



Dear Parents & Carers,

Little things mean a lot.

Whether they are small actions, words said to another or a seemingly-insignificant gesture, little things can go a long way to making the world a better place. This is true in school too. Over the last couple of weeks in our collective worship, we have thought about new year's resolutions (academic and relational) and how a small step, repeated again and again, can take us on the journey to some big changes. Our recent Ofsted monitoring visit (see below) confirmed that the actions that we have in place are the right ones to take us on the road to improvement.

As a cycling fan, I am reminded of how Team Sky's philosophy was to work on the small things that are done hundreds of thousands of times in a race (i.e. your pedal stroke) and those tiny, incremental gains accumulate to big progress.

For the children, seemingly little things like reading for a few minutes each day to an adult at home, practising spellings after school or working on their times tables or number bonds can lead to big improvements over time. I hope that the feedback that you received as parents & carers at the recent consultation evenings will give you what you need to help support your children at home. Support from you on a regular basis does really make an impact. Please do partner with us this year in assisting with those 'incremental gains' which will lead to big progress for your child.

Parents & carers will often ask me what is the best thing they can do to support their child. *Read regularly at home with your child*, is what I will always say. Cultivating a love of books, confidence to approach the written word and developing a fluency for phonics and sight words is the key to other learning. Children who are not fluent readers will find access to the curriculum more difficult as they get older. One small step might be to get your child logged on to Sora (see details below), to give them access to a whole library of digital books, magazines- and audiobooks (great for developing vocabulary and a love of stories at bedtimes!)

Jim Cascarini – Headteacher

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

### Vision Awards

Congratulations to all our children who received a Vision Award this week...	Love	Courage	Trust
Oak			Millie L
Willow	Oscar K-S		
Sycamore		Frankie-Jay H	
Maple		Phoebe K	
Hazel		Grace H	
Lime	Myla D		
Chestnut			Ava B
Elm		Leela T	
Ash		Alicia T	
Beech		Albie S	
Pine	Kensi H		
Hawthorn		Max D	
Aspen	Dexter D		
Juniper		Austin H	

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

### Willow & Oak

We've had such a fantastic week in Oak and Willow class. Welly Wednesday was a great opportunity to enjoy the milder temperatures and the children worked cooperatively to build dens and a campfire. We have a lot of future superstars and they have been showcasing their talents in our amphitheatre. They've added music and dance routines to their performances to create extra flair. Our phonics sounds were "oo", "oo", "ar" and "or" this week. The children are really enjoying mark-making and have been labelling the parts of animals with their initial sounds. In maths we focussed on understanding 1 more and 1 less and using the correct vocabulary to support this. We have enjoyed getting on and off a 'bus' to represent this.

In our painting area we have explored how to create texture using paint and have used crumpled up paper and forks to represent fur for our animals. We will be introducing house points next week and the children are all very excited about being in their 'house' and working together to earn points. Another great week well done everyone.

Mr Edgington, Mrs Cleary-King and Mrs Treasure



### Sycamore & Maple

The children have had to show real resilience in Maths this week as we have been challenging them to explore a number line to 20 and estimate where teen numbers would go on an empty number line. The children have worked hard to use their place value knowledge to think about whether the number greater or less than the halfway point. In English we have finished reading our story about Mini Rabbit and have written sentences explaining how Mini Rabbit is feeling at different points in the story. We have also furthered our practice in using 'and' to join two ideas together. In Science this week we explored the five senses. One child was blindfolded and had to use their other senses to identify the food item they were holding - popcorn! The children imagined being in different places (woodland, supermarket, swimming pool) and thought about what they would be able to see, hear, smell, touch and taste in these places. In PE we have been balancing on a line, moving in different ways along the line and balancing with our heels raised - a tricky challenge even for us!

For our Class Celebration later this half term we will need A LOT of newspaper so please can you save any you have at home and bring them into school for us.

In addition, for our Computing this half term the children will need a disposable plastic bottle to make a rocket with so please can you bring any in that you may have at home.

Many thanks!

