



# Newsletter



**Pilton Infants' Academy**

Abbey Road, Pilton, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX31 1JU T: 01271 342579

[admin@piltoninfants.school](mailto:admin@piltoninfants.school) [www.teamacademytrust.com](http://www.teamacademytrust.com)

**Learning for Life**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've reached the end of our first half-term of the year. Eight weeks is a very long half-term so the children (and staff!) have done very well to keep their energy levels and learning levels up all the way to this point. As always, it's been very busy and there is lots to look back on and be proud of. The children are making great strides forward - the Year 2 children this week were able to give really detailed feedback on their writing, the Year 1 children are working really sensibly during their whole class learning sessions and it's wonderful to see how well the Reception children are settling into the routines of school life. It's been lovely to have them join our celebration assemblies for the last couple of weeks.

We love to give the children different opportunities which can inspire. On Monday we welcomed Kip and Elfyn. They are musicians and storytellers and spent the entire day with us. Each class had a session with them as well as a whole school interactive concert. The children were captivated and it was wonderful to hear music around the school all day.

On Wednesday, two members of the school's Local Governing Body (LGB) visited for the afternoon. We focussed on Pupil Wellbeing and in particular our Learning Champions programme and our 'All About Me, All About Us' project which we started the term with. We discussed the positive impact of both for pupils and staff. We also spoke to a small group of Year 2 children who were very animated about how much they enjoyed these things but also very articulate on how the Learning Champions was helping them. We are hugely grateful to our LGB members who give up their time to come and support our school community.

A big thank you again this week to our wonderful PTFA. We had a fantastic Year 2 disco last Friday as well as a cake sale and costume swap on Wednesday. Thank you for supporting the PTFA as well with donations of cakes and attending the events. It's wonderful to see the school community coming together to support the school.

I attended an online meeting this week with St Joseph's, our partner school in Bangalore, India. We have decided that we will be working together on an environmental project this year linked to our climate action plan. We can't wait to get the children together, virtually, next half term as they really enjoyed this last year.

Finally, some staffing news. We're sorry to be saying goodbye today to Mr Roulstone, part of our cleaning team. He is leaving to start an exciting new career and we wish him all the best. If you, or anyone you know are interested, we have cleaning vacancies currently at both Pilton Infants' and Pilton Bluecoat Academies. After half-term Mrs Barber will also be starting a new role. She will be working as the new SENDCo assistant across both Pilton Infants' and Pilton Bluecoat. We're really pleased she's not leaving us completely and we know she will be amazing in her new role. Miss Griffin has been appointed as Mrs Barber's replacement and Miss Knox is going to replace Miss Griffin until a permanent replacement is appointed.

We hope you all have a great half-term full of family fun. We look forward to seeing you again on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

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.*

Please see the poster below from Citizens Advice Torridge, North, Mid & West Devon with details of a fuel voucher scheme they are running this autumn and winter.

We know at this time of the year, the cost of energy can be a real problem for households. If you are on a prepayment meter and are struggling to top up, you may be entitled to receive vouchers.



**Need advice on energy?**

**Our dedicated energy team are here to help you:**

- Check for grants to help you pay for your energy usage
- Apply energy-saving measures to save you money
- Talk to your supplier to sort out any problems you might be having

**Call us on 01237 879 233**  
**Scan the QR code to fill out a referral form**



**citizens advice** Torridge, North, Mid & West Devon  
[www.citizensadvice.nmwd.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.nmwd.org.uk) Registered charity number 1068496

### ***Admissions policy for 2027-28: Annual Consultation***

*Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2027-28. The Local Authority is also consulting on its arrangements – the admissions schemes through which you can apply. You are invited to look at the proposal new policies which are based on policies for this year and next year and to have your say on them.*

*Our proposed policy is on our admission page and you can see all policies at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy> Further information is here: [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements)*

*The consultation runs between 1 November and 16 January 2026.*

*Policies will be determined by the end of February and published in the same places by 15 March 2026 next year. You can comment at [schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk) or by emailing the school.*

## What have we been learning this week?

### Reception—Kingfisher and Otter Classes

It's been a busy half term. We have celebrated all of the children in Otter and Kingfisher Class. They have been like Bobby Bounce Back, Carrie Caring, Carly Can Do, Timmy Team Worker and Billy Bright Idea since they started in our Reception classes.

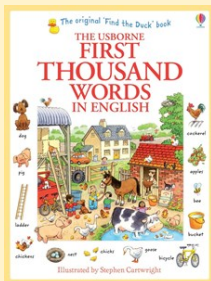
This week we continued our story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" by going on a bear hunt of our own. We went through all of the different areas in the story until we came to the cave where we found a bear.

We continued our printing this week by finding leaves that had fallen from the trees and painting them before printing with them. We mixed the primary colours; red, blue and yellow to make the secondary colours; orange, green and purple.

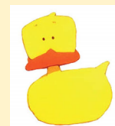
We hope you have a good half term break and we are looking forward to seeing you on November 3rd.



