



Newsletter



Pilton Infants' Academy

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Learning for Life

Friday 19th December

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of the Autumn term. The children and staff have worked very hard and made a really positive start to the year. We've seen some wonderful learning, great play and friendships develop and experienced some fantastic trips already.

The children in Reception have completed their first term in school. They have settled in well and are becoming busy little learners. They're growing in independence and we look forward to continuing this journey in January.

In Year 1 and Year 2 the children have continued to develop friendships as well as become stronger learners. We've focussed a lot on dealing with problems lately – deciding whether it is a glitch or a small problem which we can resolve ourselves. Or, whether it is a gigantic problem or an emergency where we will definitely need some adult help.

Over the holiday, please continue to support your child to be independent and solve little problems for themselves. Also please keep up a little bit of reading most days – just five minutes a day can make a big difference. If you are in need of a quiet moment over the holidays, below is a YouTube link to eleven Christmas Stories read by Mrs Ruddick on her channel – Stories n Stuff. I'm sure the children will enjoy listening and following along:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGz1GfdjqbaVAXD5EHQ2W-OWf95JSil8M&si=z3HNMzF4GQocN-D6>

We hope you enjoyed the Christmas performances this week. The children were fantastic and we were very proud of their efforts. Reception did brilliantly well – it can be very daunting to stand up on stage in front of a big audience at the age of four or five. However, they took it in their stride and delivered. Key Stage One also performed fabulously in the church. The singing was excellent, the narrators spoke clearly and everyone played their part. Thank you for coming and supporting these events. It was wonderful to have a full house.

All the children have been celebrated today for a great start to the school year. We also celebrated those children who have managed to keep 100% attendance for the term. Hopefully, next term will see fewer illnesses and we can get more children in school every day.

Starting school in September seems a long time ago now. We have come a long way this term and there is lots more to do over the next two terms. The Spring term will begin with Arts Week which will be a lovely way to ease back into school. We will then get stuck into our new topics whilst continuing our core reading, writing and maths learning. However, right now the children are very tired, excited and in need of a break. They've earned it!

We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a happy new year. Enjoy time with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

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

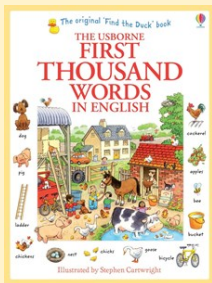
The children did two brilliant performances this week. There was great singing, great dancing and the narrators did an awesome job of retelling the story of the Nativity.

In our classes we have been practising our painting, cutting and drawing skills. We've been listening to Christmas songs and enjoying dancing to them. We hope you all have a good festive break.

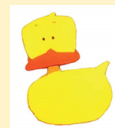
Thank you for your support at home with the children's reading and phonics. Happy Christmas from all of us at Pilton Infants' School.



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 Hospital and the Doctor.

Go to pages 30 and 31. Practise naming different body parts. What parts of the body have the people hurt? How are they feeling? Can you spot the child who is feeling bored? Sad? Sick? What are the doctors and nurses doing to help? Have you ever been to the doctor's or hospital? Talk about it with your grown up

What have we been learning this week?

Year 1 - Squirrel & Owl classes

Year 1 have had a wonderfully busy and creative time this term! They confidently performed their Nativity in the church, showing fantastic singing, clear speaking, and excellent teamwork – we are so proud of them.

In Design and Technology, the children explored how to use joins to build and create, designing and making their own imaginative forest scenes. Their careful thinking and problem-solving skills really shone through.

Our budding authors have also been hard at work in English, writing their own delightful stories inspired by Ten Little Elves. They used their ideas to create exciting characters and events, producing some truly magical tales.

During Mathematics, Year 1 have been learning about 2D shapes, identifying them and describing their properties, such as sides and corners. The children enjoyed spotting shapes in their environment and explaining what makes each one special.

Well done, Year 1, for your enthusiasm and hard work across all areas of learning!



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

What a wonderful week we have had! We hope you enjoyed the Christmas performances this week - didn't the children do well? We were very proud of their behaviour in the church and how hard they worked.

We enjoyed learning about shape in Maths this week. We learnt all about the properties of 3D shapes, such as how many vertices, edges and faces a 3D shape has. We learnt that a cube and a cuboid are part of the same family as they have the same properties!

We learnt all about the nativity in RE and all the different people that came to see Jesus when he was born. We created our own nativity scene together.

After Christmas we will be enjoying a week of Art. If you have any magazines you could bring in that would be great.

We hope you have a lovely Christmas and a Happy new year. Thank you for all of your support this year.



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: 92.36%.

Our attendance this school year is: 93.17%.

