



Dear Parents & Carers,

Getting behaviour right in school is crucial. If children are not regulated and ready to learn, they will not be in the right place to access all of the learning opportunities on offer in school. If children are having their learning disrupted- or are disrupting others- deep learning will not take place. Our staff work really hard to ensure that good behaviour and securing pupils' attention are the top priorities, in order to be able to deliver their lessons.

As part of our improvements as a school, we are looking at our behaviour policy and systems. We have lots of ways if identifying those positive behaviours we see around the school, linking them clearly with love, courage and trust. We also want to continue to help children identify those behaviours that are *not* desirable- and raise awareness that there will be sanctions for things that are unacceptable. All behaviour communicates something and helping our children unpick what is and is not acceptable is an important life lesson.

We would love to involve you as parents and carers in the development of our positive school culture, so could I please ask you to spare some time over the weekend to fill out a short survey on behaviour at Pilgrims' Cross (see link below) - we would love to hear from you!

In the coming weeks, I will communicate the changes to our Behaviour Policy and ask you to support us from home, by reinforcing the changes that might have to be made to continue to improve.

Many thanks!

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 | | Dallas S | |
| Willow | | | Henry M |
| Sycamore | | | Freddie M |
| Maple | Koby M | Eyden T | |
| Hazel | Isla M | | Ty D |
| Lime | | Elias J | |
| Elm | Poppy M | | |
| Ash | | | Mason H |
| Beech | | Ada M | |
| Pine | Eleanor D | | |
| Hawthorn | | Lena K | |
| Aspen | | | Harley L |
| Juniper | Harley G | | |

What we have been learning this week

Willow & Oak

It's been another incredibly busy week. Lots of people have commented on how well the children have settled into school life and we are really proud of them for this. The children have shown a big interest in castles, knights, princesses and dragons so we converted the outdoor stage to a castle and we have had stick puppets and small world castle play too. The other interest children have shown is in making pom poms. This is great for their motor skills.

In phonics we learnt our first digraph (2 letters and one sound) ck. we also learnt the sounds e, u and r. we now know the tricky words l and is.

In maths we have been comparing and using language associated with big, small, bigger, smaller, biggest and smallest.

We also started the story "Oi dog" looking at words that rhyme, for example, dog and log, cat and mat, fox and box, etc.

Well done, Year R, on another great week!!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure.

Sycamore & Maple

This week the children have continued writing their *Old Bear* stories and have now completed the 'Problem Penguin' part of the story. We are already noticing a growth in confidence with their writing and we are really proud of their resilience and hard work in English this week.

In Maths we have moved onto addition and subtraction and have begun to learn the mathematical vocabulary of parts and wholes. The children have been taking a given number to 10 and splitting it into 2 parts e.g. *2 is a part. 3 is a part. The whole is 5.* I wonder if you can have a go at doing this at home with fruit from the fruit bowl or socks from the drawer. How many different ways can you split each number?

In Art we explored making shapes and used our previous learning about line making to make some very exciting shapes. The children have also furthered their knowledge of toys in the past compared to toys now and are able to discuss what is similar and what is different between these toys.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Edgington, Miss Miners and Mrs Oliver-Hawkins

Lime & Hazel

This week in Year 2, we have really focused on our expanded noun phrases and sentence openers in English, ready to begin writing our own circular narrative next week. In Maths we finished our Place Value unit of learning with counting in 2s, 5s, 10s and even 3s! Please do practice this at home as we will be using this knowledge in the Spring Term for our Multiplication and Division unit. In Music this week, we practiced more animal-themed call and responses with instruments, and in Geography we compared the UK to Kenya. We did some art this week when completing our Christmas card designs (thank you FOPS!) using vibrant colours and seasonal stencils! Thank you for all your hard work, we'll see you next week!

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

In Year 3 we have had another week full of learning. We have finished our place value unit and moved onto addition and subtraction. We have carried on thinking about what a soul is and what different religions believe about our souls. Finally, in computing, we started to look at how the internet works and how we are all connected to networks through our devices.

Well done all.

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

Beech & Pine

This week, Year 4 have had a busy and exciting time in their learning. In English, the children have been writing setting descriptions inspired by the story *The Whale*, using expanded noun phrases and similes to bring the stormy seas and the majestic creature to life. In maths, they have been working on ordering numbers up to 10,000 and exploring Roman Numerals. Science lessons have focused on the link between teeth and diet, comparing carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. In PE, the children have enjoyed fast-paced agility games, while in music they used body percussion to mimic the sounds of rainforest animals. It has been a great week full of discovery.

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

In Year 5 and 6 this week, we have begun writing our diary entry on our class book *Rose Blanche*. The children have been planning and creating one paragraph at a time. The children have focused on using parenthesis and using colons and semi-colons in a list. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading through each entry and have really enjoyed the detail the children have included. In Maths, we have begun adding and subtracting integers up to 6 digits. The children have focused on their presentation in their books and have worked incredibly hard with their layouts. We have also developed our learning about Karl Linnaeus and the Linnaean system of classifying different kingdoms– using a tiger as our case study animal. Finally, once again, we have had positive feedback from the swimming instructors – explaining that the children have all been so polite and have been listening well. As usual, well done to all the children in each class for their hard work and dedication to their tasks this week.

