



# Newsletter



**Pilton Infants' Academy**

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**Learning for Life**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all this week, a great big thank you from us and the Freedom Community Alliance for your support for our Harvest donations. We had an amazing amount of donations this year which the Freedom Centre were hugely grateful for. It's wonderful to be able to support those struggling in our community.



Our Harvest assembly itself was lovely. The children sang beautifully and taught me a new song.

It was wonderful to see so many of you on Wednesday evening for our open evenings. The teachers found it really helpful and we hope you did too. It has started some conversations that will keep running. Please remember, that if you have any concerns or queries, you don't have to wait for these events. The flow chart on the [Parents and Pupils page](#) of our website shows you who to speak to first to ensure issues are resolved quickly.

All schools now are legally required to have a Climate Action Plan in place by the end of this year. On Thursday, I attended a meeting with other Heads of School and senior leaders from around the trust to shape our individual school Climate Action Plans. It is certainly something that we will want to engage our whole school community with. Ideas include ways to reduce food waste, increase recycling and find simple ways to save energy to reduce our carbon footprint. We already do lots as a school to be environmentally mindful, but with some simple steps we can do a lot more. I will be sharing this with staff, pupils and families over the coming weeks.

Next week is our final week before the half-term break. On Monday we have Kip and Elfyn visiting us for the day. They are musicians and storytellers. We will be starting the day with an interactive concert for the whole school and then each class will have a 30 minute workshop. It should be a great day.

Finally, we know there have been lots of bugs around lately and it can be tricky to know whether to send your child to school or not. This NHS page is a really useful guide – [Is my child to ill for school?](#)

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

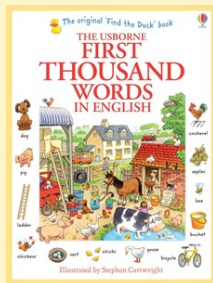
This week we have been exploring the number 3. We retold the story of "The Three Bears". In our story the bears went for a picnic and the children had to make sure that the bears had enough of each object for their picnic. They had 3 plates, 3 knives, 3 spoons and 3 glasses. We practised using the stem sentence, "1 and 1 and 1 is 3" We said the sentence as we carefully counted our objects.

We have been learning about the primary colours; red, yellow and blue. We used 3D shapes to print with the primary colours. We practised our printing technique by pressing and lifting carefully so the prints didn't smudge.

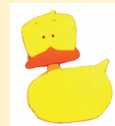
Next week we will be learning the story; "We're Going on a Bear Hunt". We will be going on our own bear hunt around the school garden. On Friday the children can bring in their own teddy bear or similar soft toy from home for our toy day. Please only bring smaller soft toys which fit easily into their bags, thank you.



## **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

#### The Kitchen.

Go to pages 6 and 7. Look at all the little pictures around the edge of the page. What are they? What are they for? Find them in the picture and talk about them with your grown up

## What have we been learning this week?

### Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

In Year 1, we have had another exciting week of learning!

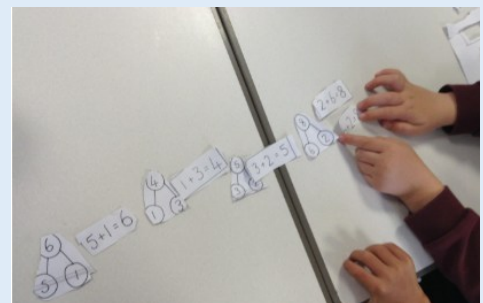
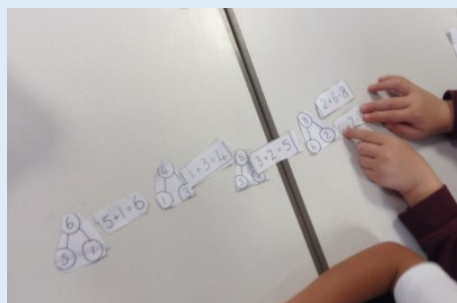
In Maths, we started exploring addition and subtraction using a part-whole model. We've been learning that a part and a part makes a whole, and we've had lots of fun using counters to help us understand.

In Jigsaw (our PSHE lessons), we've been talking about trying our best and not giving up. We met our 'Yeti' and thought about things we can't do yeti, such as doing up our buttons or learning to swim, but with practice and determination, we will get there!

We recapped what a who is and introduced what (an item or object). We used these to write simple sentences using the tricky words he, she, is, they and are. We have discussed how they and are go together when talking about a group. Listen out for your child using these.

During Science, we continued our learning about the five senses, with a focus on smell. We explored some mystery smell pots and had to use our noses to guess what was inside – there were some tricky ones!

It was wonderful to see so many of you at Parents evening and share the children's learning so far this year.



## **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.

## What have we been learning this week?

### Year 2 - Fox & Hedgehog classes

This week we have been learning all about addition and subtraction being the inverse of one another. We looked at how we use the same numbers to create addition and subtraction sentences. We looked at matching the addition to the subtraction sentence by noticing the same numbers in both. Next week we will look at adding 3 numbers using our bonds to 10 to help us, for example,  $4 + 3 + 6$ , we add the 4 and 6 and then add the 3 to make 13.

In computing this week we learnt how to be a good digital citizen. We discussed our variety challenge for using the internet. The 5 ways are:

Connect - connect with others (we know) online.

Be active - find something to do offline

Be creative - find a way to be creative online, for example, painting and gaming

Give to Others - Use the internet to do something for others.

Be Mindful - Thinking about how long we want to be online for and engaging in other activities.

We created our own pictures of someone we would like to say thank you to. We have not finished yet - so watch this space!

At parents' evening, lots of parents were asking for ideas on how to support their children with writing. The following links are ideas from Mrs Ruddick - these are meant to be fun and you don't need to worry too much about grammar, handwriting etc.

Fun Writing Games Part 1 <https://youtu.be/q6s79megx80>

Fun Writing Games Part 2 <https://youtu.be/mOoKyE9z7t0>



## **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.

## Sporting & creative achievements

On his second week of moving up to the older age group at Goal Getters Joshua was awarded with the 'Player of the Day' trophy!



## Outdoor Learning and Learning Champs

Pilton Infants joined forces with Pilton Bluecoat to create scarecrows for Quince Honey Farm.

Please let us introduce you to Ella from Infants and Barny from Bluecoat happily playing on their seesaw. They will be placed on the pumpkin patch at Quince Honey Farm, which will be free during Half-Term for you to visit them



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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: 93.9%.

Our attendance this school year is: 93.95%.

## 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 - 24th October & 7th November. Fox Class 14th, 21st, 28th November & 5th & 12th December

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

Friday 7th November—Year 1 Disco— 6-7pm

Friday 14th November—Reception Disco—6-7 pm

##### 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.

# TEAM Multi-Academy Trust Vacancies



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

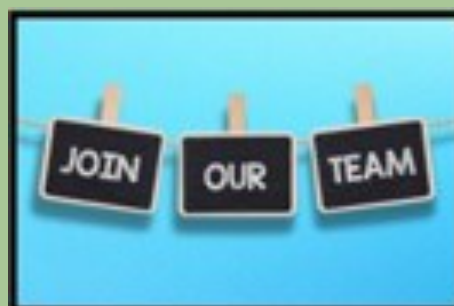
<https://www.teamacademytrust.com/vacancies>

We Currently have 3 vacancies available at TEAM Multi-Academy Trust:

Specialist SEND Teaching Assistant at Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

1.1 SEND Teaching Assistant at Horwood and Newton Tracey Community Primary School

Cover Supervisor at Witheridge Church of England Primary 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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