

# AUSTIN FARM

## Academy

## Newsletter 21/11/2025

Dear parents/carers,

Last week we had two exciting events...

**Odd Socks Day** last Monday - we all showed our uniqueness by wearing odd socks; we talked about using our power for good to help others. See the pictures below of our colourful feet!

**Children in Need Day** on Friday went well, and we raised a fabulous £ 117 for this fantastic charity thank you so much for your generosity, please see photos below of the children in their spotty or Pudsey clothes.

Year 4 swimming - unfortunately, due to issues with the minibus, we only managed 9 swimming sessions out of 15. We are trying hard to find another week in the year when they

can fit us in and will let you know what we can organise. All of the children impressed the swimming teachers during their sessions and came home with a certificate today.

The temperature has dropped this week, to much excitement from the children (not so much from the adults!)

Please make sure your child comes to school with a warm coat and please **name** all clothing, e.g. gloves, scarves etc.

*Aspens school lunch order* - please do this before 9am every day. The kitchen staff are still having families who are not ordering lunch for their children through the app. The menu will be in place until Easter on a 3-week rolling programme, so you can book all lunches up until the end of term. The school office cannot do this for you and the only lunch available if you don't order is jacket potato or pasta.

*Christmas lunch will be Wednesday 10th December - you MUST order on the app for this.*

### **PTA - Xmas Fair!!! 5th December 3.30 - 5.00**

Please see Class Dojo and letter sent home this week, also attached with this newsletter.

If you are having a pre-Christmas clear out, please donate any old Christmas clothes or 2nd hand toys to the office.

We will have 2 mufti days in the next 2 weeks:

Mufti 28th November - raffle donations, toys or small presents you would like to buy at the fair.

Mufti 5th December - bottles for the Hoopla bottle stall.

If you can help on a stall at the fair please contact the school office as we only have 3 members of the PTA, we may not be able to run all of our stalls if we don't have enough people.

Last year our PTA raised a our £1000 target and the children are loving the new gym equipment. This year, we are looking to get our last two pieces of equipment to complete our outdoor gym.

**Admissions policy for 2027-28: Annual Consultation** Along with all other schools and academies in Devon, we are consulting on an admission policy for 2027-28. The Local Authority is also consulting on its arrangements – the admissions schemes through which you can apply. You are invited to look at the proposal new policies which are based on policies for this year and next year and to have your say on them. Our proposed policy is on our admission page and you can see all policies at <http://devon.cc/schoolpolicy> Further information is here: [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements) The consultation runs between 1 November and 16 January 2026. Policies will be determined by the end of February and published in the same places by 15 March 2026 next year. You can comment at

[schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk) or by emailing the school. No changes are being proposed.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Mrs Baptiste

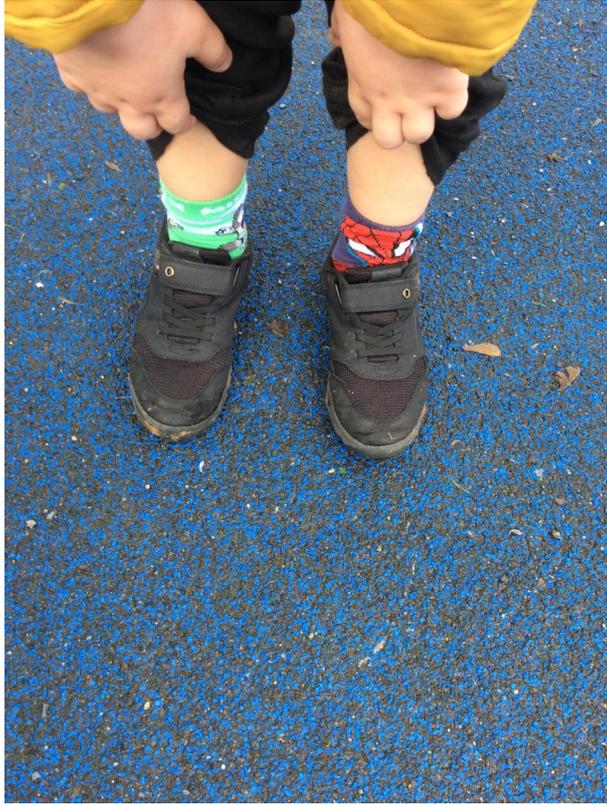




























## School Christmas Fair



Our school Christmas fair is fast approaching and we would like to raise as much money as possible for the school and we desperately need your help.

On **Friday 28th November**, we will be holding a school mufti day where children can wear what they like to school in exchange for a donation. The donations we need are 'anything you would like to win at the school fair'. This might be toys/toiletries/tins of sweets/boxes of chocolate/gift sets/etc.

