



Dear Parents & Carers,

All of the week, we have been thinking about God's wonderful world in our worship times. We thought about actions that can improve or harm our local environment, wider world and our own health. Linking with this, Year 4 spent time at Charlton Lakes, viewing a beautiful local area and then, along with Year 3, learned about healthy habits for teeth brushing.

Around our school environment, some children helped tidy and weed our Peace Garden, whilst many Year 5 pupils received training, alongside our Mid-Day Supervisors, from the Hampshire Outdoor Team to become playleaders- again, improving our school community. They will begin leading games and activities at lunchtime soon! The team were *very* impressed with our school. They took the time to find me and express that the sense of teamwork, positivity and warmth shared by our Mid-Day Supervisors and pupils during the training was pretty unusual- and they train teams in many Hampshire schools- what an endorsement!

Thinking ahead to next academic year, we are beginning to plan for next year's classes. Like last year, we will ask all your children to write down the names of 3 friends with whom they'd like to be in class & guarantee at least 1 of them. I want parents/carers to feel involved in the process so please do email me if you have any comments, preferences or worries about your child's next class, over the next few weeks. I can't guarantee that we can accommodate every preference- but we'll certainly listen and try! We are also holding two moving-up/transition days- see calendar, below.

Here's looking forwards to more improvements...!

Jim Cascarini – Headteacher

headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Vision Awards

Congratulations to all our children who received a Vision Award this week...	Love	Courage	Trust
Oak	Lilly H	Kyro J	
Willow	Isabelle J, Frankie K, Noa S		
Sycamore	Maya A-R		
Maple	Aurora-Quartz S		
Hazel			Macey-Mae C
Lime			Sikemi B
Chestnut			Sadie-Mai B
Elm			Sydney P
Ash	Elsie M		
Beech			Sydney-Rose D
Pine			Laila-Grace C
Hawthorn	Jesse S		
Aspen			Bella T
Juniper		Martha S	

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

That was a fun first week back! The children loved sharing what they had been doing over the half term break and they have come back very focussed and ready to learn, which is great! We were very lucky with the weather on Welly Wednesday and we were able to go out and look for lots of different minibeasts in our beautiful apple orchard. We found ladybirds, spiders, spiders' nests, woodlice, slugs, a cricket, bees, ants, a cinnabar (which is often mistaken as a butterfly but is actually a beautiful black and red moth), cutworms and even a cutworm pupa (which will turn into a moth), a couple of hairy shield bugs, a caterpillar and even Asian lady beetle larva!! What an abundance of wild minibeasts we found, it was so very exciting!

The children also helped Mr Edgington build a basketball hoop, we were creating hot chocolate with marshmallows and soup in the mud kitchen, we were performing to the teachers the songs we have learnt in Worship and we even dug up our first potatoes.

In maths we have been learning to share fairly and equally between groups. In phonics we have been re-capping the sounds we know, the tricky words we know and we have been applying these to read words and sentences as well as continuing to practise our spelling skills. In worship we have been thinking about how to look after our environment, which linked very nicely to our Welly Wednesday fun. We started a new story this week called "Aaaarrrrggghhh Spider!" by Lydia Monks. We were joining in the repeated phrases "Aaaaarrrrgggghhhh Spider. Out you go." and "Look at me. Watch me dance.". The children were very animated, re-telling this story and it has led to us learning a lot more about spiders and why they are important and why we should take care of them and not kill them. Our home corner has been a McDonalds restaurant, thank you to them for their amazing donations which meant the children could really pretend that they were the staff serving their customers at the restaurant.

Well done, Year R, that was a great first week back.

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

Sycamore & Maple

We have had a fun first week back after half term! The children have thoroughly enjoyed our new story in English - *Grandad's Island*. They have written descriptive sentences about the jungle setting and have used the most wonderful adjectives to describe what they can see. We are so proud of them and cannot wait to read the outcome next week!

In Maths we have begun working up to 100. This has been challenging at times but the children have shown so much resilience with it. Perhaps you could explore the 'Paint the Squares' game on the Top Marks website to explore this further at home.

In Computing the children have begun exploring different ways of presenting data and in Science the children carried out an investigation into the width of tree trunks. We are finding out the answer to the question - Do taller trees have wider trunks? The children worked together to use string to measure three different trees to make their conclusions. Why not have a go at exploring this further over the weekend? What is the widest tree trunk you can find?

Next week the children will be doing their Phonics Screening Checks. They have all worked so hard in the build up to these and we are proud of their resilience with the alien words.

