

# Pilgrims' Cross Newsletter



Dear Parents & Carers,

Learning to think about and consider others is a really important part of growing up. Our vision for our pupils is that they are learning, *to make a positive difference in God's world*. How they can make a difference can come in many forms.

This week, the theme for our worship was Remembrance. We discussed the resilient poppy, which flourished amidst the devastation in WW1. We thought about the difference that we could make by supporting the Poppy Appeal, giving a donation towards the care of those injured or affected by wars and conflicts around the world.

We will also be supporting BBC Children in Need **next Friday** (more details below). We feel that this very worthy charity is also a great opportunity for our children to think beyond themselves, to children like them who are facing difficult situations and circumstances. Please talk with your children over the weekend about 'making a difference' to others!



Lastly, thank YOU for attending the FOPS firework evening in great numbers! The money raised will make a difference to the children here too!

Jim Cascarini – Headteacher

[headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk)

Congratulations to all our children who received a Vision Award this week...this week's theme was <i>Courage</i>	Love	Courage	Trust
<i>Oak</i>		Willow	
<i>Willow</i>	Willow Class will get their first award next week!		
<i>Sycamore</i>		Noah F	
<i>Maple</i>		Aurora QS	
<i>Hazel</i>			Elechi P
<i>Lime</i>		Rhonin S	
<i>Chestnut</i>	Charlotte S		
<i>Elm</i>		Emily P	
<i>Ash</i>		Eyla M	
<i>Beech</i>			Alfie R
<i>Pine</i>	Hugo E		
<i>Hawthorn</i>			Joshua R
<i>Aspen</i>			Maira TA
<i>Juniper</i>		Scarlett M	

Vision Awards

## What we have been learning this week...

### Willow & Oak

Wow what a wonderful first week back. It was great to see so many of the children all dressed up. Poor Humpty Dumpty (the eggs you provided) needed a protective coat made so that, when he fell off the wall, he wouldn't break. We found the best materials were cotton wool, tissue and fabric. We had great fun experimenting!! In phonics, we learnt the sounds "ff", "ll", "ss" and "j". Please check out the *Little Wandle* website- there's a lovely section in the parents' area with lots of nursery rhymes. The knowledge the children have shown so far on nursery rhymes has been amazing, even solving clues to work out what the nursery rhyme is. In maths we have been learning about how to compare the shape of a circle to the shape of a triangle. We can now explain that we know it's a triangle if it has 3 sides and 3 corners and a circle is round with one side. We have also learnt about Guy Fawkes and the significance of bonfire night as well as Remembrance Sunday and why this is important to so many people. Finally it was fantastic to see so many of you at the FOPS firework display. Well done to them for a great display and hopefully it brought some of the children's learning to life. Great work children- from the Year R team!!

### Sycamore & Maple

What an exciting start to our new term! We received a letter from Goldilocks, telling us she had hidden a special parcel for us in the school grounds. We had to follow a fairy tale trail to find the parcel. Inside was 'The Jolly Postman' book, which we have begun to explore this week. The children have enjoyed making predictions and talking about different characters within the text. In Maths we have moved on to exploring subtraction number sentences. The children have worked hard to find the missing part in our part whole models. In computing we explored algorithms and why it is so important to give clear instructions in the correct order. In Science we have explored materials such as plastic, metal, wood and glass. I wonder if you can identify these materials in your own home? Perhaps you could do a scavenger hunt – *can you find me something made of wood in the kitchen?* A lovely start to the half term!  
Miss Miners and Mrs Edgington

### Lime & Hazel

Welcome back Year 2! We had great fun on our launch day on Monday, exploring different fairytales and even made up our own! We explored storytelling through dance and have started our storytelling unit in Music too! We have learnt lots of facts about wolves this week as we have jumped into our English, specifically looking at the features of a fact file so we can write our own at the end of next week. We've enjoyed starting our learning about minibeasts and microhabitats in Science and in History we've looked at classrooms from the past. We are so excited to share that our nativity this year is *Baarmy Bethlehem* and your child should come home with a note about who they will be playing and details about their costume at the beginning of next week!  
Miss Samuel & Miss Lavin

### Chestnut & Elm

Our autumn 2 learning adventure 'A Long, Long Time Ago' began with thinking about going back to the Stone Age and the children created some great cave drawings! In English, they have been answering questions, using the text and creating word banks to re-tell part of the story. In computing, the children loved exploring the coding program 'Scratch' and learnt how to change their sprite and use the loop command to create lots of interesting sounds!! In science, they investigated contact forces: push, pull and twist, and learnt how to draw a contact force on a diagram. A great first week, year 3!

Miss Plaw and Miss Matthews



### Beech & Ash

We're back with a bang! We started the week with our Victorian day, learning what it would be like to be a child in a Victorian school. The children loved looking at the school rules, playing Victorian games and creating peg dolls.

We started to learn about electricity and enjoyed creating our own circuits as a class. We have begun to look at multiplication and division, focusing on the 3, 6, and 9's.

What a great first week back!

Mrs Allison and Miss Collier

### Pine & Hawthorn

In Year 5 this week we moved onto fractions in Maths. The children have been identifying the difference between the numerator and denominator when looking at different fractions. We have also made a thorough start to learning about the Vikings in history, analysing different Viking stereotypes and learning each of their trade routes around the world. Finally, we have begun our swimming lessons. The instructors mentioned how well the children listened and were very complimentary about their behaviour- so much so that we will be having one combined hour-long session in the pool next week! Well done to all the children in Year 5!

Mr Childs & Mr Dookheran

### Aspen & Juniper

In Year 6 we kicked off Autumn 2 with a launch day for our new history learning journey: what can the census tell us about local areas? We went on a fact hunt around the school, finding out about the history of the census and how it has changed over time. We learnt that, before 1841, the census used to be carried out by an enumerator who filled in counts for local areas. Later in the week, we became enumerators when we completed a Year 6 census! Here are some photos of our data collection.