On **Friday 5th December**, which is the day of the fair, we are going to have another mufti day, but this time the children will need to bring in a bottle of drink which will be donated to our hoopla stall for the fair (a bottle of fizzy pop/etc).

Also, please can you donate any unwanted Christmas clothes you no longer require. These will be sold to others parents for a donation which will all go towards our PTA fund.

If you also have any suitable things at home that you would like to donate towards our raffle, please bring them into school as soon as possible (no later than Wednesday 3rd December). Any money raised goes towards helping us offer things like school trips, enrichment programs, after-school clubs, and creative projects, giving your children opportunities to learn, grow, and explore in ways that make a lasting impact.

Learners of the week. A big well done!



Week beginning Monday 10th November 2025

Foundation: S-K. Wilmot

Year 1: I. Walters

Class 2/3:

Class 4/5: F. Bayne

Year 5: L. Janek

Year 6: M. Scott

Week beginning Monday 17th November 2025

Foundation: A. Perkins-White

Year 1: F. O'Prey

Year 2/3: C. Smith

Year 4/5: J. Nankivell

Year 5: M. Carroll

Year 6: T. Regan

Foundation/Year 1: In literacy, we have continued reading *Stick Man* and the children enjoyed writing their own "Wanted" statements describing where stickman was last seen. In Science, we wrapped up warm, braved the chilly weather, and headed outside to explore our school grounds in search of animals and clues that they had been around. The children were brilliant nature detectives! We discovered snails hiding in damp corners, speedy spiders weaving their webs, birds flying high, and plenty of woodlice tucked under logs and stones. The Year 1 children have worked brilliantly on their computing skills, exploring a range of different apps on the school tablets. They practised taking photos, using drawing tools, and even tried simple coding activities to build their confidence with technology.

Year 2/3: In English, we began reading our new book, *The Day the Crayons Quit*. Prior to reading, we needed to predict the possible reasons why the crayons might have resigned from their roles. Our suggestions included the red crayon becoming frustrated with repeatedly colouring Father Christmas' sleigh, hat, and clothing each year; the green crayon being overworked due to colouring all the plants and leaves during the summer; and the white crayon feeling underutilised, as it appeared to have very little to do. Year 2 have finished their addition and subtraction units in Maths, please keep counting forwards and backwards in 1s and 10s up to 100, as this will help them become more accurate.

Year 4/5: We have had a great start to our new narrative unit and we have been looking at the effect of expanded noun phrases and how these and prepositional phrases combined can really bring our writing to life. In Maths, we have now moved on to multiplication and division and the class have done an incredible job of learning their 6 times table! Well done!

Year 5/6: The class has been full of festive cheer as we've been learning our lines and songs for the upcoming Christmas play—everyone is working hard and having lots of fun. In Science, we've been investigating how gears work and exploring their fascinating role in everyday machines. Our PSHE discussions have focused on what makes a good person, encouraging thoughtful and respectful conversations. In Maths, Year 5 have been delving into equivalent fractions and sharpening their problem-solving skills. Meanwhile, in English, we've been exploring what makes a great Adventurer biography, looking at the qualities and stories that bring these daring individuals to life.

Well done to Year 3 AND Year 4 on getting 96% attendance week beginning 17th November 2025.



### **Dates to remember!!!**

Friday 28th November - Mufti Day for Christmas Fair - Bring in a donation for the raffle, present or toy stall.

Friday 5th December - Mufti Day for Christmas Fair - Bring in a bottle for the Hoopla Bottle stall

Friday 5th December - PTA Christmas Fair 3.30 - 5.00.

Monday 8th December - Christingle service in school - please bring an orange in.

Wednesday 10th December 2025 -Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner day.

Tuesday 16th December - EYFS/Year 1 Christmas play 2.30 in the school hall

Wednesday 17th December Year 2 - Year 6 Christmas play in the school hall 2.30pm & 4.00pm

Thursday 18th December - Headteacher's assembly 9.15 am

Thursday 18th December - Class Christmas parties pm

Friday 19th December - INSET DAY - school closed to children

Sunday 17th May 2026 - Schools Challenge - Plymouth Half marathon

## WeST Term Dates 2025-2026

WeST Term Dates 2025-2026

Aug 2025							Sep 2025							Oct 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3									1	2	3	4	5	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31		
Nov 2025							Dec 2025							Jan 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30	31	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31											
Feb 2026							Mar 2026							Apr 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31												
May 2026							Jun 2026							Jul 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30												

