

AUSTIN FARM

Academy

Newsletter 20/06/2025

Dear parents/carers,

What an exciting week we have had! The sun has been shining and the children have been working hard as always!

On Monday years 3 and 4 went on their trip to the Eden Project, the day was absolutely fantastic, with the children exploring both biomes and discovering the vital role plants play in our lives. They were particularly fascinated by how these incredible plants contribute to our

survival—such an important lesson! A standout moment for Year 4 was when they encountered figs for the very first time, which perfectly linked back to a reading book they've been studying in English. It was heart-warming to see their eyes light up with curiosity and excitement! Learning outside the classroom truly enriches their educational journey, and we are so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic they all were. A big thank you to everyone who made this trip possible. Here's to more adventures like this in the future!

Every day in school is important and it is a parent's legal duty to ensure their child is in school regularly. Mrs Pickard and I attended some training on Monday for the launch of a new attendance portal. This will enable the council to keep a closer eye on levels of attendance, especially unauthorised holidays and react faster than previously. Remember, even if you call your child in as sick and then we find out that you have been on holiday, fines can still be issued. After only 10 sessions missed (including late after the register is closed) within a 10-week period, the school and Plymouth City Council can take action.

On Tuesday, Miss Brokenshire and I had a meeting to arrange details of a 2-year phonics partnership which we are starting in September with Kernow Learning Trust. This should result in extra support for those children who are struggling with learning phonics and applying it in their reading. It will also provide valuable training opportunities for our staff, although they are already great at teaching phonics, it never hurts to refresh our knowledge.

On Wednesday, our teachers attended writing moderation meetings across the primary schools in WeST; this was to ensure that the teacher assessments we are giving our children for writing at the end of the year are of similar standards across the Trust. Look out for your child's end of year report which will come home on Wednesday 9th July.

Today was crazy hair day! Instead of money, donations of toiletries for the toiletries tombola at our Summer fair were gratefully received by the PTA, see the photos below for some of the craziest hair styles!! If you forgot to bring in shower gel, shampoo, soap, moisturiser or any other toiletries today, we will happily take them in on Monday.

Next Thursday is comfy shoe day! Wear your comfiest shoes/slippers/trainers in exchange for sweets for the summer fair.

Next Wednesday is sports day!!The PTA will be selling drinks, crisps and cookies from outside the kitchen for parents & children watching the event, before the gates open at 12.30.Please do not go over to your child during sports day to give them any drinks or snacks as they will have their water bottles with them and the PTA have bought ice poles for all children in the school to have during sports day. After sports day there will be chocolate or vanilla ice creams, drinks and cookies sold by the PTA from outside the school office.

Next year we will have new catering providers, Aspens; we are very excited to have new menus in place from September and a new online ordering system. Please keep your eyes out for further information in the next few weeks.

I hope you have a great weekend and enjoy the sunny weather on Saturday,







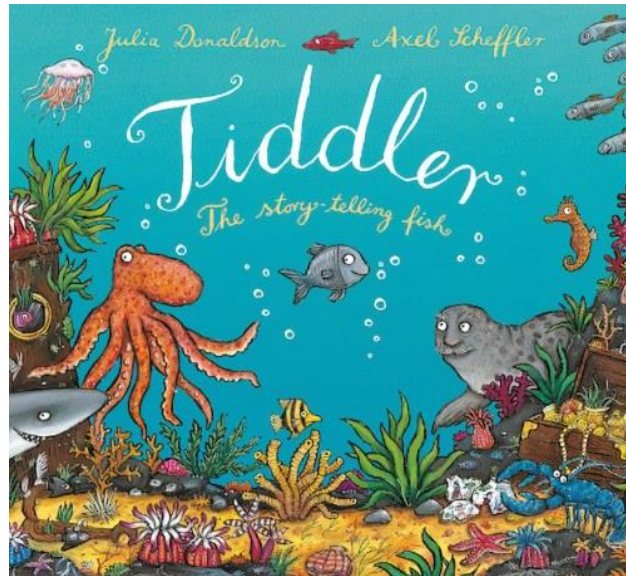




IMPORTANT - School admissions waiting list information from Plymouth City Council.

