

AUSTIN FARM

Academy

Newsletter 13/12/2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a fun, yet exhausting week...

On Monday there was the Christingle assembly led by Reverend Ann and as usual she was blown away with our children's knowledge about what the different parts of the Christingle represent. I think the sweets representing the fruits of the world were everyone's favourite parts!

On Wednesday we had our Christmas Lunch, which was a great success, thank you to Mrs Symons- Brown and Mrs Doughty in the kitchen and all the other staff for helping to serve the children their tasty food. Some said it was the best roast ever!!!

We have been informed that the price for school meals will be increasing from January to £2.58 per meal; this is a 5p increase. As you may be aware, we do not have any say over the price of a meal; this is set by the government. If your child is entitled to free school meals this does not affect you. If you think your child might be entitled to free school meals, please come to see us at the office to find out. It is not just school meals but also food vouchers for the holidays and heating support over the winter.

Fit and Fed is back! Plymouth Argyle run it at Austin Farm and there are 4 dates over the Xmas holiday: Monday 23rd December, Friday 27th December, Monday 30th January and Friday 2nd January. Days run from 9.00 - 3.00 and include a hot lunch. This is totally free to those of you entitled to free school meals; you have already received letters for how to register online. There are a small number of places available for those who are not in receipt of free school meals at a price of £20 a day including lunch or £16 a day without lunch. Plymouth Argyle also donated 2 or 4 free days of Fit and Fed as raffle prizes for the adult raffle.

Behaviour - please remember that we have a right to be treated with respect at our workplace. Swearing or aggressive behaviour towards staff will not be tolerated. Whilst we understand that sometimes people are upset, please communicate in a reasonable manner and we will try our best to support you. Our children should not be hearing adults swearing on school grounds.

So far, the Christmas fayre has raised nearly £500. Don't forget the cuddly dog squares and children's raffle are still on sale until Monday and the Christmas hamper and adult's raffle until the last day of term. Please join me in the hall at 3pm on the last Friday (20th) to witness the raffle draw and choose the prizes yourself. Star prize is £100 Adrenalin Quarry voucher. Thank you to all of the staff, parents and local businesses who donated prizes to the raffle.

One week left to go and next week, we have lots of exciting events...

Monday - children's raffle & cuddly dog draw during assembly time (not for adults).

Tuesday - EYFS & KS1 Xmas play @2.30pm. You should have received a form to complete requesting two tickets per family. This will go onto a list that we use as a fire register on the day of the play. Please come into the hall through the breakfast club entrance from 2.20pm.

Wednesday - KS2 Xmas play @2.30pm and 4.30pm. KS2 children can stay in school from the end of school at 3.15 until the performance starts and will be supervised by staff. We are hoping this will mean more of them will stay for the later performance as it is usually much quieter than the day. You should have received a form to complete requesting two tickets per family. This will go

onto a list that we use as a fire register at the plays. Please come into the hall through the breakfast club entrance from 2.20pm & 4.20pm.

We do not charge to see the plays and instead, we collect donations for charity when you come in. We will split the money between Kidney Care UK and the school's PTA.

Thursday - All classes will have their Christmas parties in the afternoon, they can come to school in their party clothes, please ensure they have warm coats and sensible shoes to wear at playtimes. Teachers will contact you via Class Dojo to organise plans.

Year 4 will have their pool party at the Life Centre on Thursday morning; please send them to school with their swimming costumes under their party clothes and ensure they have spare underwear to change into afterwards!

Friday - last day of term!

9.15 - Headteacher's award assembly, you should have been contacted to attend if your child has earned an award.

3.00pm - Adult's raffle draw in the school hall, come down to the hall via the breakfast club entrance at 2.55pm.

I hope you have a less windy weekend than last week!









Foundation/Year 1: This week we have been working hard at learning lines, songs and actions for our upcoming nativity play. In PSHE we have been talking about how to make friends and how to be a good friend. Children have been putting this into practice by including each other in their play and trying to remember to use kind hands and kind words on the playground.



Year 2: On Monday afternoon, we learnt about and then made our own Christingle. We each brought in an orange to represent the world. We wrapped a strip of red ribbon around the centre of the Christingle to represent God's love for the world and the blood of Jesus. At the top of the Christingle we added a candle to represent Jesus being the light of the world, bringing hope. Finally, we added 4 cocktail sticks with sweets to represent each of the four seasons God created.



Year 3: This week, we've been working hard at our Christmas production. The children have impressed us all with their work ethic and singing skills! In DT, we've started making our wheeled vehicles. Next week we will evaluate them against the criterion and will gauge how successful we've been in making a wheeled vehicle for Father Christmas.



Year 4: This week the class have been practising hard for our fabulous show. Please encourage and support your child to learn their lines so they have as much confidence on the stage as possible. We have been also getting closer to our independent write about a magical object. I am sure they will be fantastic when they are finished!



Year 5/6: We have been busy practising for our play next week. In English we have been working on our shared writing linked to the Chitty story; in it Chitty has time travelled to Pompeii! In maths year 5 have been subtracting fractions whilst year 6 have started their unit on ratios. In Geography we looked at emblems that are associated with different countries.



