

AUSTIN FARM

Academy

Newsletter 15/11/2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy week we have had ...

On Monday we stood together as a school for 1-minute silence in the playground and followed this up with an assembly explaining the history of Remembrance Day; how we not only remember the sacrifices of those in the past, but also use it as a time to recognise the work of

our current armed forces and our hopes for peace to remain now and in the future. We will find out the amount we raised and let you know.

On Tuesday we wore odd socks to show our uniqueness and celebrate our differences for anti-bullying week. The children are learning about this in their PSHE (Jigsaw) lessons too.

The matting finally arrived, and we could use our first piece of gym equipment - this works our legs, arms and core muscles - and has been a great hit! We have our target of £1000 for the PTA this year to buy our next piece, and for each piece that we buy from the PTA, the school will match with Sports Premium money. Our aim is for at least another two this year and then keep going each year until we have a full outdoor gym set!

Wednesday & Thursday Parents evenings - thank you to those of you who attended to speak to the class teachers about how your children are progressing with their learning. It is important to show them that we value their education, are proud of their efforts and all know what they need to focus on next. Please practise the key skills of: times tables, spellings and reading at home as they are key to all other learning.

Today, we wore something spotty to support Children in Need - thank you to those of you who have already donated, here is the link which was sent on Class Dojo and Teachers2Parents. <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=17023>, there is still time to donate if you wish to. When we hear our total raised, I will let you know.

Please see below for what your children have been learning in class this week.

PTA News - only 3 weeks until the Xmas Fayre!!

We have a couple of ideas for stalls which we would need your help with:

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 early.

We have an amazing Christmas cuddly toy dog for the £1 Xmas squares, which we will begin selling next week outside the office. See the photo below!

There are still spaces on the following sporting afterschool clubs. Please contact the main office to book your child in.

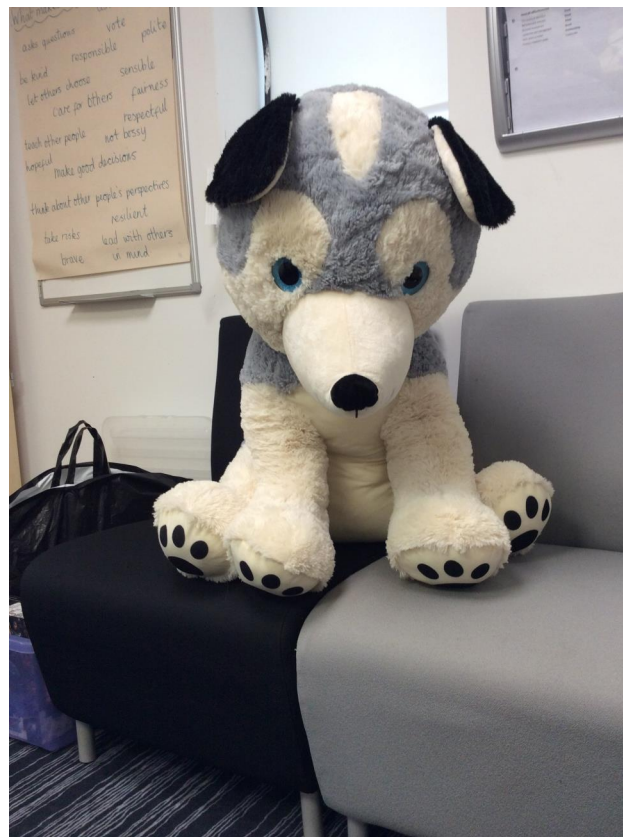
Monday: Football club for Foundation, Years 1, 2 and 3. (11/11/2024-16/12/2024 from 3.15 to 4.15)

Thursday: Netball/Basketball club for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6. (14/11/2024 - 19/12/2024 from 3.15 to 4.15)

As you may know, Mrs Bojang is having a baby and the advert for her maternity cover is now out, if you know any excellent teachers who would like to work in our lovely school with our fantastic yr5/6 class please send them this link - [Year 5/6 Class Teacher \(Maternity cover\) at Austin Farm Academy | MyNewTerm](#)

Next week the temperature is forecast to drop...if you thought today was cold please send an even warmer thicker coat for next week. Please ensure you name all uniform, we have a lot of jumpers and cardigans in our lost property already.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.























































































1 - There is still time to sign up to the Schools Challenge (Plymouth Half Marathon-Sunday 11th May 2025 - KS 2 only)
<https://forms.office.com/e/tSP1kCtwZ2>



2 - Asda's Cashpot for Schools initiative, fronted by Joe Wicks, launched on 2nd September, and has hit the landmark figure of £3 million raised for primary schools across the UK – with another eight weeks left to go.

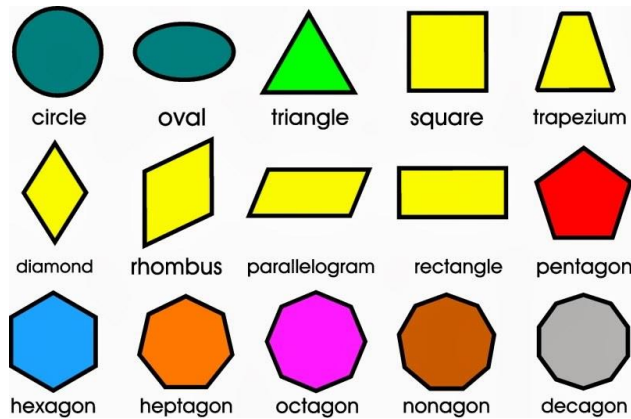
The supermarket kicked off each school fund with £50 and in addition is topping up each school cashpot with an extra £1 for every customer that selects their school via the Asda Rewards app – with no impact on the customer's own Asda Rewards Cashpot. Shoppers and schools can also see the running total that has been raised for their school in the app once they have opted in.