If your child is on a waiting list for another school please be aware that they will only remain on the waiting list(s) until **31st July 2025** after which your child will automatically be removed. Parents will have to apply for their child to re-join the waiting list by submitting a new In-Year application, at any point from 1st August. Waiting lists will be cleared on the 31st July every academic year going forward. Please see Plymouth admissions for more information. [Home | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](https://www.plymouth.gov.uk)

Foundation/Year 1: This week, the Year 1s have been completing their assessments and have been trying really hard - they can feel very proud of themselves for the effort they have put in. In our 'Great Explorers' topic in History we have learnt about Neil Armstrong, the first person to walk on the moon! We learnt about his journey to becoming an astronaut and exploring space! We learnt his famous saying - "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind". We have also been practising for our sports day next week, learning how to work hard to support our team.



Year 2: In our history this week we have continued our learning about The Stone Age. We have explored how our ancestors were hunter-gatherers as they hunted their food using tools they made, and then gathered other foods to bring back to their families. We have also been looking at the term 'pre-historic'. We have learnt that our ancestors did not write things down, instead they drew paintings on the walls of caves. We were able to create our own paintings on a picture of a cave wall. We drew images of a woolly mammoth, a goat and deer.



Year 3: This week, we have started to design our healthy salad ready for when we come to make them for our picnic in a couple of weeks. We have enjoyed comparing salads and saying about what we need to include in the ingredients, and equipment lists. In maths, we've been learning how to tell the time to the nearest minute, and this has proven difficult for many of us, but we've persevered and made lots of progress.



Year 4: This week, our enthusiastic Year 4 students have been fully immersed in some exciting learning adventures! In English, they have been exploring the world of direct speech. It's wonderful to see their creativity shine as they practise using inverted commas and reporting dialogue! Meanwhile, in Maths, the focus has shifted to symmetry, where the class have been discovering patterns and shapes. Their problem-solving skills are truly blossoming as they create symmetrical masterpieces! In Science, we're embarking on a new unit all about classifying plants and animals. The children are eager to learn more about the how we can categorise living things. It's been a week full of engagement and enthusiasm, and we can't wait to see what next week brings!

Year 5/6: This week we have been looking at how clothes are designed using Computer assisted Technology in DT. We have been practising events for our sports day and are looking forward to showing you our skills next Wednesday. We have been practising how to write an explanation text for our "Cracking Contraptions" in English.

Summer Fair 2025

The poster features a vibrant background of a blue sky with white clouds and a green field. On the right side, there is a large, stylized sun with a yellow face, wearing blue sunglasses, and orange rays. The text is in orange and green colors.

Austin Farm Academy Summer Fair

Friday 4th July 2025 – 3:30pm-5:00pm

- Bouncy castle
- Beat the goalie
- Glitter hair and braids
- Raffle
- Tuck shop
- Bric a Brac stall
- Tombola
- Hook a Duck
- Hoop the bottle
- Lucky dip
- Spin the wheel
- Tin can ally
- Sponge the teacher (picture)
- Win £50 (£1 per square)
- And many more...

50p Adult entry.

If you are interested in hiring a stall from us. £10 a stall, please contact the office.



Learners of the week!!! Great job!!!

Foundation: B.Liburd

Year 1: S.Tippet

Year 2: T.Shepherd

Year 3: J.Nuttall

Year 4: O.Young

Year 5: M.Scott

Year 6: E.Shepherd

Well done to Year 4 on getting 94.5% attendance this week.



Dates to remember!!!

Wednesday 25th June - Sports Day 1.00 - 3.00 on the school field. Gates open at 12.30.

Thursday 26th June - Comfy shoe day! In exchange for sweets for the fair. Wear school uniform but with trainers, slippers or any comfy shoes!

