

Pilgrim Primary Academy

Oxford Street, Plymouth, PL1 5BQ

Tel: 01752 225319

E-mail: contactus@ppsonline.org

Headteacher: Mrs R Saim (MA, BE'd Hons, NPQEL, NPQH, AOEA)



6th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back from Mrs Saim (new Headteacher).

We have had a wonderful start to the autumn term here at Pilgrim Academy this week.



In my first whole school assembly today, I spoke to the children about how we feel when we experience new beginnings. Starting a new school year with a new teacher and a new Headteacher brings a lot of change, but I am delighted to report that all children have been very excited about returning to school, seeing their friends.

I, too, have really enjoyed starting my new job this week. It is not my first Headship role but starting somewhere new is always a busy time with lots of new things to get to grips with. All the children, staff and parents have warmly welcomed me into the school and this has made it much easier for me to get started, so **thank you** to you all!

Each term at Pilgrim, we focus children's attention on one of our school values and one school behaviour). This autumn term, our value is **Responsibility** and our behaviour focus is **Wonderful Walking**.

Welcome to our new children and families

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all our **new children and families**. We have had lots of new children joining us in Years 1-6 this week.

Also, our new **EYFS children** will be starting school next week. There will be 52 children joining us for their first day of school in Reception.

New Class Information

At the start of the new school year, we know it is important to us that you have a chance to see your child's new class and teacher. We would like to invite all parents and carers to a 'Meet the Teacher' session so you can come into school, meet the team of staff working with your child, hear more about the plans for the term ahead and spend some time in your child's classroom.

Monday 9th 2.45pm	Tuesday 10th 2.45 pm	Wednesday 11 th 2.45pm	Thursday 12th 2.45pm	Friday 13th 2.45pm	Monday 16 th 2.45pm
Year 6	Year 5	Year 4	Year 3	Year 2	Year 1

New morning start times

Thank you all too for adjusting to the slightly earlier opening time in the morning. Just a reminder though that **the exterior gates will open at 8.40am** and the **children's classrooms will be open at 8.45am**. **Registration closes now at 8.55am**.

The Year 1 and Year 2 team would also like the opportunity to thank-you all for your patience whilst we all adjust to their new start of the day routines and systems eg. Lining up on the playground. The children have adapted quickly to the new expectations and have been excited to use the enhanced learning areas outside of their classrooms.

However, at Pilgrim we promise safeguarding above all else, so on reflection, after taking into account the views of both staff and some parents, we have decided to amend our afternoon use of the outdoor learning area in order to facilitate parents to pick up their children from the classroom door.

So, to be clear, from next week at the start of the day the children will line up on the playground and be collected by their teacher and at the end of the day they will be picked up from their classroom door. Hopefully, this will be the best balance between enhancing the childrens provision whilst maintaining the highest of safeguarding standards.

All arrangements for the end of the day remain the same.

A message from our Parent Support Advisor, Mrs Donna Harris



My role, is to be here for you!
I am available no appointment necessarily needed.
I cannot promise you I will have all the answers, but I promise you I will find them and sign post you in the right direction.

I oversee the Pilgrim Pantry (Foodbank) and the Pilgrim Uniform donation store ... so please if you are struggling, pop in and see me.

I can help with: - Form filling, supporting you in meetings, SEN advice, a lost jumper or anything that is concerning from home life to school.

Diary Dates - What's Coming Up?

We have got an exciting term to look forward to:

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|-----------------------------|--|
| 16th Sept | After school clubs start (see accompanying letter) |
| 27th Sept | MacMillian Bake Sale (charity cake sale KS2 playground) |
| 3rd Oct | National Poetry Day |
| 8th Oct | Year 4 trip to Morwellham Quay |
| 11th Oct | Year 3 trip to Eden Project |
| 18th Oct | Harvest Festival (donations to Plymouth Food Back) |
| 18th Oct | Show Racism the Red Card - wear red clothes day (no contribution) |
| w/c 28th | October is Half Term week - no school |



Look out for more dates in our next newsletter!

Staffing News

This year we have some new teachers joining our team who are:



Miss E Spinou-Whiteley
Year 4 Teacher

Mrs N Anderson
Year 5 Teacher

We also have some new Teaching Assistants joining us:



Mr P Wilkins



Miss L Howard
(TA Apprentice)



Miss L Huntley
(TA Apprentice)

The Leadership Team

Just a reminder who your school Leadership Team and SENCO are too...



Mrs R Saim
Headteacher



Mr Goodwin
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Wilmshurst
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Gale
SENCO

We all wish you a very sunny and happy weekend. However, if the weather continues to be unpredictable, please ensure that your child comes to school with a coat. A couple of them got caught out this week and ended up soggy and wet. See you on Monday!



**Yours sincerely
Mrs R Saim**

Please look at our photos below....

What a great start to our new academic year!

Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6

