

AUSTIN FARM

Academy

Newsletter 12/01/2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of our first full week back, the children have embraced their new learning with enthusiasm, please see below for what they have been doing.

On Tuesday, Mr Kemp (Assistant Director of Education from WeST) came to see our Power Maths and Opening Worlds lessons in action and he was extremely pleased with what he saw; our children were calm and focused on their work and are clearly enjoying expanding their knowledge - as usual, we were very proud of them.

As you know, we amended our behaviour policy this year and we always review our new initiatives to see how well they are working. The feedback has been mainly positive, however there was a perception that poor behaviour wasn't being addressed (I can assure you it was - we just don't do it in public) and whilst class stars were being earned by individual students, parents weren't always aware of this. So we have made a small addition to our practice; class teachers have contacted you this week to explain how we are using Class Dojo to award points when your child has behaved in a proud, resilient or respectful way and conversely 'needs work' points & messages home if they haven't behaved in the way we expect. Our children's behaviour is generally fantastic and a real strength of our school, hopefully this extra information will help us all continue to work together to ensure minimal disruption to your children's learning and prepare them for the rules of future life!

Sporting after school clubs - we currently offer three clubs and subsidise the cost of these clubs using our Sports Premium money, which allows us to only charge a nominal fee of £1 a week for Free School Meal pupils or £2 a week for others. This is a lot cheaper than other local schools and after school club costs too. However, we are finding that take up is not enough for us to keep paying what we do to provide all 3 clubs and would rather not put the prices up. Instead, we are considering whether to go down to two clubs a week one for KS1 and one for KS2. If you would like all clubs to remain on offer, please use them...there are still spaces in the Monday clubs, contact the office if you would like your child to attend.

At Austin Farm we love reading and are always trying to encourage our children to read for pleasure. Please join us in celebrating when your children acquire this life-long skill. Last term, KS2 children were given Accelerated Reader home connect letters; this week you have been sent an easier way to set this up. Please do this so you can show an interest in your child's reading and share in their successful quizzing. Today the children who achieved their targets last half term enjoyed time in the hall with me sharing some of their new Christmas toys. Please see the photos below. Some year 2 children have also started using Accelerated Reader for their home reading; they, along with KS2 have all been set new targets for this half term; I wonder what treat they will earn if they reach their goals!

I hope you all have a great weekend,

Mrs Baptiste









Foundation: this week we have been working hard counting up to ten using cubes and a variety of objects to find a given number. We have also been finding out about the Great Fire of London which we know started in a bakery on Pudding Lane. The children have also been enjoying our literacy unit on 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' and we have been thinking of fun ways to wash different animals.

Year 1: this week, we have been learning about verbs and the children enjoyed acting out different verbs for the rest of the class to guess. We have also been using this new learning to think of verbs for instructions on how we might wash a woolly mammoth. The children have also enjoyed using instructions in computing where we have been instructing a partner to programme a Beebot.



Year 2: this week, year 2 have made a great start back. They have begun their new topic in English called Tell me a Dragon. It's a descriptive book with lots of lovely pictures of dragons. We've really enjoyed thinking of lots of describing words and came up with some amazing language. The emerald, scaly skinned dragon was one of our favourites.



Year 3: we have started our new History unit on the Indus Valley. We used our knowledge of ancient civilisations to compare what we know with newly learnt information. We discussed why cities settled around the River Indus and what makes for a good settlement. The class were AMAZING at recalling facts and impressed me with what they had remembered from previous lessons. Well done, Year 3.

[Indus Valley - KS2 History - BBC Bitesize](#)



Year 4/5: this week we have been learning lots about the Hindu god, Ganesha. The children have also been trying out their persuasive skills in their writing and debating matters of importance with each other. Keep up the hard work.



Year 6: we have been learning about inspirational female scientists through reading biographies. We have learned just how resilient these people had to be. We have begun to research our own choice of influential celebrity who has faced adversity in their life. In History, we wowed Mrs Bojang with our retrieval skills of our previous knowledge in readiness for starting our new unit on The Indus Valley. In PE, we have begun our new dance unit based on football and learned a whole class motif!



