



Dear Parents & Carers,

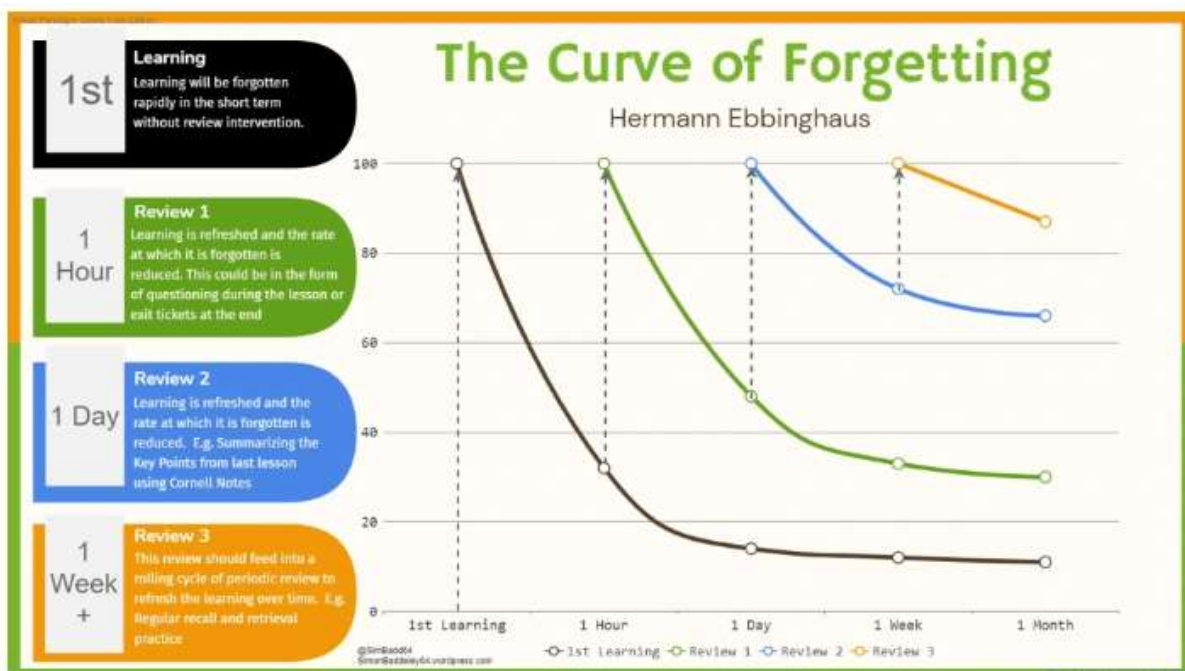
What a long half of term that was! Our children have done really well to keep going over the full 8 weeks of this half of term. From what you can read in the class summaries below, the last week of term was as busy as any other, with lots of rounding-off of units of work and learning journeys.

A highlight of school for me is always the opportunity to get parents, carers & family members over the threshold to celebrate children's learning. I was so impressed at the numbers of you who were able to carve some time out of your diaries to come and celebrate this term's learning with your children.

It is important not just as a positive time together, but it offers children the chance to review and explain their learning, leading it to be more likely to stick in their long term memory. Research like Ebbinghaus' 'curve of forgetting' has found that, without spaced opportunities to recall and refresh past learning, it is forgotten more quickly. Please do keep asking your children to recall their past learning for you- we want it to stick!

Jim Cascarini – Headteacher

headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk



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>			Arthur S
<i>Maple</i>		Holly C	
<i>Hazel</i>		Daisy S	
<i>Lime</i>	Alayah D		
<i>Chestnut</i>	Drishya R		
<i>Elm</i>	Filip J		
<i>Ash</i>	Layla L		
<i>Beech</i>			Alfie C
<i>Pine</i>	Edith L		
<i>Hawthorn</i>			Harley L
<i>Aspen</i>			Ben N
<i>Juniper</i>		Zarina S	

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

Thank you to all the parents who came to our class celebration. The children were amazing and loved having you there. We've had a lovely last week of our very first half term at school. Well done Year R for settling in so well to school life.

This week we have learnt about Diwali with one of our own lovely LSAs talking to the children about her celebrations. From this we made rangoli pictures using coloured rice. They were absolutely beautiful.

We learnt about Moses and the bulrushes and continued to sing "Our God is a Great Big God".

We made hedgehogs using clay and wooden sticks for their spikes and scarecrows out of paper plates.

In phonics we continued to recap our previously learnt sounds and started to identify the first sound in key words.

In maths we learnt one more and one less using concrete resources like multilink to support our understanding.

Well done Year R we are super proud of you for getting through your first half term of school!!

The Year R team

Sycamore & Maple

What a wonderful half term it has been! We are so proud of all of the children in Year One. They have settled into their new routines so well and have already made lots of progress. It was exciting to see so many of you joining us for our Class Celebrations this week. The children really enjoyed sharing their learning with you so thank you for taking the time to come and celebrate your children with us. This week we have written a description of a hibernating animal in English using adjectives. In Maths we have been learning to add two numbers on a number line, something we found tricky at first but have persevered with brilliantly. In Art we have drawn pumpkins using the mark making and line drawing skills we have learnt during the term and in RE we learnt all about 'The Big Bang' story of creation.

