



Dear Parents & Carers,

A warm welcome to the first newsletter of the year. There was lots of energy and activity around school, as children began their learning journeys across the curriculum. Dropping in and out of the classrooms, it is lovely to see how the children are adjusting to their new classes. Going up a year group can be challenging- I always think the 'jump' from Early Years to Year 1 can be a big difference for younger children, as can the move from Year 2 to Year 3. The vast majority of children have coped really well with the change- especially our youngest learners in Early Years! Our 3 Year 5/6 classes have also begun well. They have already had their first swimming session too!

One area of school life that I must flag up as not having begun well is how our pupils behave outside school. Already, I have had reports of dangerous and unthinking behaviour from the Year 6 pupils, as they walk to and from school. Running across roads, through car parks and not thinking about comments and behaviour towards others are amongst the list of things that have been reported to me by parents/carers and members of the community.

Parents/carers, please can you speak with your children- especially parents of Year 6 boys, who have been running across roads and through the Co-op car park. Our school vision is that our pupils become role-models in God's world- this is not showcasing any understanding of this.

On a more positive note, we would like to invite parents/carers in to school for short, straight after school *Meet the Teacher* meetings in the week beginning 22nd September. Look out for the dates in next week's newsletter.

Here's to a positive start!

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		Gracie-Mai W	
Willow		Santino D	
Sycamore		Bluebell H	
Maple		Austin R	
Hazel	Lola N		
Lime		Aurora-Quartz S	
Elm			Ben S
Ash			Lissy C
Beech	Sam B		
Pine	Amelia D-M		
Hawthorn			Samuel B
Aspen		Hugo E	
Juniper		Elliott R	

What we have been learning this week

Willow & Oak

WOW!! What an amazing first week of school all of the year R children have had. We are so proud of how well you have all settled into the routines of school, so well done.

In Phonics we learnt our first 4 sounds - s, a, t and p and played some phonics games where we had to work out the action based on the word that was sounded out. For example, "n-o-d your head". The children appeared to really love this game.

In Maths we sang some songs for example 10 green bottles.

In English we found a big black hole in our playground and we were predicting what might be in this hole. We had some great ideas for example a mole, rabbits, a family of diggers, the Gruffalo, etc. We then used this inspiration to draw what we thought might be in the hole.

Well done Year R. We can't wait to see what other adventures you take us on.

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure.

Sycamore & Maple

What a busy week it has been in Year One! The children have been busy getting to grips with the routines in their new classes and have done so well. In English the children have been exploring the book 'Old Bear' and have been having a go at writing sentences about Little Bear and Bramwell Brown. This has been a tricky challenge and the children have shown real resilience in their English this week.

In Maths we have been furthering our counting, ordering and representing number skills. The children are learning new vocabulary to go alongside this and have had a go at reading the numbers as words, which is very tricky! Why not try writing the numbers as words and digits on little pieces of paper and hiding them around the living room. Can you match them up - eight and 8?

The children began exploring toys from the past in our History Learning Journey by bringing in their favourite toy to share with the class. It was lovely to see all the different toys the children chose to bring in and hearing them talk so confidently about them. In RE the children have begun learning all about creation and we will explore what that means to different faith groups as we move through the half term.

The children will be bringing home their reading book this week. Please enjoy reading these with your children at home, working on fluency of reading as you do. Books will be changed each Friday so please return the reading folders next Friday for changeover day.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Edgington, Miss Miners and Mrs Oliver-Hawkins

Lime & Hazel

Thank you so much to our wonderful Year 2s this week! We know you've been enjoying a little bit of everything, from drawing maps in Art, to learning about all the different life processes of living things in Science! You've learnt about the different parts of computers in Computing and the continents in Geography. We even had time to start our English journey which has something to do with a river and some jungle animals (we'll find out more next week!) and in Maths you've made a great start in our learning about Place Value. Thank you so much for all your hard work and we're looking forward to exploring the jungle with you next week!

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

The children have made a really great start to the year. We started our study on volcanoes by looking at the layers of the earth. We also started to look at the Iron Man in English, writing some great poems and making some very thoughtful predictions. In maths we have started to look at how numbers up to 1,000 can be represented! A big well done also to the children for their first ever week of '4 Reads', our new approach to whole-class guided reading throughout Key Stage 2. Through 4 reads the children were able to have some very thoughtful and detailed conversations on the opening of the book *The Mousehole Cat*.

