



Dear Parents & Carers,

Pupil voice' is really important at Pilgrims' Cross. If our vision is that our children *make a positive difference in God's world*, then giving them the tools and experiences to grow in creating change whilst they are at primary school is key. Today, our School Council met with Ryan from the company Kompan. They are due to install a new play park on the Picket Twenty development, and he wanted to elicit their views on the equipment choices. He also had a presentation to share- showing that the company use recycled marine waste found floating in the sea, such as fishing nets, to make into the plastic elements of their parks. The children were very keen on this 'green' idea.

Our Councillors expressed their preferences on elements of the parks- which will be taken into consideration by the company- the children have *made a difference!* Next week, they will be presenting to their classes and asking, THEM in turn, to express their views on the park designs. Well done, children!



Parent/carer voice is important too. If you haven't already done so, please complete my behaviour survey- see link below. We would appreciate your views, as we develop our updated Behaviour Policy.

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	Bobby W		
Willow	Elsie T		
Sycamore	Kyron M		
Maple			Philip D
Hazel		Faye	
Lime	Raea F		
Elm	Myla D		
Ash		Nanlung L	
Beech			Pollyanna W
Pine			Cleo S
Hawthorn		Leah B	
Aspen	Laila-Grace C		
Juniper		Anissia M	

What we have been learning this week

Willow & Oak

We have had great fun outside this week. We have had the bikes out, we've been in the mud kitchen and we've enjoyed rolling down the hill.

In Phonics we learnt the sounds h, b, f and l and we have started to segment words to spell. We looked at rhyming within the story "oi dog"- for example 'cat' and 'mat', 'frog' and 'log', etc. In maths we have been looking at repeating patterns using the AB rule so *red, blue, red, blue*, etc.

We found the **biggest** spider in the courtyard area and we looked very closely at its features, while it was running up and down Mr Edgington's arms.

Finally, we picked some apples and enjoyed eating our apple crumbles.

Well done Year R, you are smashing it!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure.

Sycamore & Maple

This week the children in Year One have spent time learning about 'Part Whole Models' in Maths. They have used these to help them understand the process of addition and are able to transfer this information into a number sentence using + and =. We will be continuing our work on this next week. Why not ask your child to teach you what a 'Part Whole Model' is this weekend?

In English the children have written the next part of the *Old Bear* story. We continue to be so proud of the effort and resilience the children are showing in their writing. Next week we will write the ending to the story! The children have really enjoyed our new handwriting sessions and are working hard on their letter formation.

In Computing the children have learnt how to draw shapes on Sketchpad and have shown that they can drag and change the size of the shapes. This was tricky but they worked so hard on it. In Art we have been exploring shapes within pictures and mapped out the shapes we could spot in photographs of faces. In PE we were superheroes and villains, which was great fun! The children were super speedy!

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Edgington, Miss Miners and Mrs Oliver-Hawkins

Lime & Hazel

This week in English we have started to write our own circular narrative. We have created our own character and began to take them on a journey through some interesting places - perhaps talk to your children about where they took their character? In maths we have started our unit on addition and subtraction. Please continue counting in 2's, 5's 10's and 3's at home with your child. We have looked at adding and subtracting 1's too. In Art we have been creating our very own stained glass window maps using a range of mixed media. We have continued to learn how to form new letters and next week will be learning to write letters from the slider family! This will really help us to join later on in the year. In Computing we went on a safari around the school in search of technology and we found lots of technological items!

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

Year 3 have had another hardworking week. We have started to plan our explanations based on the pit we designed to catch the Iron Man. These should set us up for some wonderful writing. In computing, we continued to look at how information travels across the web. Finally, in maths we started to look at crossing the tens boundary when adding. Well done to all involved.

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

Beech & Pine

This week in Year 4, the children have been working really hard and we have seen such positive attitudes towards work and one another. In maths, we have started looking at addition and subtraction, introducing the column method, which a lot of the children have picked up really well. Within English, we have been continuing with our immersion lessons around news reports, and the children have had the opportunity to develop their news reporter skills by reporting about a case of a beached orca in Orkney. It's safe to say, some of the children have definitely got a talent, ready for the big screen! As well as this, we have been continuing to develop our knowledge of the Amazon Rainforest in geography and have even started writing letters to the President of Brazil to explain the threats that the Amazon is facing. In the next couple of weeks, we will be getting out in the local area to explore how our local woodlands are used and how this might differ from the rainforests.

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

In Year 5 and 6 this week, we have finished our diary entry as the character *Rose Blanche*. The children have written some well-produced, detailed pieces of writing using parenthesis, colons, and semi-colons. They have also edited and corrected any mistakes individually, which has been great to see. We have also learnt about women's roles during WW2 and the part they played in defeating Germany. The children looked at sources, analysed their reliability, and answered questions based on what they found out. Furthermore, we have begun our new Maths learning journey around multiplication and division – understanding the difference between multiples and common multiples. Finally, we have looked at taxonomy as a way of classifying animals in the way Carl Linnaeus did. We looked at the different kingdoms and decided what classes and families each animal would be best suited to. Once again, the children have all worked very hard this week and have produced some brilliant work! We hope you all have a relaxing weekend.