Miss Miners and Mrs Edgington

Lime & Hazel

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to our final half term. On launch day we started our history unit, *Castles and Crowns*. We learnt all about who the monarchy is and what they do. We created crowns and painted castles. In music we learnt the legend of George and the Dragon and practiced clapping to a beat. In RE we learnt all about where Muslims pray and why they might choose to pray in a Mosque. In science we explored reusable materials and in maths we have started looking at how to tell the time. In English we have started our new text *Claude at the Palace* and have made predictions, inferences and have verbally re-told the story. Letters have gone home with your child about our trip to Southsea on the 24th of June please fill these out and return them ASAP. Looking forward to another amazing week next week.

Miss Lavin and Miss Samuel

Chestnut & Elm

This week, the children have been starting to collect and summarise their notes on Ancient Egyptians which they will be using to write their non-chronological reports. After having the wonderful visitors in, teaching the children about the importance of brushing their teeth, the children also wrote some wonderful instructions. I think the highlight of the session was the free toothbrush and toothpaste! In Maths, the children have continued learning to tell the time and have been trying to tell the time to the exact minute. In Music the children have been learning about Indian Music and learning some of the names of the instruments as well as listening to pieces of music. In Art we have started our projects on creating their own Egyptian Death Mask - we would still love more newspaper please if anyone has got any at home as well as cardboard for the children to get creative in their designing!

Miss Dewsbury and Mr Spiers

Beech & Ash

A busy start back for our year 4s! We launched into a new learning journey all about the Maya civilisation and we ate different types of chocolate to see how much chocolate has changed since the Maya age. We made masks and learnt about three different uses of masks, for events, battles and death. On Wednesday, we enjoyed finishing off our geography learning by undertaking a field trip to Charlton Lakes, to observe the human and physical features of a local river. The children behaved brilliantly and enjoyed getting out of school to do some real-life geography. Big thanks to Daniel's dad for being our fantastic minibus driver! We spent some time with some local dentists learning about how we can look after our teeth and were very excited to take home our very own tooth brushes. In maths, we've started our learning about shapes by looking at and comparing different types of angles. In our reading and English lessons, we've been looking at the book 'Rain Player' and diving into the structure of a narrative and how we can replicate this in our own writing.

Miss Collier and Mrs Allison

Pine & Hawthorn

It's been a busy first week back after half term in Year 5! The children have been getting stuck in to our new English text of *Odysseus*. We have analysed *Odysseus* as a character and begun to look at aspects and locations of his voyage back to Ithaca. We have incorporated some of this learning in our history lessons focusing on the 'Glorious Greeks'. The children have discovered facts about who the Greeks were and have become experts about the gods that lived atop Mount Olympus. We have also looked at why high places are often seen as significant in other world religions. Examples include Macchu Picchu and Glastonbury Tor. Well done to all the children for their hard work this week!

Mr Childs and Mr Dookheran

Aspen & Juniper

Juniper and Aspen classes have returned from the half-term break full of energy and enthusiasm. Excitement is building for the busy summer term ahead, especially for the upcoming residential trip to Hooke Court—there has been plenty of discussion (and laughter!) about who might be the loudest snorer! The children are also eagerly preparing for the end-of-term production, discussing lines and acting roles with great excitement. Despite only having two rehearsals this week, their teamwork and encouragement of one another have been wonderful to witness. This week, our creative writing days have sparked imaginations. We explored the mysterious tale of *Alma*, a young girl drawn to a snow-covered shop window by a doll that looks oddly familiar. Pupils loved crafting their own endings to this eerie story, showing off their creativity and writing skills. To wrap up the week, the children created posters and leaflets on "How We Look After Our Environment and Health at Pilgrim's Cross and Beyond." Through their research, they discovered how small changes—like recycling, saving water, and switching off "vampire devices"—can make a big difference locally and globally. Well done to all the pupils for their curiosity, collaboration, and commitment to making a positive impact!

Mrs Cocks, Miss Howick & Mrs Featherstone

Holiday Club

Need a place for your child over half term?
Check this out...

£10 whole week!

For kids in years R-6

St Mary's Church
Andover SP10 1DP

LET'S GO
TO THE JUNGLE!

Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri
29th Jul - 1st Aug
9am - 12:30pm

andoverparish.org/whats-on

HOLIDAY CLUB 2025

CAMHS session for parents/carers...

This is especially relevant for our parents/carers who are struggling with their child's behaviours- please do sign up by scanning the QR code...

CYP-PCW
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
PRIMARY CARE WELLBEING SERVICE

NHS
Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services


PARENT AND CARERS COFFEE MORNING

UNDERSTANDING & SUPPORTING BEHAVIOURAL DIFFICULTIES IN CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

You are invited to join us for a coffee and chat around behavioural difficulties in children and young people. We aim to discuss what behavioural difficulties look like for children and young people, and key strategies parent/carers can use to support challenging behaviours.