1 - We are so proud of our fundraising efforts for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Thank you!

Admissions Arrangements Poster 2026_2027

SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

2026/2027

Take part in the consultation on
school admission arrangements
for 2026 entry.

**Consultation starts
2 December 2024 and
ends 12 January 2025.**



Visit www.plymouth.gov.uk/admissionconsultation

Call 01752 307469

Email schoolconsultations@plymouth.gov.uk

Education, Participation and Skills, Plymouth City Council,
Ballard House, Plymouth PL1 3BJ



2 - A big well done to our learners of the week.

Foundation: H.Ashton

Year 1: S.Tippett

Year 2: L-J Choak

Year 3: M.Amotlak

Year 4: S.Cassidy

Year 5: B.Hutson

Year 6: J.Curran



Lunch Menu 1

Monday

Main	Vegetarian	Sides	Jacket Potato	Dessert
Cheese and tomato pizza	Vegetable bean wrap	Beans Sweetcorn Spaghetti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheese Beans Tuna 	Pancakes with banana and honey



Tuesday

Main	Vegetarian	Sides	Jacket Potato	Dessert
Katsu chicken curry	Cheese and potato pie	Mashed potato Cauliflower Beans Green beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheese Beans Tuna 	Chocolate brownie surprise



Wednesday

Main	Vegetarian	Sides	Jacket Potato	Dessert
Roast gammon	Vegetable Pilait	Roast potatoes Broccoli Carrots Beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheese Beans Tuna 	Custard biscuits



Thursday

Main	Vegetarian	Sides	Jacket Potato	Dessert
Meatball in tomato sauce	Vegetable balls in tomato sauce	Beans Mixed Veg Sweetcorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheese Beans Tuna 	Apple crumble and custard



Friday

Main	Vegetarian	Sides	Jacket Potato	Dessert
Fish fingers	Vegetable nuggets	Beans Peas Spaghetti hoops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheese Beans Tuna 	Oat and sultana cookies



Dates to remember!!!

16/12/24 - Children's raffle draw & cuddly dog squares in assembly.

17/12/2024 - EYFS & KS1 Christmas play 2:30pm

18/12/2024 - KS2 Christmas play 2:30pm & 4:30pm

19/12/2024 - Class Christmas parties

20/12/2024 - Last day of term.

20/12/2024 - 9.15am Headteacher's assembly

20/12/24 - 3.00pm Come to the school hall for the adult raffle draw & Christmas Hamper squares.

Information on term time holidays from West Country Schools Trust.



WESTCOUNTRY
SCHOOLS TRUST

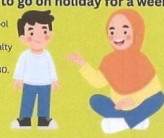
ATTENDANCE

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

2ND TIME	3RD TIME
2 parents and 1 child = £320	A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.
2 children = 640	A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child
3 children = 960	1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
4 children = 1280	2 parents & 4 children = £20,000

No discount for early payment



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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26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
							30													

Nov 2024							Dec 2024							Jan 2025						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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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				1	2						1	2			1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
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May 2025							Jun 2025							Jul 2025						
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							30													

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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Oct 2025						
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Nov 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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30	31					

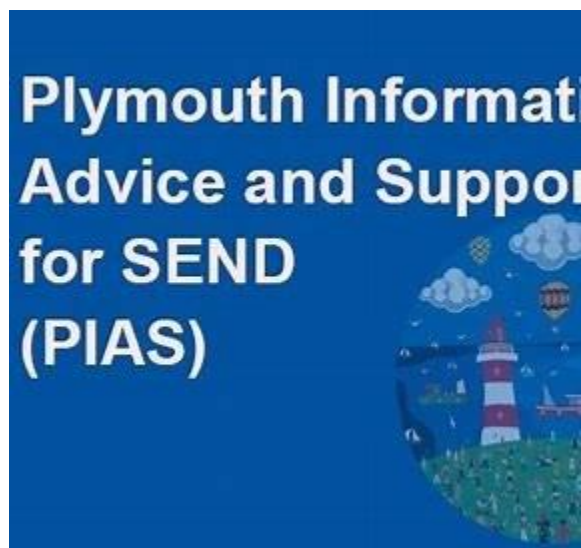
Apr 2026						
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May 2026						
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Jun 2026						
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29	30					

Jul 2026						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Key	
	Holiday periods
	Bank holidays
	Weekends
	Trust NPDs
	School NPDs




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

The Devon Autism Card



- Available to any Autistic person living in the Devon area
- For anyone who identifies as autistic; a diagnosis is not required
- Free of charge; there are no postage or packaging costs

To request a card, send **your name** and **a full postal address** (including postcode) to:

-  07496 496651 (Voicemail only)
-  autismcard@dimensionsforautism.life
-  <https://devonautismcard.info/apply>

Any information you provide will be deleted once the card has been sent out to you

For more information, visit:

 www.dimensionsforautism.life

Or scan this QR code:



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