Friday 27th June - INSET day, no children in school.

Monday 30th June - Year 5 trip to the golf centre & Saltram.

Tuesday 1st July - EYFS/Year 1 trip to the steam railway.

Friday 4th July Mufti day! In exchange for a bottle for the Hoop a bottle stall. This is fair day - wear what you want, ready for the fair!

Friday 4th July - Summer Fair 3.30 - 5.00 on the school field.

Wednesday 9th July - school reports out.

Friday 11th July - Year 6 prom 5.00 - 7.00pm in school hall.

Tuesday 15th July - Year 6 leaver's assembly 2.30pm in school hall. (including year 6 headteacher's award).

Thursday 17th July - Head teacher's award assembly for EYFS-Year 5. 2.30 in the school hall.

Information on term time holidays from West Country Schools Trust.




WESTCOUNTRY
SCHOOLS TRUST

ATTENDANCE WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1 I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything. Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160




2 FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE 10 IN 10 5

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1 Day = 2 Sessions




+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160
4 children & 1 parent = £640
 Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

3 FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS

+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160


4 children & 2 parents = £1280
 Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days



If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

4

<p>2ND TIME</p> <p>2 parents and 1 child = £320 2 children = 640 3 children = 960 4 children = 1280</p> <p>No discount for early payment</p>	<p>3RD TIME</p> <p>A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court. A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child</p> <p>1 parent & 4 children = £10,000 2 parents & 4 children = £20,000</p>
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1 - Before you book your term time holiday, consider is it worth it? One of our families has been fined already this year, don't be the next one.

5 minutes late, does it really matter ?

Lateness = Lost Learning

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

- 5 Minutes late each day - 3 days lost
- 10 Minutes late each day - 6.5 days lost
- 15 Minutes late each day - 10 days lost
- 20 Minutes late each day - 13 days lost
- 30 Minutes late each day - 19 days lost

WeST Term Dates 2024-2025

WeST Term Dates 2024 to 2025

Agreed for wider distribution

Aug 2024							Sep 2024							Oct 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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							30													

Nov 2024							Dec 2024							Jan 2025						
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25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
							30	31												

Feb 2025							Mar 2025							Apr 2025						
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May 2025							Jun 2025							Jul 2025						
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Key: Peach - holiday periods; light green - weekends; blue - Trust NPD; yellow - School NPD

Important dates

Autumn Term Dates: Monday 2 September to Friday 25 October, then Monday 4 November to Friday 20 December

Term 1: 40 days (inc. School NPD Mon 2 Sept and WeST NPD Tues 3 Sept)

Term 2: 35 days

Spring Term Dates: Monday 6 January to Friday 14 February, then Monday 24 February to Friday 4 April

Term 3: 30 days (inc. School NPD Monday 6 January)

Term 4: 30 days

Summer Term Dates: Tuesday 22 April to Friday 23 May, then Monday 2 June to Tuesday 22 July (Note: NPDs on Mo 21 and Tu 22 Jul '25 are

disaggregated for staff twilight training throughout the year. The last day of the academic year for students and staff is Friday 18 July 2025)

Term 5: 23 days

Term 6: 37 days

WeST Term Dates 2025-2026

WeST Term Dates 2025-2026

Aug 2025						
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Sep 2025						
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Dec 2025						
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Jan 2026						
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Feb 2026						
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Mar 2026						
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Apr 2026						
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May 2026						
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Jun 2026						
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Jul 2026						
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27	28	29	30	31		

Key	
	Holiday periods
	Bank holidays
	Weekends
	Trust NPDs
	School NPDs

OUR PARENTING COURSES



SOLIHULL

The Solihull Approach to parenting looks at a range of strategies to enhance parent-child relationships, designed to encourage a reflective style of parenting that leads to more sensitive and effective parenting. You are also helped to understand how you can influence your relationship with your child through play.