Mrs Edgington and Miss Miners

### Lime & Hazel

This week in Year 2 we have visited a range of landmarks across all seven continents! The children have been focussed on locating them on a map and virtually visiting them via Google Maps! We have explored materials in Science, trying to figure out why they are suitable for their jobs! *The Smartest Giant in Town* has really helped us discover how these materials (such as fabric and leather) can be used for different things. In PSHE we have been securing our knowledge of how to be safe online - using our friend Smartie the Penguin to identify dangers on the internet. We've also met someone else new in RE - Guru Nanuk has been our focus as we've discussed why some people believe he is special. We're looking forward to continuing the fun into next week!

Miss Samuel and Miss Lavin

## Chestnut & Elm

This week the children have been working hard in all areas of the curriculum and really thinking about taking care and pride in their learning. In English and Geography, they have been finding out more about Antarctica and learning how to write a paragraph. In maths, the children have continued their learning based on multiplication and division so please do keep accessing TT-Rockstars! This week the children began their Science learning journey by looking at and grouping rocks based on their appearance. They also learnt how to use a classification key to identify the names of different rocks. In PE, the children have practiced their dynamic balance skills and explored different jumps in gymnastics. The children are really enjoying our French learning and are learning to count to ten.



Keep up the great work!

Miss Plaw and Miss Dewsbury

## Beech & Ash

Another week has flown by in year 4, full of learning and fun. In Maths we have been looking at multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100, we have seen how each digit can move right or left on the place value column, either becoming ten times bigger (left) or ten times smaller (right). In English we have been diving back into sentence structures and thinking carefully about when to use different conjunctions to make a sentence compound or complex. In our reading lessons we've been loving our new book 'The girl who stole an elephant' and we have been considering one of its themes: Right and Wrong. We debated whether the main character was right to steal the queen's jewels to give to the poor, the children explained themselves well and used evidence from the book to back up their answers. We have really been enjoying our geography this week as we've been learning about trading responsibly and followed the journey of a cocoa bean as it becomes a chocolate bar. We recreated this journey in our own comic strips! We've had a busy week in French learning both the days of the week and months of the year and using different games and songs to embed this knowledge. It has been great to see more children on TTRockstars recently, keep logging on and challenging yourself with your times tables.

Miss Collier and Mrs Allison

## Pine & Hawthorn

In Year 5 this week we have dived deep into our knowledge of fractions. The children have multiplied, subtracted and added fractions, as well as inverting to find the whole. We have both been so impressed by the children's knowledge of fractions and the time they have taken with their book presentation whilst working out answers. We have completed the first part of our non-chronological report on the moon Pandora, with the children taking great care over their handwriting and using as much descriptive language as they can. Finally, we have begun the journey into creating our pop-up books in DT. The children have planned their stories and the mechanisms they are going to use in order to create their entertaining effects. Well done to all in Year 5 this week on all their hard work!

Mr Dookheran & Mr Childs

## Aspen & Juniper

In Year 6 week we have been enjoying our Geography learning, where we have been thinking about the most important considerations when choosing the best energy source to use. The children were asked to create an order of most important to least, using a 'diamond nine'! Our considerations included the energy bill costs, the environmental impact, safety and renewability. So- plenty to debate, discuss and decide upon.

In RE we considered the people who visit The Western Wall and how people place messages and prayers in and amongst the cracks in the brickwork. Children discussed the kinds of messages they would share. And finally, we are enjoying the children's book 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgewick and being able to dig deeper into Zoe's character, discussing the feelings and motives for her actions as she tries to escape the island in her small rowing boat, *Lyca*. I wonder if she'll invite anyone else, as the boat can fit two people? Or will she decide to escape in secret without anyone knowing or finding out. Lots to look forward to, culminating in the children writing a diary entry from the main character's viewpoint, concerning this exciting but dangerous escape.

