



Our Ref: AJC/MS

8 February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

End of Half-Term Newsletter

Thank you all for your continued support during this half-term. Despite our relatively high numbers of positive COVID-19 cases and the implementation of bubbles, during the middle of the term, we have still continued to run with general normality. As you can see from some of the events I highlight later in this letter, we are still trying to ensure that we provide the children with as many enrichment opportunities as possible, alongside their everyday teaching and learning. Please forgive the lengthy letter – there is a lot to make you aware of!

Nursery and Reception Places

We have had an excellent response for places for our reception intake for September 2022, which is very pleasing. However, we have been informed by the local authority that there are still a number of parents of eligible children across the local area, who have not yet applied. If this is the case for you or you know of someone who wants to apply, please contact Miss Swann in the main office, who will assist you with the process.



In addition, we are virtually full in Nursery for Easter, which again, is very encouraging as our Early Years unit becomes ever more popular. *However, if you would like to apply for a place, please do so as a matter of urgency, to avoid disappointment.*

We are now taking applications for September 2022 and beyond – again, please contact Miss Swann in the main office.

If anyone would like a tour or an informal discussion about either Reception or Nursery, please contact our Early Years Lead and Assistant Principal, Miss Somerscales.

In addition, please click on this link to view our on-line prospectus: [prospectus.pdf \(pilgrimacademy.co.uk\)](https://www.pilgrimacademy.co.uk/prospectus.pdf)



Mellors Catering Service

Just a quick reminder that we are entering a transition period, in terms of our ordering and payment service with our new caterers, Mellors – please see my letter, dated Friday 4 February 2022, for further details.

National Tutoring Service

You may be aware that the government has provided all schools with additional funding to support with 'catch-up' for lost learning since the beginning of the pandemic. We have used our funds in a variety of ways. Since Christmas, Mrs Dolby has been working with small groups as part of the national tutoring service. Mrs Dolby works with small groups of up to three children at a time and they each receive 15 hours of dedicated tuition, focusing on an aspect of reading, writing or mathematics. This is helping to make a significant difference for those individuals.

Half-Term Vouchers for Pupils Eligible for Free School Meals

As in previous holiday periods, the local authority is once again supporting the holiday voucher scheme for those children eligible for free school meals. Relevant parents will receive a separate email later this week, with further details. As before, this will be conducted through the Wonde voucher system.

Over the last 12 months, our numbers of children eligible for free school meals has increased significantly – we still believe that there are quite a few parents who would qualify but haven't applied to the local authority – this is something we can advise on. If you would like any support or guidance, please contact us on enquiries@pilgrimacademy.co.uk or 01469 572368.

Safeguarding

Just a reminder that if you have any queries or questions, regarding any matters, relating to safeguarding, to please contact the following senior leaders, using the contact details above:



Mrs Morley
Designated Safeguarding Lead
and Vice Principal



Mrs France
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
and Assistant Principal



Breakfast Club

Our new breakfast club has run extremely smoothly since we started at the beginning of January. The children are really enjoying the breakfast on offer and the games and activities put in place by Mrs Ridge and Mrs Allen. If you would like any further information, please see the original letter, which is still on our website or contact the main office: [breakfast-club_101221.pdf \(pilgrimacademy.co.uk\)](#)

Workshop with the Illustrator of The Gruffalo



The children recently participated in an online workshop with Axel Scheffler, who you will be familiar with as the illustrator for the Julia Donaldson story books. Axel encouraged the pupils to let their imaginations run wild in creating their own short stories in a miniature book, coming up with characters, a storyline, magic powers, adventures and emotions to bring the book to life.

The children really enjoyed the morning activities – you can read a detailed review by clicking on the following link:

[Pilgrim Academy - Tollbar Multi Academy Trust Family of Academies](#)

Sporting Success

We have been very busy this half-term, re-starting our participation in competitive sport, alongside our after-school clubs and activities.

On Friday 28 January 2022, our Year 5/6 boys participated in the FA Primary Schools Football Tournament for the first time. It was a thrilling game against a school from Brumby and though the result did not go our way, Mr Gibbon, who coaches the team said: “The game was played in great spirits and both teams came away with a positive experience. The skill of the players from Brumby Primary School has given the Pilgrim Academy players something to aspire to, with many commenting that they want to keep practising to raise their levels. Pilgrim will continue to work hard in training sessions and will endeavour to bounce back stronger in games later this year.” If you would like to read the match report and see some fantastic photos, please click on the following link:



[Pilgrim Academy - Tollbar Multi Academy Trust Family of Academies](#)

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Best of luck to our Year 5/6 girls who are playing in their first tournament this week – the Premier League U11 Girls’ Cup - I know that you will make us all very proud of you.

On Thursday 3 February 2022, our KS2 gymnasts took part in a tournament at Twist and Flip Academy in Grimsby. Mrs Thompson said that everyone performed to an incredible standard and represented the school in an exemplary fashion – congratulations to everyone involved – we will produce a story and upload photos to our website, later this week.

Freestyle Football Workshop

On Thursday 24 February 2022, there will be a Freestyle Football Workshop day taking place at Pilgrim Academy. Pupils will get the chance to meet the freestyler footballer who has been placed top 10 in the world, performed at a number of big sporting events and met a number of sporting legends.



Each class will have a workshop of around 30-40 minutes during the day. The workshop will involve an introductory talk and freestyle performance to music, 30-40 mins teaching of 10-15 freestyle tricks, a question and answer session with the class and a final performance by the freestyler. We really hope the pupils will enjoy the day and get actively involved. Pupils will be required to wear their academy PE kit for the workshops.

Bikeability



Pupils in year 5 and 6 are getting the opportunity to take part in the Bikeability scheme. Bikeability is the government’s national cycle training programme based on the National Standard for Cycle Training. Cycling is a life skill with many benefits: it encourages independent mobility, is great for the environment, and improves physical and mental health. Bikeability builds the skills and confidence of people who can already ride and prepares them for a lifetime of cycling. The pupils will be taking part in a 2-day course with their class and we hope that they enjoy this opportunity. Letters and more detailed information have been sent home to parents/carers. The course dates are as follows:

Class	Course Days
Tucana	Monday 21 February and Tuesday 22 February
Orion	Thursday 24 February and Friday 25 February
Columba	Monday 28 February and Tuesday 1 March



NSPCC Number Day



Can I thank you and the children for your support during Friday's Number day – there were many really enjoyable activities for the children to participate in, such as Twister, Connect 4, snakes and ladders, as well as lots of other numeracy-based games. Thank you to the pupils in Tucana and Indus for leading the activities on the day – you did a wonderful job. In total, **we raised £207.30** – thank you for your generosity. If you would like to view some photos from the day and read a little more about the event, please click on the following link:

[Pilgrim Academy - Tollbar Multi Academy Trust Family of Academies](#)

Safer Internet Day and Children's Mental Health Week

We will be participating in both of these national initiatives this week, in addition to the normal activities which take place through the delivery of our curriculum across the year. If anyone would like any support or guidance with any of these subjects, please do not hesitate to contact us.

World Book Day

I just wanted to give you some advanced warning that it is World Book Day on Thursday 3 March 2022. We have a very busy day planned with lots of brilliant activities for the children. As in previous years, we will be inviting the children to dress up for the day – this year, we would like them to dress up as a character from their favourite story. Mrs Morley will send out more detailed information at a later date.



As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like some further information about any of these matters.

Yours faithfully

Mr A J Clark
Executive Principal