

# AUSTIN FARM

## A c a d e m y

## Newsletter 01/12/2023

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

Today is the start of Advent and we began the week with an assembly learning about the meaning of it for Christians. I hope you have all got your calendars out ready to count down the days until Christmas!

Yesterday, one of the Healthy Smiles team came in to see our Year 2 children; they should have brought home a pack with toothpaste, a toothbrush and a timer - we hope this will encourage good habits with brushing their teeth twice a day.

Year 2 - last Friday you were sent out information about road safety training in January. Please complete the consent form and return to the office as soon as possible if you are happy for your child to take part in this programme.

The Royal Eye Infirmary came to carry out eye tests with our EYFS children and commented on their excellent behaviour and great manners. Some of you will be contacted for follow up appointments; please make sure you respond to these, it makes such a difference if your children need glasses to get them as soon as possible.

Today, we had the History lead from West Country Schools Trust come to see our new KS2 Opening Worlds History, Geography and RE curriculum in action. She watched lessons and looked at the fantastic work our children have been producing; needless to say she was very impressed with how our children have remembered their new learning and are starting to make links between the subjects.

Please see below for the other work your children have been doing this week.

I have been busy showing parents around our lovely school for children who will be starting EYFS in September 2024. School admissions is now open! If you have a child due to start school next September please make sure you apply for your space before 15th January 2024.

Christingle - On Monday 4th December please bring an orange to school as each child will be making a Christingle; we will provide all the rest of the items needed. Reverend Ann is coming to take our Christingle Assembly on Monday afternoon.

Wednesday 6th December is Christmas Dinner Day - please come to school in your most festive Christmas jumper!

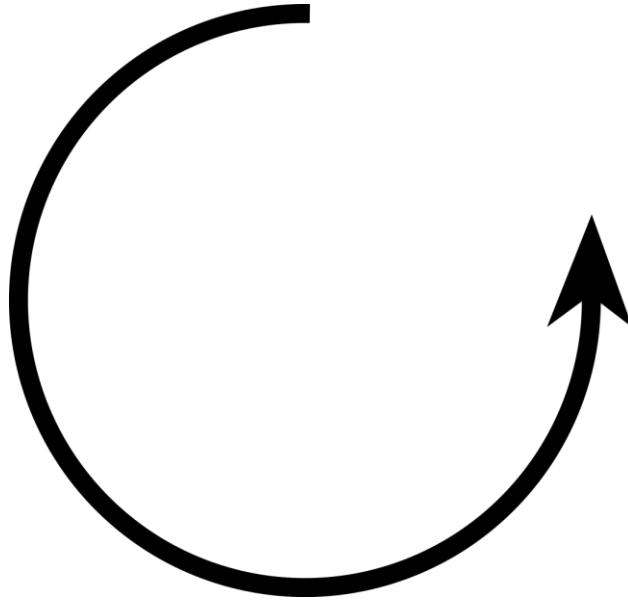
Xmas play tickets will be coming home next week; please keep them somewhere safe as you will need to bring them to the performance you have been allocated.

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to set up PTA, a meeting will be booked as soon as possible. Unfortunately, it is too late for this year's Xmas fayre to take place, as we have to set up a new PTA as a charity and that takes time. But we will be able to do Xmas squares, for £1 a square; these will be for sale in the mornings outside the school office from 7th - 19th December. There will be two prizes on offer, to be collected on the last day of term - a child's prize and a £50 note for the adults! Keep your eyes peeled for events from our newly formed PTA next term.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Baptiste

**Foundation: this week we have been so impressed with how well the children have engaged with our nativity rehearsals. We have also been practising anti-clockwise circles to form letters including a,d,c,e and g. In understanding of the world, we have been describing materials using feely bags and key vocabulary, such as hard, soft and transparent.**



**Year 1:** the children in Year 1 have also really impressed us with their listening skills in our nativity rehearsals. In English we have been innovating the story by changing the three little pigs to new characters including three cheeky little cars and three funny fairies. In Science we have been trying out key vocabulary to describe properties of materials. The children particularly liked describing materials as opaque and absorbent.



**Year 2:** this week year 2 have a very exciting visitor into class from the Peninsula Dental School. The lady taught us all about keeping our teeth clean and why it is so important. She even had a little goodie bag for us with various things to help us give our teeth a good clean morning and evening.