## **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 Toy Shop

Go to pages 14 and 15. What can you see? What would you like to buy? What would you buy as presents for your family or friends? Can you find the things round the edge in the picture?

## What have we been learning this week?

### Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

This week in Year 1 we have been busy designing and making our own clay animals. We used our rolling, pinching and squeezing to mold the clay to make the body of our animals and then added our ears, tails etc..

In maths we looked all the different ways to make five on a five frames. We worked systematically to find all the bonds (0+5, 1+4, 2+3 etc.) and found that there are 6 bonds to five.

In English we wrote our own sentences about animals. We used our tricky words **they**, **have**, **he**, **she** and **is**. The children have tried hard to work independently and have impressed us with their ability to remember finger spaces, capital letters and full stops.

We had a fantastic start to the day on Monday with our music day. The children each got to spend 30 minutes with Kip and Elfyn and sing along to songs and make up our own songs with simple rhythms and actions.



## **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

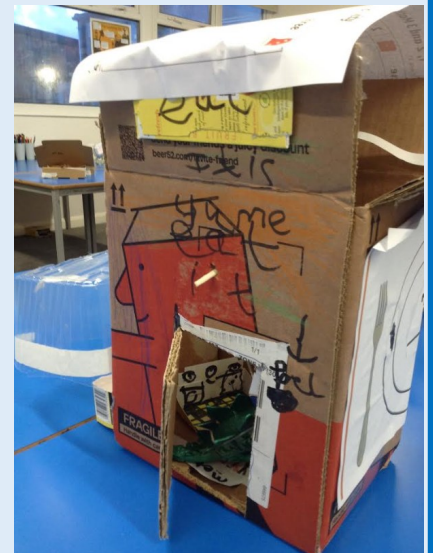
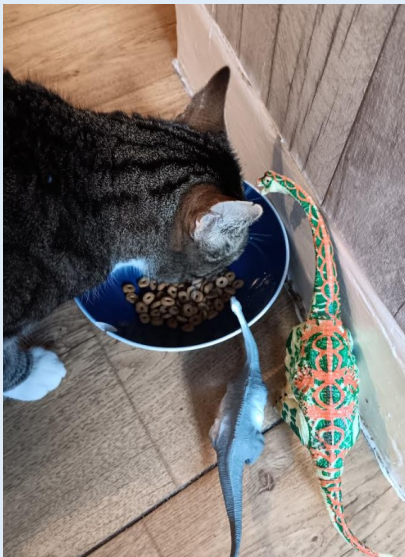
Dear Parents/Carers,

You have probably heard about the chaos that the dinosaurs caused this week in school. They were very naughty and made lots of mess! The children did some fantastic writing about what they got up to.

On Wednesday afternoon, they worked collaboratively to make traps to catch the dinosaurs. We were very impressed with their teamwork skills. Yesterday morning, we came to school to find all the dinosaurs trapped but safe. Our plan worked! We hope you like the photos!

Thanks to everyone who is reading regularly with their children at home. A few pages every night makes a huge difference to children's progress.

Have a fun, safe and restful half term.  
The Year 2 team



## **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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## Music Day

On Monday, the whole school enjoyed a wonderful day filled with music, dance and songs. The day started off with a fun interactive music assembly lead by our visiting musicians Elfy and Kip. They impressed us with the wide variety of instruments that they could play. All the children had a great time moving to the music and copying actions along to the music. Throughout the day each class then worked with the musicians for a music session, learning fun action songs and rhymes. It was great for the children to experience live music and listen to instruments that they might not have seen or heard before.

### Y2 quotes

Bea: - "The music assembly was beautiful. I loved it all!"

Darcie: - "They played so many different instruments - it was really good."

Freddie M: - "I really like the sound of the violin."

Henry: - "It was so much fun doing the actions with the songs."



### Year 1

"liked the instruments" - Frances

"I loved the music" - Archie

"I enjoyed dancing" - Stanley



### Reception quotes

"It was good because I discovered a new instrument."

"I liked the Bluey song and the penguin song."

"I liked horsey horsey with all the wooden instruments."





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## Sporting & creative achievements

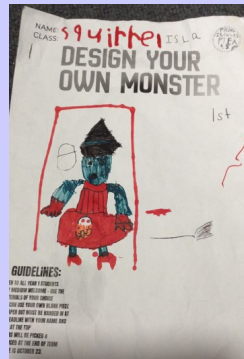
A couple of weeks ago Harriet achieved yellow level for Apparatus at Gymnastics. She's only being doing Gymnastics for a year and we are very proud of how much practice she puts in and what she has achieved.



## PTFA Halloween competition Winners



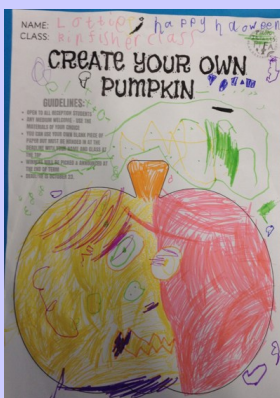
Robert—Otter



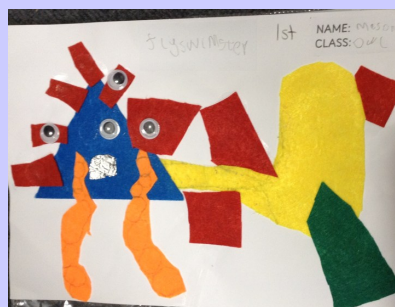
Isla—Squirrel



Bea—Hedgehog



Lottie—Kingfisher



Mason—Owl



Theo—Fox

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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: 93.32%.

