

# Pilgrims' Cross Newsletter



Dear Parents & Carers,

Next week is 'Walk to School Week 2025'! So many of you, I know, walk, scoot or cycle to school on a regular basis.

For those who do not, why not give it a go next week and let's see if we can get all of our school having an active journey to school. Even if you drive, why not just park a bit further away from school and walk the last part? Your child will get a certificate for even doing a little bit of the journey!

Our JRSOs are keen to see safer routes to school established too. They will be walking the local estate soon, looking at safe and unsafe crossing points.

Keeping active is also so good for wellbeing. I don't know what I'd do without my daily cycle from Winchester or my weekend rides! Being out in nature, enjoying all weathers and seasons is one of life's joys and balances the number of hours I spend indoors.

Go on, walk, cycle or scoot to school next week!

Jim Cascarini – Headteacher

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

**WALK to SCHOOL WEEK 2025**

Your school is supporting 'Walk to School Week' Monday 19 May - Friday 23 May

Designed by Amilia and Amelia from All Saints Junior School

How can I help?

- Walk with your child and discuss potential hazards such as crosswalks, junctions, parked cars and bins.
- Walk out together the safest route even if this involves a slightly longer journey.
- Let your child suggest places to cross and discuss their choice.
- Practice the green cross code on your way to and from school - reminding them to stop, look, listen and think.

I don't have time to walk!

- Park the car some way from the school gates and walk the last part of the journey.
- Try to find time to walk with them once during the week.
- Your child will qualify for a certificate if either option is taken.

What are the advantages of walking?

- The chance to teach important road safety skills.
- The chance to learn about the local environment.
- A chance for a chat about the day.
- Less congestion at the school gate.
- A healthier way to start the day.

Hampshire County Council



## Vision Awards

Congratulations to all our children who received a Vision Award this week...	Love	Courage	Trust
<i>Oak</i>			Allswell J
<i>Willow</i>			Poppy G
<i>Sycamore</i>		James W	
<i>Maple</i>		Bobby W	
<i>Hazel</i>		Dylan W	
<i>Lime</i>			Lara T
<i>Chestnut</i>	Amelia D-M		
<i>Elm</i>		Alayah H	
<i>Ash</i>		Saaim T-A	
<i>Beech</i>		Emelia M	
<i>Pine</i>		Mayci I	
<i>Hawthorn</i>		Ava P	
<i>Aspen</i>	Phoebe H		
<i>Juniper</i>			Drishti R

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

### Willow & Oak

This week's weather has proved very exciting for the children in Year R - we all went quiet and listened to the thunder and rain and we talked about what thunder and lightning was and why we shouldn't be afraid of it.

We started a new story this week. We looked at the traditional tale of Jack and the Beanstalk, we created a fabulous story map of the events in order and then we talked about how we would like to change it to make it more exciting. Children were changing the giant into an ogre or a box troll, they changed the beanstalk into a great big tree or they changed the cow into a rabbit. It was fun finding out all of the children's great ideas.

In phonics we were learning how to chunk much longer words to help us to read them, including words like 'chimpanzee' and 'freshness'.

In Maths we were using the part-part-whole model to create addition number sentences, subtraction number sentences and for doubling: if you want to learn more then please check out the white rose website with this link - <https://whiteroseeducation.com/latest-news/what-is-part-whole-model>

On Welly Wednesday, we planted some beans and we can't wait to see if they are magic and grow into great big beanstalks.

The children also showed an interest in roll coasters this week so we tried making our own roller coasters using paper and Sellotape. The children had a great time doing this.

One more week to go, Year R, then we are in our final half term!!

Well done for always working so hard and keeping us on our toes with your amazing new ideas!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

### Sycamore & Maple

This week we have had dragons galore! The children have begun exploring a new book in English - *How to Grow a Dragon*. The children have thoroughly enjoyed delving into this new story and have written fantastic descriptions of the dragons in the book. Next week we are going to be writing instructions for Sarah in the story for how to grow a dragon. Watch out, the instructions are going to be very silly!