We hope you all have a lovely half term holiday!

Miss Miners and Mrs Edgington

Lime & Hazel

Well done to all our Year 2s, you have made it to the end of a very long half term! This week we have been winding down by relaxing into soundscapes and writing poems about different places. We have continued building our skills in addition, through using our number knowledge when adding to the next 10 and across a 10. We spoke about stereotypes this week in PSHE and what we want to be when we are older. In RE, the children had lots of fun hearing different songs around the theme of saying 'Thank you' and even wrote their own! **We are looking forward to our new topic of 'A Twist in the Tale!' next half term, don't forget you can dress up as your favourite fairytale character for our launch day on the first Monday back!**

Miss Samuels & Miss Lavin

Chestnut & Elm

Well done on all your hard work this half term year 3! It's been amazing to see how far you've come. This week we've had some great vision treats to round off half term as well as our class celebrations! We've spent a lot of time finishing off various topics such as computing, where we made maps of routers. We also continued to work hard on our subtracting across 10's and 100's in maths and making black-out poems in English! Enjoy the week off and we can't wait to start all over again after half term.

Miss Boyce and Miss Plaw

Beech & Ash

What a final week we've had. We loved seeing so many parents during class celebration, where we looked at different types of poo and investigated what it told us about the animal's diet. On Wednesday, for our geography field work, we went on a walk to the woods and looked for similarities and differences with the Amazon Rainforest.

Our writing has been rainforest-themed too, we have finished our reports on rainforest animals and enjoyed sharing these with year 3. Overall, it's been a fantastic half term, the children have worked really hard and we couldn't be prouder. Have a lovely break, we can't wait to see you after the holiday!

Mrs Allison and Miss Collier

Pine & Hawthorn

In Year 5 this week we have been extremely busy completing many of our learning journeys. The children were excellent when walking around Picket Twenty, exploring what there is to do in our local area. Furthermore, the children have finished some brilliant pieces of writing, incorporating dialogue into scenes based on our class book - *King of the Cloud Forests*. Finally, we have investigated squared and cubed numbers with the children identifying different strategies to find their answers. All the children should be extremely proud of the work they have done this half term!

Mr Childs & Mr Dookheran

Aspen & Juniper

What a final week for Year 6! The children have worked so hard this half term and deserve a break. This week we've enjoyed Geography Field Trips, completed our final write in English - with letters to the UN, urging them to bring the war in The Middle East to end - and we have enjoyed Art where we have been drawing our portraits in a closely detailed photorealistic style! Our Class Celebrations were a huge success.

Happy holidays!

Mr Osmond, Miss Howick & Mrs Cocks



Communication- class email addresses!

I am aware that, on occasions, parents & carers might not be able to get in to speak to class teachers. Although face-to-face is always preferable to emails, I do want to allow parents/carers who cannot get on to the site in person due to work commitments a chance to communicate with their child's class teacher.

We are re-introducing class email addresses. From after half term, parents/carers will be able to email their class teacher, if unable to speak to them personally. Email addresses will be **classname@pilgrimscross.co.uk** so, for example, Juniper Class will be juniper@pilgrimscross.co.uk These email accounts will be checked once a week.

Thank you, Mr White!

I hope that you managed to say a fond farewell to Mr White this week. We have loved having him as our Site Manager. Here are some photos from his time with us...



Always a friendly face around the school!



Dropping eggs for us!



Making the place safe and making repairs!

Class Celebrations

It was so lovely to see so many parents & carers at our class celebrations- thank you to those who came to multiple celebrations too! The children were thrilled to have the chance to talk about their learning and showcase some of their pieces of work. Thank you for getting involved in the activities- especially the poo-related science!

We will continue to hold the Key Stage 1 celebrations in the afternoons, as this reduces the wait time for our youngest learners to see their parents/carers again afterwards. The older children are also quicker to be ready to showcase their learning in the mornings.

We appreciate that this might not always be the easiest way around for some working parents, but it is certainly the best for the children, hence our decision to stick with these timings in the future.





Book Fair

Yes, it's going to be Book Fair time again soon. We will be holding our Book Fair from 19th-26th November. It's a great opportunity to begin buying presents for Christmas as well as just re-stocking your child's library of quality texts.



Attendance

Attendance across the school this year to date remains at 97.1% which is excellent and we thank all parents and children for their efforts with this.

Please help us by encouraging your child to arrive at school punctually, and to enter the classroom with their friends so they don't miss any of their morning learning- thank you!

Dinner debts

Some of you will have received text messages, asking you to pay off outstanding dinner debt. Thank you to those who have already cleared their debts- this helps the school immensely, Dinner money debt has, of late, been high- across parents/carers of children in the school. At one point recently, £1,500 was owed- that's the equivalent of 125 days of Learning Support Assistant time that we could have had!