The attendance award goes to yr 3 for getting 99% this week. Well done !

Learners of the week, well done everyone!!



Foundation: O-L. Burnard

Year 1: S.Cutting

Year 2: B.Harrison

Year 3: I.Pickard

Year 4/5: D.Lisenko

Year 6: F.Corneu

.

Dates to remember!!!



15.01.24 - Primary school admissions closes.

18.01.24 - Space Explorer menu, see poster below.

26.02.24 - Yr 6 and Foundation height and weight measurement. ALL children are opted in, please return the form to opt out of this.

07.03.24 - World book day - details TBC

16.04.24 - Primary school offer from admissions

23.04.23 - Deadline to accept Primary school offers.

Foundation/ Yr 6 - Height and Weight



Letters went out Wednesday 13th December 2023. **ALL** children are opted in to this measuring programme, please only return the form if you wish to **OPT OUT** of this programme.

Menu Week 2

Week One					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Facciotta 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 Colcannon 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 Cookies	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; 16/03/24				

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 Omelette
Sides	Broccoli & Garlic Bread	Creamed Potatoes & Carrots	Roast Potato Broccoli & Carrots Gravy	Colcannon 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 Bolognese	Jumbo Fish Finger
Option 2 (v)	Vegetable Fajita	Cheese Whiz & Wholemeal Pasta	Quorn and Leek Pastry Puff	Mediterranean Vegetable Bolognese	Veggie Fingers
Sides	Potato Wedges Sweetcorn or Winter Colcannon	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				

1 - Please note, when we return on Wednesday 3rd January 2024, we will be offering Beef Bolognese and we will offer the Pork on Thursday 4th January 2024.



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



We are delighted to have 20% off all February Roadshows for an extremely limited time and can use code **EARLYBIRDFEB**

<https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/argyle/courses/plymouth-holiday.html>

5 day pass for all roadshows only £80 (save £30) and even more saving with the discount code - direct link below (only limited spaces). [Book P3- PAFC Roadshow Week Pass - February Half Term from Argyle Community Trust \(officialsoccerschools.co.uk\)](#)

Monday 12th February

Home Park / HarpersFootball SpecialICCGirls OnlyICCFootball RoadshowManadonPDC/COE Training day

Tuesday 13th February

Manadon Strikers and GoalkeepersWemburyFootball RoadshowLipson Multi Sports

Wednesday 14th February

ManadonFootball RoadshowManadon Girls OnlyManadonMulti SportsWembury

Plymstock SchoolGymnastics Day

Futsal Roadshow

Thursday 15th February

ICCStrikers and GoalkeepersICCGirls Only

Lipson Vale PrimaryMulti Sports

Friday 16th February

Home Park/HarpersFootball SpecialHome Park / HarpersGirls Football Special

Charlie HardcastleArgyle Community TrustPlymouth and South Devon Sports Participation LeadPlymouth and South Devon Centre of Excellence Manage

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://www.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
	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			

Sep 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				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 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						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 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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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 2023						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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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 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				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		

Mar 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Apr 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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29	30					
May 2024						
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Jun 2024						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Jul 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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				

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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sep 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Oct 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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	Nov 2024								----------	----	----	----	----	----	----		M	T	W	T	F	S	S						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 2024								----------	----	----	----	----	----	----		M	T	W	T	F	S	S								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 2025								----------	----	----	----	----	----	----		M	T	W	T	F	S	S				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 2025								----------	----	----	----	----	----	----		M	T	W	T	F	S	S							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 2025								----------	----	----	----	----	----	----		M	T	W	T	F	S	S							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 2025								----------	----	----	----	----	----	----		M	T	W	T	F	S	S			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 2025								----------	----	----	----	----	----	----		M	T	W	T	F	S	S					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 2025								----------	----	----	----	----	----	----		M	T	W	T	F	S	S								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 2025								----------	----	----	----	----	----	----		M	T	W	T	F	S	S			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: 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
Book an appointment today!



To book an appointment, or for more information, please scan the QR code or visit the link:
<https://www.spadental.co.uk/for-patients/spadental-south-west-children/>
to complete the "contact us" form.

