



Dear Parents & Carers,

I wanted to flag up a couple of upcoming updates to school processes, which I am sure you will welcome as parents/carers.

Firstly, **reading**. We will be re-launching home reading after half term, with new reading diaries, the chance to earn "learning points" by reading & completing homework at home and a whole-school home learning challenge. Watch this space!

Secondly, **behaviour**. Our new Behaviour Policy is nearly ready to roll out. Staff will be focusing on this during our INDSET training day next Friday. Your comments in the recent behaviour survey have been taken into account.

Thirdly, **governance**. We have a new Chair of Governors (see below).

Fourthly, **FOPS**. Our super PTA have organised a lovely range of events for the school year. These need your support, whether it is through volunteering an hour or so of your time, or ensuring that you send children in with a donation to wear non-uniform. This coming Thursday is our first event- our "Colour Day".

Lastly, **volunteering**. I am keen to get volunteers in to school, to help our children with regular jobs like reading 1:1 and times table practise. After half term, I will communicate how you can get involved with us as a school & the process you'll need to go through to get your safeguarding checks completed, enabling you to offer some time, if you have it.

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			Poppy T
Willow		Milly-Mae P	
Sycamore		Rex C	
Maple		Charlie B	
Hazel	Austin J	Poppy H	
Lime		Phoebe K	
Elm	Rhonin S		
Ash	Macey-Mae		Penny P
Beech	Filip J		
Pine	Dottie K		
Hawthorn		Oscar N	
Aspen			Daniel H
Juniper		Kensi H	

What we have been learning this week

Willow & Oak

It has been a very interesting week in Year R. We have been exploring Zog on our outdoor stage. Mr Edgington read the story, and we role-played the different characters. We did apple printing and tried to create repeating patterns. In phonics we re-visited the sounds we already know and the tricky words too. We have practised blending a lot this week as well. In maths we have started to look at numbers. We have started with numbers 1-3 and exploring these in full. Finally we were looking at alliteration "Ralph the rusty red robot."

Well done Year R on another successful week, one more and you have achieved your first half term at school!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure.

Sycamore & Maple

This week the children have finished writing their stories about *Old Bear*. The courage and hard work that the children have put into these pieces of writing has astounded us. We are incredibly proud of the progress the children have already made in their writing this year.

In Maths the children have continued to explore addition and have been working out number bonds for different numbers. How many different ways of making 7 can you find? Try this with different numbers up to 10 at home.

In Science the children explored daylight hours and worked out which seasons have the longest daylight hours. In Art the children have created a picture of a face using different 2D shapes in the style of Paul Klee. In Computing the children have begun making self-portraits using Sketchpad. This requires a great deal of patience and concentration from the children when using the mousepad to control the paint brush.

Next week we have our Parent Celebration on Monday afternoon at 2.15pm.

Maple Class will be having their Class Treat on **Wednesday**. Please can the children bring in pyjamas and a teddy in a named bag.

Sycamore Class are having their Class Treat on **Thursday**. Please can the children bring in a cuddly toy that fits into a named carrier bag.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Edgington, Miss Miners and Mrs Oliver-Hawkins

Lime & Hazel

This week in Year 2 has been full of exciting writing for our circular narrative - everyone has their own character and they've all been sailing down the river. The children have used their expanded noun phrases to describe what their character has seen in the rainforest and even under the water! We have been exploring addition and subtraction this week, particularly with our ones, by adding to the next ten as well as adding 3 1-digit numbers. In Science this week we looked at the rainforest and ocean habitats, learning about how the different animals and plants depend on each other. In Geography we took a look out of our window and did some observational fieldwork about the weather, linking this with our learning about climates. We explored craft materials in Art, creating 3D maps and we hope you enjoy these- maybe carry on building them over the weekend. Thank you for all your hard work, Year 2.

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

Year 3 have had another week of hard work and success. We have completed our second big write! This one is about how we plan to trap the Iron Man for good. The children will have the chance to publish their trap explanations this coming week. In maths, we have been working on adding across ones and tens. Through the partitioning method we have found success and the children should be very proud. In other parts of the curriculum, the children carried on exploring how data travels across the web and how mountains are formed. Well done to all involved.

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

Beech & Pine

Year 4 have had an enjoyable week developing our news report concerning a beached orca in Orkney. The children have planned their newspaper article and have structured it in a clear and concise way, asking questions of the reader, whilst describing the exciting events that took place - the locals and marine experts successfully returning the magnificent mammal to the sea, where it rejoined its pod.

