



Pilton Bluecoat Academy

Information for Parents



Welcome to our School

Welcome to Pilton Bluecoat Church of England School. Our school booklet aims to give you an idea about the life and work of our school. It will also answer any of the questions you may have about our day to day routines.

We pride ourselves that Pilton Bluecoat is a happy and friendly place, where children learn in an enjoyable, caring and purposeful atmosphere. We work hard to ensure that every child is treated in a fair and considerate manner. We promote high levels of security and safety.

We recognise that all children have individual needs and we will strive to ensure your child achieves well. In our school personal and social development are as important as academic attainment. We therefore encourage every child to develop their talents and abilities and, most importantly, enjoy their junior years.

We are always here to meet with you, so if you should have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or a member of the leadership team.

School Aims

Our school is a Church of England School, within the Diocese of Exeter.

Our aims are to:

- Encourage a sense of spirituality within our Christian values.
- Nurture each individual.
- Accept each other within a caring and loving community.
- Aspire to the highest standards of teaching and learning within a creative curriculum.
- Provide a safe environment.
- Understand the world in which we live.

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School Site

The school is sited on a campus with Pilton Infants School. It is adjacent to Pathfield Special School and Pilton Community College. All four schools work in a close partnership known as the Pilton Schools Association.

Our school was opened in 1967 and became an academy in 2012. The octagonal school hall is the main interior feature and is used for collective worship, PE, dance, drama, school meals and after school clubs. One side of the hall leads to our entrance foyer which houses our library and offices. The other side of the hall opens onto our pleasant garden courtyard which is surrounded by our classrooms.

All class rooms are equipped with modern Hi-Tech facilities including laptops and interactive whiteboards. Children have access to ICT equipment throughout the day including the use of a secure internet system.

There are two playgrounds and a large level playing field for sports and playtime use and a forest school area.

Admissions

In line with the statutory requirement our admission policy is reviewed annually, the detail of which can be found on our website. As an academy, the school governors are the admission authority. However applications for year 3 currently have to be made via the Devon Local Authority.

We have a comprehensive induction programme for parents and children entering school in Year 3. Early in the year parents are invited to view the school during the day and meet senior staff. Later,



they are able to attend 'parent school' sessions, where they can learn about aspects of the curriculum.

Alongside, children from Year 2 spend as much time as possible in the school and visit on special occasions as well as induction days. Most of our children transfer to Pilton Community College at the end of year 6.

School Organisation

There are about 250 children on roll at the school. They are organised into eight single year group classes, each with its own class teacher and teaching assistants.

Throughout the day, pupils experience a range of teaching strategies including whole class and small group work and individual intervention. As far as possible, we strive to provide a personalised curriculum for each child.

School Governors

The Governors are a group of people who have one thing in common, the desire to help the school be the best it can for our children and staff. They are made up of members appointed by the Diocese, representatives of the local community, parents and school staff.

Our Governors oversee all strategies of the school including overseeing the school budget and appointing staff. The day to day management of the school is delegated to the Headteacher and the school leadership team.

Governors visit the school regularly and they are closely involved with school. They are also committed to ensuring we have a safe environment. Working with the Headteacher, they have established rigorous procedures for the safeguarding of children in the recruitment of staff and in ensuring all adults working with children receive the appropriate clearance checks.

The Trustees annually review the work of the governors, and school staff and monitor standards to ensure the school has a rigorous agenda for continual development. They represent a range of organisations including the local Parish, Exeter Diocese, and the University of St Mark & St John - Plymouth.

School Uniform

We have a smart and practical uniform that can be purchased from various outlets. The badged sweatshirt and polo shirts are only available from Daws in Cross Street - but not compulsory.

The uniform consists of:

- 💡 Royal blue sweatshirt with school logo.
- 💡 Royal blue or white polo shirt (available with logo if required)
- 💡 Grey or black trousers or skirts.
- 💡 Blue and white striped or check dress in summer
- 💡 Flat black shoes (closed toed sandals for the summer)

For inside P.E.

- 💡 House Colour T-shirt
- 💡 Navy or Black Shorts

For outside P.E.