Key	
<span style="background-color: #f2f2f2; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	Holiday periods
<span style="background-color: #e0e0e0; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	Bank holidays
<span style="background-color: #d3d3d3; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	Weekends
<span style="background-color: #c0c0c0; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	Trust NPDs
<span style="background-color: #a0a0a0; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span>	School NPDs

# WeST Term Dates 2026-2027

WeST Term Dates 2026-2027

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31												
Sept 2026	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30													
Oct 2026			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31										
Nov 2026				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30										
Dec 2026					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31								
Jan 2027						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
Feb 2027							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28									
Mar 2027								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
Apr 2027									1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
May 2027										1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
Jun 2027											1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
Jul 2027												1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Aug 2027													1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	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

## Community Notices

[Family First – Issue 4 2025 – Family First](#)



TOGETHERNESS

# For bumps, babies, school and beyond

Emotional health learning for parents and carers



# PSYCHOLOGY in the EARLY YEARS

with Plymouth Educational Psychology Service

Let's reflect and problem-solve together!  
Join an Educational Psychologist and Early Years  
colleagues — bring along a question or challenge to  
discuss

Autumn term:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Dec (9.30) Steph Nash
- 8<sup>th</sup> Dec (3-4.30) Valerie Marshall
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dec (10-11.30) Hayley Willis
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dec (9.30) Chloe Butzke
- 17<sup>th</sup> (Dec 1.30-3.00) Dougie Clarkson  
(All virtual via TEAMS)

Sessions are **free**, with 6 practitioners per  
session

Please contact Jo Best to confirm your place  
[Jo.Best@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Jo.Best@plymouth.gov.uk)

Help us host!  
We're planning in-  
person sessions this  
Spring/Summer - let Jo  
Best know if you have  
space

Coming soon....sensory  
stories sessions for parents



# Autumn Term 2025 Family Hub Timetable



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>Efford</b> 10:00-11:30 High View School, Torridge Way, PL3 6JQ <b>Plymstock *</b> 10:00-11:30 Elburton Methodist Church, Springfield Road, PL9 8PR	<b>Devonport</b> 10:00-11:00 Green Ark Family Hub Fore Street PL1 4DW <b>Kingsbridge</b> 10:00-11:30 Kingsbridge Nursing Church, Baptist Lane, TQ7 1QD		<b>West Park **</b> 10:00-11:30 Fourwoods Family Hub, 415 Crownhill Rd, PL5 2LN <b>Tavistock</b> 9:30-11:00 SeventySix, 76 West Street, Tavistock	<b>Cattedown: Support Only</b> 10:00-11:30 Nomony Family Hub, 27 St Johns Rd, PL4 0PA <b>PLEASE NOTE FROM 1ST NOVEMBER THIS SESSION WILL BE AT THE CUMBERLAND CENTRE</b>
<b>Plympton *</b> 1:00-2:30 Rees Wellbeing and Family Hub, Mudgeway, PL7 2PS <b>Central *</b> 1:00-2:30 Manor Street Children's Centre, 25 Manor Street, Plymouth, PL1 1TL	<b>North Prospect (LARK) *</b> 1:30-3:00 North Prospect Family Hub, 91-93 North Prospect Road, Plymouth, PL2 2NA	<b>Cattedown</b> 1:00-2:30 Nomony Family Hub, 27 St Johns Rd, PL4 0PA (Alongside Baby and Me) <b>Honicknowle*</b> 1:00-2:30 St Francis of Assisi, 57 Little Dock Lane, Plymouth, PL5 2LP	<b>Estover</b> 1:00-2:30 ELM Wellbeing Hub, Leypark Walk, PL6 8UE <b>Devonport *</b> 1:30-3:00 Morice Town Family Hub, Charlotte Street, PL2 1RJ	* These groups run alongside Chatterbox Sessions and offer Child Health Clinic ** Bra Fitting Service Available	

National Breastfeeding Helpline	24 Hours	0300 100 0212
Plymouth Latch On Service	Facebook Page and Messaging Service	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/plymouthlatchon">www.facebook.com/plymouthlatchon</a>
Health Visiting Service	9:00am - 5:00pm Week Days	01752 434008
Midwifery Service (Babies under 28 days)	24 Hours	01752 430200
NCT - Breastfeeding Helpline	8:00am - Midnight Daily	0300 330 0700
Family Hubs and Emerging Family Hubs	9:00am - 4:30pm Week Days	Nomony 01752 261844 Whittleigh 01752 875933 Fourwoods 01752 366795 Manor Street/ Green Ark 01752 686750 Rees 01752 340550 The Barn 01752 362320 North Prospect 01752 313293 Morice Town 01752 208660