoyed exploring the different colours and textures of the autumn leaves as well as spotting some of the other signs.

A key value for our school is community and this week we've had some children busy designing and building scarecrows for local events to be a part of our wider community.

We were invited by the National Trust to build a scarecrow to be part of the Scarecrow Trail at Arlington Court. The theme is fairy tales and you can see that Mrs Smale and some of her pastoral groups have made a wonderful 'Little Red Riding Hood'. She is already in place at Arlington Court and the event begins tomorrow and runs for the next few weeks.



We also have a joint Pilton Infants' and Pilton Bluecoat outdoor learning group making a scarecrow for the Pumpkin Patch at Quince Honey Farm which will be open during half-term.

An important benefit of being in a community is that you can be supported by others. We're very lucky to have a fantastic PTFA group who work incredibly hard to plan and run events to support the school and the pupils. You will have seen that we have some discos coming up over the next couple of months, starting with Year 2 next Friday. We also have a Halloween bake sale and costume swap happening before half-term.

The PTFA have also very kindly donated £150 for each of our classes, and our Honeybees Nurture group, to buy extra items and resources to improve our provision. The staff have been busy hunting out bargains and buying some lovely new toys and other items for the children to use and enjoy. A huge thank you to the PTFA for their generosity and to you for supporting them.

Another very important aspect of community, is supporting others within your community. We certainly hope to be supporting others on Monday when we celebrate Harvest. We would love to have as many donations as possible to support the Freedom Community Alliance. Please check the list, sent out earlier in the week, to see which items they require at present. Thank you.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming you, the parents and carers, for our Parents Evening next Wednesday. It is a great opportunity to see how the children have settled and the learning that they have been doing so far. I was lucky enough to teach Squirrel Class in Year 1 on Thursday morning and I was very impressed with what they can already do.

Hope you all have a great 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 have had a great week making our collage tigers. After reading "The Tiger Who Came to Tea" we made our tiger faces. We used ripped orange and black paper to make the stripes. We made a repeating pattern, orange then black. We added other details, eyes, whiskers and ears, talking about pairs as we did this.

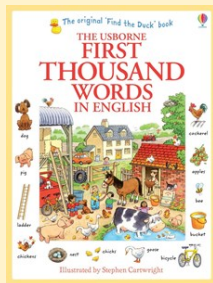
We continued to learn the next 4 sounds in our daily phonics lessons. These sounds will be added to the children's phonics packs this week. Thank you for practising the sounds at home. We have been putting the sounds together to make simple consonant, vowel, consonant words. For example; sat, sit, pit, man, map, dip. We read the words by sounding out each sound and then blending the sounds together to read the word.

In Maths we have been practising our counting skills to find out how many objects there are "altogether" in a group. We also practised counting things we couldn't see, for example drum beats and claps.

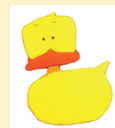
We enjoyed our superhero party on Friday, we wore our capes and enjoyed some party games.



## First Thousand Words



The First Thousand Words in English – guidance for parents. Please take 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

#### My Home.

Look at the At Home pages (page 4 and 5). Look carefully at the pictures. Can you spot anything that is the same as your home? What is not the same? Talk about it with your grown up.

## What have we been learning this week?

### Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

This week in Year 1 has been slightly less busy. Although the children were amazing at having their photos taken on picture day.

English this week has focused on the tricky words: is, he and she. We have worked to help the children understand that a sentence needs to be about a who. A who is anything that can talk and move. We then used sentence stems to write simple sentences about animals. You can support your child by encouraging them to speak in full sentences as this will help them include every word in the sentence.

In maths we have recapped the value of numicon and used it to find which numbers are odd and even. An odd number cannot be shared equally into two groups and an even number can. We then discovered that when we count to 10 there is an odd and even pattern.

