

Friday 20th June 2025

Pilgrims' Cross Newsletter

#40



Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that you had a good INSET day today and managed to use the time in a productive way with your families. INSET (not 'insect', as I heard one pupil calling it!) is short for In-Service Training, where teachers gather for training and development. Today, we gathered the new staff team for next September, to begin to plan ahead for the next academic year. It felt very positive to be able to look forward and work on the quality of teaching and learning provision for pupils next year at Pilgrims' Cross CE(A) Primary School.

Ahead of our moving-up/transition days on the 1st July (lining up with our Year 6 pupils' transition day at Winton) and the 14th July (lining up with our Year 6 pupils' transition day to Testbourne), I would like to let you know about our staffing for next year.

Some of our team are moving on: Miss Collier has exciting news- she is getting married; Mrs Cocks has secured a promotion- an Assistant Headteacher role; Mrs Allison is moving to take up a teaching role in a school closer to where she lives; Miss Lavin has also secured a teaching role in a new school and Mrs Edgington will be remaining with us, but will be switching to a job-share class teacher role. Two of our Learning Support Assistants, Mrs Kirke and Mrs Ferreira will also be moving on. We wish all of them our very best wishes for the future.

Joining our team for next academic year, we have: Mr Hambidge, who is moving to the area from Hereford, having taught Year 6 for some years across a Federation there; Mrs McNee, who taught Year 5/6 for many years at Wherwell Primary and, more recently, in London; Mrs Bryan and Mrs Oliver-Hawkins, who are joining us from local schools and Mr Osmond, who is returning to join us as a full-time class teacher. We have two new Learning Support Assistants too- Mrs Dann and Mrs Mein. We are excited that they are joining us. Today, all the new teachers were with us, to begin to plan ahead...

Schools 'change and grow', as the pupils sing regularly in Collective Worship. To the right are some wonderful pupils who grew a little during their residential (thanks to all the staff who made this run so smoothly). They will soon be off to the next season in their lives.

I am excited for the next season for us as a school community, as we change a little and grow a little more. Please chat with any of our staff about the next season, wishing some well for their new adventures and welcoming others who will be devoting their time and energy to the wonderful community we have at Pilgrims' Cross.



Enjoy a longer weekend!

Jim Cascarini – Headteacher

headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Vision Awards

Due to our INSET day today, we have not handed out Vision Awards this week.

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

We have had another short, fantastic and hot week in Willow and Oak. Once again, we have taken full advantage and taken our learning into the outdoor spaces as much as possible. Much of this learning has stemmed from our inspiring visit to Sir Harold Hilliers gardens. The children have been invested in looking at the wildlife we have in our area and compared this to what we experienced. We have extended this by thinking about how we can develop and improve our area to better support the plant life and creatures that live there.

Alongside this we have introduced the book 'Stuck' by Oliver Jeffers. This is a fun text about a boy who is trying to get his kite down from a tree with lots of obscure objects. The children have loved the humorous tone to the book and have been generating their own lists of what they would use to try and rescue their 'stuck' item.

In maths we have been seeking to deepen understanding of number patterns such as odd/ even, doubling and number facts within 10. We have done this in a variety of playful ways, including through sport, sharing out foods and even with the 'space' small world.

Lastly, we have had our first sports day practice which all the children were very excited for and very much enjoyed showing off their sporty skills and celebrating one another!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

Sycamore & Maple

Firstly, we would just like to say a big 'well done' to the Year Ones for working so hard despite the hot weather this week! They have been very resilient and have had worked hard to continue making great choices even when they have been tired and uncomfortable in the heat.

In English this week, we have started a new book - 'The Great Explorer'. The children have enjoyed listening to the story of Tom's adventure and hearing about all of the problems he had to overcome. They have learnt about contractions, such as can't, won't and isn't, and have used -er and -est at the end of their words to make their sentences more exciting!

In Maths, the children have begun exploring time. They have learnt to read the time to o'clock and next week we will be learning how to read it to half past.