In Maths we have begun exploring fractions, starting this week with halves. The children have found half of a shape and half of a quantity. This is definitely something you can explore at home when serving dinner or sorting toys. Are the 2 groups equal? What happens if we have an odd number?

This week in Computing the children learnt to move images and re-size them on a PowerPoint slide. We were so impressed with their mousepad skills! In Music we explored pitch and made pitch patterns for different superhero names.

Next week we have our class celebration on Tuesday at 2.15. We will be in the hall doing some painting so prepare to be creative (and messy)! Just a reminder that if you have an old shirt/large t-shirt that the children can wear as an apron please do bring it in as this will help us to keep uniforms clean.

Miss Miners and Mrs Edgington

## Lime & Hazel

This week in Year 2 we have been discussing our Science experiment about plant growth, which hasn't entirely worked however we have had lots of discussion about why it hasn't! We've been looking into the Jurassic Coast in Geography, zooming in on the physical features like rock stacks and arches. In English the children have written a report about the human features of Andover. We've also delved deeper into fractions in Maths, taking a look at recognising and finding three quarters. We designed our clay tiles in Art (ready to make them next week) and enjoyed the use of some new PE equipment when practicing our sending and receiving. We are looking forward to our parent celebration on Monday at 2:15pm - we will be performing some of the songs we've learnt in Music this half term and doing some planting to spruce up our outdoor areas! We look forward to seeing you there!

Miss Lavin and Miss Samuel

## Chestnut & Elm

This week Year three have been reading *The Wild Robot* ready to write their own narratives. We have been learning how to use direct speech for different characters when they are talking. We will continue with our narratives next week.

In maths we have been learning about money and how to add and subtract large amounts of money. We have also been finding change from given amounts. Next week we will start our unit on fractions. In Design and Technology, we have been learning about nutritional fruits and vegetables and have begun to learn how to chop fruit (Chestnut have done this, Elm are doing it on Monday!) We will then be fruit tasting and designing our fruit kebabs. On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>, during our Parent Celebration in classes, *you* will be making their design together and then if you're lucky they may share some with you!

Miss Dewsbury and Mr Spiers

## Beech & Ash

Another fantastic week in year 4. We certainly increased our TTRS scores as it was so great to see so many of you get involved with the challenge this week. Well done to Beech for coming close and to Ash for winning! Lots of you have improved your heat maps so keep it up. In English we have learnt how to use adverbs for cause and effect, adverbs of time, and prepositions for our writing. We have completed our research of the Amazon, and we are ready to write our non-chronological report next week. In Maths, we have started to learn about time by converting times from the digital format to the analogue clock and vice versa. We loved seeing the children use this practically, so please keep checking clocks with them frequently. In our RE learning we conducted some research on different people who influenced the Bible. Some translated it, and some made it accessible to all in the church, not just the vicars! We also explored different biblical interpretations of the Gospels, and what the Bible means to us.

We can't believe we're at the last week of term already, keep up the good work, Ash and Beech.

Miss Collier and Mrs Allison

## Pine & Hawthorn

In Year 5 this week, we have started our new Maths Learning Journey about decimals. The children have made a super start and have recalled their previous decimals knowledge brilliantly! We have been practicing adding and subtracting decimals up to and over 1 whole. We have also finished our letter in English from Stanley to his Mother. The children have written some brilliant letters reassuring our 'Mum' about what life is like at Camp Green lake. We have also completed experiments linked to air resistance and discovered that the greater the surface area of an object, the greater the air resistance. Although this doesn't always mean that it will descend any faster/slower. The children have worked so hard this week and should be very proud of all their work this week!

Mr Childs and Mr Dookheran

## Aspen & Juniper

WE'VE DONE IT!! 😊

This week was SATs week and Year 6 have really shown the school values, particularly courage, throughout the week. Every single child has come in and put their all into every paper. As teachers, we couldn't ask for more than that and we're so incredibly proud of all of you! The ice lollies were definitely a well-deserved treat on Thursday!

Within the afternoons and towards the end of the week, we have been focusing on our artwork and planning our memory boxes that we're going to be making next week. We have also been prepping for our fieldwork project, where we will be going out around Picket Twenty with a focus on the ongoing traffic issues such as parking and speed. Let's see if we can make a difference!



