



Dear Parents & Carers,

Pupil voice is really important at Pilgrims' Cross. We want every child to have their voice heard at school. Having pupils who advocate for others, and those who care and support their peers, is at the heart of our values of **Love**, **Trust** and **Courage**.

We have an established School Council, who bring their classmates' views to meetings. This week, they brought ideas for new playground equipment to the meeting. Our JRSOs are now in full-swing, having run their first road safety awareness competition. We look forward to seeing how they develop- and how they continue to keep us safe!

Other established but sometimes unsung roles include our faithful Librarians, our Pupil Guides and our House Captains and Vice House Captains.

We want new roles too: Miss Dewsbury and Mrs Hathaway are working towards establishing some Wellbeing Ambassadors, who will look at wellbeing and pastoral care of others around the school. Look out for more news on this!

We also want to re-invigorate older roles which have not been present at school for a while: Cyber Ambassadors and Eco Ambassadors are in the pipeline. The last role might easily be taken up by some of our older girls, who have instigated a fundraiser for local hedgehogs (see below for more details!)

With these roles in place, I firmly believe pupils' voices will be at the centre of all we do at Pilgrims' Cross!

Jim Cascarini – Headteacher

headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Vision Awards

Congratulations to all our children who received a Vision Award this week...	<i>Love</i>	<i>Courage</i>	<i>Trust</i>
<i>Oak</i>	Freddie M		
<i>Willow</i>	Juliana Z		
<i>Sycamore</i>		Lucas W	
<i>Maple</i>		Dylan D-M	
<i>Hazel</i>	Sara G		
<i>Lime</i>		Elsie B	
<i>Chestnut</i>		Duriel M	
<i>Elm</i>		Eddie H & Liv H	
<i>Ash</i>		Eleanor C	
<i>Beech</i>		Mason M	
<i>Pine</i>	Sienna P		
<i>Hawthorn</i>			Luke W
<i>Aspen</i>		Danny L	
<i>Juniper</i>		Isabella C	

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

We have been celebrating all things Spring this week. We have been investigating the lifecycles of different animals- for example chickens, frogs and honey bees. We also went on a walk to find all the signs of Spring on Welly Wednesday. We tracked the weather across the week as well and we noticed we had a variety of weather across a day. One day we had sun, wind, cloud and rain!!

In phonics we continue to practise the sounds we have already learnt and read longer words and longer sentences, one of which was very funny. It said "The Queen has seven sheep and a shark". In maths we have been focussing on the numbers 9 and 10 including how can we make them and what they look like. We have also worked out 1 more and 1 less than a number.

Finally, we had the Junior Road Safety Officers come and talk to us about the competition they are running. We had already looked at how to cross a road safely by holding an adult's hand, stopping, looking, listening and thinking. The children were all very good at talking about this.

What a fun week! Well done Year R!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

Sycamore & Maple

This week we introduced a new story to the children - *Traction Man*! The children have giggled and gasped as they've enjoyed the book together. We have explored retelling the story through role play and are now preparing to write a toy advert for Traction Man. In Maths we have moved on to exploring length and height. The children have enjoyed this and I wonder if you can choose objects in your house to compare in terms of length or height?

In History this week, the children have had the opportunity to explore toys from the past and are comparing them to the toys we have today. Mrs Edgington and Miss Miners brought their teddies from when they were little into school and the children have enjoyed talking about how they are different from their own teddies.

In Computing the children have furthered their use of Beebots by laying different animal pictures onto the floor and then directing the Beebot using algorithms and debugging to reach the animal their friend has chosen. It was a lot of fun!

The children are very excited for our trip to Marwell Zoo next Friday!

Mrs Edgington and Miss Miners

Lime & Hazel

We have had a fun-packed week in Year 2! On Monday we learnt about a historically significant person who was the first African American woman to have an international pilot's license - Bessie Coleman! In Music we responded creatively to music that represented the planets Mars, Venus and Uranus. We made art and moved our bodies to show the effect of dynamics within the music. Thank you to our volunteers from across the school who made our Science possible! Our lesson this week was all about growth so we used our maths skills to measure a volunteer from each year group! It turns out some Year 3s are actually taller than some Year 4s! Our RE this week focused on the stories of Abraham and Moses and the promises God made to them, and them to God. We carried on with our Computing, exploring how to animate on Scratch. In Maths, we have completed our length and height unit (in which most objects in the classroom have been measured by the children!) and are ready for more measurements in mass and capacity starting next week! In English we have also written our job description for a helper for Bob on the moon - the children have used all of our recently taught skills such as commas in a list, conjunctions (and, but, or) and suffixes (-est) with Lime class choosing 'talented' as their new favourite word!