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

A few reminders & notices...

Please make sure you only provide your Key Stage 2 child with a **healthy snack** (fruit, vegetables or a cereal bar) for breaktimes- no crisps, chocolate, etc. These have been creeping in to school (or out of lunchboxes!)

Please do not let your child bring in **fidget toys** unless agreed with the SENCo/class teacher, as a result of a specific learning need. These should help children focus- we prefer the term 'focus tools'- rather than distract your child or others.

Our **Eco Ambassadors** are organising a litter poster campaign to raise awareness of keeping our school site, local community and planet tidier - more details in the newsletter next week.

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@pilgrimscross.co.uk email. More details are on the Hampshire Education website.

Cleaner

Monday to Friday 3pm to 6pm. This is a fixed term contract until August 2026 with a review to extend into the following year.

Term Time only but will include inset days and deep cleaners during the school holiday period

All enquiries or an application pack are to go through recruitment@pilgrimscross.co.uk

We hope to welcome you to our team soon.

Harvest appeal

Our children have been learning about 'gleaning' (ask them what it means!) and the story of Ruth & Boaz from the Bible. We are collecting for our Harvest Festival from next week- please could you consider donating some of the items below, to help those in need? We will arrange for someone from the Food Bank to collect items and speak with the children too. Thank you!



Harvest appeal



Help support Andover Foodbank this Harvest

So far this year the Foodbank has supported 4000 people in our community with over 40 tonnes of essential items

Donate food



Donate 1 or 2 items so we can provide food for people in your community who cannot afford the essentials

Donate money



Help to cover our operating costs, including a Citizens Advice caseworker to provide financial support

Shopping list

- Tinned meat/fish
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned/instant potatoes
- Tinned soup
- Pasta sauce
- Cereal
- Rice pudding/custard
- Tinned fruit
- Biscuits
- Milk (long life)

01264 362111

andover.foodbank.org.uk

Registered charity in England & Wales 1199568

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

Here are the Kompan playpark designs, which were shown to the School Council...



Attendance

Our current whole school attendance this year so far stands at **96.1%** which is 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@pilgrimscross.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.

Dates for these are:

11th November at 8.30am

26th November at 8.30am

20th January at 8.30am

04th February at 8.30am

To book your space please follow the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/WZ17JZdUaC>

Safeguarding- Group Chats

Before you allow your children to take part in group chats, please look over these helpful tips...

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 **GROUP CHATS**

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

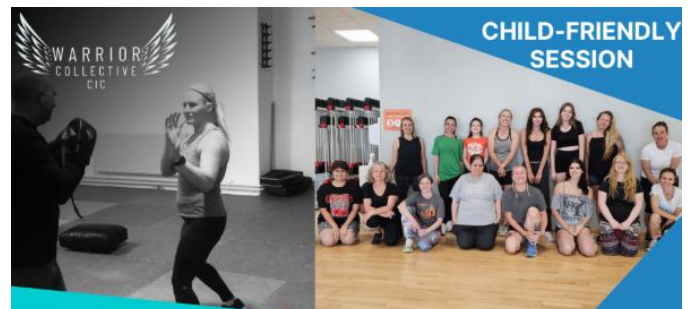
FOPS – dates for the term

Please support as many of these exciting community events, organised by our wonderful Friends of Pilgrims' Cross.

Wednesday 22nd October	Bags2School Collection
Thursday 23rd October	Non-Uniform Day – Colour Day! (or wear uniform, if you'd rather) Pay £1 to wear the non-uniform colour assigned to your year group
Wednesday 5th November	Firework Night
Sunday 23rd November	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop
Wednesday 10th December	Christmas Disco "Rudolph Rave"
Friday 19th December	Non-Uniform Day - TBA
Friday 13th February	Non-Uniform Day – Yes Day! Please provide 50p per thing you say 'Yes' to!
Friday 27th March	Non-Uniform Day – Crazy Hair Day! Please provide an Easter Egg to be donated to the Food Bank
Saturday 13th June	Summer Fete
Wednesday 15th July	Summer Discos
Friday 17th July	Year 6 Disco

Community Centre event...

How about joining in with this helpful self-defence and personal safety session?



SELF-DEFENCE & PERSONAL SAFETY

FREE, empowering, and open to women & girls aged 12+.

- Build confidence,
- Learn life-saving safety skills,
- Feel stronger in everyday life.

No experience needed — just come as you are and leave feeling empowered!

Location: Picket Twenty Community Centre, Andover

Tues 21st Oct | 1pm–2.30pm

CHILD FRIENDLY SESSION. Bring your younger children who can play whilst you partake in the workshop

Key dates

- 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
- Tuesday 11th November- Tuesday 18th November – Book Fair (more details to follow)
- Tuesday 11th November- Parent Workshop (school hall)- Big Feelings, 8.30am (see details above)
- Tuesday 11th November- Parent/Carer Evening
- Thursday 13th November- Parent/Carer Evening
- Wednesday 26th November- Parent Workshop- Big Feelings (school hall), 8.30am (see details above)
- Thursday 11th December- KS2 Christingle Service @ All Saints Church
- 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>