**Year 3:** this week the children have been writing their final drafts for their versions of Grendel – A Cautionary Tale About Chocolate. The children have also planned their animations in computing. I look forward to this being made so I can share them with you.



**Year 4/5:** the children have been learning more about mountains and how they have been adapted by humans. Year 4's have been working hard on their multiplication facts and year 5 have been focusing on ordering fractions.



**Year 6:** this week we have written our own adventure stories for Chitty – they really are amazing! In art, we have been looking at different techniques involved with monochromatic art; we have some budding artists in the class. In Gymnastics, we got out all of the equipment and demonstrated our

balances, movements and skills on the apparatus. The smiling faces throughout the lesson were a joy to see 😊.



## Learners of the week, well done everyone!!

**Foundation: R.Abassi**

**Year 1: S.Cutting**

**Year 2: H.Rice**

**Year 3: L.Janek**

**Year 4/5: R.Platten**

**Year 6: J.Sheridan**

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The attendance award goes to yr3 for getting 100% this week. Well done !



*1 - Fantastic job everyone!!*

### Dates to remember!!!



**6.12.23 - Christmas dinner day! You can wear a Christmas jumper to school!**

**12.12.23 & 14.12.23 - EYFS & KS1 Christmas play in the hall at 2.30pm, parents/carers can come to one performance - no toddlers please.**

**13.12.23 - KS2 Christmas play at 2.30 & 5.00pm, parents/carers can come to one performance - no toddlers please.**

**18.12.23 - Class Christmas parties - you can come to school dressed in your best party clothes.**

**19.12.23 - Last day of term - only 4:30pm pick up option for afterschool club.**



ARGYLE  
COMMUNITY  
TRUST

lewis.jenkins@pafc.co.uk

## PLYMOUTH FIT AND FED

December 2023

High View School

Keyham Barton Catholic  
Primary School

Weston Mill Community

Courtlands SEND School

Mount Wise Community

Prince Rock Primary



**FREE**  
To those eligible  
for benefit-  
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Offering fun physical activities,  
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<https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/argyle/courses>

[www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk](http://www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk)

## Menu Week 3

Week One					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Faccacia Margherita	Chicken Katsu Curry & Rice	Roast Gammon Steak & Pineapple	Meatballs in a Ragu sauce	Fish Fingers
Option 2 (v)	Veggie Bean Wrap	Cheese & Potato Pie	Vegetarian Plait	Veggie Balls in a Ragu Sauce	Veggie Nuggets
Sides	Herby Glazed Potato Coleslaw or Sweetcorn	Peas Baked Beans	Roast Potato Broccoli & Carrots Gravy	Spaghetti Green beans & Crusty bread	Chips or Wholemeal Pasta Peas or Baked Beans
And for pudding	Pancakes with Banana & Honey	Chocolate Surprise Brownie	Oat and Sultana Cookie	Apple Crumble & Custard	Pip Organic Lollies
Jacket Potato	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna
Available each day	Freshly Prepared Salad, Fresh Bread & Drinking Water. Fresh Fruit or Organic Yoghurt available as a pudding alternative.				
Week starting:	30/10/23; 20/11/23; 11/12/23; 08/01/24; 29/01/24; 26/02/24; 18/03/24				

Week Two					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Macaroni Cheese	Butchers Sausages & Gravy	Roast Chicken with Sage and Onion Stuffing	Beef Lasagne	Filet of Fish
Option 2 (v)	Tomato & Basil Pasta Bake	Vegetarian Sausages & Gravy	Yorkshire Pudding Stuffed with Quorn Pieces	Vegetarian Lasagne	Cheese Omelet
Sides	Broccoli & Garlic Bread	Creamed Potatoes & Carrots	Roast Potato Broccoli & Carrots Gravy	Coleslaw or Green Beans & Crusty bread	Chips or Wholemeal Pasta Peas or Baked Beans
And for pudding	Crispy Chocolate Cornflake Cake	Peach Sponge & Custard	Arctic roll	Shortbread Biscuit & Fresh Fruit salad	Pip Organic Lollies
Jacket Potato	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna
Available each day	Freshly Prepared Salad, Fresh Bread & Drinking Water. Fresh Fruit or Organic Yoghurt available as a pudding alternative.				
Week starting:	06/11/23; 27/11/23; 18/12/2023; 15/01/24; 05/02/24; 04/03/24; 25/03/24				