We focus on the parent-child relationship and aim to support you in building positive and responsive relationships with your children. Our sessions include:

- How do you know what you and your child are feeling?
- Tuning in to your child's developmental needs.
- Having fun together: The importance of play.
- Self-regulation.
- Sleep and anger.
- Different styles of parenting.
- How to recover when things go wrong.

We run 5 different Solihull Approach courses:

- Solihull - Understanding your child (6m-36 years)
- Solihull - Understanding your baby (0-6 months)
- Solihull - Understanding your child with additional needs
- Solihull (16wks) (16 weeks, 2 hour sessions)
- Solihull Antenatal (5 weeks)

INCREDIBLE YEARS

This programme is supported by over 30 years of research to help support parents to improve their child's behaviour.

Our Incredible Years parenting programmes focus on strengthening parent and child interactions, nurturing relationships, promoting positive discipline and helping families promote social, emotional and language development in children.

We run 3 different Incredible Years courses:

- Incredible Years Basic 3-8 years (12 weeks, 2 hour sessions)
- Incredible Years Basic 3-8 years (12 weeks, 2 hour sessions)
- Incredible Years ASC (Autistic Spectrum Condition) (8 weeks, 2 hour sessions)

CIRCLE OF SECURITY

(8 weeks, 2 hour sessions)
4 months - 5 years

The Circle of Security parenting sessions are reflective with discussions around appreciating & improving attachment, strengthening relationships and improving the lives of children through connection. It's a therapeutic and related program, beneficial to all caregivers and parents.

Facilitators work with parents and caregivers to help them to:

- Understand their child's emotional world by learning to read emotional needs.
- Support their child's ability to successfully manage emotions.
- Enhance the development of their child's self esteem.
- Honour the innate wisdom and desire for their child to be secure.

TIMID TO TIGER

(8 weeks, 2 hour sessions)
8-13 years

Timid to Tiger is an entirely parenting-based approach to managing anxiety in children. It is based on evidence that anxious children benefit substantially from a parenting style that is clear, calm and consistent.

The group aims to explore the role of anxiety within a family and how it develops.

The Timid to Tiger course explores:

- Securing parent-child bonds through non-directive play.
- Understanding your child's anxiety and managing behaviours related to this.
- Using praise to build children's confidence and deliver rewards to help your child's motivation.
- Managing worry & really difficult behaviour.

KINTSUGI HOPE

(8 weeks, 2 hour sessions)

Kintsugi Hope is a charity based in the UK striving to make a difference to people's mental wellbeing.

"Kintsugi" is a Japanese technique for repairing pottery with veins of gold. The word means 'golden journey'. In Japanese, this repairs the brokenness in a way that makes the object more beautiful, and even more unique than it was prior to being broken. Instead of hiding the scars it makes a feature of them.

We want to see a world where mental and emotional health is understood and accepted, with safe and supported communities for everyone to grow and flourish.

Issues covered include:

- Disappointment,
- Loss,
- Anxiety,
- Anger,
- Perfectionism,
- Shame,
- Resilience.

FOR A REFERRAL FORM PLEASE CONTACT:

plymouthchildrenscentres
@barnardos.org.uk

Email justina.hingston@barnardos.org.uk if you require further information about our courses or to discuss or follow up your parenting course referrals.

PLEASE NOTE: Courses are open to parents, parents to be, grandparents and carers only and are face to face and during the day. Creche spaces are available but limited spaces.

STEP BY STEP



Do you have any worries about your child's development?

We have specialised groups to help with children who may have signs of developmental delay and/or SEN. Come along to one of our Step By Step groups to gain advice and support for you and your child.



Monday
The Barn family hub -10-11.15am

Tuesday
Nomony Family Hub -10-11.15am

Wednesday
High View Family Hub - 1.30-2.45pm

Thursday
Whiteleigh family hub 10-11.15am

No need to book, just come along
Or alternatively scan our QR for extra information



BARNARDO'S
Changing childhoods.
Changing lives.