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

Thursday 8th January— New Reception 2026 parents visit 4pm

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:

[North Devon Primary Sports](#)

After school clubs for this half-term

Club	Provider	Day	Time	Year group
Football	The Goal Getters	Tuesday	3.30pm-4.30pm	Reception & Y1
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

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

<https://mynewterm.com>

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

14 Days Remaining • Apply by Midday, Wednesday 31st Dec, 2025

1.1 SEND Teaching Assistant

EDV/2025/PIA/33373

Pilton Infants' Academy

Pilton Infants' Academy is looking to appoint a 1.1 SEND TA to join our academy as soon as possible. The appointed person will work in close partnership with the relevant class teachers and will...

- 📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU
- 🕒 Fixed Term | Part-Time
- £ £13.26 Hourly
- Grade C | : 22.5 HPW (4.5 HOURS PER DAY MONDAY – FRIDAY 08:45 – 2:00PM WITH 15 MINUTE COFFEE BREAK AND 30 MINUTE UNPAID LUNCH BREAK)

AFTER SCHOOL PLAYWORKER

EDV/2025/BCPS/20298

Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

Do you have a few spare hours during the week and love working with children? Are you local to Beaford and/or can reliably commute? Then we want to hear from you!

- 📍 Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8LJ
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- £ £12.84 Hourly
- Grade B | 6 HPW (15:30PM – 17:00PM MONDAY TO THURSDAY'S ONLY)

1.1 SEND TEACHING ASSISTANT

EDV/2025/BCPS/90334

Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

The appointed person will work in close partnership with the relevant class teachers and will help to support pupils to engage with their learning. In-service training will be provided where...

- 📍 Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8LJ
- 🕒 Fixed Term | Part-Time
- £ £13.26 Hourly
- Grade: C | 27.5 Hours per week (MONDAY TO FRIDAY 08:45AM – 3:30PM) | Fixed Term | 38 weeks Term Time Only

Cook

EDV/2025/WCEPA/75406

Witheridge Church of England Primary Academy

Witheridge C of E Academy are looking for someone special to lead our school kitchen and provide nutritious, delicious meals for our pupils and staff.

- 📍 Fore Street, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 8AH
- 🕒 Permanent/Term Time Only | Full-Time
- £ £13.26 Hourly
- GRADE: C | 32.5 HPW (MONDAY - FRIDAY) | 38 Weeks

Cleaner

EDV/2025/HBCEPA/83454

High Bickington Church of England Primary Academy

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

- 📍 High Bickington, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AY
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- £ £12.84 Hourly
- Grade B | 6.25 HPW (1 HOUR 15 MINUTES EACH DAY | MONDAY TO FRIDAY)

AFTER SCHOOL PLAYWORKER LEAD

EDV/2025/BCPS/16023

Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

Do you have a few spare hours during the week and love working with children? Are you local to Beaford and/or can reliably commute? Then we want to hear from you!

- 📍 Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8LJ
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- £ £13.26 Hourly
- Grade C | 6 HPW (15:30PM – 17:00PM MONDAY TO THURSDAY'S ONLY)

1.1 SEND TEACHING ASSISTANT

EDV/2025/BCPS/45528

Beaford Community Primary & Nursery School

The appointed person will work in close partnership with the relevant class teachers and will help to support pupils to engage with their learning. In-service training will be provided where...

- 📍 Beaford, Winkleigh, Devon, EX19 8LJ
- 🕒 Fixed Term | Part-Time
- £ £13.26 Hourly
- Grade: C | 30 Hours per week (MONDAY TO FRIDAY 08:45AM – 3:30PM) | Fixed Term | 38 weeks Term Time Only

Cleaner

EDV/2025/PBCEA/44027

Pilton Bluecoat Church of England Academy

This is a part-time, permanent cleaning position, working 13.75 hours per week (2 hours 45 minutes per day, Monday to Friday). Hours are to be worked outside of the school day from 3:30pm.

- 📍 Abbey Road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- £ £12.84 Annually (Actual)
- GRADE: B | 13.75 HPW (2 HOURS 45 MINUTES EACH DAY | 3:30PM – 6:15PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY) | 41 WEEKS

Meal Time Assistant

EDV/2025/UPA/14675

Umberleigh Primary Academy

The appointed person will work as part of a team of Meal Time Assistants managed by the Head of School. In-service training will be provided where appropriate.

- 📍 Dorridge Hill, Umberleigh, Devon, EX37 9AD
- 🕒 Permanent | Part-Time
- £ £12.65 Hourly
- 3 Hours per week | (12PM – 1PM TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY EACH DAY)

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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



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

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