

Pilgrims' Cross Newsletter



Dear Parents & Carers,

Our thoughts turn towards Sports Day, which is coming up soon on the 8th July (more details below). This week, I took an amazing group of pupils to a Sports Festival in Winchester, along with around 120 other schools from Hampshire & the Isle of Wight. The festival encouraged the children to participate, try new sports and activities and have fun being active together.



There were too many activities for us to do them all-

including Quidditch, Ultimate Frisby and climbing. We participated in Kin-Ball, rugby, circus skills and finished with a silent disco!

The whole event was done in a spirit of participation, not competition.



Our Sports Day, however, will be a great mix of both. We will encourage all our pupils to try their best and participate, but points for Houses will also be awarded in the races- with one House winning our House Trophy! Come and join us!

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		Theo B	Matthias P
Willow			Naomi H
Sycamore		Lola N	
Maple		Jack P	
Hazel	George L	Elijah C-R	
Lime			
Chestnut		Eleanor D	
Elm		Ryan W	
Ash		Lorilee L	
Beech			
Pine		Annabelle E	
Hawthorn		Jesse R	
Aspen			Caitlin A
Juniper			Austin H

New classes

Your child will have come home with an envelope with details of their new class for next year. Please check their book bag!

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

What a lovely calm week we have had in year R. The children have come in and just cracked on with the day showing just how ready they are for year 1.

In phonics we have been reading words with different suffixes like "ing" and "ed". We have been writing longer words and sentences as well. In maths we have focused on maths skills like addition and subtraction. For example, *I have 3. How many more do I need to get to 10?*

We have been writing an extra page for our "Stuck" story so that we can create our own class story of what might get stuck in our tree.

We looked at the story "The Colour Monster" which links emotions to colours and we have been thinking about our own feelings.

In PE we have been practising ready for our sports day, which we are very excited about.

Next week we will be starting the story of "Little Red Riding Hood" and this will be our final main text for Year R!!

What an exciting time of year!!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

Sycamore & Maple

The Year Ones have worked so hard this week on all of their end of year "quizzes". The children have been focussed and have put their efforts into showing us everything they have learnt this year. We are so proud of the progress they have made!

In Science this week the children studied animal footprints, sketching them, measuring them and identifying which animals they belong to.

In PE Year One joined together to start practicing some of our Sports Day events in our house groups. It was lots of fun and the children were fantastic at encouraging each other and celebrating each other's successes.

We are looking forward to returning to normal routine next week and continuing our work on 'The Great Explorer'.

Miss Miners and Mrs Edgington

Lime & Hazel

It has been a long week in Year 2! Thank you so much to our parent helpers who joined us for our trip to Southsea! The children had a fantastic time - tallying the human features along the seafront, enjoying lunch on the beach and exploring the castle too. The children were wonderful and haven't stopped talking about it all week! When we were back in the classroom we wrote a recount of what happened on our trip and some even planned to return to Southsea so they could visit the arcade on the pier! We also looked further into types of castles and how they have changed since the Normans built their first motte and bailey castles. Our RE learning continued with a focus about the features and importance of different places of worship including synagogues and gurdwaras. Next week we will be supporting the children with the first of two transition days as they get a peek into what Year 3 will look like!

Miss Lavin and Miss Samuel



Chestnut & Elm

This week Chestnut and Elm have shown great resilience with their end of year assessments. Although they aren't the most exciting thing (weirdly, some children love them!), regular assessments are a part of school, and the children should be proud of the progress they have been able to show. Both classes have started to think about their final piece of art, an Egyptian death mask, and what mediums they want to use to create it. We look forward to our Egyptian day on Monday where we can be fully immersed in all things pharaohs, mummies and pyramids!

