

Pilgrim Primary Academy

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Headteacher: Mrs L Meek (BA Hons, PGCE, N.P.Q.H)



Monday 19th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a sunny return to school for the last term of the year! We have been blessed with dry days and this has meant that the children have been out using our school grounds more than ever. They have had packed lunch picnics on the field at lunchtimes, stories under shady trees and lots of PE in preparation for our Sports days in early July. As you can see from our Newsletter today, we have had a really exciting curriculum, with lots of additional activities planned for the children.



The Pilgrim Pantry

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Pilgrim Pantry. As you can see it is totally restocked ! You are so generous!

A special thank you to a lovely lady called Stella, proprietor of The Blue's Bar on the Barbican, who also donated a generous amount of food to Pilgrim having seen our Facebook post. We are so lucky to have such great support from everyone in our community.

Please, if you are in need, just pop over and see me in the Port (KS2 playground). Many thanks to everyone.

Mrs Harris - Parent Support Advisor



Request from our local residents - Permit Holder Parking Spaces

I know that spaces are limited at key times of the day but please **DO NOT park in local resident's Permit Holder parking spaces** under any circumstances when dropping off or picking up your child. Please only park in the areas designated for public use (usually giving 2 hours of free parking on the roadside).

Residents who live nearby rely on being able to park in their permit spaces when returning from work, etc.

NEU Strike Action - new dates announced

The NEU (National Education Union) have just announced 2 further dates for strike action this term; **Wednesday 5th and Friday 7th July**. At the moment, we are not sure of the impact of this action on school but please anticipate some disruption on both or either days. I will write to you separately when we know the arrangements for these days.

CURRICULUM NEWS - WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

Our Residential Experiences

We offer two residential trips in KS2 for Year 4 and Year 6 where the children experience outdoor activities and team building challenges. Since coming back from half term both year groups have been away with the Spirit of Adventure instructors who have given them memorable experiences and enabled the children to build their confidence and skills.

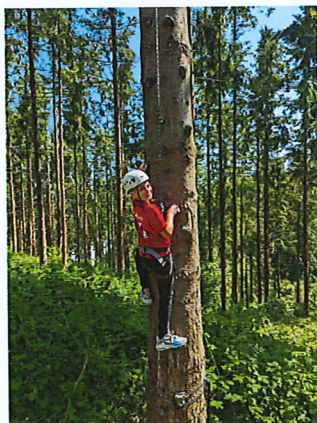
Year 4 - Residential to The River Dart, near Dartmouth



Our Year 4 children spent 2 days and 1 night under canvas camping in the woods near the River Dart. The team had a fantastic time. It started with a beautiful forest walk to the camp where they set up and got used to their outdoor surroundings. Then, they enjoyed tree climbing where they worked together to support each other to get as high up as they could. The children were amazing at cheering each other on and their determination was just brilliant! To finish off their first day, they enjoyed their firestone, handmade pizzas around the campfire and went for a scenic walk to take in their picturesque surroundings including to the River Dart. They returned to camp to roast marshmallows around the campfire before finally retiring to their cabins.



On their final day, the children enjoyed sausages around the fire and then took on their biggest challenge - the zipwire. High up in the trees they whizzed across from tree to tree with huge smiles on their faces. The staff were really impressed with their resilience and collaboration on this trip. All the children tried things they had never done before with a really positive attitude, encouraging their friends to do their best too. What a great team - you made us proud, Year 4!



Year 6 - Residential to The Dewerstone Cottage near Shaugh Prior on Dartmoor



The Year 6 children went in two separate teams last week to spend 3 days and 2 nights bunking down at the Dewerstone Cottage in a beautiful location right next to The River Meavy. They took on team challenges including rock scrambling, orienteering around the site, tree climbing (it was really high!) and river scrambling (it was really wet!). On the last day, the children used all their new skills to complete The Dewer's Adventure Race - all the children grew in confidence and determination over the 3 days. I stayed 2 nights with the first group (Falcon Class) and it was lovely to see the pupils interacting with the Spirit of Adventure instructors, playing together up on Dartmoor in the evening and just enjoying each others' company so much. I wish we could have stayed longer!



Year 5 - Widening Horizons Project

In Year 5, we partner with Millfields Inspired Trust to give the children lots of experiences of the jobs and careers that are on offer in and around the City of Plymouth as part of the Widening Horizons programme for local primary schools. In the last few weeks, Year 5 have had a couple of trips organised as part of the project which they have really enjoyed.

Visit to Market Hall with Kier Construction

Last week, Year 5 Dolphins visited the Market Hall in Devonport (The Orcas had already visited a few weeks earlier). They were shown a 360 degree film on a giant dome cinema screen. The film was created by Kier Construction and taught the children all about what careers are available in the construction industry. There were lots of great questions and the Dolphins showed respectful listening and a keen interest as they were immersed in the experience! Here are pictures from both class visits.



Visit to EE



Here are Orca class on their visit to EE a few weeks ago where they learned about the jobs roles within the company. They were also treated to a wonderful buffet breakfast which the children enjoyed very much.

Year 3

As part of their Computing Unit "We are presenters" the children in Year 3 have been investing skills that are used when creating digital images. These investigations have included shooting live videos, taking photographs, framing shots and editing images. Here are some of their fabulous "action shot" photos.