In Computing, the children went on a bug hunt and then we recorded our data in a bar graph on the computer. The children really enjoyed this activity and have been talking about minibeasts ever since! In History, the children learnt about another incredible explorer - Ellen MacArthur and have been inspired by her courage and determination.

We will be changing the children's books on Monday due to the INSET day this week, so please bring in your book folders on Monday 23rd May.

Have a wonderful sunny weekend!

Miss Miners and Mrs Edgington

Lime & Hazel

We have had a fantastic week in year 2. In English we have been writing instructions to throw our banquet which we threw on Thursday, it was lovely seeing all the children dress up! Before the banquet the children made bunting and help set up the tables, during the banquet they tried different foods whilst listening to medieval music, once the food had settled we learnt a traditional medieval dance and then made crowns. In maths we have started our statistics unit and learnt how to use a pictogram. In RE we learnt about different Christians places of worship and looked at their similarities and differences. In science we tested materials to see if they would make a good plant pot and in history we learnt about features of a castle in preparation for our trip. We are looking forward to the trip next week and all the other fun learning we have planned.

Miss Lavin and Miss Samuel



Chestnut & Elm

This week we have been finishing our non-chronological reports on the Ancient Egyptians using information we have independently researched, using non-fiction texts. We have included many of the features of a non-chronological reports such as heading, subheading and pictures. In maths we have continued learning about time. During music this week we learned about Bhangra music and learned to name some new and interesting instruments which we'd never heard of before! In art we started papier mache and had fun getting messy with balloons, newspaper and glue ready to create our own Egyptian death masks. We have started learning more about the River Nile and why it was so important to the Egyptians. A huge thank you to all the parents who bought in newspaper!! We have Egyptian day on the 30th June the children can dress up if they wish but they do not have to.

Miss Dewsbury and Mr Spiers

Beech & Ash

This week in year 4, we have rewritten part of the 'Rainplayer' story changing some of the characters to make it our own as well as making sure we have included a range of vocabulary and conjunctions. We've started a brilliant new book called 'Kensuke's Kingdom' and have made some predictions about what we think will happen. In maths, we've been learning about statistics and how to interpret data from a bar chart, line graph and pictogram. In history, we looked at some Maya inventions, what they were, how they were used and we reflected on if we thought these were important. In our athletics unit in PE, we've developed our running, thinking about how we use our bodies differently when jogging and sprinting and we learnt the first section of a new dance based around being a spy.

Miss Collier and Mrs Allison

Pine & Hawthorn

This week the children completed their unit of negative numbers. For the duration of this unit, they showed a great ability to transfer their skills from other areas of the math's curriculum and apply them to negative numbers. In English, the children worked very hard to think of lots of high-level vocabulary that describes Odysseus and the Cyclops Polyphemus. Elsewhere in the curriculum, the children showed great maturity and intrigue when researching Great Thunberg in Computing. Also, through our ever-popular music unit, we have discovered that we have many up-and-coming performers in the year group.

With the weather climbing to sweltering heights, the children have shown an ability to adapt and persevere. Well done all in Year 5.

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Scowen

Aspen & Juniper

This week, the majority of Year 6 have been at Hooke Court. The children and the staff have been getting involved in a number of different activities, including archery, kayaking and orienteering. We finished our last night with a campfire where we sang some songs altogether (using the opportunity for a little practise of the songs for our end of year performance as well!). It has been a bright start every day and after the first day, where most of us started the day between 4:30am and 5am, we learned to sleep through the sun coming up! It is safe to say, we have all had fun, eaten lots of great food and spent lots of time outdoors in the fresh air! It is now time to catch up on some well-earned rest ready for the last few weeks at Pilgrims' Cross.

Miss Howick, Mrs Cocks and Mrs Featherstone (with a big thanks to Mr Childs and Mrs Lucas for coming along too!)



The Year 6 children that remained at school have had a great week of activities including cooking and crafts and then ending the week with movies, popcorn and some fun water play

Mrs Harris

Year 5/6 class information

I am sending out your FAQs this weekend and will be holding a meeting on **Thursday 26th June, 4.30-5.30pm** for any parent wishing to discuss anything further.