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

Beech & Pine

We have had a wonderful start to the new school year. The children returned full of enthusiasm, happy to be reunited with friends and also ready to welcome the new members of our Pilgrims' Cross community. They enjoyed sharing their holiday adventures and have quickly settled into refreshed routines for Year 4. It has been fantastic to see their eagerness and growing maturity as they rise to the expectations through Key Stage 2.

Our learning is already off to an exciting start. In Geography, the children have been exploring what they'd like to find out about our new topic: *Rainforests*. In Science, we have been delving into the fascinating workings of the digestive system. (Check if they can remember how long the small intestine is? 6.5m!)

In English, we are immersing ourselves in our new text *The Whale*. The rich language and striking illustrations have sparked some brilliant discussion and creative thinking, which will help inspire the children's own writing in the coming weeks.

Maths lessons have focused on refreshing and extending number skills through place value, while also building fluency with daily times tables practice.

It has been a fantastic first week back, and we are very proud of how positively the children have begun their Year 4 journey!

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

It's been a full-on start to the new year in 5/6! The children have been spending time getting used to new routines and the higher expectations that come with working your way up the school. All three of us have been very impressed by the adaptability and resilience of the children with their work and support for each other. We have made a strong start to our place value work in our Maths, with the children ensuring that they write out each question and answer into their books. We have also begun developing our knowledge of our English text - *Rose Blanche* - and have discussed characters' emotions and begun to incorporate different pieces of punctuation in our sentences. Finally, we have looked at the Linnaean system in Science and analysed how Karl Linnaeus classified different types of species. Well done to all the children for their hard work at the end of a very full and busy week!

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

INSET days 2025/26

I would like to remind you of the INSET days for the academic year. The dates we have chosen best facilitate the in-service training that the staff need.

- Friday 26th September
- Friday 24th October
- Monday 5th January- children return to school on Tuesday 6th
- Friday 19th June

JRSO competition

Get your entries in- **extended** closing date **Friday 19th September!**




Use only these colours...




Design your own t-shirt!!

You produce your design on an actual t-shirt

 Make sure you add colour

 Make it relevant to road safety

 The competition starts today. Please submit your entries by **4th 19** September 2025, ready for us to judge

 Winners will be selected by the JRSOs and awarded 5 house points and a certificate

 Have fun!!





LOLA'S EXAMPLE T-SHIRT



Well done, Oliver!

Well done to Oliver, who raised £335 for Young Lives Vs. Cancer, smashing his target of £150. What a worthy cause- and kept fit too!



Attendance

We would like to thank all parents and carers for their support in ensuring children have had good attendance since our return following the summer break. As we move through the Autumn, colds and coughs can spread quickly and sometimes having time off to recover is necessary, however please do refer to the guidance below from the NHS with regards to when to keep your child at home.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Please also do contact me if you need support with routines, worries or anything else that could be affecting your child wanting to come to school and I will be happy to arrange a time to talk things through.

Have a lovely weekend - Mrs Hathaway

Familysupport@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Pupil information

Is your contact information up to date on Arbor? Please log in to your account and update anything which is out of date, thank you.



Safeguarding- back to school

We want to support you to help your children have a successful start to school- check out the guide, below...

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES



Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.

2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS



Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.

3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP



Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.

4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS



Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.

5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS



Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on that first day back.

6 CREATE A CALM MORNING



Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.

7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES



Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school – seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is swapping "How's your day been?" for "What's been good about your day?" This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's anxious thoughts and reframe school as a safe and engaging place.

8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL



If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.

9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER



Involve children in preparing for school – buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.

10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT



Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.

Meet Our Expert

This guide was created by Jo Morton-Brown, an Emotional Health Practitioner with nearly 15 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for pupils and trains adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understand their emotions.



WakeUp
Wednesday

The
National
College

Key dates

- w/b 22nd September- *Meet the Teacher* meetings
- Friday 26th September- INSET day 2
- Wednesday 8th October – Flu Vaccine Clinic
- Monday 20th October – Individual School Photographs (more details to follow)
- Friday 24th October- INSET day 3
- Monday 5th January 2026- INSET day 4
- Friday 19th June 2026- INSET day 5

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>