

Weekly News

3rd July 2020

Dear Parents,

We have been working very hard this week to finalise our classes for next year. As mentioned in previous newsletters, this is something that takes a lot of thought and consideration. The academic, social and emotional needs of every child, every class and every year group is considered in order to ensure we create the best possible learning environment for the new school year. Last year on 4th July we held our 'Moving Up Day' where the children found out their new classes and met their new teachers. Last week I informed you that due to Covid-19 we would be delaying our 'Moving Up Day' to Monday 20th July and Tuesday 21st July. With that in mind, on Tuesday of next week, we will be informing you via ParentPay of your child's class teacher for the next academic year, which group they will be in for the transition day and their respective start and finish times. Please note the key points listed below:

- We will be continuing to ensure that we implement staggered start and finish times for each year group to reduce large gatherings on Abbey Road. Please see the timings below:
Start: New Year 6: 8.20am/ New Year 5: 8.30am/ New Year 4: 8.40am
Finish: New Year 6: 3.30pm/ New Year 5: 3.20pm/ New Year 4: 3.10pm
- If your child needs to be accompanied to school please ensure **only one parent attends**.
- When arriving in school the children will need to use the pathway by the new bike shelter. Staff members will be there to direct them onto the playground.
- Parents will not be permitted access to the school site at this time.
- School lunches will be on offer (limited menu)
- We would like the children to wear school uniform
- Please limit the number of things your child brings to school (no books from home or things to show).
- Sun hat, sun cream and plenty to drink if hot.

You will probably be aware by now that new government guidance for children returning to school in September was released yesterday. Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education) in his press release stated that:

'Current restrictions on group sizes will be lifted to allow schools, colleges and nurseries to fully reopen to all children and young people, as Covid-19 infection rates continue to fall.'

The release of the new guidance now means that we can start to finalise our plans for September and ensure our children and staff can remain safe whilst at school. We have already started looking at the logistics of how Pilton Bluecoat Academy will operate with the return of 264 pupils. We have been very pleased with the way in which our control measures put in place for our Year 6 and key worker children have worked over the past few weeks. The aim now is to continue to build on this firm foundation by following government guidelines. As a school will ensure:

- **All children and staff clean hands thoroughly more often than usual**
- **We continue to promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach**
- **There is enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products.**
- **We minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible (staggered break times and lunchtimes)**
- We maintain distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix
- We reduce large gatherings such as assemblies or collective worship to no more than one group.
- The use of staggered starts to the day and staggered ends of the day, to avoid large gatherings.

The new government guidance highlights that:

'Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- Parents 'duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age'

As a school we will continue to work in partnership with you around your child's return to school so please telephone the school or email our admin team if you have any concerns at all. Over the next two weeks we will be working hard to provide you with further information regarding your child's return to school in September.

Have a lovely weekend,

Best wishes

Mr Thomas



Find us on;



Facebook:
*@Pilton Bluecoat
Academy*



Twitter:
*@bluecoathead (Mr Thomas)
@Pilton Bluecoat Academy*

Gentle reminder

Please remember to not drop off your child outside the front of the school in Abbey road, there should be no parking on the 'keep clear' zone. Parking permits for Fairview carpark are available from the school office. The traffic volume has increased again now and there have been a few hold ups caused this week.

Thank You

Pre-Loved Uniform

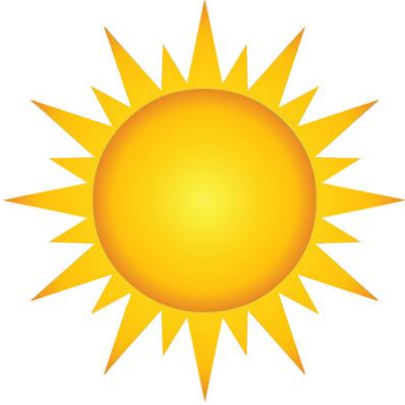
It is that time of year when you may be sorting out un-used uniform and looking for bigger sizes. If you have any unwanted uniform in good condition please consider donating it to the school for our younger pupils to purchase from our pre-loved uniform rail. All monies raised go into the Parentgroup fundraising pot!



In the interest of social distancing measures, uniform donations can be left outside the school office entrance with no contact, just clearly labelled.

Thank you.



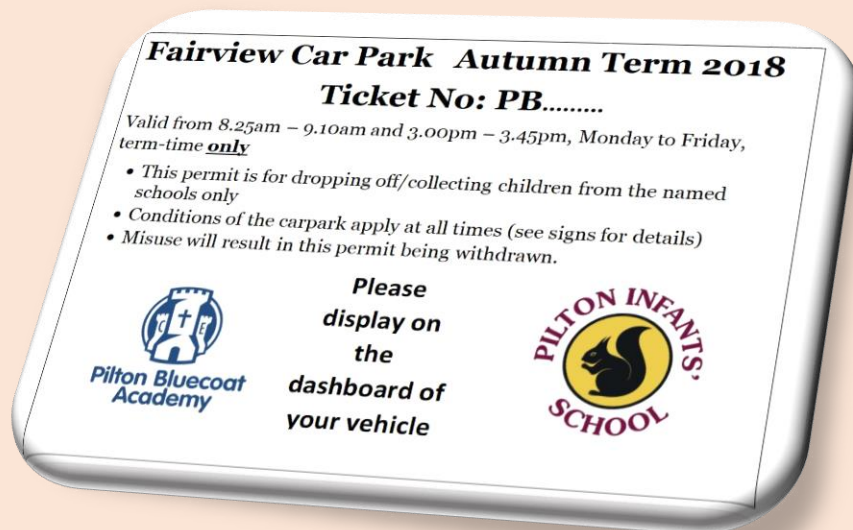


A "Covid summer food fund" will now offer six-week food vouchers to children eligible for free school meals in England during the Summer holidays, 2020.

