

Pilgrim Primary Academy

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



Friday 12th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy couple of weeks since the last Newsletter which has included disruptions due to bank holidays and closure due to school being used as a polling station last week too. Hopefully the next couple of weeks will be more settled. Please read on to hear about how Pilgrim celebrated the recent coronation of King Charles III - we had great fun!

Well done to our Year 6 Pupils

This week, our Year 6 children have completed 6 different SATs test papers across 4 days, covering grammar, spelling, reading and maths. The tests are rigorous and require lots of concentration. The children need to work independently, managing their time carefully. Throughout the week, the children have shown exemplary attitudes, absolute determination and lots of stamina! All adults who have worked with our Year 6 children this week noticed their efforts to do their very best and we are all enormously proud of them. Very well done, Year 6!

School Behaviour Support Information Sessions

Thank you to parents and carers who attended one of our information sessions yesterday about the way in which school now supports and manages behaviour. The sessions covered some key messages about changes we have made this year and outlined the main ways in which we positively recognise pupils conduct and behaviour in school. Parents were also told about the consequences that are in place for pupils who do not meet behavioural expectations and our support pathway for children who struggle to manage their emotions and behaviours.

We also discussed recent training that staff had undergone and parents had a chance to pick up some useful information leaflets to support behaviour at home.

The parents and carers who attended gave very positive feedback and therefore, we plan to **run this session again** early in the next half term so more parents and carers can access this important information. The date for this is **Friday 9th June** and we will be offering a choice of 2 session times: 2.15 - 3.15 pm or 5.00 - 6.00 pm

Please take time to join us on one of those sessions if you did not attend yesterday's meeting. Thanks.

Good luck Half Marathon Runners!

On Sunday morning, some of our KS2 children will be undertaking the last mile of their Plymouth Schools Partnership Half Marathon Challenge. They will be joining hundreds of other Plymouth school children to run their last mile around The Hoe. This is a great event which takes place on the same day as the adult Plymouth half marathon - the atmosphere on The Hoe is fantastic! We want to say GOOD LUCK to our runners and WELL DONE to all who are participating. This will be a wonderful achievement. Reminder for parents of pupils running in the event to meet at 'The Wedding Cake' on the waterfront side of The Hoe at 10.15 am. See you there!

IMPORTANT: Changes to the external gates access

This week, we have started to make changes to the way in which some of our external gates are controlled. These are the gates that you and your children use to enter and exit the school site. These are the changes:

The Main entrance (using the pedestrian pathway from Oxford Street):

To **exit** - there is no longer a green push release button on the wall to press for exit. This is replaced with an intercom system to communicate with the office staff, who will then open the gates for you. This system is exactly the same as the current **entry** system for this gate - press the intercom buzzer, stand in front of the camera and you will be let in.

The Lower entrance (on Hastings Terrace)

This remains the same at the moment but the system will be changed over the half term holiday to match the system on the Main gates (above). You will need to use an intercom system and camera to get IN and OUT.

The Field entrance (along Oxford Street)

This is the entrance used by many of our EYFS and KS1 parents and carers. This gate has had the push release button removed and now has no means to manually open the gate without a key fob. There is no intercom system on this gate on either side. **This gate will only be opened and closed at drop off and pick up times.** At all other times it will remain closed and access to the school grounds will be via the intercom system on the Main and Lower (Hastings Terrace) entrances.

These are the times that all gates will be opened by our caretaker for ease of access at these busy times (just as they are now):

Drop off: 8.45 - 9.05 am (20 mins)
Pick up: 15.05 - 15.30 pm (25 mins)

Due to these changes, I ask that **all parents and carers leave the school grounds as swiftly as possible after drop off or pick up**, before the caretaker locks the external gates up. It will take us all some time to get used to the system but the changes are in the best interests of site security - thank you for your cooperation.

Nuts in school - snacks and packed lunches

A reminder that we are a **'nut-free' school** due to a number of pupils having severe nut allergies. Therefore, we ask all parents/carers **NOT** to send any products with nuts into school, including as snacks, in packed lunches or in any other foods. Your support with this is vital to us ensuring a safe environment for our pupils with allergies. Thank you.

CURRICULUM NEWS - WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

Keeping safe

This week hosted some visitors from the RNLI. They led our assembly and taught us about how to stay safe when we visit the beach. They taught us about the different coloured flags you see on a beach and what those flags mean. They also taught us about rip currents and how to call for help if you were stuck in the water. They reminded us to call 999 if we saw someone in trouble in the water and not to go into the water to try and help ourselves. We also learnt about the job of a lifeguard and the important role they play in keeping us safe while we have fun in the sun at the beach.



Dentist visit

Both Year 2 classes have also had a visitor from the Dental school this week. They were taught about the importance of correctly brushing and caring for their teeth. They learnt about how the food we eat affects the health of our teeth and our bodies. They also learnt about fluoride and how this protects their teeth and helps to keep them strong and healthy.