If you would like a chat before that, please do come and grab me when you see me at the start/end of the school day. Thanks, Mr Cascarini

Safeguarding- hot weather

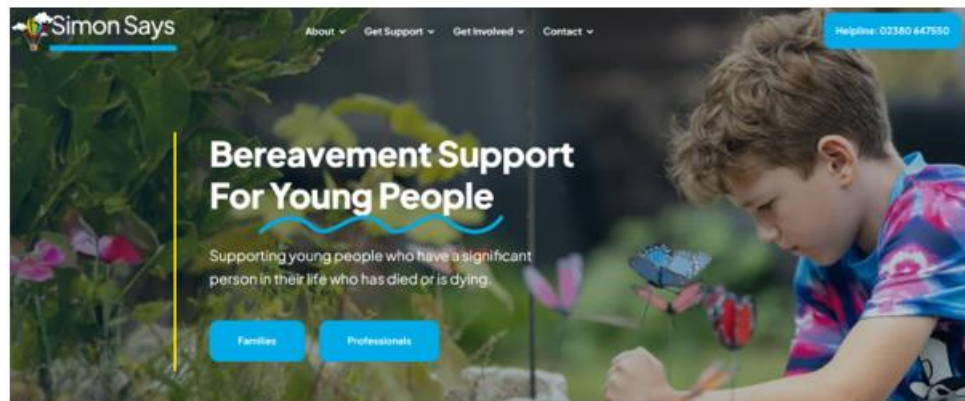
If the temperatures remain hot, we want all our children to cope as much as possible. If PE kit is cooler for your child, they are **able to come in to school in PE kit on hot days**- please make sure that they are wearing correct kit, not logoed, non-school t-shirts.

Please make sure they have a **hat** and **plenty of water**. **Sun cream** needs to be applied & they can have spare cream in their bag to re-apply to themselves during the day.

Non-uniform fundraiser

We would love to support the wonderful charity Simon Says for the amazing work they do with young people who have lost loved-ones. Please support this by allowing your child to wear non-uniform on **27th June**. Other Andover schools are doing the same thing.

Please send them in with a **£1** donation to this great cause.



Non School Uniform Day

27th June 2025

To raise funds for a Hampshire charity that support children and young people who are bereaved.

Children can come to school in non-school uniform in return for £1 donation to 'Simon Says'

To read more about what valuable work the charity do please see the link below:

<https://www.simonsays.org.uk/>

Job opportunity

We are seeking someone to run our brilliant Breakfast Club from September. This runs every morning from 7.15am until 8.20am.

Also, a cleaner is needed to join the friendly team at Pilgrims' Cross Primary working with a small group Monday to Friday 3.00pm to 6.00pm term time only. The position will involve working under your own initiative and you will need to be self-motivated and hard-working. You will be required to do deep-cleans during the school breaks, but we are flexible with the hours and notice given. Rate of Pay is £12.26 an hour.

If you would be interested in either position, please contact recruitment@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Sports Day- Tuesday 8th July

Next week, details about Sports Day will be sent out. If the weather is not great on the day, we will reschedule this to the following Tuesday, 15th July. 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.



Holiday Club

Need a place for your child over the summer?

A vibrant jungle-themed poster for a holiday club. It features a tiger, an elephant, a toucan, a monkey, and a parrot in a lush green jungle setting. Text on the poster includes: "£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", a QR code, and the website "andoverparish.org/whats-on". At the bottom, it says "HOLIDAY CLUB 2025".

£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

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



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...

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 YOUTUBE KIDS



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

As its name suggests, YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of Google's online video-sharing platform. Its colourful user interface is designed with young people in mind, and it offers a curated, family-friendly experience with features like age-based content settings and parental controls.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS



YouTube Kids is less likely to show inappropriate material than YouTube, but there have been reports of the app showing age-inappropriate content to young viewers. One investigation found that YouTube Kids had shown videos that promote skin bleaching, weight loss, drug culture and firearms to children as young as two, as inappropriate content had bypassed the platform's algorithms and human moderators.

