

AUSTIN FARM

Academy

Newsletter 22/11/2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week the temperature dropped; whilst some of the children are still wearing their shorts and t-shirts, please ensure they all have coats to put on if they need to. Please remember to name hats, scarves and gloves as well!

It has been an exciting week with lots going on:

Year 2 went on a school trip on Tuesday, they had a brilliant time and were praised highly by the staff and the (grand)parent volunteer, who was so impressed she even took the time to write a letter saying how well behaved they were and what a credit to the school. Year 2 built on their learning about the Mayflower, and they can't wait to see what their next trip will be.

Year 4 finished their 3 weeks of swimming lessons and what a success they were! They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and have all made huge progress in this life saving skill. Unfortunately, the minibus broke down today and they missed their pool party; we called the Life Centre and they have promised us a pool party later on this year. Year 4 we will keep you updated, as to when this will be.

The Royal Eye Infirmary came to complete initial eyesight assessments with our EYFS children. If they need any further investigations, you will be contacted by them privately. If your child was absent on Wednesday, they will arrange another date to visit school, again they will contact you directly regarding this.

The children have also been working hard as usual - we are now a couple of weeks into our new DT scheme of work, and they are loving learning new skills. Please see below for what else they have learnt this week.

The Year 3 teachers planned a school trip this week, which will take place in January, keep an eye out for further details in the next few weeks.

Next week, on Friday we will have a mufti day in exchange for bottles for the hoop la stall at the fair on Friday 6th December.

Only 2 weeks until the Xmas Fayre!! If you have any good quality Christmas jumpers, PJs, t-shirts, or any other Christmas clothes you no longer wear, that you/your children have grown out of, then please send them into the school office and we will have a stall selling those. As it is just before Christmas dinner day when we wear Christmas jumpers this is an ideal time to pick up a bargain!

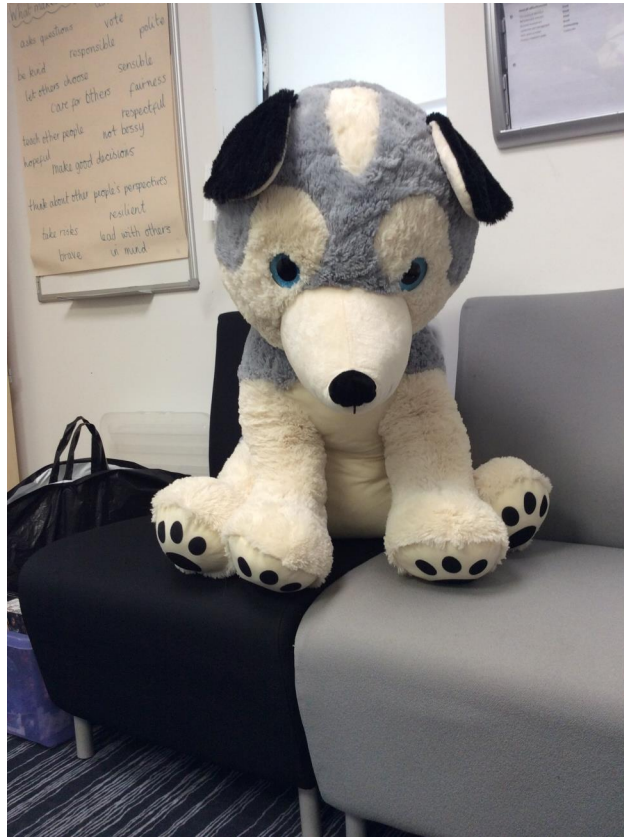
If you have any unwanted, unused or good quality gifts/ toys for our children/adult raffles and Christmas present stalls then please send those into the school office - these donations will be for wearing Christmas mufti on the day of the fayre but we need to start collecting now.

We have an amazing Christmas cuddly toy dog for the £1 Xmas squares, which we have begun selling outside the office; we are in the process of making up our traditional Xmas hamper which we will also sell squares for £1 in December.

We do need your help with some of the stalls at the fayre, so if you have any time to spare, please come to see us at the school office.

I hope you have a lovely weekend, despite the weather forecast!

Mrs Baptiste












Foundation & Year 1: This week, we have been investigating magnets and testing which objects are magnetic and which are not magnetic. In English we have had amazing discussions about how to wash a hairy chimpanzee. Ideas for getting him into the bath included shooting bananas out of a water gun, having a tree in the bathroom for him to swing into the bath, and filling the bath with leaves and bananas! In maths we have been looking at part-whole models and playing games to support this learning using hoops and beanbags.



Year 2: On Tuesday we went on our second school trip in Year 2. Linking in with our history learning, we visited the Mayflower Museum and The Box. Whilst on the Barbican, we also went to the Mayflower Steps and saw the memorial and the engraving in the granite block. Throughout the day we read information that we have already learnt within our lessons but we also learnt lots of new information. We particularly enjoyed dressing up as Pilgrims!