Monday, 23 June 2025
9.30am - 11.30am
**King Arthurs Hall, King Arthurs Way,
Andover, SP10 4BS**

**Scan the QR
code to register
your interest**



Sports Day- House colours

Tuesday 8th 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.



Fun at Thruxton!

Check out this great event, round the corner from us...!

THE
THRUXTON
Retro
PRESENTS

Historic Racing

Kids Go Free

70s Fun

Live Music

Superfunk

20 - 22 June 2025
Live Music & Entertainment

Saturday Headline

BJÖRN AGAIN

THE INTERNATIONALS • EARTH WIND FOR HIRE
THE 9 TO 5 SHOW - DOLLY PARTON TRIBUTE
MOONRIDER • SILENT DISCO • LINE DANCING • LIVE DJ SETS

Track Activity

RETRO AND HISTORIC RACING
CLASSIC FI CAR DEMOS
PARADES
CAR CLUBS
MOTORBIKE DISPLAYS
CLASSIC CAR AND BIKE AUCTION

Kids Paddock

BIG TOP MANIA
CIRCUS SKILLS AND SHOW
BOUNCY CASTLE
CRAZY BIKES
CAR PAINTING
PERFORMANCE ARTISTS

Cool Stuff

CRAFT BEER TENT • STREET FOOD • HOG ROAST • COCKTAIL BAR
HISTORIC AIRCRAFT DISPLAY • SOAP BOX DERBY • FUN FAIR • CAMPING
TRADE VILLAGE • HELICOPTER FLIGHTS • FANCY DRESS • FREE PARKING

Friday £15 • Saturday £35
Sunday £35 • Weekend £60

THRUXTONRACING.CO.UK

SAVE & SUPPORT - 10% OFF TICKETS
BUY YOUR TICKETS USING THE DISCOUNT CODE BELOW AND SAVE 10%
PLUS THRUXTON WILL GIVE 20% OF THE TICKET VALUE TO
PILGRIMS' CROSS CE (A) PRIMARY SCHOOL

USE DISCOUNT CODE **PILGRIMS**

BUY TICKETS

Goodbye, Mrs Bragg/ Job opportunity

We said a sad farewell to Mrs Bragg in worship this morning. Mrs Bragg has been at Pilgrims' Cross for 8 years but is ready for new challenges- we wish her all the best!

As a result of Mrs Bragg moving on, we are seeking someone to run our brilliant Breakfast Club from September. This runs every morning from 7.15am until 8.20am. If you would be interested, please contact

recruitment@pilgrimscross.co.uk

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions – they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this ‘secret code’ is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like ‘mid’ or ‘delulu’ may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (👤) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍃 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌿 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👤 (fire + ‘woozy’ face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.



CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.



ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted “What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?” can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.



PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who’s watching them.



EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples - please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

- 🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around
- 🙄 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or ‘simping’
- 😬 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless
- 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
- 🔥 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement
- 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
- 🙄 (Moai) Stone-faced, unbothered
- 👉 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
- 👑 (Crown) ‘Slaying’, as in doing great
- 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone’s behaviour

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- 🌽 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)
- 🍷 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
- ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine
- 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being ‘two-faced’
- 🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use
- 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
- 🌿 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis
- ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
- 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse
- 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes (‘noods’ is an abbreviation of noodles)

Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world’s number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



The National College

Attendance Treats!

Please see below the current scores for each class – remember that 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 and could be either a dress down afternoon, sweet treat or extra play-time! (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	93.5%
Maple	95.7%
Sycamore	96.6%
Hazel	94.6%
Lime	94.5%
Chestnut	95.9%
Elm	95.9%
Ash	94.7%
Beech	95.6%
Pine	95.8%
Hawthorn	97.2%
Aspen	97.4%
Juniper	95.2%

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

Key dates

- w/b Monday 16th June- Thursday 19th June-Year 6 residential, Hooke Court
- Friday 20th June- INSET day 5
- Tuesday 1st July- Moving-up Day 1
- Tuesday 8th July- Sports Day
- Friday 11th July- Year 6 leavers' disco
- Monday 14th July- Moving-up day 2
- Monday 14th July – Year 6 Graduation @ The Lights
- Wednesday 16th July – Year 6 Performance to Parents @ 6pm
- Friday 18th July- *Little Troopers'* Tea Party
- Monday 21st July – Year 6 Leavers' Worship – 1.45pm
- 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>