



Dear Parents & Carers,

My desire is that pupils are increasingly empowered to make decisions in the school- it is *their* school, anyway! This week, we saw the introduction of our Year 2 Spiritual Ambassadors (pictured). They will lead our worship on Friday's Key Stage 1 Vision Worship at 9.10am.



The School Council met this week, to feed back pupils' thoughts about the names of our new houses. They then voted for their favourites (and I asked staff too!). Top choices were endangered animals and mythical creatures but the top choice of School Council and staff was.... The elements! Our Houses will be called **Fire**, **Air**, **Earth** and **Water**! From next week, all children can earn housepoints, which will go towards an end of half term treat for the winning house.

On Monday, the pupils will find out which House they are in. Siblings will be in the same House, so parents/carers do not have to cheer for opposing Houses! We do not have a sorting hat, like Hogwarts, so teachers will be making it exciting as they reveal which Houses the children are in on Monday morning. Teachers and Learning Support Assistants are also allocated to Houses, so they will be rooting for the pupils too!

Jim Cascarini – Headteacher

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Vision Awards

Congratulations to all our children who received a Vision Award this week...this week's theme was <i>Trust</i>	<i>Love</i>	<i>Courage</i>	<i>Trust</i>
<i>Sycamore</i>			Lola N
<i>Maple</i>		Noah T	
<i>Hazel</i>		Riley R	
<i>Lime</i>		Arlo R	
<i>Chestnut</i>	Duriel M		
<i>Elm</i>		Flossie W	
<i>Ash</i>	Lena K		
<i>Beech</i>		Lexi P	
<i>Pine</i>	Ruby B		
<i>Hawthorn</i>			Jesse E
<i>Aspen</i>			Troy S
<i>Juniper</i>	Oliver C		
<i>Extra</i>			

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

This week has been a very wet week in Year R but we have absolutely loved it. We have loved playing in the rain and jumping in big puddles.

In phonics we learnt the sounds "g", "o", "c" and "k" and are working really hard to write these letters too. We also learnt the tricky word "is".

In maths we have been creating rules to sort our objects whether this be by size, shape, colour or number of holes in a button.

We have been re-telling the story of the three little pigs and using the ideas in the story to build dens and create houses for the pigs.

Finally we have been talking about whether our containers are full, half full or empty.

Great week again for all of our children. Well done Oak and Willow.

Sycamore & Maple

Year 1 have been really resilient this week! In Maths, we have explored lots of new mathematical language such as fewer, more, greater than and less than. We have used this language to compare two numbers. In English we have learnt about the importance of capital letter and full stops, as well as sequencing the story of 'Beegu' and orally rehearsing our sentences ready for our first big write! We had lots of fun using our mouse to draw pictures on the computers in Computing and have been exploring gymnastics shapes on the apparatus. A super week Year 1, well done!

Miss Miners and Mrs Edgington

Lime & Hazel

In year 2 this week we have been using our knowledge of place value to find 10's and 1's on a number line with different start and end points. In English we have been learning about coordinating conjunctions and using these to support our retelling of *The Snail and the Whale*. In geography we located the equator and looked at which countries are on the equator. In RE we looked at why people might be thankful to God, looking at a Hindu boy named Jayesh and a Christian girl named Anna and what they did to show thanks! Looking forward to another great week next week!

Miss Lavin and Miss Samuel

Chestnut & Elm

Year 3 have had another fantastic week, working hard on their setting descriptions in English to finish their big write off for the current topic. In maths, we have been focusing on place value up to 1000 and estimating on number lines! We've been using our creative sides to create botanical drawings in art (despite the horrible weather!) and then completed the tricky task of making hand models, which display the muscles moving in your hand for science. Keep it up Year 3! Miss Boyce and Miss Plaw

Beech & Ash

What a week! We have finished our French by drawing and describing outward and inward characteristics. We have also finished our English big writes and have all done a brilliant job of including expanded noun phrases and possessive apostrophes. We had a funky science lesson investigating 'poo' from different animals and trying to figure out their diet.

In R.E we have started learning about Sikhism and how their beliefs encourage religious equality.

Miss Collier and Mrs Allison

Pine & Hawthorn

In Year 5 this week, we have been focusing on rounding in Maths, with the children rounding up or down to the nearest 100,000. There has been lots of discussion about the values of numbers and what they represent when written numerically. We have also been questioning the idea of religious freedoms and what that allows people to think/feel/do. Finally, we have solidified our knowledge of expanded noun phrases and fronted prepositional phrases in English with the children in both classes now able to identify the structure and independently create descriptive sentences. The children should feel very proud of their efforts in class this week!
Mr Childs and Mr Dookheran

Aspen & Juniper

In Year 6 we have continued our exploration of the fascinating picture book 'The Arrival'. What was incredibly exciting was the fact that the main character visited our classrooms this week and explained how things were for him at this crucial point in the story.

The children enabled the main character - *Bryan* - to share his feelings and emotions through their use of skilful questioning and enquiry. This *hot seating* exercise demonstrated how well the children understand the characters and plot within the story and it will lead to them writing an informal letter from Bryan to his family back home. Well done – Mrs Cocks, Mr Osmond and Miss Howick



Census Day and school meals...