Miss Samuels and Miss Lavin

Chestnut & Elm

Year 3 have finished their learning journey around 'Escape from Pompeii', and have written their own narratives based on it. We will now look at non-fiction writing to share facts and information about Roman soldiers and the Roman invasion of Britain.

We've also finished our journey on fractions, so please do ask a year 3 if you need to share something equally; we'll help you keep it fair and equal! We're moving on to mass and capacity, so we're definitely going to become experts about sharing slices of cakes and pizzas, and healthy drinks fairly.

Mr Spiers and Miss Dewsbury

Beech & Ash

Another week of lovely learning in year 4! We've been really impressed with the children's writing this week in which they have all written a news report about the Anglo-Saxons coming to Britain. They have remembered to include inverted commas to punctuate the speech within the report and have used lots of brilliant vocabulary. In maths we have continued our journey on fractions focussing this week on how to add and subtract fractions, the children have focussed and worked well, drawing out fractions to help them. We have all been loving our new class book 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and have been considering the character of Edmund and how he is different from his siblings. We have sadly come to the end of our history journey with our last two lessons on King Alfred and Great and why the Anglo-Saxon period came to an end. In music we crafted beautiful Haiku poems and had to use trial and error to find a verse with the correct amount of syllables.

Miss Collier and Mrs Allison

Pine & Hawthorn

In Year 5 this week, we have been diving deeply into our Maths learning Journey of statistics. The children have been analysing and drawing conclusions from line graphs and tables of data and creating scenarios explaining why a line graph is a certain shape. We have also finished our narrative scene. The children have used dialogue to describe an argument between Aunt Carew and Brother John in our story 'Treason'. We have both really enjoyed reading through the scenes and the amazing, upgraded language that the pupils have used. Finally, we are tracking the root growth from our mint leaves over the course of this half term and some have already started sprouting! Well done to all the children for their hard work this week!

Mr Childs and Mr Dookheran

Aspen & Juniper

This week Year 6 have enjoyed digging deeper into their World War 2 learning, via history and English lessons. In History, we made inferences about the Blitz based on historical sources. We looked closely at photographs taken during the Blitz and worked collaboratively to answer questions such as, what do you think you would see, hear and smell if you were there? What do you think happened after this image was taken? The children made some very insightful observations and inferences!

In English, we have explored the experience of entering a London underground station as an air raid shelter during the Blitz. Having studied pictures and first-hand accounts we wrote atmospheric setting descriptions which we went on to up-level with figurative language such as similes, metaphors and personification.

Mrs Cocks, Mr Osmond and Mrs Howick

FOPS

Thank you, FOPS for the amazing wet play games!



Fundraiser

Some of our older children are concerned about hedgehogs, having found a dead one on the field. They would like to raise money (see below). If you would like to support their endeavour, please see below and provide your child with a donation to the project...

Hello parents,

We have made a fundraiser to buy hedgehog houses. We will be selling bracelets, inspirational message bangles, mystery bags, make your own bag, slapbangles and a few badges at break. ~~Prices will range from 50p to 2.00~~ Prices will range from 50p to 2.00. Mystery bag is £1.50. Slap bangles are 50p.

Thank You

By Emme, Caitlin, Bella, Isabelle

Football news!

Friday 7th March was an epic day for our Girls Football Team. Having already won the Andover Schools Tournament in the Autumn Term, we then ventured to Stoneham to participate in the Hampshire Schools Girls Football Tournament, which consisted of all the other primary school girls football teams that had been successful in their respective districts.

With a true sense of togetherness, and a determination to live out our school values win, lose or draw, the girls made it their mission to enjoy the event no matter what.

Incredibly, we won our group in stage one of the competition - winning 4 games and drawing the other, to remain unbeaten (not conceding a single goal)! In and amongst those games Bella scored a 'top bins' screamer and Isabelle scored from a step over and drag back that bamboozled all of us, including the opposition goalkeeper.

Stage two meant that we entered the Super League! In effect, the top 10 primary schools in Hampshire (there are 496 in total). In this elite league we drew three games and narrowly lost two, which meant that our tournament journey had come to an end. However, you can be incredibly proud of the girls and their achievements, not just in how well they played but in how they conducted themselves all day - they were, and are, a credit to the school.

