

Pilgrim Primary Academy

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8th October 2021

Dear Parent / carers

It is really important that you, as parents and carers or children at Pilgrim, know how well the school is performing and how we plan to continue to develop. The focus of this Newsletter is to share information with you about this; there will be more information as the school year progresses but I felt that it is important to give you some basic information at the start of the year.

How well is our school doing?

Of course, the focus for the last 18 months has had to be our response to the Covid-19 pandemic and upholding our duty to keep children and staff safe, whilst maintaining learning at home or at school. However, we have not allowed the pandemic to halt our school improvement work and we have continued to develop throughout this time.

Pupil Outcomes and Academic Results:

One of the ways that we judge the quality of learning at any school is to look at pupil results. There have been no official Year 6 SATs tests and no officially reported results in schools since the summer of 2019. However, we do have school results from the last academic year (2020-21) based on teacher assessments which have been informed by standardised tests and formal assessments.

These are the whole school results (an average of all pupils across in Years 1 - 6). It shows the % of pupils who met the Expected Standard (which is the average standard) at the point that school went into the first lockdown in March 2020 and then again, at the end of last academic year in Summer 2021:

% at the Expected Standard	Reading	Writing	Maths	Expected Standard in all 3 subjects
At March lockdown 2020	64 %	58 %	64 %	52 %
Summer 2021	69 %	59 %	67 %	54 %

This shows that, despite two lockdowns and the general disruption of the pandemic, the children's outcomes have been maintained in all three subjects and have even got slightly better! This tells a great deal about your children's exceptional attitudes - just how hard your children have worked to keep making progress in their learning throughout the pandemic and to catch up any lost learning on return to school. I am very, very proud that we have been able to keep children 'on track' in their learning. These outcomes reflect the combined effort of our whole school community; not only the determination of the children

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but also the support that you gave them to complete learning set by school during periods of lockdown. It also reflects the excellent teaching and the care that children have received at school to support them throughout the pandemic.

So what next?

These are some key areas that we have identified for further development:

- to improve outcomes in Writing, especially the amount of children who write in a more developed style and reach the Greater Depth standard
- to continue to ensure that we address any remaining learning gaps that might have been caused by the Covid pandemic (additional intervention sessions, offering tutoring, etc.)
- to continue to provide positive strategies for pupils who have individual needs which impact behaviour
- to continue our good work on pupil well-being and mental health awareness, ensuring that we give children positives strategies to maintain both a positive mental outlook and good physical health
- to build a new website which better meets the needs of the parents/carers and wider community

New Building Proposal

We have also been working to find a solution to provide **more building space** at school to accommodate all the additional provisions that we offer, particularly our pupil Nurture Provision and our wider welfare services, all of which have outgrown the spaces that they were previously using in school. Our Nurture Provision is an alternative learning group which is offered to children who, for a variety of reasons, access learning best by being in a small, consistent group with a differently designed curriculum. Welfare services such as our Parent Support Advisor, student learning mentor and counsellor, often need private spaces to work and meet. As we have grown our services and expanded as a school, these spaces have become less available.

We have made a planning application to place an additional modular building on the Key Stage 2 playground in a space next to the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area). This will provide a classroom sized space for our Nurture Provision, another smaller space for groups of children to be able to work and 2 further small office spaces. The building will have toilets and a small kitchen facility. I will keep you informed and share further plans when I have them.

Today, we were very lucky to receive a visit at school from our Member of Parliament for Plymouth Luke Pollard. Luke had a tour around our school, popped into lessons and talked to both pupils and staff. He also had a session with some of our older Student Council representatives, who had a chance to ask questions and issues with Luke that were important to them. I was very impressed with the maturity of their conversations and also

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the topics that they brought up such as traffic problems around school, anti-social behaviour in the local parks and some wider concerns about rights of refugees and accepting diversity.



Here they are with Luke, myself and Mrs Hawker (Student Council leader) outside school after they had exhausted him with their questions!

Some general reminders:

- **NO NUTS** - we have a pupil who is severely allergic to nuts so we ask that no nuts are brought into school for snacks or in lunch boxes. We appreciate your support with this important matter
- **COATS** - Please make sure that coats are in school every day (even when the weather looks fine in the morning) as we have been having some unexpected downpours of rain which have caught us out!
- **WATER BOTTLES** - another reminder that children will only be allowed to sip **WATER** from their bottles during the day so please do not send them to school with squash or juice. Thanks.

Here are the Workers of the week for the Upper Phase w/c 27/09/21:

Amed R	Year 4 RO
Edlyn H-T	Year 4 KP
Tanisha G	Year 5 SR
Ilayda A	Year 5 RH
Millie M-C	Year 6 SS
Pawel K	Year 6 LJ

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Here is this week's Pat on the Back awards for the Lower Phase:

Annabel A	Year 1 MS
Rui Z L	Year 1 JP
Isabelle A J	Year 2 TH
Aaliyah P	Year 2 RG
Aden M	Year 3 BF
Sonny D	Year 3 CB

Dates for the Diary

15/10/2021 Harvest Festival
25/09/2021 Half term
01/11/2021 Non pupil day
17/12/2021 Last day of Autumn term

Wishing you all a good weekend and look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best wishes

Mrs Meek
Headteacher