CLICK HERE OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS
OUR PADLET...



VISIT OUR PADLET FOR SONGS,
VIDEOS, TIPS, AND APPS.

TOOTH BRUSHING TIPS



Let's Get Chatting
#LetsGetChattingPlymouth2025



People who can help
Tash works in the
Barnardo's Family Hub

One  Devon



[Promote your business at Plymouth Armed Forces Day](#)

Be part of Plymouth's exciting Armed Forces Day, as it returns to Plymouth Hoe on Saturday 28 June 2025. Each year Plymouth shows its support to the Armed Forces and celebrates their outstanding contribution to the city and UK. Plymouth Armed Forces Day is one of the city's signature events, and last year saw approximately 45,000 visitors throughout the day, and is one of the country's largest Armed Forces Day celebrations outside of the National Event.

This is a great event to showcase your business to visitors, residents, service personnel, veterans and military families. We have many pitch and advertising opportunities available, including the LED big screen and official website, with prices starting from £100.

[Promote your business at Plymouth Armed Forces Day | Invest Plymouth](#)

Plymouth Information Advice and Support for SEND (PIAS)



[Plymouth Information Advice and Support for SEND. - Supplying you with information, advice and support \(plymouthias.org.uk\)](http://plymouthias.org.uk)



Children, Young Person, and Families'
Neurodiversity Wellbeing Team

Understanding ADHD Parent/Carer Workshop

*An interactive workshop for parents and carers of
children and young people with a diagnosis of ADHD,
or on the diagnosis pathway*



Including topics such as, but not limited to

- Explaining Common Symptoms
- Support Strategies
- Understanding Behaviours
- Awesome Qualities of ADHD

To book a place, give us a call on 01752 435404 or
email livewell.neurowellbeing.enquiries@nhs.net

We support people to lead independent, healthy lives

**Children, Young People, and Families'
Neurodiversity Wellbeing Team**

***Behavioural Toolkit Parent/Carer
Workshop***

*An interactive workshop for parents and carers of children with
neurodiversity related behavioural difficulties*



Including topics such as, but not limited to:

- **Understanding Behaviour as Communication**
- **Practical Proactive Strategies for Behaviour Management**
- **Fostering Family Support and Management**

**To book a place, give us a call on 01752 435404 or
email livewell.neurowellbeing.enquiries@nhs.net**

We support people to lead independent, healthy lives

**Children, Young People, and Families'
Neurodiversity Wellbeing Team**

***Navigating the Journey Parent/Carer
Workshop***

*An interactive workshop for parents and carers of children on a
neurodiversity waiting list*



Including topics such as, but not limited to:

- **Gaining a Clear Understanding of the Process**
- **Guidance for both CAMHS and CDC Pathways**
- **Empowerment and Support**

**To book a place, give us a call on 01752 435404 or
email livewell.neurowellbeing.enquiries@nhs.net**

We support people to lead independent, healthy lives

**Children, Young People, and Families'
Neurodiversity Wellbeing Team**

Sound Asleep Parent/Carer Workshop

*An interactive workshop for parents and carers of
children with neurodiversity related sleep troubles*



Including topics such as, but not limited to:

- **Promote Healthy Sleep Habits**
- **Provide Neurodiversity-Aware Sleep Solutions**
- **Create a Relaxing and Safe Sleep Environment**
- **Foster Family Support and Communication**
- **Teach Mindfulness and Relaxation Techniques**

**To book a place, give us a call on 01752 435404 or
email livewell.neurowellbeing.enquiries@nhs.net**

We support people to lead independent, healthy lives

BRAND NEW WOMEN'S PEER SUPPORT GROUP
STARTING FORTNIGHTLY
WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 8:30pm

Jan Cutting Healthy Living Centre
Scott Business Park, Beacon Park Rd
Plymouth
PL2 2PQ



Please like and message
our Facebook Page
The Thrive Tribe
to register interest



Or email
Thethrivetribe2024@
outlook.com
for more details