Year 2

Last week Year 2 was visited by the Fire and Rescue service. We learned all about how to contact the Fire service if we need them and how to keep ourselves safe at home. We looked at where in a room smoke flows and to remain close to the ground, walking on our feet in case glass breaks. We learned to stop, drop and roll, if any fire is on our clothing. We learned about how to test our smoke alarms at home and we had a practice. We learned so much and had great fun!



Year 1

Year 1 has been looking at the book 'Cyril and Pat' in Book Time. This is a story all about friendship and loyalty. We are writing friendship recipes based on characteristics we think are important in a good friend. We created a recipe for rice krispie cakes and followed that recipe. We learnt that we need ingredients and a method when making recipes.



EYFS

In EYFS, we have been learning the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. We made our own caterpillars using different techniques. Then, some real caterpillars arrived in our classrooms. We are observing how they grow and are waiting to see what they do next.



In this hot weather, we have also enjoyed the occasional water fight or ice lolly to cool us down!!!



Cosy Cottage

In Cosy Cottage our new topic is 'Paleontologists'. We went to an excavation site and found all different kinds of fossils, even some dinosaur bones!!

We used magnifying glasses so we could see the fossils close up, we all had lots of fun doing the role of a Palaeontologist.



Look at Our Learning Sessions

During the first 2 weeks of this term we have enjoyed inviting you into school to share your child's recent learning with them. The children have loved showing off their new skills, knowledge and understanding. I think you will agree it is fantastic to see the children's pride in their learning and the progress they are making. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to come into school as we have planned to repeat these sessions at the start of each term.



World Ocean Day

As Plymouths Ocean City and with the schools close proximity to the coast, it was important for our children to celebrate World Ocean day on the 8th of June. In assembly the children learnt about the impact of plastic pollution on our oceans and what they can do to protect the ocean from this. They then created sea creatures out of plastic bottles in order to create a whole school "art installation" to highlight this issue. They even joined in some World Ocean Day yoga!



LOOKING AHEAD....DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dates for
the Diary:

w/c 26.06.23	Annual reports will be coming home on Friday 30th June 4EK Class Assembly - Friday 30th June
w/c 3.07.23	Parent Consultation Meetings
w/c 03.07.23	<p><u>Health Lifestyles Week</u> <u>Sports Days</u> EYFS - Monday 3rd July - pm Year 4,5,6 - Tuesday 4th July - pm Year 1,2,3 - Thurs 6th July - pm</p> <p> </p> <p>Wednesday 5th July - School Photographer for Class Photos (TBC) - NEU strike day_</p> <p>Friday 7th July - 2BF Class Assembly</p>
w/c 10.07.23	<p> Friday 14th July - Summer Fair on the Field Details will follow....</p>
w/c 17.07.23	<p>Year 6 Performances - dates to follow</p> <p>Governor Awards Assembly - Friday 21st July</p>
w/c 24.07.23	Leavers Assembly - Year 6 parents welcome - Tues 25th July
LAST DAY OF TERM - Tuesday 25th July	

There will be more dates added in our next Newsletters....keep checking!

Pupils to Celebrate!

Well done to these children who have gained recognition from the adults and the children in school in the last fortnight. Great stuff!

	PAT ON THE BACK	STAR LEARNER
	From 05/06/2023 until 16/06/2023	
Yr 1	Jolicia B / Alisa A / Lacey-Rose P-W / Julia A	Leyland S / Aavya S / w/c 12/06 Whole Year
Yr 2	Berin S / Cruz E / David O	Kelsie H / Sebastian T / Aliyah M / George T
Yr 3	Oskar C / Digby C / Taym A / Maddakai C	Helen L / Zackery S / Elenorth W / Daniel S
Yr 4	Luca P / Josh F / Penny E	Abhiraj K / Jeron J / Isla H / Victor O
Yr 5	Laura O / Phoebe H-P / Vinnie M / Maria A	Marley E / Charlie P / Jara G / Sam B
Yr 6	Sienna J-H / Zander R	Malak A / Dan T / Saket S


Attendance Update - Requests to take children out of school for a holiday in term time.

Attendance for the year to date is slowly creeping up and overall the children have attended school for 92.5% of the time. However, this is still below the average for school in England which is 93.7% . At this time of year, parents/carers opting to take their children on holiday during term time causes the bulk of absences. Please remember that **requests for absence for holidays in term time will not be authorised and are likely to result in either:**

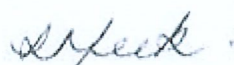
- a warning for a Penalty Notice (and then any further unauthorised absence could lead to a Penalty Fine being issued)
- Or an immediate request for a Penalty Notice to be issued (fines of £60 per child). This is particularly likely if your child has had unauthorised absences in the year already.

Best Attending Classes

Which classes are attending well? **Dolphins in Year 5** continue to be the best attending class of the year so far BUT our **Year 6 Falcons** have achieved a whopping 99% attendance in the 2 weeks since returning from half term - WOW!

Pilgrim Primary Attendance (397 pupils)	Attendance School (target 95%+)	Attendance National (Primary schools)	Lateness (pupils arriving after 9.00 am)
Up to w/e 16.06.23	92.5%	93.7%	1.3%
Best class (year to date) Year 5 Dolphin 95.5%	Best class (last 2 weeks) Year 6 Falcons 99%		
Classes with 95%+ attendance this year: Year 6 Falcons Year 5 Dolphins		23 pupils have 100% attendance this year 	

I hope you enjoy the remaining sunshine this week and I am very much looking forward to a fun-filled end of summer term.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Meek'.

Mrs L Meek
Headteacher