Coronation Activities



Terrific Textiles

In D&T this term, the whole school has been looking at textiles and learning how to sew. We have learnt to thread a needle, secure a knot on our thread and sew different stitches. We used our new sewing skills to make a decoration to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles. The school has been swamped with thread, needles, filler and fabrics in Red, white and blue.

As the children have engaged in their own sewing bee! They have had great fun designing, making and evaluating their decorations! We think you will agree the results have been impressive.



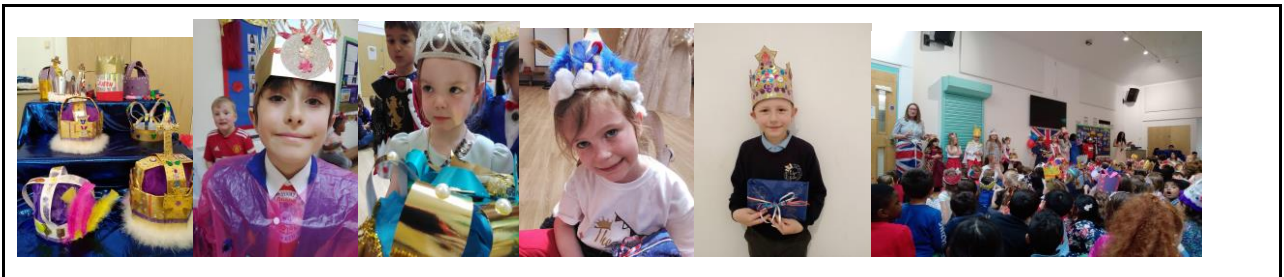


Crown Competition

The children have also engaged enthusiastically with our “create a crown” competition to mark the Kings’ Coronation. A very big well done to all of the children that participated. We were very impressed with the creativity and originality shown by you all! The judging was extremely difficult but we eventually declared the following pupils the competition winners for each class:

Cosy Cottage	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Isaac	Riley Malachi	Flora Julia	Rahad Lydia	Alliyah Edith	Evie Jeron	Ore Paige	Jess Arshad

Congratulations to our overall Phase winners were: **Misha** (Cosy Cottage), **Ella** (EYFS), **Thea** (KS1) and **Myron** (KS2).



As part of our Coronation celebrations we came together to enjoy a special **celebratory lunch**. The children enjoyed the street party atmosphere, as did their teachers!



During the day we also came together as a school to sing the **national anthem** and to perform a special “**country dance**” we had learnt to mark the King’s coronation. We all enjoyed performing our dance with our friends and teachers, dressed in our red, white and blue or royal inspired clothes!



We also learnt about the life of King Charles, we created “King” inspired art, we shared our DT decorations with each other, we played some traditional games in our classes and had a fun filled fantastic day!



LOOKING AHEAD....

Whole School Term Dates for your Diary

- 14.05.23 Half Marathon event on the Hoe
- 19.05.23 Seastar Class Assembly
- 29.05.23 HALF TERM**
- 05.06.23 Return to school**
- 05.06.23 Year 6 swimming block starts
- 09.06.23 Lion Class Assembly
- Parent/Carer Behaviour Information Session (2.15 pm or 5.00 pm)
- 07-09.06.23 Year 4 Residential experience (1 night)
- w/c 12.06.23 School Grounds Week and Year 6 Residential experiences
- 03.07.23 EYFS Sports Day
- 04.07.23 KS1 Sports Day
- 05.07.23 School Photographer - Class Photos
- 06.07.23 KS2 Sports Day
- 14.07.23 Summer Fayre
- 25.07.23 End of Term for children - last day of school**



Look out for further dates in our next Newsletter....

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 01/05/2023 until 12/05/2023	
Yr 1	Chloe G / All Seahorses	Oscar M / Sam W / Arnold E / Ibrahim B
Yr 2	Oscar W / Lana K	Max H / Elya A / Adejare A / Lana K
Yr 3	Katie-Maie H / Patrick P	Avin G / Sienna N / Katie-Maie H / Hannah W
Yr 4	Evie S / Oscar B	Joshua F / Jethro F-K / Daniel E / Ioanna N
Yr 5	Joyce L	Loyal A / Camron B / Brooke G
Yr 6	Denise D	Miarose W / Sonia P / All Falcons

Attendance

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 class have been the best attending class in the last 2 weeks. Well done Ms Redmond's children - keep it up!

The amount of **lateness** (after 9.00am) has risen over the last few weeks and we are still seeing far too many families and children arriving late after registration. School starts at 8.50 am and registration closes at 9.00am. Any children arriving later than 9.00 am have to sign in at the office and this causes enormous problems at the start of the busy day for your child and us. Please support us by making sure your child arrives promptly to school.

Pilgrim Primary Attendance (404 pupils)	Attendance School (target 95%+)	Attendance National (Primary schools)	Lateness (pupils arriving after 9.00 am)
Up to w/e 12.05.23	92.2%	93.6%	2.29%
Best class (year to date) 95.5%	Year 5 Dolphins 	Best class (last fortnight) 99.07%	Year 6 Falcons 

We look forward to seeing you all next week on Monday - have a good weekend!

L Meek

**Mrs L Meek
Headteacher**