Science was an exciting lesson looking at our 5 senses. This week we focused on our sense of taste. We tried some different foods and discussed whether they were sweet, bitter or sour. We learnt that it is our tongue and taste buds that does all the tasting for us when we eat.



## **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?

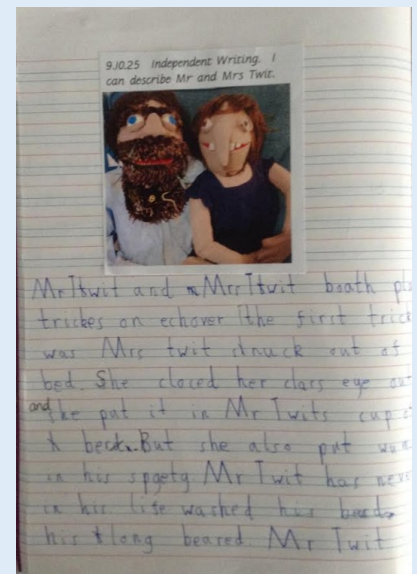
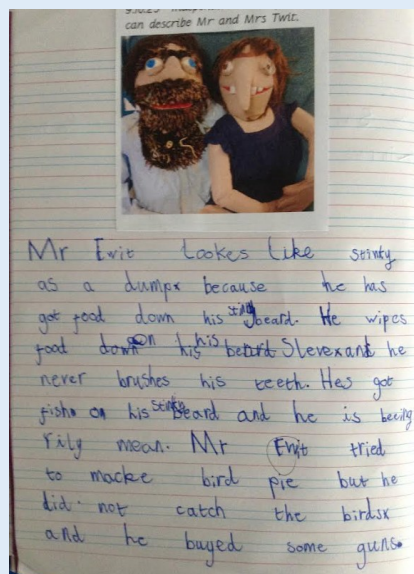
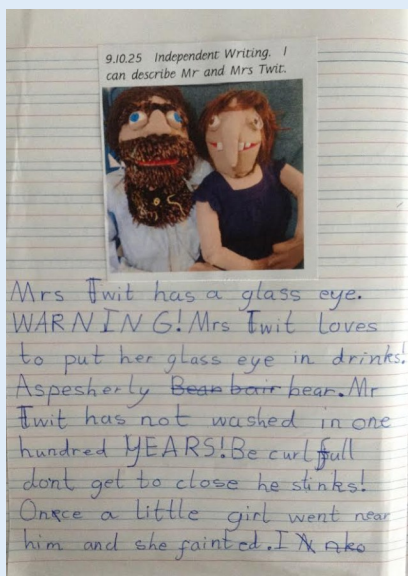
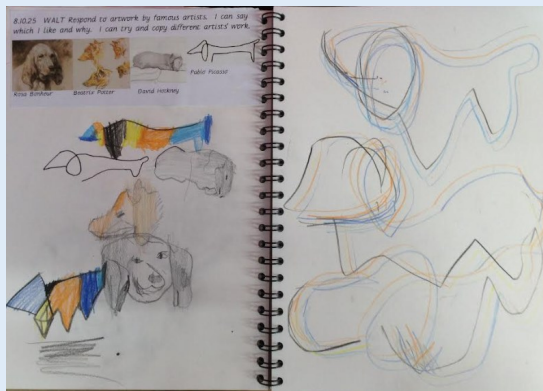
### Year 2 - Fox & Hedgehog classes

This week, Year 2 had lots of special visitors in school. First of all, we had a visit from the dentist who taught us how to keep our teeth nice and clean and gave away some freebies. After that, Mr and Mrs Twit came to see us. The children did some writing about them - see below for some examples.

In Art, we are learning to use our sketchbooks to explore ideas, practise skills and experiment. The children are learning that if something goes wrong in a sketchbook, we don't need to cross it out and be sad - we can have another go instead. See photos of some work from our lesson this week.

Just a reminder that we have parents drop-in next Wednesday after school. This is an opportunity to look through your child's books and ask any questions. Mrs Haynes is the teacher to speak to about Maths and Mrs Ruddick about English. Both will be available in their classes.