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

Job vacancies

Learning Support Assistant (LSA)

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 3.00pm with half hour lunchtime duty. This is a fixed contract until the end of August 2026 with a review to extend into the following year.

Experience of working with children is essential, as the person will be working one-to-one with pupils.

Termtime only but will include INSET days.

All enquiries or a request for an application pack are to go through the recruitment@pilgrims�ross.co.uk email. More details are on the Hampshire Education website.

Midday Supervisory Assistant (MDSA)

Monday to Friday 12.00 to 1.30. This is a fixed term contract until August 2026 with a review to extend into the following year.

The role will be supporting pupils through lunchtimes, teaching and learning through active play. Training given.

Term Time only but will include INSET days.

All enquiries or an application pack are to go through recruitment@pilgrims�ross.co.uk

We hope to welcome you to our team soon!

School Photographers

On Monday 20th October, Tempest Photographers will be in school to photograph your children for their annual individual portraits.

If you would like to have siblings photographed together, we ask that you come to the school hall from 7.55am and this can be done. We will be unable to take sibling photographs during the day. If you have pre-school or older siblings, you wish to have included then of course please bring those with you also for that 7.55am slot.

These photos make great Christmas presents for relatives!

Parent/carer Behaviour Survey

We would love to hear your views on behaviour at Pilgrims' Cross. Could you please take a few minutes this weekend to fill out our parent/carer survey? <https://forms.office.com/e/Ufh7DUhVnD>

Attendance

Our current whole school attendance this year so far stands at **96.2%** which slightly lower than the previous weeks, but still a little above our school target.

We will continue to monitor our children's attendance during our weekly reviews so **please do not be alarmed if we communicate when we have noticed attendance decreasing.** We understand that illnesses can often not be avoided and will always look to work *together* to help wherever we can.

Have a lovely weekend - Mrs Hathaway Familysupport@pilgrims�ross.co.uk

Family Support

We have been able to secure some upcoming Parent Workshops based on managing 'big emotions' and helping with strategies when responding to behaviour at home. These workshops will be presented by the Primary Behaviour Service who we work closely with and whose techniques we are guided by within school.

Each workshop will be followed up with a coffee morning two weeks later to be able to reflect on putting the learning into practice and brainstorm any particular challenges with the PBS team.

The dates for these are being confirmed so please **look out for an email next week** with a link to book your space – we are looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Recorder lessons

Recorder lessons began this week. We are offering 15 spaces for children in Year 2-6 to learn recorder on Wednesday mornings, during school time. The price will be £15 for the term. Recorders will be provided- or bring one from home! Sign-up opened on Arbor last week- first-come, first-served.

School Performance

The results data from the last academic year, including last year's Year 6 SATs is available on our website- here: <https://www.pilgrims�ross.co.uk/page/?title=Results&pid=84>

Safeguarding- Conspiracy Theories

“It’s all a conspiracy...” Really? Check out the guide below, to help your child (and maybe you) navigate this subject.

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 CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children’s resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O’Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>

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Class inboxes

We appreciate that parents & carers cannot always get in to school to speak with class teachers, if you have a comment, concern or question about your child. We have class email addresses, which are checked once a week by class teachers. They are:

Oak Class- Year R- (Mrs Cleary-King/Mrs Treasure) oak@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Willow Class- Year R- (Mr Edginton) willow@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Maple Class- Year 1- (Miss Miners) maple@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Sycamore Class- Year 1- (Mrs Edginton/Mrs Oliver-Hawkins) sycamore@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Hazel (Miss Dewsbury)- Year 2- hazel@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Lime (Miss Samuel)- Year 2- lime@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Elm (Mrs Bryan)- Year 3- elm@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Ash (Mr Dookheran)- Year 3- ash@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Beech (Mr Osmond)- Year 4- beech@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Pine (Miss Howick/Mrs Featherstone)- Year 4- pine@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Hawthorn (Mr Childs)- Year 5/6- hawthorn@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Aspen (Mrs McNee)- Year 5/6- aspen@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Juniper (Mr Hambidge)- Year 5/6- juniper@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Text system

This is an advance warning that **our text system will be finishing on the 9th October**. The school will continue to contact parents/carers, but this will be by email not text. If we have not got up-to-date email contacts for you, please update your Arbor information or call in to the school office- thank you!

Key dates

- Wednesday 8th October - Flu Vaccine Clinic
- Monday 20th October - Individual School Photographs
- Monday 20th October -Year 1 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Tuesday 21st October - Year 3 Class Celebration @ 8.45am
- Tuesday 21st October - Year R Class Celebration @ 2.15am
- Wednesday 22nd October - Year 4 Class Celebration @ 8.45am
- Wednesday 22nd October – Year 2 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Thursday 23rd October – Year 5/6 Class Celebration @ 8.45am
- Friday 24th October- INSET day 3
- Wednesday 5th November – FOPS Firework Night 5.30pm-7.30pm
- 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>