

# AUSTIN FARM

## Academy

### Newsletter 02/02/2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, despite being tired and almost ready for half term, the children have worked as hard as always. Please see below for what they have been learning.

On Tuesday, Year 2 went out onto the local streets to continue their road safety learning, they were easy to spot with their reflective tabards on and are learning vital skills to stay safe, which is especially important as the roads around our school are very busy with (often speeding) traffic.

As the actual date of Pancake day this year is in half term Norse have decided to celebrate a week early with a special pancake day dessert on Tuesday 6th February. Please see the poster below for more details, the main will stay the same - sausage mash and gravy, delicious!

Communication between home and school is very important and we try to be there to listen as much as possible, however, the end of the day is much better to see and talk to the teachers. Unless it is an emergency, please do not take up too much of their time at the start of the day, 8.45 is when the teachers collect the children from the playground and want to start teaching as soon as they get into class; long conversations in some classes are preventing them from doing this. If it is a message that can be left with me or at the office please do that instead.

Staffing news...

At half term, Mr Thomas will be leaving Austin Farm Academy. He is moving on to a new role at a school in Plymouth catering for pupils with Special Educational Needs. He started working here as a teaching assistant in 2006 and has taken on several roles during the past 17 ½ years. I know he will be taking many fond memories of his time here and will miss the Austin Farm community spirit. I am sure you will all join me in wishing him the best in his future career.

I have the pleasure of announcing that Mrs Hobbins will be taking over as SENDCo, as well as teaching Year 4/5 three days a week and we will be welcoming two part time members of staff to our team: Mrs Caroline Collins is returning to teach Year 4/5 two days a week and Mr Thomson will teach in Year 3 on a Thursday and Friday. They have both taught here before and are looking forward to returning.

Mrs L Bridgeman and Mrs N Edwards have both loved teaching in EYFS & Year 1 and will be swapping their days over after the half term break.

Next Friday we will have a Mufti Day to raise money for the Catholic Children's Society, this is a charity who Mrs Gilbert (our PSA) regularly contacts for support, and they always say yes. They have helped our families with money for uniforms and items for the home. It would be nice if we can give something back to them. Please bring in cash donations for wearing your own clothes. Please make sure you have warm coats and sensible shoes for wearing outside at playtimes.

I hope you have a great weekend and enjoy the start of the Rugby 6 Nations - Come on England!



Foundation: this week we have been learning about measurement in maths. We made caterpillars out of play dough and compared their size, putting them in order from smallest to biggest. We have also learnt a new poem about funny faces and created our very own funny faces!



**Year 1:** this week we have started our new English unit on poetry. We have learnt some new poems and performed them in small groups to the class with actions. In science, we have looked at different animals and grouped them into carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.



**Year 2:** have been getting to grips with division. We started by putting things into equal groups and have spent lots of time using practical equipment to help us. We've really got the hang of it and now we can use the division symbol.

### Division

Division is splitting into equal parts or groups.  
We use the  $\div$  symbol, or the  $/$  symbol to mean divide.

If we have 12 cupcakes and four friends want to share them, how would you divide the cupcakes?

$$12 \div 4 = 3$$

They should get 3 cupcakes each.

The Clicker-Teacher

**Year 3:** what a super week for Year 3! We have been working hard at using the grid method in a step towards the formal method for multiplication. Even though this has been tricky, we have used our perseverance to keep going and not give up! In reading, we have been using our VIPERS skills to

retrieve information from a text, we then used our explanation and summarising skills to show that we have understood what we have read. In addition to this, we have been super at reading alongside our adult during class reading opportunities. Well done!



**Year 4/5:** this week, we have been preparing for our new unit in English. The children wrote some impressive stories about things that have washed up on shore based on pictures they looked at.





**Year 6: this week we have been learning about our capital city in Geography, learning about the technology used by the Indus Valley peoples in History and planning out our inspirational biographies in English. We wrote a class biography on JK Rowling and are all inspired by her determination and resilience!**



The attendance award goes to yr 4 for getting 98.8% this week. Well done !

Learners of the week, well done everyone!!



**Foundation: R.Abbassi**

**Year 1: D-M. Rice**

**Year 2: Z.Adey**

**Year 3: I.Ninnim**

**Year 4: E-g.Llewellyn**

**Year 5: J.Curran**

**Year 6: J.Westcott**

## Dates to remember!!!



**09.02.24 - Mufti Day for Catholic Children's society - money donations please.**

**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 - dress as a book character and bring in your favourite book to read with friends.**

**15.03.24 - Comic Relief - Red Nose Day - Wear as much red as you can!**

**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

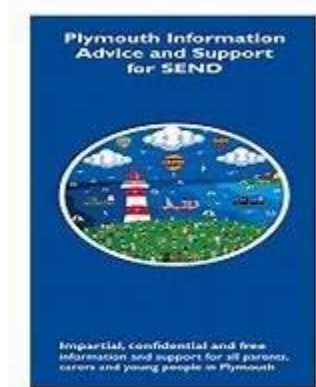
Week One					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Faccacia Margherita	Chicken Katsu Curry & Rice	Roast Gammon Steak & Pineapple	Meatballs in a Ragù sauce	Fish Fingers
Option 2 (v)	Veggie Bean Wrap	Cheese & Potato Pie	Vegetarian Plait	Veggie Balls in a Ragù Sauce	Veggie Nuggets
Sides	Herby Oiled 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 Cookies	Apple Crumble & Custard	Pip Organic Lollies
Jackpot 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
Jackpot 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	Junibo Fish Finger
Option 2 (v)	Vegetable Fajita	Cheese Wheels & Wholemeal Pasta	Quorn and Leek Pastry Puff	Mediterranean Vegetable Bolognaise	Veggie Fingers
Sides	Potato Wedges Sweetcorn or Winter Coleslaw	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
Jackpot 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:	15/11/23; 04/12/23; 01/01/24; 22/01/24; 19/02/24; 11/03/24				



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



## Girls Turn Up & Play Free Sessions

Argyle Community Trust are holding free taster sessions, for the next 2 weeks ,for their Turn Up and Play sessions for Girls in school years Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3.

 Sat 3rd Feb & 10th Feb

 Harpers Football Centre

 10am - 11am

Scan Here to Book



ARGYLE  
COMMUNITY  
TRUST

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.**

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

## 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.

[School attendance and absence | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](#)



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					


**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 30 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 28 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 NPDs.

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
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sep 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						

Oct 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			

	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.

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[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](http://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:

Disordered gambling is sometimes referred to as the 'silent killer'. Unlike drug or alcohol addictions the signs are sometimes harder to spot and if not dealt with at an early age can have a devastating effect on both the gambler and their families later on in life.

- 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 healthy.
- 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:

If you think that your child may be at risk of developing a gaming addiction then there are a series of measures that you can put in place. This is by no means an exhaustive list but just some strategies that could ensure a potential situation does not escalate.

- 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](http://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](http://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, Moni 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](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) Twitter: @nationalonlinesafety Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram: @nationalonlinesafety

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