- 💡 Trainers
- 💡 Games type shirt
- 💡 Track suit for colder days

For health and safety reasons, we do not allow children to wear jewellery except for a wrist watch and plain ear studs. Studs will need to be removed or taped for games and PE.

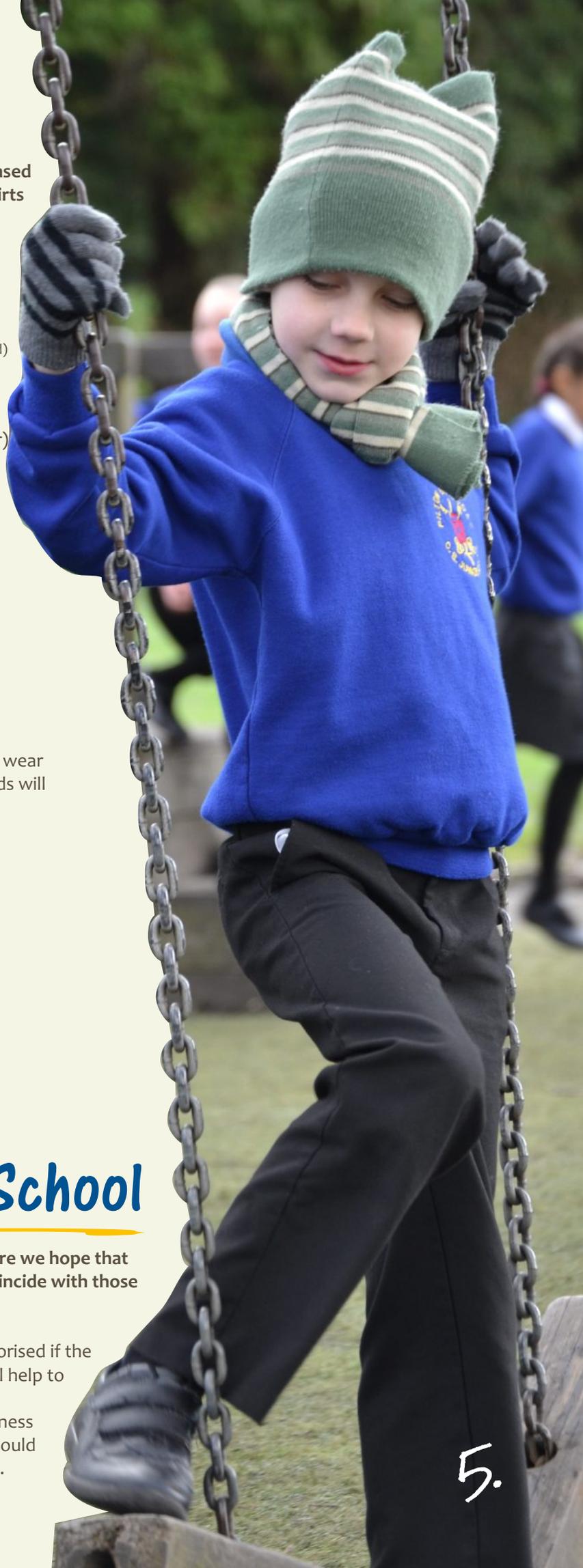
The School Day

School Opens	8.35 am
Registration	8.45 am
💡 Session 1	8.45 – 10.45 am
Morning Break	10.45 – 11.00 am
💡 Session 2	11.00 – 12.25 pm
Lunch Time	12.25 – 1.20 pm
💡 Session 3	1.20 – 3.20 pm

Being Away from School

Our school curriculum is very full and varied and therefore we hope that parents will make every effort to take holidays which coincide with those of the school.

Requests for holidays during school time will not be authorised if the child's attendance is below the national average. This will help to ensure that their child's education is not compromised. Inevitably, children do need time out for unexpected sickness and medical appointments. In these instances, parents should contact school as early as possible on the day of absence .



Parents in School

We actively encourage the involvement of parents in the life of our school. Parents give direct help through a range of activity such as listening to children read, helping on school trips and in sharing their expertise in the classroom.

We regularly invite parents to assemblies, special services and school productions. We also run a weekly school community prayer meeting. Every half-term, a parent forum is held with the Headteacher for parents to share informally, any thoughts they have on the wider issues of school life.

