



Newsletter

Pilton Infants' Academy

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Learning for Life

Friday 3rd October

Dear Parents and Carers,

The half-term is flying by and we've already reached October. We've had several visits and events this week which all contribute to our big event curriculum – bringing the learning to life to make it memorable for the children.

Our focus learning here this week has been Carly Can Do. We looked at the real life example of the members of the England Ladies Rugby team who won the World Cup last weekend. We looked at how they'd taken the disappointment of losing the last World Cup to give them the determination to succeed this time. They've trained harder, become healthier and made sacrifices in order to reach their goal. We were impressed that one player had even given up eating crisps for three years!

Year 2 had a wonderful Dinosaur Day on Monday. There were some fantastic outfits and the children enjoyed lots of practical and creative tasks around dinosaurs.

The Year 1 visits to Caffyns Farm on Monday and Tuesday were brilliant. The children loved meeting different animals, exploring the farm and collecting apples in the orchard. A huge thank you to the parents who helped and to the staff team for organising and running the trip. The children will use the knowledge and experience they have gained here to support their learning about farming for the rest of the term.

On Wednesday morning each Year 1 and Year 2 class had a 30-minute tennis taster session with Rob from the Devonshire Tennis Academy. They ran through some fun warm-up activities and then some skills and games to develop their basic tennis shots. There are still spaces to sign up for tennis club on Wednesday mornings before school. If your child enjoyed this session, they might like to join tennis club.

Hedgehog Class (Year 2) really enjoyed their first swimming session today. Living in North Devon, swimming is not only great fun but also a crucial life skill. Learning to swim is the beginning of a journey towards potential future sports and hobbies (e.g. competitive swimming, water polo, surf lifesaving, surfing, triathlon etc), future employment (e.g. lifeguarding) or just as importantly an active and healthy lifestyle. We can't wait to see how their skills and confidence develop over the next few weeks. Again, a thank you to the parents and carers who are helping out and the staff team who are organising it all.

Currently we're having a big focus on Oracy – good talk skills. One of the main things is asking children to speak in full-sentences rather than just one or two words at a time. This really helps to develop their vocabulary as well as their ability to explain and understand ideas. This is something that is easily supported and modelled at home. A simple example we're promoting in school at present is: 'Can I go to the toilet please?' rather than just 'toilet'

Next week we have Tempest Photography coming in on Tuesday morning to take pupils' individual photos as well as lots more exciting learning.

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

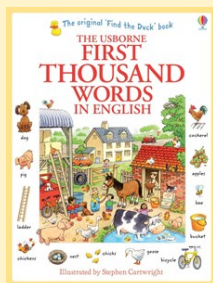
This week we have continued with painting our capes and we had a lot of fun going on a superhero hunt around the school

The children have been looking carefully at their designs before painting. Our focus text has been "Room on the Broom". We have been recreating the story in our tuff trays in class. In Maths Club we have been learning about the numbers 1-3. We have been practising our subitising skills. Subitising is when we look at a dot pattern and say how many dots there are without counting them. In Writing Club we have been practising the X pattern made from 2 diagonal lines.

We have put the phonics packs in the children's book bags. Please use these to practise the sound that each letter shape makes. Please keep the phonics packs in the children's book bags so we can keep adding in the new sounds each week. Thank you for reading at home. As well as the sharing books from the class library there is now an electronic book available for you to read at home. Each Friday, the book the children have been reading in school will be assigned as an electronic book. These are available on the Collins Hub website. Please follow the steps which have been sent out via Parent-mail earlier this week. Next week our focus text is "The Tiger Who Came to Tea".



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

Count the people.

Look through the book and try and find all the people on each page. How many children can you see? How many adults can you see? Count with your grown-up.

What have we been learning this week?

Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

At the beginning of this week, we enjoyed some wonderful trips to the farm, where the children were fascinated by all the animals. They had the chance to feed chickens, goats, and even alpacas! Each child collected an egg from the chicken coop and picked apples straight from the orchard. We also learnt some interesting facts about turkeys and horses, and saw how fresh apple juice is made. We were very lucky with the sunny weather and beautiful countryside views!

Back at school, the fun continued with a tennis workshop on Wednesday morning. The children loved getting active and practising their coordination skills.

In Maths, we've been busy comparing groups of objects using the vocabulary 'greater than' and 'fewer than'. In computing we have been describing objects to create different groups. We have organised them by their size, colour and shape. We then counted how many there were and compared which group had greater or fewer.



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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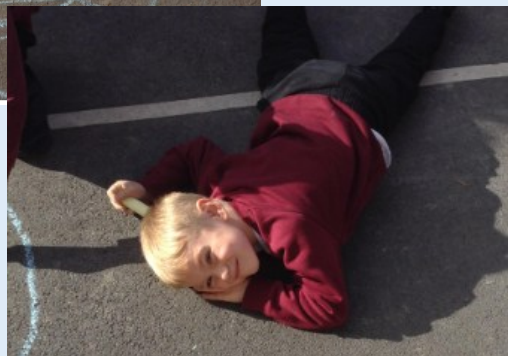
What have we been learning this week?

Year 2 - Fox & Hedgehog classes

This week we enjoyed dinosaur day!!! We had a fantastic day learning all about dinosaurs, making our own fossils and making our own dinosaur skeletons. Thanks for all of your help with the day.

In Maths this week we have been revising our bonds to 10. We have learnt how to use them to find missing parts and our subtraction facts. Next week we will begin to look at our bonds to 20. Please practise your bonds to 10 at home by playing games such as if I have 4 how many do you have to make 10.

In computing we discussed how to keep safe online. We discussed how to make sure our family is nearby when we are on the internet in case we get stuck online. We learnt all about Smartie the Penguin and how to keep safe online by saying 'Before we click, click, click we need to think, think, think and tell someone!'



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: 94.4 %.

Our attendance this school year is: 94.7 %.

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 - 10th, 17th & 24th October & 7th November.

Fox Class 14th, 21st, 28th November & 5th & 12th December

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

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.

Sporting & creative achievements

Isla was very excited to get a new pb but also her half marathon wristband at Parkrun yesterday!



Libraries Unlimited

BARNSTAPLE LIBRARY

Claire Barker Book signing

Saturday 4th October 2025
Barnstaple Library Foyer

Claire will be signing copies of her new book *Hettie Nettle's Handbook for Hedgewitches*
Books supplied by Waterstones



Libraries Unlimited

BARNSTAPLE LIBRARY

Meet The Author: Claire Barker

Saturday 4th October 2025
11AM - 12PM
Suitable for ages 5-12
£2.00 Per person
Booking Required

Calling all young hedgewitches, boys and girls...

You're invited to a magical seasonal event with author Claire Barker, chat with Claire and make a wish stick.

Fun and magic abound at this marvellous event!

Copies of Claire's new book '*Hettie Nettle's Handbook for Hedgewitches*' will be available to purchase at the event.



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TEAM Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies



Life, Love and Learning to the Full

Working in partnership with



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:

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

Teaching Assistant at Pilton
Infants' 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

Pilton Infants' PTFA

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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