Mr Osmond, Miss Howick & Mrs Cocks



### Children in Need

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November is BBC Children in Need Day. Many of the staff and children have asked me if we can support this worthy cause this year. On Friday 15, therefore, children and adults are invited to come in, **wearing yellow and/or something spotty**, rather than school uniform- for a donation of at least £1 to Children in Need.

Money will be collected by class teachers as children enter the school. The children will have opportunities to learn about the charity and complete some Pudsey-themed learning too!

### *A sporty round-up!*

In the last few weeks, Pilgrims' Cross children have participated in several inter-school sports events and they have represented the school brilliantly.

At the Cross-Country Event hosted by Harrow Way Secondary School - which has an enormous field - six of our Year 5 and 6 children did wonderfully well. Each race contained 60 children from a variety of Andover primary schools and the distances ranged between 800 and 1200 metres in length respectively.

All our six children came in the first 25 of each of their races and the energy and enthusiasm they displayed was thrilling. Here are their placings;

Lacey Lee (25th), Cephas Lah (23rd), Caitlin Ash (18th), Michael Whelan (9th), Zak Underwood (6th) and Lacie Lock (3rd).

Last week, a team of Year 6 girls took part in an inter-school football tournament involving eight other primary schools. We played seven games, won six and drew one.

This meant that we **won** the event. We were also given a **Respect** award. The importance was that the girls had a good time and enjoyed a sense of togetherness as a group.

They were a credit to our school's values, making that *positive difference* to one another and others. There will be plenty more sporting events this academic year.

A **big thank you** to parents at this early stage, for providing transport to and from these venues. We are extremely grateful for your support.

Mr Osmond



### *Little Troopers*

Before half term the service group children worked really hard making poppies. We talked about what they represent and why we acknowledge Remembrance Day, remembering those that lost their lives to save ours. We decorated the cross in the Hall- see the wonderful picture at the top of this newsletter!

Mrs Scowen

### *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 have re-introduced class email addresses. Parents/carers are now able to email their class teacher, if unable to speak to them personally. Email addresses are **classname@pilgrimscross.co.uk** so, for example, Juniper Class is [juniper@pilgrimscross.co.uk](mailto:juniper@pilgrimscross.co.uk)  
These email accounts will be checked once a week.

### *Parents'/carers' evenings*

We are delighted to let you know that we are holding parent/carer consultations on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November**, from **3.00pm-6.00pm**. These consultations will focus on your child's attitude & learning behaviours, social and emotional aspects of learning & school life and will give you pointers as to how you can continue to support your child(ren) at home. You will also have a chance to view your children's books.

In the New Year, on **9<sup>th</sup> January & 14<sup>th</sup> January**, we will be holding a second round of appointments- these will be focused on academic progress, gaps in learning and next-step targets.

We would like parents/carers to book in to both sets of appointments, please. Booking for the November meetings will be live on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November**- we will email out the appointment booking link.

### Arbor

Exciting news! Very soon, we will be asking all parents/carers to sign up for the Arbor app. Arbor is the system that we use in school for our registers and school dinners. However, it also has the facility to take payments, reducing all that cash that is brought in to the office regularly and, let's face it, most of us use far less cash nowadays, since the Pandemic. It should also have the ability to take Apple Pay- and also we can take card payments over the phone! Secondly, we will be using this for trips- you will be able to give parental permission via the app- for booking wrap-around care and, eventually, parents' evening slots. Hurrah!

This will only work well if we have all of our families linked in, so please do sign up when we give you the link, thank you!



### Book Fair

Yes, it's going to be Book Fair time again soon. We will be holding our Book Fair from **19<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 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 96.9% this has dropped slightly due to some typical seasonal illnesses.

A reminder that advice on if you should send your child to school or not can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

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!

### Homework

Your children's homework expectations are attached to the newsletter next week. Please take time to have a look...

### Safeguarding- emotional resilience

Even among adults, it can be all too common to see disputes and differing opinions grow extremely heated, which is rarely helpful to anyone. When emotions run high, it can be easy to forget yourself and perhaps even say something you didn't mean, hurting feelings or escalating the situation further. For children, it's just as important to avoid this kind of behaviour whenever possible; without the necessary guidance, however, they could struggle to identify any disrespectful behaviour, let alone recognise what they can do differently. This guide (below) offers you expert advice on teaching children and young people to choose respect when interacting with their peers, helping to create an environment based on empathy and tolerance.

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

## 1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

## 2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

## 3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

## 4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel..." or "I think..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

## 5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

## 6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

## 7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

## 8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demanding each other.

## 9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

## 10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

## Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/choose-respect>

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### *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...

### *Key dates*

- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 10am - Parent Tour for Year R September 2025
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November- Children in Need Day
- **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November- Parents'/carers' evening (3.00pm-6.00pm)**
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> -Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November- Scholastic Book Fair
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm - Parent Tour for Year R September 2025
- **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November- Parents'/carers' evening (3.00pm-6.00pm)**
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 11am - Parent Tour for Year R September 2025
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December- EYFS *Wriggly Nativity*, 2pm
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December- EYFS *Wriggly Nativity*, 2pm
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December- KS1 Nativity, 9.15am
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas School Dinner
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December- KS1 Nativity, 2pm
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party Lunch
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024- INSET Day 3
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025- INSET Day 4
- **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January- Parent/carer learning consultations (3.00pm-6.00pm)**
- **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January- Parent/carer learning consultations (3.00pm-6.00pm)**
- w/b Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June-Year 6 residential, Hooke Court
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025- INSET Day 5

Please check out our website calendar for all relevant dates:

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