Miss Dewsbury and Mr Spiers

Beech & Ash

What a week for year 4! In French the children explored the song contest 'Eurovision' and had a go writing a new song in French to perform. We have started our new learning journey in English, where we are writing pamphlets, to tell people all about Chichen Itza. This links well with our history where we explored how ancient Maya cities, like Chichen Itza, declined. In Maths we learnt how to plot coordinates and translate shapes on a grid. Year 4 have worked incredibly hard on their reading and maths tests this week; we feel very proud of them all!

Miss Collier and Mrs Allison

Pine & Hawthorn

Year 5 have dealt with the pressures of test week very well. We are proud of every single one of them and they have achieved highly. In other lessons, the children have started to practice their musical theatre scenes and write their versions of a scene from Odysseus. In Maths, we have started a very challenging unit and the children have showed great perseverance and determination. Well done all.

Mr Dookheran & Mr Childs

Aspen & Juniper

Year 6 have been busy this week rehearsing for their end-of-year production. With each practice, they're growing more confident in their roles—whether it's singing a solo, performing in a dramatic scene, syncing with musical backing tracks, or coordinating dance routines. Our backstage crew has also been working hard, creating props like paper pizzas to bring the scenes to life!

It's been wonderful to see the students encouraging one another and showing great patience as they work together. While we still have a few more rehearsals ahead to fine-tune the performance, the process has been enjoyable for everyone involved—on stage and behind the scenes.

In PE, we've taken advantage of the fine weather to practise triple jump on the field. The children were especially inspired after watching a clip of Jonathan Edwards' incredible world record jump of 18.29m in 1995—do ask them if they remember the distance!

In maths, we've been exploring pie charts and using data to calculate percentages. We've also enjoyed some quieter moments in the library and continued learning songs for the production in our classrooms.

Mrs Cocks, Miss Howick & Mrs Featherstone

Scooters, cars and phones

A few safety notices...

Firstly, can you please speak to your children about scooters? Once on the school site, **children should walk and push their** scooter, this applies to toddlers too, please.

Secondly, I received a message from a Picket Twenty resident: *I hoped it might be possible to send out a gentle reminder to parents collecting their children please? I am a resident on Picket Twenty and on multiple occasions have been involved and seen several near misses due to a car with the reg plate XXXX XXX being parked adjacent to the junction for Halter Way on yellow lines when there is plenty of safe parking available elsewhere. This is dangerous as we cannot see children crossing and are having to veer into a busy junction to pass.* If you park here, please consider parking elsewhere.

Lastly, Year 6 children are to **put their phones away** when they enter the school site. Please could you as parents/carers **not let your children use your mobile phone to play games when waiting for the start of the school day**. We want the school site to be phone-free, as there is no need to have them out when on school premises.

Thank you!

Thank you!

A big thanks to Apsley Mulch, who have kindly donated a LARGE bag of mulch for our Prayer Garden. This will help our hungry plants!





Safeguarding- hot weather

With the hot temperatures this coming week, children can wear **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.

Sports Day- Tuesday 8th July

Please join us for Sports Day on Tuesday 8th July. Key Stage 1 will have a carousel of activities and races in the morning then Key Stage 2 in the afternoon.

We invite ALL FAMILIES to join us at lunchtime. Please bring packed lunch for all your family (school lunches are orderable, as usual too).

Please send your child 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. If you do not have the right coloured top, please send your child in their usual white PE top.



If the weather is not great on the day, we will reschedule this to the following Tuesday, 15th July.

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

Safeguarding- Nintendo Switch 2

Please check out this guide if you have, or are planning on having, a Nintendo Switch in your household...

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](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18 CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 3* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 18 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with *Pikachu*, *Donkey Kong* and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video-clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including iGN, Techradar, and plenty more.



Holiday Club

Need a place for your child over the summer?



Key dates

- Monday 30th June – Year 3 Portals to the Past Workshop
- Tuesday 1st July- Moving-up Day 1
- Monday 7th July- Year 5 (Pine) trip to Winchester Cathedral
- Tuesday 8th July- Sports Day
- Wednesday 9th- FOPS disco (for EYFS to Year 5)
- 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 (Hawthorn) 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>