After half term, I will be contacting parents/carers with large unpaid, outstanding debt, saying that **we will no longer be able to provide your child with a school lunch until the debt is cleared.**

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!**

Shoe Box Appeal

Rotary Shoebox Scheme

"Spreading a Little Happiness"

Thank you for supporting the Rotary Shoebox Scheme this year. The Rotary Club in general have struggled this year with their appeal. On Thursday, we only had 1 box. Tony, the chap who collects from us, we genuinely chuffed at the 23 he collected from us today!



We will be collecting for the Poppy Appeal after half term, with poppies available to purchase in school soon.

Homework

Your children's homework expectations will be attached to the newsletter next week. We will also include details of how your child can access many online books & magazines for FREE, via Sora.

Job vacancy

We are advertising for a school caretaker. More details about the position are available here...

<https://south.education-jobs.org.uk/jobs/job/Caretaker-at-Pilgrims-Cross-CE-Primary-School-Andover/1990> Please do contact us, if you have any questions or would like to find out more...

Safeguarding- emotional resilience

Facing unpleasant feelings can be a challenge, even for adults – let alone for children and young people, whose minds are still developing. To many youngsters, a mistake in an exam, a hurtful word or even losing in a game can sometimes feel like the worst thing in the world, causing them to react accordingly. However, this isn't always an effective way to deal with difficult emotions or life's setbacks, so it's important that parents and educators are able to impress a healthy approach to these feelings on the children in their care. This guide (see below) gives some expert tips on how to instil emotional resilience in young people, helping them to learn from unexpected feelings and situations – and to process them in a mature, effective manner.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

With increasing societal pressures, many children struggle with managing emotions, facing challenges and processing failure in a healthy way. This is why building emotional resilience in young people is vital for their mental health and personal success. This guide provides practical strategies for parents and educators to help children develop resilience and foster confidence, adaptability and a positive mindset.

1 ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Regularly engaging children in open dialogue fosters trust and emotional expression. Encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings freely without judgment. Set aside time daily, perhaps during dinner, to ask open-ended questions such as, "What's made you happy today?". This encourages children to express themselves openly.

2 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Children often learn how to manage emotions by observing adults. By modelling calm and positive responses to challenges, you can teach them valuable emotional management skills. If you've had a difficult day, verbalise how you're feeling and explain how you plan to handle it, such as "I'm a bit worked-up, so I'm going for a walk to clear my mind."

3 TEACH PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

Helping children break down challenges into manageable steps encourages a proactive mindset. Explain that every problem has a solution, even if it's not immediately obvious. For example, if a child is stuck on homework, support them in breaking the task into smaller steps, saying things like "Let's focus on just this first question for now."

4 FOSTER A GROWTH MINDSET

Encourage young people to view mistakes as learning opportunities. A growth mindset helps them see setbacks as part of the process, rather than something to be upset about. After a child loses a game or performs poorly on a test, for example, ask them what they've learned from the experience. This reinforces the idea that effort – and even failure – leads to improvement.

5 PROMOTE SELF-CARE PRACTICES

Teaching children about self-care helps them understand the importance of balancing work with relaxation to maintain emotional wellbeing. Parents and carers could start a screen-free hour before bedtime where the family engages in relaxing activities like reading, setting an example to the child for how to unwind.

6 BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Strong relationships with peers and adults provide a support system that enhances resilience. Encourage positive, respectful interactions to develop social skills. Playdates or group activities can be instrumental in teaching children how to resolve conflicts with friends by modelling and practicing calm communication.

7 SUPPORT EMOTIONAL AWARENESS

Helping children to identify and name their emotions allows them to manage those feelings more effectively. When a child's upset, encourage them to talk to you about what they're feeling in an empathetic and supportive manner, and ask them why they might be experiencing these emotions.

8 ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE

Giving children opportunities to make their own decisions boosts confidence and problem-solving skills. A good example of this would be letting children choose and pack their own lunches for school, guiding them with options but allowing them to assume responsibility for the task to help them take ownership.

9 DEVELOP COPING STRATEGIES

Teaching children techniques like mindfulness, deep breathing or journaling can help them to manage stress. Show them how to perform breathing exercises when they're feeling anxious, and practise this regularly. Reinforcing this behaviour in young people will make it easier for them to use these techniques of their own accord during stressful moments.

10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS

Recognising effort, no matter how small, reinforces perseverance and encourages children to keep trying. After a child completes a difficult task, makes progress on a project or reaches another type of personal goal, praise their efforts. Emphasise the hard work they've put in and be sure to let them know how proud you are!

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on a secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provisions.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Key dates

- Thursday 5th November at 6pm – Parent Tour for Year R September 2025
- Thursday 7th November- FOPS Fireworks Evening
- Friday 8th November – Year 5 Swimming
- Thursday 14th November at 10am - Parent Tour for Year R September 2025
- Tuesday 19th- Tuesday 26th November- Scholastic Book Fair
- 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
- w/b Monday 16th June- Year 6 residential, Avon Tyrrell
- Friday 20th June 2025- INSET Day 5

Please check out our website calendar for all relevant dates:

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