Parents are encouraged to participate in our Parent Group, who regularly meet to raise funds and organise social events.

Partnerships

As a church school we have close links with our Parish Community. Further afield we have fostered a range of partnerships in Europe, Kenya and India. This brings the culture and spirit of these countries into the classroom.

Alongside, we have a link with an inner city school in London. This gives the children an insight into our multi-cultural society. We also foster links with the three other schools in our immediate locality – Pilton Infants, Pathfield Special School and Pilton Community College. The four schools make up the Pilton Schools Association this promotes a range of cross-school initiatives.

Working with You

We recognise that we are partners with you in providing the best education we can for your children and we want you to feel welcome and included in our school life. We are always willing to hear any concerns or issues you have about your child.

The class teacher or the head teacher are normally available at the end of the day but should you need a more formal discussion an appointment can be made through the school office.

We send out a weekly newsletter or you may opt into our Parentmail system that enables you to receive all school communication straight into your e mail account.

Once a term all parents also receive a curriculum newsletter that outlines what your child will be learning during the term and how you can help.

Parent/Teacher meetings occur twice each year and these are supplemented with two written reports in March and July. All children are given a planner that contains a range of information, including their personal learning goals. These are set with the class teacher during individual tutorials.

Both you and your child are invited to comment in the planner and they offer an additional link between you and your child's teacher. We also have a website that includes lots of additional information about our school – www.piltonbluecoat.devon.sch.uk.





Curriculum

Our curriculum provides a broad and balanced experience that promotes active and interesting learning alongside personal, social and spiritual development.

We put a great deal of emphasis on achieving high standards in the basic skills and ICT. All pupils have daily reading, writing and numeracy sessions and regular access to computers. We encourage these skills to be used in a creative and real way through our **BIG EVENT** curriculum.

This provides a memorable experience, mostly through visits out, that are linked to a termly theme. This is used as a starting point for work across a range of subjects including history, geography, art, technology and science.

Alongside, we promote social skills development through our Forest School and 'Relax Kids' personal development programme. We also employ specialist teachers in music, French and physical education and children have the opportunity to visit local sports facilities including the Leisure Centre swimming pool and Tarka Tennis centre.

Homework

We do not set formal homework for children in Year 3 and 4. However, there is an expectation that they will spend some time during the evening reading, learning set spellings and numeracy tables.

In addition, we would encourage children to pursue interests within the context of the school topic for that term and prepare pieces of work to share with their class and year group. This type of contribution will be highly valued by teachers and other adults.

Children in Year 5 & 6 will receive more formal homework tasks to help prepare them for secondary school. Much of this will be to consolidate basic skills and should take no more than two and a half hours each week.

All children have personal access to 'My Maths', 'Espresso' and 'Linguascope' via the internet. The school subscribes to these websites which are designed to be used in the classroom and at home.

Extended School

We are able to offer care beyond the normal school day which is run by outside agencies.

- 💡 The School Breakfast Club starts at 8am
- 💡 The After School Facility runs until 5.55pm
- 💡 Both clubs need to be pre-booked at least one day in advance
- 💡 Current costs are available from the school office



Religious Education

Our Church of England Christian Foundation is an important part of school life. In our religious education lessons children learn about the Christian faith and are also taught about other world religions.

There is an act of daily collective worship when the whole school gathers to sing, pray and learn together. Our themes are varied and are related to current topics in the news, world events and our Christian Values.

Major Christian festivals such as Christmas and Easter are celebrated at the school and our local Church.

As a Church school we hope you will support this aspect of our work, although you do have a legal right to withdraw your child from Collective Worship.



Enrichment

We work very hard to ensure the curriculum for our children is enjoyable, relevant and active. We regularly invite artists, musicians and theatre groups into school to work with us.

We are committed to a programme of outdoor education that includes day and residential trips for each year group. These are designed to promote their social skills and independence.

At present we offer the following residential visits:

- 🔦 **Year 3:** One night at Pinkery Residential Centre Exmoor
- 🔦 **Year 4:** One night camping and watersports at Roadford Dartmoor
- 🔦 **Year 5:** Three nights in London
- 🔦 **Year 6:** Four nights at Heatree Residential Centre Dartmoor

We ask parents to contribute towards the costs but charges are normally voluntary and contributions are requested in the context of the school's charging policy as published on our website.