Signing up for the initiative is simple – with customers simply required to opt into Cashpot for Schools in the app and select their school of choice. Cashpot for schools in the app. As well as encouraging parents to sign up – schools are encouraging their entire community to support them – as the initiative is open to all.

Foundation & Year 1: This week we have been very busy learning about Remembrance Day which we linked to our learning about materials. We painted pictures using materials with different properties as our 'brushes'. We also used our finger-painting skills to create amazing poppies. Then today we have completed lots of activities for Children in Need including playing a game of 'Pudsey says', dancing to the Pudsey Bear version of Gangnam Style, and used stickers and paint to create portraits of Pudsey Bear.



Year 2: This week in science, the children have enjoyed looking at life cycles of different animals. They have developed a great understanding of each of the stages and have learnt some new and interesting vocabulary like 'metamorphosis' and 'chrysalis'. Their life cycle drawings were fantastic! They have also started a new maths unit on shape and we have had fun learning the names of shapes and counting how many vertices they have.



Year 3: Wow, what another busy week we've had in year 3! In history, we have been learning about how the ancient Sumerians were successful settlers and how they traded their crops and cloth. In English, we have been using subheadings and paragraphs to group our ideas together. The class wrote some super information about themselves.



Year 4: This week we have been completing our incredible poems in the style of Polar Bear. We hope you enjoyed reading them at parents evening. In science, we have been investigating gases and exploring the question "Do gases have weight?". Ask your child about the experiment we completed in class.



Year 5/6: This week we have researched our inspiring celebrity and are in the middle of writing our biographies. In Maths, both year groups are working hard on their fraction learning. In DT, we began making strong structures with lolly sticks – we thoroughly enjoyed this. We have been focusing heavily on our times tables and most of us are working our way up them, learning them with success. Keep practising!

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A big well done to our learners of the week.



Foundation: Z.Mitchell

Year 1: C.Weaver

Year 2: E.Goodwin

Year 3: J.Balagat

Year 4: I.Pickard

Year 5: T.Regan

Year 6: K.McDonald



Well done to Year 4 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 3



Monday



Main	Vegetarian	Sides	Jacket Potato	Dessert
Cheese and tomato pizza	Quorn and vegetable fajitas	Beans Sweetcorn Spaghetti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheese • Beans • Tuna 	Strawberry mousse

Tuesday



Main	Vegetarian	Sides	Jacket Potato	Dessert
Fish Pie	Cheese wheels	Cauliflower Beans Green beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheese • Beans • Tuna 	Sticky toffee sponge and sauce

Wednesday

Main	Vegetarian	Sides	Jacket Potato	Dessert
Roast pork	Quorn and leek pastry puff	Roast potatoes Broccoli Carrots Beans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheese • Beans • Tuna 	Fruit jelly



Thursday

Main	Vegetarian	Sides	Jacket Potato	Dessert
Beef Bolognese	Mediterranean Bolognese	Beans Mixed Veg Sweetcorn Pasta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheese • Beans • Tuna 	Chocolate crunch and chocolate sauce



Friday

Main	Vegetarian	Sides	Jacket Potato	Dessert
Jumbo fish fingers	Vegetable nuggets	Beans Peas Spaghetti hoops Chips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheese • Beans • Tuna 	Jammy Dodger



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

2 parents and 1 child = £320
2 children = 640
3 children = 960
4 children = 1280

3RD TIME

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.
1 parent & 4 children = £10,000
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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Nov 2024							Dec 2024							Jan 2025						
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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

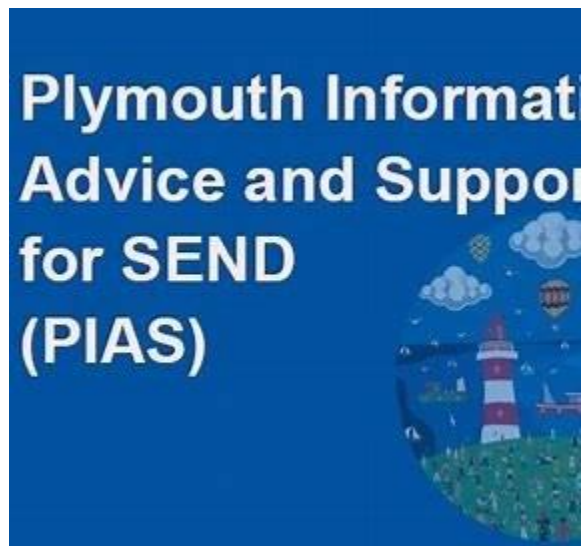
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Nov 2025							Dec 2025							Jan 2026						
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Feb 2026							Mar 2026							Apr 2026						
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May 2026							Jun 2026							Jul 2026								
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Key	
	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)