Year 3: This week in English, we began exploring how to create our own information texts. The children revisited the concept of 'boxing up,' considering how the structure of non-fiction texts differs from that of fiction. Together, we practised organising and writing information by 'boxing up' facts we had researched about volcanoes. The next step for the children is creating their own fact sheet about rocks, they are looking forward to this!

| | Composition | Texture and Properties | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Detrital Sedimentary Rocks | | | |
| Shale | Fine rock fragments smaller than 1/16 mm | Clay-sized particles that cannot be differentiated by the naked eye. May be fissile, splits into distinctive layers |  |
| Sandstone | Medium rock fragments between 1/16 mm and 2 mm | Composed of sand-sized rock fragments. The fragments can vary in mineralogy, including mainly quartz, along with feldspar, and clay |  |
| Breccia | Coarse, angular rock fragments ranging in size, with the largest >2 mm | Poorly sorted mixture of rock fragments, including angular or sub-angular pebbles |  |
| Conglomerate | Coarse, rounded rock fragments ranging in size, with the largest >2 mm | Poorly sorted mixture of rock fragments, including rounded or sub-rounded pebbles |  |
| Chemical and Biochemical Rocks | | | |
| Limestone | Calcite crystals or microcrystalline calcite | Masses of large, interlocking calcite crystals or microscopic crystals not visible with the naked eye |  |
| Fossiliferous Limestone | Calcareous skeletal fragments of coral or shells | Consisting of fossils or fossil fragments |  |
| Oolitic Limestone | Calcite concretions, formed around sand or shell fragments | Aggregates of oolites, small spherical calcite concretions |  |
| Chert | Cryptocrystalline Quartz | Microcrystalline polymorphs of quartz, formed by the recrystallization of siliceous skeletons. Conchoidal fracturing; scratches glass |  |
| Rock Salt | Halite and sylvite crystals | Fine- to coarse-grained crystalline structure, with a salty taste and cubic cleavage |  |

Year 4: The year4's have worked so hard on their swimming skills over the last 3 weeks. They have all gained so much confidence in the water and made us so proud. We can't wait for our make up pool party day, which will be on Thursday 19th December 2024.



Year 5/6: This week, we have begun our new English unit based on the book, 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and the Race Against Time'. We have explored Chitty's 'magical powers' and are enjoying hearing about the adventures Chitty takes the Tooting family on. We have a special focus on the

characters and their personalities. In DT, we have carried on with our structures; we have used pipe cleaners, straws and dowels. In History, we learned about Augustus and his cunning ways.



A big well done to our learners of the week.



Foundation: F.O'Prey

Year 1: A.Rowe

Year 2: D-M.Rice

Year 3: B.Goodwin

Year 4: A.Parry

Year 5: D.Bejan

Year 6: J.Curran



Well done to Year 5 on getting 98% attendance this week.

Dates to remember!!!

06/12/2024 - Christmas Fayre

09/12/2024 - Christingle Service

11/12/2024 - Christmas dinner and jumper day

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

18/12/2024 - KS2 Christmas play 2:30pm & 4:30pm (tickets allocated closer to the time)

19/12/2024 - Class Christmas parties

20/12/2024 - Headteacher's assembly

20/12/2024 - Last day of term.

Lunch Menu 1

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 Plait | 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 |



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 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 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 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 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 | | |
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| Feb 2025 | | | | | | | Mar 2025 | | | | | | | Apr 2025 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 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 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| 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

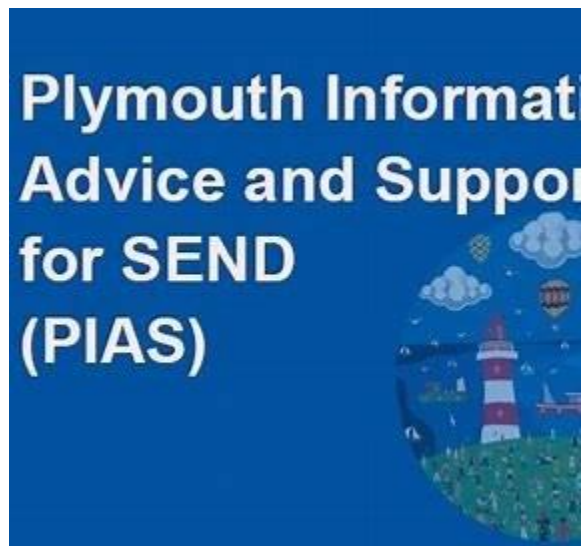
| Aug 2025 | | | | | | | Sep 2025 | | | | | | | Oct 2025 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
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| Nov 2025 | | | | | | | Dec 2025 | | | | | | | Jan 2026 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Feb 2026 | | | | | | | Mar 2026 | | | | | | | Apr 2026 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | | | | |
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| May 2026 | | | | | | | Jun 2026 | | | | | | | Jul 2026 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| 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)



AlertCard - Promotion Poster

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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