



Dear Children, Parents and Carers,

### Attendance

It is my duty as Headteacher to address attendance and the duty of my Governing Body to hold me accountable for it. The vast majority of parents at Pitton CE Primary School ensure their children attend in line with the expectation and I am grateful for this, as are my staff.

Research has indicated that children who attend school for less than 95% of the time underperform significantly. While as a school we recognise that in many instances children can be unwell and therefore do not attend school. The view of the DfE is that absence is absence, and impacts on a child's learning and wellbeing, regardless of the reason. A child, who is absent due to intermittent illness, has missed the same amount of time as a child who has been absent as a result of unauthorised reasons. This is why absence as a result of illness is still considered absence in the eyes of the DfE. It is a government requirement that absence below 90% (and deemed persistent absence) even if as a result of illness is reported to parents at the end of the each term.

### FOPS—AGM

The next FOPS AGM will be on the 22nd January, and as members of the school community everyone is invited to attend and vote. There are a number of roles up for election, please see the advert within Pitton News.

### End of term

A reminder that on the last day of term (Friday 20th) collection is at 2:30pm from the school. This is following the Carol Service at the church which everyone is welcome to attend. Wrens do not attend the service but will be doing something festive at school instead.

**A final reminder that pick up tonight from the panto trip will be at 4:45pm from the Playhouse.**

I look forward to welcoming you all back on the 6th January.

With Very Best Wishes

Emma Wilkinson

### Dates for the Diary 2024-25

**Thursday 19th December—Panto Trip**

**Thursday 19th December—Christmas Lunch**

**Friday 20th December—Carol Service at St Peters**

**Friday 20th December—End of Term 2—2.30pm collection**

**Friday 20th December—6pm Pitton Village Carol Service (choir)**

**Monday 6th January—Return to school for the start of Term 3**

**Friday 10th January—Open Morning 9-11am for prospective parents**

**Wednesday 25th June—Trafalgar open day (y5 pupils)**

### Key

Whole School

KS1

KS2

Selected participants/clubs

## Birthdays



Noah W, Tobias  
and Henry



Remember you can wear your own clothes to school!

## Clubs Update

### **Monday:**

Astellra Football—All Years

Book using Astrella booking form/text service

### **Tuesday:**

Starcast—Y2—6

Book using Starcast booking system

### **Wednesday:**

Astellra Gymnastics—YR, 1 & 2

Book using Astrella booking form/text service

### **Thursday:**

Netball club with Jenny—Y3-6

Book via the office, please email.

### **Friday:**

Mad Science Club—Y1-6

Book via the Mad Science booking system



**STARCAST**

**Musical Theatre Club**

**TUESDAY'S**  
3.30-4.30pm

**With Star of the West End**

Learn to Sing, Dance & Act in this fun after school club for the students of Pitton Primary School

£70 per 12 week term

Email to Book:  
starcastsalisbury@outlook.com

www.starcastperformingarts.co.uk



**Thomas Sutcliffe**

**Credits: Tina the Musical, Wicked & Dirty Dancing**



**MAD SCIENCE**

**AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB**

Complement Your Child's Learning Experience with a Mad Science After-School Club. Our unique approach gives children a solid scientific foundation that goes beyond the classroom, through hands-on activities and spectacular demonstrations.

**Sign Up for your course today**  
**Pitton Primary School**  
New Year, New Club! Discover the Awe and Wonder of the world around us!

**Yr.1 – Yr.6**  
**Day and Time: Friday 3.25 pm-4.25 pm**  
**Dates: 10<sup>th</sup> January – 14<sup>th</sup> February**  
No session on 17<sup>th</sup> January  
**Programme Duration: 5 x 1hr-Sessions**  
**Cost: £40**  
**Please register by: 3<sup>rd</sup> January 25**

**Register ONLINE**

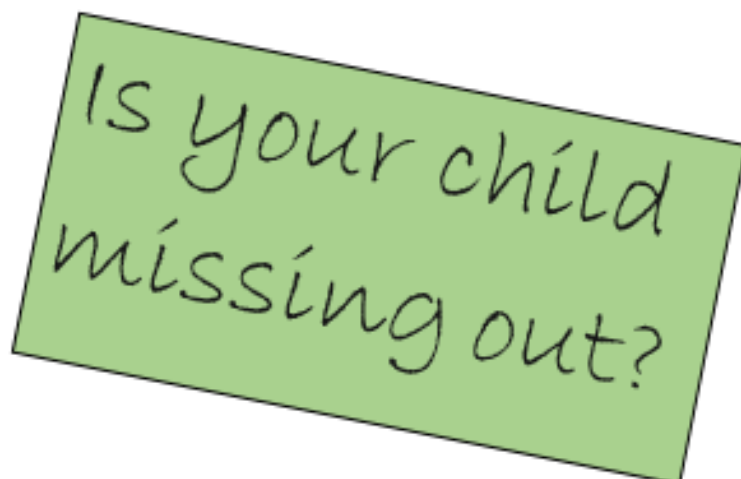
Visit [Wessex.madscience.org](http://Wessex.madscience.org) click REGISTER HERE  
This will take you to the booking page run by Class4kids