Week Three					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Cheese & Tomato Pizza Pocket	Fish Pie	Roast Pork & Apple Sauce	Beef Bolognaise	Jumbo Fish Finger
Option 2 (v)	Vegetable Fajita	Cheese Whiz & Wholemeal Pasta	Quorn and Leek Pasty/Puff	Mediterranean Vegetable Bolognaise	Veggie Fingers
Sides	Potato Wedges Sweetcorn or Winter Colelaw	Peas Baked Beans	Roast Potato Broccoli & Carrots Gravy	Penne Pasta Green Beans & Crusty bread	Chips or Wholemeal Pasta Peas or Baked Beans
And for pudding	Strawberry Mousse	Sticky Toffee Cake & Sauce	Fruit Jelly	Chocolate Crunch & Chocolate Sauce	Pip Organic Lollies
Jacket Potato	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna
Available each day	Freshly Prepared Salad, Fresh Bread & Drinking Water. Fresh Fruit or Organic Yoghurt available as a pudding alternative.				
Week starting:	11/11/23; 04/12/23; 01/01/24; 22/01/24; 19/02/24; 11/03/24				



## Social Media



**We are increasingly having to deal with issues at school that are actually from inappropriate or unkind use of social media. Please check your child's mobile phone daily to monitor the messages they are sending and receiving, particularly the language they are using. This is a parent's responsibility rather than a school one, we can educate them but not monitor their devices. The legal age for having all social media apps e.g. Wink, Snap Chat, Facebook, Instagram, etc. is 13 years old - no child in our school should be using them.**

Term time holidays- - Is it worth it ?



**Mulitple families have now been issued fines from Plymouth County Council due to taking their child/ren out of school during term time. Please follow the link below to understand the charges and potential legal action that these holidays can result in.**

[School attendance and absence | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](https://plymouth.gov.uk/school-attendance-and-absence)

## Attendance.

Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. The higher a child's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments. We are implementing new procedures to help parents get their children to school.

### **Do you know your child's attendance ?**

95% Attendance - 2 whole weeks of school missed.

90% Attendance - 4 whole weeks of school missed.

85% Attendance - 6 whole weeks of school missed.

80% Attendance - 8 whole weeks of school missed.

75% Attendance - 9 plus whole weeks of school missed.

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

## Term dates

### WeST Term Dates

| 2023 to 2024

Aug 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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Sep 2023						
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Oct 2023						
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30	31					

Nov 2023							Dec 2023							Jan 2024						
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	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
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				
Feb 2024							Mar 2024							Apr 2024						
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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26	27	28	29				26	27	28	29	30	31		29	30					
May 2024							Jun 2024							Jul 2024						
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27	28	29	30	31										29	30	31				

#### Important dates

To shade (or clear) cells in the month tables, select the cells to shade and then, on the Table Tools Design tab, choose Cell Shading.  
To view this calendar with all formatting and layout, on the View tab, choose Reading View.

**Autumn Term Dates** Monday 4 September to Friday 20 October then Monday 30 October to Tuesday 19 December

Term 1 33 days Term 2 36 days School NPD Monday 4/WeST NPD Tuesday 5 September/ WeST NPD Monday 30 October

**Spring Term Dates** Wednesday 3 January to Friday 9 February then Monday 19 February to Thursday 28 March

Term 3 28 days Term 4 28 days WeST NPD Monday 19 February

**Summer Term Dates** Monday 15 April to Friday 24 May then Monday 3 June to Tuesday 23 July

Term 5 29 days Term 6 35 days School NPD Monday 22/23 July

Three Trust NPD's and three school NPD's. 189 teaching days in total.

Peach – holiday periods, Purple weekends, Green Trust NPD's, Blue School NPD's.

Aug 2024						
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Sep 2024						
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Oct 2024						
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Nov 2024						
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Dec 2024						
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30	31					

Jan 2025						
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27	28	29	30	31		

Feb 2025						
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Mar 2025						
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Apr 2025						
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May 2025						
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Jun 2025						
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Jul 2025						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Key: Peach - holiday periods; light green - weekends; blue - Trust NPDs; yellow - School NPDs

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 21 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

## Children's NHS Dentist

### Children's Appointments!

**NHS** SpaDental South-West

SpaDental Plymouth and SpaDental Saltash  
invite children under 12 years of age  
for NHS appointments  
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SpaDental Plymouth: 2 Hyde Park Rd, Mutley, PL3 4RJ  
SpaDental Saltash: 77 Fore St, Saltash, PL12 6AF

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## Safeguarding posters