We also offer our children the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities that take place at lunchtime and after school. When these are run by our school staff there is no charge. Activities vary according to the interests and expertise of staff and available coaches.



Assessment

We encourage children to value their own progress and develop an understanding of how they can improve.

Working in partnership with their teacher, children will review their achievements and help to set their own targets. Children are assessed regularly in aspects of literacy and numeracy.

In May, children in years 3, 4, and 5 take the national optional tests and these are used as part of their final end of year assessment. Around the same time, Year 6 children take part in the Statutory tests.

Information from these assessments is used to ensure that children are developing a secure understanding of their work and that they are being appropriately challenged as individuals. Outcomes of assessments are shared with parents in reports that are sent out in the Spring and Summer terms.



Success for all Children

At Pilton Bluecoat we aim to provide the best education for each child regardless of race, disability, gender or ability. Every child has individual needs that we identify and respond to in our day to day educational provision and there are a range of intervention and support groups for pupils of all abilities. Children with special needs (SEN) are assessed in line with the local authority's guidelines.

Some children receive an Individual Education Plan (IEP) which is shared with parents at regular review sessions.

The school has an accessibility plan that is designed to ensure that pupils and adults with disability are able to be fully included in the life of the school. It is important to us that all parents, and children are fully included. Please inform us if you have any special requirements or needs.

The school recognizes that some children are particularly able or talented. Provision is made to ensure these children are challenged in class and, throughout the year, special events are organised to provide extended curriculum experiences.



Behaviour

We aim to create a caring, family atmosphere in our school based on our Christian values. Our children are encouraged to help each other and live in a context of consideration and mutual support. We have high expectations of behaviour from all our children.

Children are encouraged to see the school community as their own and are given a range of responsibility. They can also earn merit points that lead to certificates and badges of commendation.

Children whose negative behaviour impacts on others may be sanctioned by their class teacher or the head. Their behaviour will be discussed with them, and this will often be shared with parents. We want children to learn from these experiences and will give lots of support to ensure they do better next time.

Fitness & Health

Our school aims to provide all our children with the knowledge and activities needed to promote good physical health. Children take part in a variety of sports with qualified coaches including swimming, football, cricket and athletics. PE is also an important part of our curriculum and includes dance and gymnastics.

Healthy snacks and fruit are encouraged at playtimes and children are asked to bring water to school which they can use during class times. They also have access to a filtered water cooler.

Our schools meals are prepared on site using fresh local ingredients. A healthy meal with a vegetarian option is prepared each day and menus are sent home each week. Meals can be paid for in advance using a meal ticket system either paid for directly to the school or online.

We like to encourage our children to walk to school whenever possible. Children are allowed to cycle, once they have completed their basic training and we provide cycle racks at the front entrance. We also have facilities to store fold-away scooters.

Caring for Children

Each child is under the direct care and guidance of the class teacher, but children soon get to know all the adults in the school. Older pupils are encouraged to look after younger children through our peer mediation scheme.

Occasionally, children will need to take medicine whilst at school. Children who use inhalers should have access to them throughout the day. A spare one should also be supplied and this will be kept by the class teacher. All inhalers must be clearly named.

Other medicines are stored in the school office and are normally dispensed by a member of the support staff. Medicines should be taken to the school office and clearly labelled. There will also be a consent form to be completed.

If a child becomes unwell or an accident occurs during the school day, they will be assessed by a first aider and if required you will be contacted.



Our Children's School

Finally, we want our children to know that this is their school and they have an important role in managing day to day aspects of school life.

Each year the children elect their School Council with two members from each class serving. The Council has an allocated budget and it helps to make decisions on a range of subjects related to school routines, special events and pastoral issues. Other children are trained as peer mediators and are available to provide support in resolving minor disputes.

We also have a group of eco-rangers who oversee our aim to be a school that conserves energy, recycles and is committed to eco issues. Sports leaders and librarians also play an important part in the children's break-time routines.

Children are given this wide range of responsibility with the aim of encouraging their commitment to our community and to give them life skills for the future.





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