If you are unable to access the internet, please call us to register by phone 01980 611807

Please ensure you register by this date to secure your child a place. In the interest of fairness places are allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

**Please note:** successful online registration with full payment secures your child's place on our After-School Club programme unless you are otherwise contacted.  
For further information or if you encounter any problems please don't hesitate to contact us:  
[schools@madsciencewessex.co.uk](mailto:schools@madsciencewessex.co.uk)

Due to the nature of this After School Club, all students will be expected to behave in an appropriate manner and adhere to the rules of the school and of Mad Science. Any child who consistently does not behave will be asked to leave the After School Club and will not be entitled to a refund.



Your child and Pitton CE Primary School could be missing out on extra funding. Your approved registration could mean that your child is provided with extra support in school.

If you claim any of the benefits listed below you could be eligible.

- Income support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit) with income less than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Asylum Seekers Support
- Universal Credit



Pitton could get £1480 per child per year from the government for each child in a low-income family. This is called the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG).

The school uses the PPG to plan and provide opportunities for these children's learning and support. This could be for example, one to one, small groups, speech and language therapy, catch-up sessions for maths and literacy, pastoral interventions (such as ELSA, block therapy and therapy dog) and extra tuition for able children. It can also be used to help fund music lessons, educational trips, resources that boost children's learning, such as laptops or tablets, and breakfast club to improve attendance. For further information, please contact Mrs Emma Wilkinson, PP lead (01722 712322).

You will need: your name, address & National Insurance number  
Apply online to [Free school meals - Wiltshire Council](#)

# Christmas Craft Fun

## Saltdough Decorations

250g plain flour  
125g table salt  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
125ml of water

1. Preheat the oven to its lowest setting.
2. Mix the dry ingredients in a large bowl. Add the water and mix together into a ball.
3. Transfer the dough to a floured work surface. Roll out and cut out shapes using cookie cutters.
4. Put your finished items on to a lined baking sheet and bake for 3 hrs or until solid.

## Reindeer Food

A lovely activity preparing a treat for the reindeer! You can really go to town on this with your child, using all sorts of things from your store cupboard. Your child can help crush up cereals, use measuring spoons to add ingredients, mix everything together and sprinkle on the lawn. Rudolph and the other reindeer will love their special treat.

Please note: Lots of reindeer food recipes include glitter and we would respectfully ask you not to use this as this is so bad for our wildlife.

Family Hubs  
will be closed during the  
Christmas and New Year  
period from:

24th Dec to 1st Jan 2025

Hubs re-open on  
2nd January 2025

Christmas time  
can bring challenges for us  
all.

Support is available from  
many organisations during  
this time.

Click  
[HERE](#)

## Planning ahead for January

Interested in a parenting course? - click [HERE](#)

Book a sensory space session - give us a ring on our freephone  
number 0800 970 4669

Visit our website -

[Wiltshirefamilyhubs.org.uk](http://Wiltshirefamilyhubs.org.uk)

## **Join the Friends of Pitton School Committee!**

We are seeking passionate and dedicated individuals to join the **Friends of Pitton School (FOPS) Committee** who will work together to enrich the school experience for all of our children. FOPS is a vital part of the school community, raising funds and organising events to support Pitton School in its mission to provide the best experiences for the students.

### **We need YOU!**

FOPS is looking for parents and guardians who are willing to step into key roles on the committee. Whether you have experience in fundraising, event planning, or just want to make a positive impact at the school, there is a place for you.

### **Key Roles Available:**

- Chairperson
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- General Committee Members
- Pre-Loved School Uniform Sales
- Buddies to support core trustee

**The Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary are trustees of the charity and will be registered as part of the Charity Commission on accepting the role.**

### **Get Involved!**

The **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held on **Wednesday, 22 January 2025**, where new committee members and trustees will be appointed. We encourage anyone interested in joining the committee to attend and get involved.

To register your interest, please email [friendsofpittonschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofpittonschool@gmail.com) with your name and the role you are interested in applying for. The online voting system will open on Wednesday 15 January and close at 8 pm on Tuesday 21 January.

### **Information about FOPS**

FOPS is a registered charity and exists as a separate entity to Pitton School. The charitable objective as listed in the governing document is to advance the education of the pupils in the school. FOPS primary role is to organise fundraising events to supplement the school budget. As part of this, FOPS will:

- Promote collaboration between parents, teachers and students to build a strong, supportive school community.
- Enhance the school environment with events and equipment.
- To provide resources that enhance social, academic and emotional development.
- Strengthen community ties.

The 2024 committee would like to thank everyone in the Pitton School community for their support over the last 12 months. We have organised a series of fantastic events and fundraising activities that have helped to enrich the children's time in school.