BE WARY OF ADVERTISING



Like Google's regular YouTube app, YouTube Kids features pervasive advertising before a video plays. While these adverts are designed to be family friendly and are subject to a strict review process, it's worth noting that YouTube Kids collects information around children's viewing to inform targeted content and advertisements.

DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE

YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the constant stream of new videos and the reward system of points or virtual stickers, can be very engaging and make it difficult for children to switch off. Research has shown that spending too much time using digital services such as YouTube can lead to screen addiction, affecting children's daily routines, studies, and even their social lives.

SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED



YouTube Kids offers built-in parental controls, enabling you to set screen time limits and curate the content children are able to view; however, children are often more tech-savvy than we think. They can easily bypass or tweak these settings if they have access to the associated Google account password, thereby exposing themselves to age-inappropriate and potentially dangerous content.

AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION



There is also a risk of children accessing videos that contain disinformation and misinformation. A BBC investigation found that some YouTube channels are using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create misleading 'scientific' videos that are recommended to children as educational content. These videos included conspiracy theories and ideas that lack scientific backing.

DATA COLLECTION RISK



While there are limits on the data that YouTube can collect on children under 13, children can still inadvertently give away sensitive information when using YouTube Kids. The platform collects data on children's viewing habits, content searches and location, which YouTube and third-party advertisers can use.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PARENTAL CONTROLS

YouTube Kids offers several settings that allow you to manage what content children can view. For example, you can choose what level of content you want them to access, such as 'Preschool' or 'Younger'. You can also turn off the search function, so that only those videos approved by the YouTube Kids team themselves will appear on a child's recommendations list.

SET TIME LIMITS

The built-in parental controls let you keep a tab on how long children spend watching videos. You can set a timer that limits screen time and disables the YouTube Kids app once a specified length of time has been reached. It's also worth speaking to children about the dangers of spending too much time on YouTube, to ensure they remain focused on other, more important activities.

CHECK WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has made it easy for you to keep an eye on what the children in your care have been watching on the app. By clicking on the 'Recommended' icon at the top right of the home screen, you can see which videos they've been viewing, and how much of each. If a child watches YouTube Kids while signed into a Google account, you can check their history through Google's 'My Activity' page.

WATCH TOGETHER

It's important that you try to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for children. One way to do this is by introducing watching sessions, where you all gather around and share the most enjoyable videos that you have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you both new things to talk about and of keeping an eye on what they're watching.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced journalist with more than 10 years of experience covering the technology industry. Previously a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly is now a freelance journalist, editor, and copywriter. Her bylines include Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The INQUIRER, The Metro, Uswitch, and WIRED.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youtube-kids-2025>



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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	95.3%
Oak	93.7%
Maple	95.7%
Sycamore	96.4%
Hazel	94.6%
Lime	94.7%
Chestnut	96.2%
Elm	95.9%
Ash	94.3%
Beech	95.6%
Pine	95.8%
Hawthorn	97.4%
Aspen	97.1%
Juniper	95.1%

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

- Tuesday 24th June – Year 2 Trip – Southsea Beach and Castle
- Thursday 26th June- Year 5/6 parent meeting with Mr Cascarini, 4.30pm in the hall
- Friday 27th June- non-uniform fundraiser for Simon Says
- Monday 30th June – Year 3 Portals to the Past Workshop
- Tuesday 1st July- Moving-up Day 1
- Monday 7th July- Year 5 (either Pine or Hawthorn- TBC) trip to Winchester Cathedral
- 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 12pm
- Tuesday 15th July - Class Celebration: Year 5 @ 8.45am and Year 1 @ 2.15pm - Year 1
- Wednesday 16th July - Class Celebration: Year 3 @ 8.45am and Year R @ 2.15am
- Wednesday 16th July – Year 6 Performance to Parents @ 6pm
- Thursday 17th July – Class Celebration: Year 4 @ 8.45am and Year 2 @ 2.15pm
- Thursday 17th July- Year 5 (either Pine or Hawthorn- TBC) trip to Winchester Cathedral
- 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>