

AUSTIN FARM

Academy

Newsletter 23/02/2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back!

I hope you all had a lovely half term break; some of our families had very exciting times welcoming new additions to their families. The children have had a shorter week but a busy one, please see below for what they have been learning.

Year 4 started their swimming lessons on Tuesday and Wednesday and thoroughly enjoyed them, unfortunately, due to the discovery of the World War 2 bomb in Keyham and the evacuation of people

from their homes, the Life Centre cancelled Thursday and Friday as it was being used as a registration centre. Whilst that is disappointing for us, those families have been unable to live in their own homes for at least 3 days, so we do understand why this has happened. I am told it is back on for Monday and they will need swimming kit every day for the next 2 weeks.

On Tuesday, Year 2 continued their road safety sessions and I have applied for some eye-catching road safety banners reminding drivers to slow down when driving past our school, let's hope they pay attention to what we are asking, as it is all designed to help keep our children safe.

On Tuesday morning, Year 5 and Year 6 started the half term with a rowing session, good fun was had by all and I hear it became very competitive - not only between the children! Please see below for photos of them enjoying their rowing.

EYFS have a couple of pleas: they would like the children to use their outside space as much as possible, but due to the nature of our land, it gets very boggy, meaning they can't go out in shoes. However, if they have wellies they can still go out into the garden after the rain. If you have any old wellies that you can donate (child's size 7 - 13 or even a couple of size 1s) please see Mrs Bridgeman. They would also welcome junk modelling donations, so please check your recycling for anything pirate ship worthy for next week!

Year 3 teacher - unfortunately, due to a sudden serious illness with a close family member, Mr Thomsen has been unable to take up his post here. We have been lucky enough to secure the services of Miss Lang who will be teaching Year 3 on a Thursday and a Friday. She is a highly experienced teacher who has worked in our school over the past year providing cover for KS2 teachers on courses. We are sorry for the inconvenience as we like to prepare our pupils for changes as much as we can, however, I hope you can understand that this situation was beyond our control.

School dinners- please look through the menu with your child and if they are unsure what something is or what it looks like please either explain it to them or show them. We are having several children order one thing in the morning and then get to the lunch hall and see something else they like the look of more. Unfortunately, as with any kitchen, our food quantity is made to match the morning orders and we cannot afford to make lots of extra dinners each day. This will help your child to enjoy their delicious lunches as much as possible.

AR rewards: Last half term 30 of our Year 2- Year 6 children achieved their Accelerated Reader targets. Next Friday those 30 children will be able to come to school wearing mufti. The class teacher will send a message on Class Dojo next Thursday to remind those bookworms that they can wear their own clothes to school on Friday - well done!

On 7th March it is World Book Day and we are asking your child to come to school dressed as a book character, as well as bring their favourite book to share with another child. We are aware that not all children like to dress up and we really don't expect you to spend a fortune on expensive costumes. We love a home-made costume and some children may just want to wear uniform and bring a clue as to who their favourite book character is. e.g. a pretend jar of honey for Winnie the Pooh, a red ribbon for Matilda or a wand for their favourite wizard.

I hope you have a great weekend, keep your fingers crossed for England's biggest rugby test yet...Scotland - Come on England!!



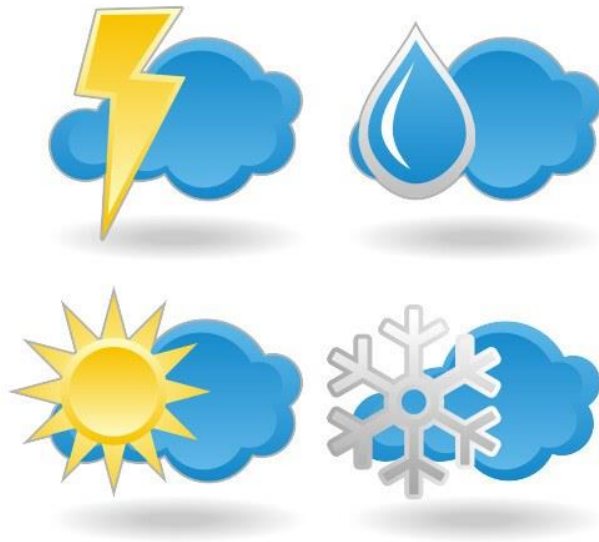








Foundation: the children have been enjoying the new spaces set up around the classroom and the role play area has been a hit! We have also been learning about different types of weather. The class voted on their favourite type of weather, in joint first place was sunshine and snow!



