

Pilgrim Primary Academy

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

8th September 2023

Dear parents, carers and families,



Welcome to the new academic year. I really hope you all had a wonderful summer with your children. We are very happy to see them back in school this week, meeting their new teachers and settling into their new classrooms. I am very proud of the way the children have come back to school - we have had a really positive few days here at school - and at the end of this Newsletter, there are some pictures to prove it!

Welcome to our new children and families

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all our **new children and families**. We have had lots of new children joining us in Years 1-6 this week.

Also, our new **EYFS children** will be starting school next week. There will be 52 children joining us for their first day of school in Reception, spending a couple of weeks of shorter sessions in school to let them settle in well. I know that you will make both the children and their families feel part of the Pilgrim family straight away. I look forward to meeting both children and parents/carers over the next few weeks.

New Class Information

Today, you will have received some information about the adults who will be in the immediate year team that your child is in and some basic information to help you and your child get organised and into routines for the new term.

It is important to us that you have a chance to see your child's new class and teacher. We would like to invite all parents and carers to a very informal 'Meet the Teacher' session so you can come into school, meet the team of staff working with your child, hear more about the plans for the term ahead and spend some time in your child's classroom. You have already been sent information about these sessions but as a reminder these are the details:

Friday 8th 2.45pm (TODAY)	Monday 11th 2.45 pm	Tuesday 12th 2.45pm	Thursday 14th 2.45pm	Friday 15th 2.45pm
Years 5 and 6	Year 1	Year 2 and Butterflies class	Year 3	Year 4

New morning start times

Thank you all too for adjusting to the slightly earlier opening time in the morning. Just a reminder though that **the exterior gates will open at 8.40am** and the **children's classrooms will be open at 8.45am. Registration closes now at 8.55am.**

All arrangements for the end of the day remain the same.

Cosy Cottage has a new name!

Our school has an adopted provision class for a small number of pupils in The Port (the grey building on KS2 playground). This class has always been known as Cosy Cottage but they will now be known as Butterflies, having an animal name in line with our other classes in school.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. This has caused problems in some schools recently and has even closed schools in some areas of the country.

To keep you informed, the Trust commissioned consultants to survey the estate to look for the presence of RAAC. The result of the survey is that **no RAAC has been identified on our school site so Pilgrim is unaffected by this issue.**

Lost and Found - a snake!

Some of you might be aware that a snake was spotted on school grounds this week! Luckily, one of our lovely parents was able to help us and the snake was quickly captured and taken away from the playground. It did cause quite a commotion though as you can imagine. The snake was quickly collected by a local reptile expert who is looking after it currently. We have been told that the snake was a domesticated pet that had probably escaped and the owner is being sought.

If you, or any friends/neighbours have lost their pet snake, please could you get in touch with the school on 01752 225319 and we will put you in touch with the lovely lady who is taking care of it. We were certainly not expecting this to happen on the first day back at school!

A message from our Parent Support Advisor, Mrs Donna Harris



I am based in the new building called The Port which is on the KS2 playground. I have my own room (and kettle) so pop in and say hello! I can usually be found on the playground first thing in the morning but if you can't find me please feel free to make an appointment via the office. I am always here to help you with any situation big or small!

Also, we have our own Pilgrim Pantry; a food and toiletries bank for our community to use when needed and a Pilgrim Uniform Bank - please come and chat to me if you would like to access any of these.

Lost Property - please label all clothing and lunch boxes!



**Uniform
Store
Plymouth**

We have bags and bags of lost property left from last year - lots of it is quite new. At the end of last term, we displayed the lost property but much of it remains unclaimed. Out of over 10 bags full of lost property, we found only 4 items were labelled with a child's name!

Please, if you have lost something, come to look in our lost property. Ask for Mrs Harris, our PSA, who has it all stored.

ANY UNCLAIMED ITEMS FROM LAST YEAR WILL BE DONATED TO THE LOCAL UNIFORM SHOP ON FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER (NEXT FRIDAY)

Diary Dates - What's Coming Up?

We have got an exciting term to look forward to:

18th Sept	After school clubs start (see accompanying letter)
29th Sept	MacMillian Bake Sale (charity cake sale KS2 playground)
5th Oct	Year 3 trip to Eden Project
5th Oct	National Poetry Day
13th Oct	Harvest Festival (donations to Plymouth Food Back)
17th Oct	Year 4 trip to Morwellham Quay
20th Oct	Show Racism the Red Card - wear red clothes day (no contribution)
w/c 23rd October is Half Term week - no school	



Look out for more dates in our next newsletter!

Staffing News



Welcome back to Mrs O'Leary who has returned to school after having taken maternity leave. Mrs O'Leary will be working in our EYFS team, sharing responsibility for our Bear Cubs reception class with Mrs Gough.

This year we have some new teachers joining our team who are:



Mrs K Carpenter
Year 3 Teacher



Miss Lauryn Waring
Year 1 Teacher



Miss R Hingston
Year 2 Teacher

We also have some new Teaching Assistants joining us:



Mrs A Bishop



Mrs K Welch
(HLTA)



Miss B Richardson



Miss I Skilton-Dower



Mr D Lundberg

The Leadership Team

Just a reminder who your school Leadership Team and SENCO are too...



Mrs L Meek
Headteacher



Mr Goodwin
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Wilmshurst
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Gale
SENCO

We all wish you a very sunny and happy weekend. See you on Monday!



Yours sincerely

Please look at our photos below....

What a great start to our new academic year!

Year 1 & 2



Year 3 & 4



Year 5 & 6



Butterflies In Butterflies class we have been having lots of fun with arts and crafts. We have been learning about portraits and decided to create our own portraits using paper plates.