You may not know, but our funding comes in part through the rather random figure of how many children in Key Stage 2 have a school dinner on Census Day, which is **Thursday 3rd October**. We would love AS MANY CHILDREN AS POSSIBLE to have a school meal on Thursday next week. Here are the choices...

Meat-free option

Main course

Vegetable wellington (Vg)

On the side

Roast potatoes, vegetables of the day and gravy

To finish

Chocolate sponge cake



Meat option

Main course

Sliced beef and Yorkshire pudding

On the side

Roast potatoes, vegetables of the day and gravy

To finish

Chocolate sponge cake



Dinner money debt is high- across parents/carers of children in the school, £1,500 is owed- that's the equivalent of 125 days of Learning Support Assistant time that we could have had! Please come in to school and pay off your debts- or talk to the office about arranging a payment plan. I will be soon sending

out letters to all families with dinner debts, letting them know what will happen if these debts are not cleared soon.

Can I remind you that, if you are in the process of applying for Universal Credit, you still have to pay for your school dinners and any past debt is not 'wiped off', once you are in receipt of this. Also, you may get Universal Credit for one child, but not another, depending on the timings of changes to your circumstances.

Lastly, **once children go in to Year 3 and beyond, you must pay for school dinners- they are not free!**

School Photographers

On Monday 21st October, Tempest Photographers will be in school to photograph your children for their annual individual portraits. If you would like to have siblings photographed together we ask that you come to the school hall from 7.55am and this can be done. We will be unable to take sibling photographs during the day. If you have pre-school or older siblings you wish to have included then of course please bring those with you also for that 7.55am slot.

Football and 'welly days'

From next week, children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 can play football on the field at lunchtime. However **they will need a change of shoes. No shoes, no game...** We don't want their lovely school shoes to get wrecked and also it will stop mud from coming in to the building as the weather changes.

We have fantastic grounds and want the children to use them as much as possible. At lunchtimes, we have also re-established our 'welly days'. On the days that it is your child's PE day, they can also bring in their wellies and go on the field at lunchtimes- see below...

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Year 2 & 4</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Year 1 & 3</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Year R Welly Wednesday</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Year 5</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Year 6</i>

Attendance

Attendance across the school this year to date remains at 97.3% which is excellent and we thank all parents and children for their efforts with this.

We are sadly seeing an increase in children coming in late via the school office. Please remember that the school day starts at 8.30 and that children need to be in class by then ready to start their days. We will be reviewing those persistent latecomers and contacting you to discuss this in more detail.

Paths- and coats!

All children should have a shower-proof coat available every day. We will try and go out in most weathers! When you are picking up/dropping off your children, please can you keep paths clear, so other parents and carers can walk past without having to walk on the grass and the mud? Many thanks!

FOPS

The FOPS team are holding their AGM this Wednesday at the Wyke Down at 8pm, so please come along & join us.

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to be part of organising school events or any ideas you may have for future events.

Come & join us for a drink

6 REASONS TO JOIN OUR PTA!

FOR THE CHILDREN BECOME A ROLE MODEL TO SHOW YOUR CHILD YOU VALUE THEIR EDUCATION. THE EVENTS WE PLAN WILL IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL EXPERIENCE. 	FOR YOU VOLUNTEERING IS A REWARDING EXPERIENCE WE PLAN TO HOST MANY SOCIAL EVENTS TO RAISE MONEY AND ALSO TO ENJOY EACH OTHERS COMPANY. 	FOR THE SCHOOL HELP THE SCHOOL TO RAISE FUNDS. HAVE A VOICE IN THE PURCHASES THAT ARE MADE TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN. 
BE CONNECTED THERE IS NO BETTER WAY OF KNOWING WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SCHOOL. MEET OTHERS THAT SHARE THE SAME COMMON GOALS TO HELP IMPROVE THE SCHOOL. 	IT IS FUN! WE AIM TO ENJOY OURSELVES IN ALL OUR ROLES. FROM PLANNING EVENTS TO RUNNING A STALL IS EXCITING! 	KEEP THE PTA GOING AS PARENTS LEAVE SCHOOL WE NEED TO KEEP THE COMMITTEE GOING. COME JOIN OUR FRIENDLY TEAM AS MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK! 

We Need You!

AGM
8PM, Wednesday
2nd October
2024

We are looking for volunteers to join the FOPS team. The role can be as big or as small as you like

Come & elect new members, share your ideas & have your say on our new constitution

Join us at the Wyke Down for a drink or online
virtual access details to follow

contact: friendspilgrimsross@gmail.com for more details



Safeguarding

Please ensure that we have an up-to-date list of approved people who can pick up your child after school. If you ever have to have someone different for emergency reasons, please speak in person to one of the team in the school office.

Key dates

- Tuesday 15th October – Flu Vaccine
- Monday 21st October – School Photographers in
- Thursday 5th November at 6pm – Parent Tour for Year R September 2025
- Thursday 7th November- FOPS Fireworks Evening
- Thursday 14th November at 10am - Parent Tour for Year R September 2025
- Wednesday 20th November at 2pm - Parent Tour for Year R September 2025
- Friday 6th December at 11am - Parent Tour for Year R September 2025
- Friday 20th December 2024- INSET Day 3
- Monday 6th January 2025- INSET Day 4
- Friday 20th June 2025- INSET Day 5

Please check out our website calendar for all relevant dates:

<https://www.pilgrimsross.co.uk/diary/grid/2024/06/>