SpaDental Plymouth: 2 Hyde Park Rd, Mutley, PL3 4RJ
SpaDental Saltash: 77 Fore St, Saltash, PL12 6AF

Help your child keep healthy teeth for life.



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

Safeguarding posters

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and school adults with the information they need to build an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe treated adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

"The industry, as far as we can see as families, are grooming the next generation with a whole set of online games and these are aimed at 7, 8, 9 year olds - that's the next generation who are going to be their income generators" - Li Ritchie, Gambling With Lives

The digital world that we live in can be a minefield for families and parents/carers. The way in which children 'game' now is completely different to how modern day parents and carers would have experienced. The 'monetization' of gaming is at the forefront of research and there are increasing concerns surrounding online gaming and the subsequent links this has with underage gambling.

From ONLINE GAMING to ONLINE GAMBLING

Recognising the Signs

10 Signs for Parents to Look For:

- 1. EXCESSIVE USE OF DEVICES**
This can lead to increased isolated behaviour and lying about the amount of time spent online.
- 2. SPENDING MONEY ONLINE WITHOUT PERMISSION**
If a child is willing to spend money online regularly on a parent's credit without permission that this should act as an early warning sign for parents to ensure that there are more barriers and parental controls in place.
- 3. CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR**
Children may become moody, aggressive or argumentative particularly during or shortly after periods of online gaming.
- 4. A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TO SCHOOL**
Children may display an obvious change in attitude to learning and a more negative view of school.
- 5. DISENGAGED WITH FAMILY LIFE**
Children start to prefer spending time alone online rather than engage in normal family activities.
- 6. COMPULSIVE EATING**
This includes both eating the wrong types of food excessively and not eating healthily.
- 7. IMPATIENT**
Not prepared to wait for anything (increased in excessive online game play and in app purchases) and nothing is ever good enough.
- 8. 'THE LOOK'**
Compulsive gamblers are often said to look 'zoned out', have a glazed, look in, experience loss of weight and stop taking care in their appearance. The same can be said of those who are starting to develop a gaming addiction.
- 9. OBSESSIVE BEHAVIOUR**
Children who demonstrate obsessive behaviour in everyday life are often reported to be at risk of developing an online gaming disorder.
- 10. DISHONESTY**
This could include starting to tell lies and in the more extreme cases even stealing things.

10 Top Tips for Parents:

- 1. BE AWARE**
Do not fall into the trap that it's just what children do - as parents/carers/families be on the same page and do not be allowed to be played off against one another.
- 2. VISIT THE GP**
Although both gaming/gambling addictions are now recognised as a mental disorder, some doctors may not be experts in these areas - families can still refer to their GP and Gaming and Gambling Clinic.
- 3. DO YOUR RESEARCH**
See what help and support is available. Visit www.gamfam.co.uk and become an expert.
- 4. SPEAK TO THE SCHOOL**
Have an open and honest conversation. Schools are investing heavily in mental health and can arrange or direct you to the most appropriate support services.
- 5. TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST**
This applies to school work and in creating a learning environment at home. Find activities and hobbies that create a life away from the screen and be part of it.
- 6. BECOME THE EXPERT**
Research the game your child is playing - does the game have loot boxes?
- 7. PUT BARRIERS IN PLACE**
Set up parental controls for all devices (including phones) and set up screen time. Visit the 'Partnership with Parents' section at www.gamfam.co.uk for further details.
- 8. FINANCIAL CONTROLS**
Turn off in-app purchases. Do not link your debit/credit card to your child's device and use a prepaid card instead. For example World, Go Henry, Ninko or speak to your bank for advice.
- 9. DISCUSS LOOT BOXES AND SKIN BETTING**
Have a conversation about loot boxes and skin betting. Many games can still be played and completed without using loot boxes on the console version but be mindful of the mobile versions.
- 10. DO NOT LEND MONEY FOR GAMBLING**
Or if you think it will be used for online gaming, without your permission.

The above guidance has been produced by

National Online Safety **GamFam**

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter: @nationalonlinesafety Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram: @nationalonlinesafety

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