Have a good weekend,



## **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: 90.81%.

Our attendance this school year is: 93.96%.

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

Wednesday 15th October—Parents Evening

Wednesday 22nd October - PTFA Bake Sale 3.30pm & Trick or trade costume swop.

##### 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



Working in partnership with



WETHERIDGE  
SCHOOL



*Life, Love and Learning to the Full*

Part of TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

APPLY NOW DIRECT WITH **mynewterm**

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 2 vacancies available at Team Multi-Academy Trust:

Cover Supervisor at Witheridge  
Church of England Primary  
Academy

Teaching Assistant (Maternity  
Cover) at Pilton Bluecoat Church  
of England Academy



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# PILTON INFANTS' ACADEMY

# PTFA

**WHAT IS A PTFA?**  
Parent-Teacher-Friends-Association  
we are a volunteer-run organisation consisting of parents, guardians, carers, family member, school staff and administrators who work together to support the school and their pupils' educational experience through lasting memories

**WHAT DO WE DO?**  
We organize and host a wide range of events, activities and fundraisers for the students, parents and the school. These can be in forms of Bake sales, Discos or even seasonal events like Christmas & summer Fates.

**OUR AIM & ASPIRATIONS**  
We are committed to providing safe, educational, fun and memorable opportunities for our families and friends of the infants academy community.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Autumn Bake Sale |
- Discos
- Christmas Fete

**HOW TO CONTACT US**  
f Pilton Infants' Academy PTFA  
✉ piltoninfantsptfa@gmail.com

**AUTUMN BAKE SALE**

**OCTOBER 22 | 3:30-5:00PM**

**Cake Donations are very much appreciated; Please make sure any items donated include an ingredients list due to dietary requirements and allergies.**

**Any Donations To be given the morning of: Wednesday October 22**

**All funds raised will go towards school .**

✉ piltoninfantsptfa@gmail.com

# TRICK OR TREAT

**COSTUME SWAP**

**OCTOBER 22, 2025**

**PILTON INFANTS' ACADEMY 3:30-5:00PM**

**DONATIONS TO BE PLACED IN THE PTFA BOX IN FRONT OF THE MAIN GATE & WILL BE COLLECTED EVERY MORNING**  
DONATION PERIOD: OCTOBER 2-22

**DONATE, DISCOVER, DRESS UP!**  
For more information please contact:  
Piltoninfantsptfa@gmail.com

# WHY JOIN THE INFANTS' ACADEMY PTFA

**WE'RE INCLUSIVE**  
The PTFA welcomes all parents, carers and family members to join and get involved. The more people involved the better as this allows us to plan and host more activities and events for the pupils and even the parents and families. We'd never turn down a helping hand.

**WE'RE FLEXIBLE**  
We understand everybody has different daily schedules, whether that's work, school, clubs or even just family days. We don't require 24/7 commitment nor do we require you to volunteer every time we have something upcoming. If you only want to help in planning or if you'd rather help with the events on the day itself that's perfectly fine and we'll always appreciate any type of help we can get

**WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!**  
We'd love the chance to be able to hear your suggestions or opinions to help us to continue to improve and provide the most beneficial events and activities for everyone.

**STAY CONNECTED & UPDATED**  
The PTFA provides a chance for parents to connect with each other as well as provide events and activities that gives a chance for students, families and everyone to bond over. It also allows you to be updated first hand and aware of any upcoming news and events the school or PTFA will have

**HELP CREATE LASTING MEMORIES**  
Our children are only in school for a few years but they will remember and cherish the difference we made. from the fun events and activities to using the resources our PTFA provided for them to use in school. Future Pupils and families will benefit too.

**INTERESTED? CONTACT US NOW**  
f Pilton Infants' Academy PTFA  
✉ piltoninfantsptfa@gmail.com

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