Year 1: the children have been working hard during our Power Maths lessons. They have been exploring numbers to 50, focusing on grouping and counting in 10's. In music this week we started the unit of work called 'I wanta be in a band!' We had great fun finding the beat of the music and learnt the chorus of the song.



Year 2: have started their new topic based around famous explorers that have links to Plymouth. The children shared their holiday homework all about Sir Francis Drake and we found out what an explorer actually is.



Year 3: what a great first week back! The children brought in some super homework to display in the classroom linked to what we will be learning in class. Our first history lesson discussed Cyrus and Darius. Please ask the children all about them as they already know lots of information.



Year 4/5: This week, the year 4's have made an incredible start to the week with their swimming lessons. We were so proud of all of them for how hard they have tried. Year 5 had a brilliant time rowing showing their strength and team work. The whole class have started to learn about types of farming and shown a good understanding of the three different types. Ask your child what the three types of farming are!



Year 6: this week we have enjoyed watching and reading about Wallace and Gromit's Cracking Contraptions. They have been absolutely crackin'! In Geography, we enjoyed learning about the different types of farms. The children have been working hard on their comprehension skills in our reading sessions – they are showing pure resilience and I am so proud.



Learners of the week, well done everyone!!



Foundation: F.Morgan

Year 1: K.Doyle

Year 2: R.McGowan

Year 3: A.Parry

Year 4: E-g.Llewellyn

Year 5: J.Cater

Year 6: G.Worth

The attendance award goes to yr 6 for getting 99% this week. Well done !



Dates to remember!!!



26.02.24 - Yr 6 and Foundation height and weight measurement. **ALL** children are *opted in*; Monday morning is the last time to 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!

28.3.24 - Last day of the Spring term.

16.04.24 - Primary school offer from admissions

23.04.23 - Deadline to accept Primary school offers.

Foundation/ Yr 6 - Height and Weight



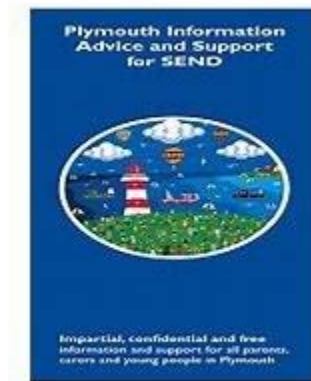
Letters went out Wednesday 13th December 2023. **ALL** children are opted in to this measuring programme, please only return the form if you wish to **OPT OUT** of this programme. Monday morning is the last chance to bring the form in if you want to opt out.

Menu Week 1

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 Bolognaise	Jumbo Fish Finger
Option 2 (v)	Vegetable Fajita	Cheese Whiz & Wholemeal Pasta	Quorn and Leek Pastry Puff	Mediterranean Vegetable Bolognaise	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 - [Plymouth Information Advice and Support for SEND](https://plymouthias.org.uk). - Supplying you with information, advice and support (plymouthias.org.uk)



Amputee | Grass Frame Users | Mental Health | Deafness | Dwarfism | ADHD
Down Syndrome | Autism | Learning disability | Cerebral Palsy

PEM FC

Free Coaching Sessions For Pan Disability Football

HAVE FUN

MAKE NEW FRIENDS



PLAY FOOTBALL

BE ACTIVE

Date: Sunday 7th April & Sunday 14th April 1000 - 1200

Location: Dean Cross fields, Plymstock, PL9 7AZ

Public Transport: Bus Route 1A, 2, 5, 5A (Broadway)

Organisers: Lee Ellis, Chris Marsh, Kev Treeby, Luke Mornington

Facilities: Toilets, bar, tea, coffee, snacks, limited parking

We are a newly established friendly football club looking for new players to join our pan-disability organisation (boys & girls) All abilities are welcome! No obligation to join permanently & it's completely free.

Email: Pemfootball@hotmail.com

Telephone: 07877236083 (not WhatsApp)

Ages 5-11 / Ages 12-14 / Ages 15-18 / Ages 19+



Scan QR code to register or click [Pemfootball.co.uk](#)

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
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Sep 2023						
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Nov 2023						
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Dec 2023						
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Jan 2024						
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Feb 2024						
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Mar 2024						
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Apr 2024						
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Jun 2024						
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Jul 2024						
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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						
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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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Jan 2025						
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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
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 card 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 NIOS 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 competed 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

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Consent as of the date of release 13.02.2020