Well done girls, a superb day out!



Junior Road Safety Officer competition

WOW! What a LOT of entries to our JRSO competition! The JRSOs have looked over the entries, against the criteria, and have selected the winning ones to send off to Hampshire County Council. Let's hope one of them wins the competition! Please check out the attachment with this newsletter for the selected entries.

Staffing news

A very warm welcome to Miss Canty, who is joining the team as LSA in our EYFS classes!

Upcoming Picket Twenty events...



9³/₄ HARRY POTTER FAMILY QUIZ
Saturday 29th March
Doors open 5:30pm for a 6pm start
Picket Twenty Community centre
£10 entry per team of up to 6 players
Lots of Harry Potter themed prizes.
To register your team, please visit our website at www.pickettwenty.org.uk

PICKET TWENTY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 20



EASTER CRAFTS & STORY TIME
Friday 18th April
1:45pm - 4pm
Rapunzel will be with us from 2pm - 3pm
Meet a very special Easter guest, enjoy story time with Rapunzel and then get creative with some Easter themed crafts!
This is a FREE event and no need to book!

PICKET TWENTY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 20

Family Support



26TH JUN 2025

P.A.C.E.
2025

P.A.C.E. (Parent and Carer Events) engage families in understanding the needs and difficulties that young people can face. The events help parents and carers to gain more confidence and knowledge about how to manage potential issues or concerns they may have about their young person.

Sessions are run by experts in their field, such as youth organisations, Hampshire CAMHS and Autism Hampshire.

To learn more about what is on offer please follow the link below and book your space.

This year they are holding this event at Winton Community Academy, Andover.

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/p-a-c-e-21-nov-copy-copy-2-copy/>

The Holiday Activities and Food Programme

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is funded by the DfE to provide free engaging activities and nutritious meals to children from reception to year 11 (inclusive) during the Easter, summer and Christmas school holidays who would normally receive benefit-related free school meal (FSM).

To find out more about this scheme and register your child please follow the link below (places are limited).

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/advice.page?id=XRITDNF8hhM>



Sora

Have you logged on yet? See the instructions below...

Getting started with **Sora**

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.
- 2 In Sora, find your school (or enter your school's setup code), then sign in.
Setup code: hampshires1s
- 3 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:
Username: The first letter of the child's first name followed by their surname.
Example: John Smith = jsmith
Password: Pilgrims2024

Attendance

Our school attendance this year stands at **95.9%** which is slightly lower than we would like. We do however realise at there has been a break-out of Chicken Pox across the school and thank all parents for following the guidance of when to keep your child off school to minimise the spread of this infection.

We would love to really see an increase in children arriving on-time to school – currently this year in total there have been 7681 minutes of lateness! This equates to a HUGE **19.7 days** of lost learning.

We understand that occasionally unexpected reasons can result in lateness, however we urge you to ensure that children arrive on time to start their learning with their peers regularly. This positive start to the day really does have such a massive impact.

If you require any support with routines or wish to discuss any barriers that you need help with to improve your mornings please do get in touch with me on familysupport@pilgrimscross.co.uk and I will be very happy to chat – Mrs Hathaway

Safeguarding- Using Technology to Boost Reading Skills

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

8 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

9 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUpWednesday

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Key dates

- Tuesday 18th March – Year 6 parent/carer SATs Information session, 5pm
- Friday 21st March- FOPS Curry & Quiz night
- Friday 21st March – Year 1 Trip to Marwell Zoo
- Tuesday 25th March – Year 6 Trip to The Army Flying Museum
- Monday 31st March – Year 5 Class Celebration @ 8.45am and Year 2 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Tuesday 1st April – Year 4 Class Celebration @ 8.45am and Year 1 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Wednesday 2nd April – Year R Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Thursday 3rd April – Year 6 Class Celebration @ 8.45am and Year 3 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Friday 4th April- crazy hair & non-uniform day
- Saturday 17th May- Summer Fete
- Monday 19th May – Year 6 parent/carer Hooke Court Information session, 5pm
- Friday 23rd May- House Colour non-uniform day (wear your House colour all over!)
- w/b Monday 16th June- Thursday 19th June-Year 6 residential, Hooke Court
- Friday 11th July- Year 6 leavers' disco
- Monday 14th July – Year 6 Graduation @ The Lights
- Tuesday 22nd July- non-uniform Hawaiian summer day

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>