This equates to £15 per week.

If you think that you are eligible but yet to make an application, please think about it now.

PARKING PERMITS For September are now available



Please call or email the school with your child's name and registration number and we can have one ready to be sent home with your child or collected at a convenient time.

THANK YOU

Dinner Menu for week commencing 6th July 2020

Meal price is £2.30 per day, payable on Parentpay please.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN OPTION	Cheese & tomato pizza with potato wedges	Beef lasagne with a bread wedge	Roast turkey bap & roast potatoes	Chicken tikka masala & rice	Fish fingers & chips
JACKET POTATOES	Available every day with a topping of choice of cheese, baked beans or tuna				
DESSERT	Secret brownie	Raspberry ripple ice cream	Fruity flapjack	Banana oat bite	Strawberry swirl sponge

All meals are served with fresh vegetables and fresh fruit daily.

QUEENS THEATRE PROM UPDATE

"During these challenging times, the safety of our customers, teams and visiting companies remains our top priority. Therefore we have taken the sad decision to remain closed until 26th November.

In order to ensure the sustainability of your venues, we will also be **closing our offices until the beginning of July**. This means there will be no support available during this time, for you, our valued customer. Please be assured that we will be back as soon as possible to answer any questions you may have.

If you have tickets to affected shows, or are awaiting a refund, please do not worry. Your tickets/money are safe and will be refunded as soon as we can.

We politely request that you do not email or call us during this time as we will not be able to respond."

School Term Dates 2020 / 2021








Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
First Day 7th September 2020	First Day 5th January 2021	First Day 20th April 2021
Half-term 26th - 30th October 2020	Half-term 15th - 19th February 2021	Bank Holiday 3rd May 2021
Last Day 18th December 2020	Last Day 1st April 2021	Half-term 31st May - 4th June 2021
		Last Day 22nd July 2021

Non pupil days:

- 3rd & 4th September 2020
- 4th January 2021
- 19th April 2021
- 23rd July 2021

Music

- At Pilton Bluecoat Academy we have four peripatetic music teachers who offer private instrument lessons; either one to one or in small groups
- The teachers come into school once a week during term time and lessons are during the school day
- Please contact the teacher directly for the cost of lessons and availability
- If your child is interested in learning but doesn't have an instrument, the teacher may have an instrument that they can borrow or hire – please ask
- If your child receives pupil premium funding, you are entitled to a 50% reduction in the cost of instrument lessons. Please let the instrument teacher know this when you are arranging lessons so that you are charged the correct amount

Instrument:		Teacher:
Keyboard/Piano		Rebecca Barrow 07828 601778
Violin		Rebecca Barrow 07828 601778
Flute <i>Beginners can learn to play on a "Toot" to begin with which can be purchased for £20</i>		Simon Gilby 07906 611536
Clarinet		Simon Gilby 07906 611536
Saxophone		Simon Gilby 07906 611536
Guitar <i>Acoustic guitar, reading chords and TABs.</i>		Sam Dowden 07929 861391
Drums <i>Lessons will be taught on an electric drum kit in school.</i>		Martin Bradshaw 07525 936889



The 2020 Summer Reading Challenge is here!

This year, Silly Squad, the Summer Reading Challenge 2020, celebrates funny books, happiness and laughter and features bespoke artwork from award-winning children's author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson (Amelia Fang; Evil Emperor Penguin; I Don't Want Curly Hair). Children taking part in the Challenge will join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck in to all different kinds of funny books!

The digital Challenge is free to access, featuring games, quizzes and digital and downloadable activities to incentivise and encourage children and their families to take part in reading-related activities at home. Although our library buildings are closed we have boosted the number of children's books available to borrow via our e-lending platforms which can be accessed from our [Devon Libraries](#) and [Torbay Libraries](#) websites.

From July we will also be hosting lots of Silly Squad events and activities on our Facebook pages, so look out for those!

You can sign your child up [here](#) or the following pages; pages (<https://www.facebook.com/BarnstapleLibrary/> and <https://www.facebook.com/Devon.Libraries/>

There will be lots of Silly Squad digital events throughout the summer.

Happy Reading!



TEAM VACANCIES

Required from September 2020

WITHERIDGE ACADEMY

TEACHING ASSISTANT POST- SEND

Required: as from 1st September 2020
Hours per week: 17.50
Working weeks: 38 weeks (term time only)
Starting Salary: £9.55 per hour (Scale C)
Status: Fixed term contract linked to particular SEND pupil
Closing date: noon Friday 10th July 2020
Interviews: the following week

TEACHING ASSISTANT POST- SEND

Required: as from 1st September 2020
Hours per week: 16.25
Working weeks: 38 weeks (term time only)
Starting Salary: £9.55 per hour (Scale C)
Status: Temporary Maternity Cover linked to particular SEND pupil
Closing date: noon Friday 10th July 2020
Interviews: the following week

We are looking to recruit members of staff to join our workforce team to take up these roles. These positions are being advertised separately; however, applicants are welcome to apply for any or all of the posts. Please indicate preferences on the application form.

If you are interested in applying for all or any of the above posts, please go to our website www.teamacademytrust.com and visit the vacancies page for further details and the application form.

Caroline Tucker
Trust HR Manager