Y6 enjoying ice lollies to celebrate the end of SATs!

Please remember to bring in a shoebox (or a box of a similar size) for our art project which is to create a memory museum.

Mrs Cocks, Miss Howick & Mrs Featherstone

## *Class Celebrations*

Please see the calendar below for our Class Celebrations next week...

## *Safeguarding around the school site...*

### Staff car park

From 8am each morning, the **staff car park gates are closed**. No parents/carers are to park in the car park to drop off their children, unless pre-arranged with Mr Cascarini/Mrs Hutchison due to specific needs or for Breakfast Club before 8am. Parents/carers, please remind your children that they are **not to take a short-cut in to school via the car park**. The gates will be open for pick-up from after-school club at the end of the day, however.

### Adventure playground

There is an increasing number of families using the adventure playground after school. Please **do not let your children use it after school**. The equipment is for **primary-aged children at school time only**, under **supervision of a member of staff**.

## *Job opportunity*

We are seeking someone to run our brilliant Breakfast Club. This runs every morning from 8am until 8.20am. If you would be interested, please contact [recruitment@pilgrims�ross.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@pilgrims�ross.co.uk)

## *Sports Day- House colours*

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July will be our Sports Day. If the weather is not great on the day, we will reschedule this to the following Tuesday. We'd love the children to come to school in PE kit, with a t-shirt matching their House colour. Ideally, this would be non-logoed but if you only have a t-shirt in your child's house colour with a logo, that would be fine.



## *Summer weather advice*

Parents/carers, now that the weather heating up (hurrah!) please ensure that children are provided with sunscreen with a high protection factor, suitable head wear, such as wide brimmed hats and a water bottle every day. **Children can reapply their own sunscreen during the day, but cannot share with other children. We cannot apply cream to the children, so please ensure that they are competent in doing so!**

## *Competition*

### **POSTER CHALLENGE**

**Dear parents/carers**

**Caitlin & Lacie in year 6 are launching A silly funny poster challenge where you make a poster but it's something like 'Taylor swift new football coach' And there will be a winner from each ks2 class and one big winner whose poster will go around school and will get a prize like the rest of the winners The starting date is 4<sup>th</sup> of may and the closing date is 18<sup>th</sup> of may .**

**-Caitlin&Lacie**

### *Attendance Treats!*

I have been looking very closely at each classes attendance this acadmeic year and have decided that to celebrate the great efforts the children (and yourselves!) have been making by coming into school regularly I am challenging the children to end of term competition. Each class within its Key Stage will receive a treat if their class ends the Summer term with the highest attendance % - this treat will be decided by our School Council at their next meeting but could be either a dress down afternoon, sweet treat or extra play-time!

Please see below the current scores for each class... let the battle commence!

(Please do note that those classes who have children with complex medical needs will be adjusted accordingly to keep things fair)

Willow	95.2%
Oak	93.3%
Maple	95.8%
Sycamore	96.6%
Hazel	94.7%
Lime	94.4%
Chestnut	95.9%
Elm	95.9%
Ash	94.7%
Beech	95.5%
Pine	95.8%
Hawthorn	97.3%
Aspen	97.4%
Juniper	95.3%

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](mailto:familysupport@pilgrimscross.co.uk) and I will be very happy to chat.

Mrs Hathaway

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](http://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

#### GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

#### ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

#### PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

#### ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase, which is typically around £15. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft: Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

### HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

### TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

### RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

### PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

### *Key dates*

- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 parent/carer Hooke Court Information session, 5pm
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Year 5 Class Celebration @ 8.45am and Year 2 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May– Year 6 Class Celebration @ 8.45am and Year 1 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Year R Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Year 4 Class Celebration @ 8.45am and Year 3 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May- House Colour non-uniform day (wear your House colour all over!)
- w/b Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June-Year 6 residential, Hooke Court
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June- INSET day 5
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July- Sports Day
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July- Year 6 leavers' disco
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Graduation @ The Lights
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers' Worship – 1.45pm
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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>