Our attendance this school year is: 93.85%.

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

Wednesday 5th November—TEAM Cross Country Year 2

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

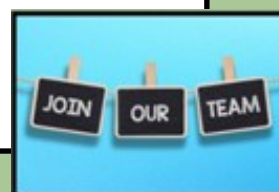


Part of TEAM MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

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 7 vacancies available at TEAM Multi-Academy Trust:

## 1.1 SEND Teaching Assistant

EDV/2025/PIA/51812

Pilton Infants' School is looking to appoint a 1.1 SEND TA to join our academy as soon as possible.

📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU  
🕒 Temporary/Fixed Term | Part-Time  
💷 £13.26 Hourly  
Grade C | 27.5 HPW | 38 Weeks | Term Time Only

8 Days Remaining • Apply by Midday, Friday 31st Oct, 2025 • Job start: ASAP

## Cleaner

EDV/2025/PIA/63795

The appointed person/s will be managed by the Premises Manager and Head of School. In service training will be provided where appropriate.

📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU  
🕒 Permanent | Part-Time  
💷 £12.65 Hourly  
Grade A | 10HPW (2 HOURS PER DAY TO BE WORKED AFTERNOON/ EVENINGS) | 41 WEEKS

8 Days Remaining • Apply by Midday, Friday 31st Oct, 2025 • Job start: ASAP

## Trustee with Financial Expertise

EDV/2025/TMT/20736

### Team Multi-Academy Trust

TEAM Multi Academy Trust are seeking a Trustee with Financial Expertise - Help Shape the Future of Education in North Devon

📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU  
🕒 Permanent | Part-Time  
💷 Voluntary

New • Apply by Midday, Wednesday 31st Dec, 2025

## Cleaner

EDV/2025/PBCEA/95951

### Pilton Bluecoat Church of England Academy

The appointed person will be managed by the Premises Manager and Head of School. In service training will be provided where appropriate.

📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU  
🕒 Permanent | Part-Time  
💷 £12.84 Hourly  
Grade B | 5HPW (1 HOUR PER DAY APPROX 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM MONDAY TO FRIDAY) |

New • Apply by Midday, Friday 31st Oct, 2025 • Job start: ASAP

## Specialist SEND Teaching Assistant

EDV/2025/BCPS/84290

### Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

We're looking for a caring, motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our school community and play a key role in supporting our pupils' learning and development.

📍 Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8LJ  
🕒 Temporary/Fixed Term | Full-Time  
💷 £13.90 Hourly  
Grade D | 30 HPW (08:30AM - 3:30PM MONDAY - FRIDAY) | 39 WEEKS (TERM TIME)

8 Days Remaining • Apply by Midday, Friday 31st Oct, 2025 • Job start: ASAP

## 1.1 SEND Teaching Assistant

EDV/2025/HANTCPS/14953

### Horwood and Newton Tracey Community Primary School

The appointed person will work in close partnership with the relevant class teachers and will help to support 2 children in year 3 to supervise throughout the day. In-service training will be...

📍 Lovacott, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 3PU  
🕒 Fixed Term | Part-Time  
💷 £12.84 Hourly  
Grade B | 9 HPW (MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY MORNINGS 08:45AM - 12PM EACH DAY)

8 Days Remaining • Apply by Midday, Friday 31st Oct, 2025 • Job start: ASAP

## Cover Supervisor

EDV/2025/WCEPA/08608

### Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy

We are seeking an enthusiastic and committed individual to join our team, working closely with class teachers to support pupils in engaging meaningfully with their learning. The successful candidate...

📍 Fore Street, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 8AH  
🕒 Permanent/Term Time Only | Part-Time  
💷 £13.90 - £14.82 Hourly  
GRADE: D | 27.5 HPW (MONDAY TO FRIDAY) | 39 WEEKS | PERMANENT / TERM TIME

8 Days Remaining • Apply by Midday, Friday 31st Oct, 2025 • Job start: ASAP

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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

## OUR AIM & ASPIRATIONS

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

## HOW TO CONTACT US

 Pilton Infants' Academy PTFA  
 [piltoninfantsptfa@gmail.com](mailto:piltoninfantsptfa@gmail.com)



## 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Autumn Bake Sale
- Discos
- Christmas Fates

# 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.

## LEARN NEW SKILLS

Each person has something they can bring to the PTA. Designing posters, planning events, great at budgeting? We can all constantly learn from each other and help each other improve

## 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.



## 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.

## 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



## INTERESTED? CONTACT US NOW

 Pilton Infants' Academy PTFA  
 [piltoninfantsptfa@gmail.com](mailto:piltoninfantsptfa@gmail.com)

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