



PILGRIMS' CROSS CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning, to make a difference, in God's world

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Speech from Deputy Lord Lieutenant Kent

I am here today representing the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Mr Nigel Atkinson, who is Her Majesty the Queen's personal representative in Hampshire, and he and I want to thank, on behalf of Her Majesty, everyone who does so much to make Pilgrims' Cross School very special.

Thank you to your Head teacher Mr Jon Le Fevre, and his Deputy Head Richard Osmond, for arranging today and all they do personally to make the school such a success – but thank you also to all of the staff, volunteers, parents and Governors who work so hard - but especially the children, without whom the school would not be what it is, and who live up to the School's core values of Love trust and courage.

Throughout the Covid Lockdowns the school has:

- Taught vulnerable children, many of which are children of keyworkers
- Tailored remote education for each family, with daily online meetings
- Provided bespoke educational material for children with special needs
 - Supported St Mary's Church with their 'Host a Roast' meals
- Delivered daily food parcels to vulnerable families – supported by the landlady of the 'Queen Charlotte' pub and Veterans in Action – and if you are here please take a bow!
 - Organised remote worship opportunities

Throughout all of this the school's Family Support Worker has worked with vulnerable families, and helping them to access financial support if they need it - and the school has been in regular contact with all of the children and their families in many different ways to help and support them.

The Peace Garden is a testament to the way the children, parents staff and volunteers work together. Designed and organised by local artist John Ritchie, step forward please, it is a place of calm where children, in groups or on their own, can be quiet and learn about themselves – and some of them, as Planet Ambassadors, had a hand in the planting of the garden. Well done. And I know that this is further supported by a new facility – The Spruce Room – which has been funded by a very kind and generous legacy from Mrs Bruce.

On a broader front, I was also impressed to hear how the children have kept in touch with residents of Local Care Homes under the Hearts for Homes programme – it is clear that Pilgrims' Cross plays a big part to play in its local Community, living up to its core values of Love, Trust and Courage.

Finally, in officially opening this Peace Garden, I want to say how much the Lord Lieutenant and I, on Her Majesty's behalf, appreciate everything

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all of you do for your children and for your Community – you are very special people,
and this is a very special school which you should be very proud of.

And I now declare this Peace Garden open!

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