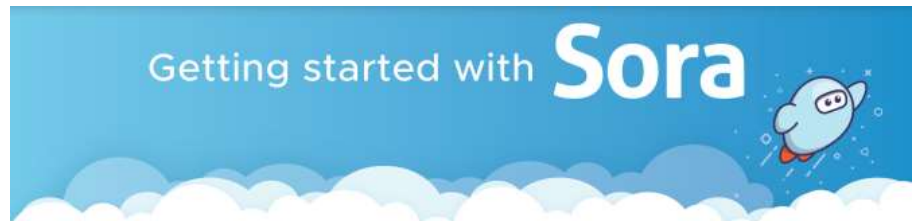
Mrs Cocks, Miss Howick and Mr Osmond

## Good homes needed for a LOT of books!

We have recently had a spring clean of our book corners to make way for new books! This means there are lots of lovely books waiting for new homes so, on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>, we will be having a book sale. There will be two tables, one outside KS2 by the field and the other on the playground close to KS1. Be ready with some loose change to make any donation you can which will go straight back into new books for the school.

## Sora

Log on to Sora, using the guide below...



With Sora, you can get free ebooks and audiobooks from your school.

1

Install the Sora app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or go to [soraapp.com](http://soraapp.com).

2

In Sora, find your school (or enter your school's setup code), then sign in.

3

Setup code: hampshiresis

Browse the **Explore** tab and borrow a book. Your book will open so you can start reading right away.

4

Close the book and go to your **Shelf** to see all your books (including assignments). From there, you can:

- Tap **Open Book** or **Open Audiobook** to read or listen to the book.
- Tap **Options** to renew or return the book, get to your notes and highlights, and more.

**Username:** The first letter of the child's first name followed by their surname.

**Example:** John Smith = jsmith

**Password:** Pilgrims2024

## House Treat!

Last term, **Earth** House collected the most housepoints- congratulations! As a treat, they will have a non-uniform day on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January**- enjoy!

### *Coffee & catch-up*

We are re-instating the parent/carer & Headteacher coffee & catch-up mornings, on Tuesdays. If you would like to drop by for a chat, to ask anything or simply to make contact, please do. They will be from 8.40am-9.00am. Mrs Hathaway will also be there- do come along!

### *Class Celebrations*

Here are the dates & times of the upcoming class celebrations. We've given them to you with, we hope, enough time for working parents/carers to book time out of work. Do please all come along to celebrate the learning for this half of term with your children...

Monday 10th February: 8.45am - Year 5 and 2.15pm - Year 2

Tuesday 11th February: 8.45am – Year 4 and 2.15pm - Year 1

Wednesday 12th February: 2.15pm - Year R

Thursday 13th February: 8.45am – Year 6 and 2.15pm - Year 3

### *Ofsted report*

Please click on the link below to check out the outcomes of the monitoring visit that we had from Ofsted at the end of last year.

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50266492>

### *SEN Learning Plans*

At the recent parent/carer consultation evenings, teachers should have shared the learning plans for children on our SEN register you. If you have a comment about the learning plan do send Mrs Hutchison an e-mail to [senco@pilgrimscross.co.uk](mailto:senco@pilgrimscross.co.uk) and she will transfer your comments into the parent/carers' comment section on the plan.

### *Safeguarding- getting children back into routine*

We have had multiple incidences of unpleasant conversations on group chats by children in our school. If your child has a phone, we **strongly** encourage you to have filters on their internet access and the ability to look at conversations they are having in group chats.

Please think about which apps you allow your children to have. Many of them have age ratings for a reason- to safeguard your children:

- Tik Tok- **13+**
- Snapchat- **13+**
- Instagram- **13+**
- Facebook- **13+**
- X (formerly Twitter)- **13+**
- Wink- **13+**

For more information, please read through the NSPCC helpful social media tips, here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>

### *Attendance*

Our school attendance this year stands at 96%- above the current national average of 94.5%. Children need to be in school every day to make the best progress.

### *Key dates*

- Year 6 *Bikeability* 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> February
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February- class celebrations
- Monday 10th February: Class Celebrations (8.45am - Year 5 and 2.15pm - Year 2)
- Tuesday 11th February: Class Celebrations (8.45am – Year 4 and 2.15pm - Year 1)
- Wednesday 12th February: Class Celebrations (2.15pm - Year R)
- Thursday 13th February: Class Celebrations (8.45am – Year 6 and 2.15pm - Year 3)
- w/b Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June-Year 6 residential, Hooke Court

Please check out our website calendar for all relevant dates:

<https://www.pilgrimscross.co.uk/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&pid=8&viewid=1>