In art this week we have undertaken some observational drawing of fruit, focusing on light, shadow and tone. We shall continue with this next week - polishing up on hatching techniques. We also have our class celebrations (Wednesday morning) and Geography walk to look forward to; so, plenty more to come in the next few days before half term - keeping up our positive learning attitudes, whilst living out our school values.

Hope to see some of you next week, if the time allows.

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

In Year 5/6 this week, we have begun our new English learning journey. We are writing a bravery award speech for Rose Blanch and her achievements. We have analysed the structural and language features of our example text and worked on our sentence accuracy. We have practiced our formal and informal language and have practiced using it in partner talk. We have also investigated prime, square, and cubed numbers in Maths. The children have identified what these different types of numbers are and how to find them. We used counters to create arrays and identified that square numbers can be represented by arranging counters in a square. Finally, we have finished our history learning journey. We learned that lots of people migrated to the UK after WW2 in the 'Windrush Generation'. Well done to all the children for their hard work this week. We hope you all have a nice 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.

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.

Local School News...

Hampshire County Council is holding a Consultation on the future of Smannell and Enham Church of England Primary School, Smannell, Andover. This consultation will run from Monday 13 October to Monday 10 November 2025 during which time comments on the proposal may be submitted. Details regarding the proposal can be found at this website from today including a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) document: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/smannel-and-enham-cofe-primary>

Should you have any comments on the proposal, please submit them to strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk by Monday 10 November 2025 so they can be considered.

School Photographers

This 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!

Harvest appeal

We are collecting for our Harvest Festival this **Wednesday 22nd**.

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 next Wednesday.

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

A message from the Chair of Governors

Hello everyone,

I'm proud to have been appointed as Chair of Governors at Pilgrims' Cross. As a parent and someone used to leading teams through challenge and change, I understand the responsibilities that come with this role and take them seriously. We've got work to do to rebuild trust, raise standards, and ensure every child receives the education they deserve. That's the mission. My focus is clear: accountability, teamwork, and putting children first in every decision. Guided by our school values of *Love, Courage and Trust*, we'll move forward together —staff, parents, governors, and the community —to create a school where every child can truly thrive.

Respectfully,
David Rawlins
Chair of Governors

Parent/carer Behaviour Survey

Thank you for your feedback, via the parent/carer survey form. As a staff, we have been working on our new Behaviour Policy. It is coming to our next Governors' meeting on Thursday and I'll communicate this with you very soon. Your feedback has been taken into account, especially around the areas of celebrating/rewarding the children who are consistently demonstrating good behaviour & our values and a clear outline of consequences for children who do not make the right choices.

Attendance

Our current whole school attendance this year so far stands at **96.1%** 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@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>

Community Centre event..

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

WARRIOR COLLECTIVE CIC

CHILD-FRIENDLY 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

Sports news...

At school we would like to celebrate sporting achievements, whether they are accomplished within the school building or outside of it. We have a new sports news display and would love to fill it with various sporting successes such as Player of the Match, dance performances and PBs at park runs. Please email a photo to the School Office, that you are happy to be displayed in school, and a brief blurb as to what the achievement is so we can all celebrate your super sport stars!

Many thanks, Mr. Edgington

Safeguarding- Headlice

A common problem in school, which can be kept under control by following the advice below. We need *everyone* to be vigilant in checking, please. If your child has **long hair**, this needs to be tied back where possible, please.

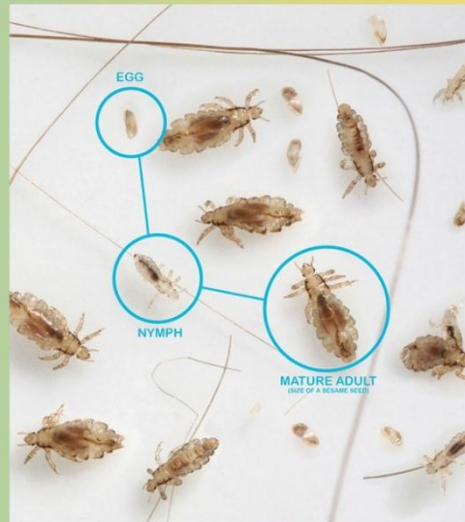
HEAD LICE

Head lice is common in young children and their families. They are picked up with head to head contact and can be very difficult to see in your hair. It can make your head feel itchy and this tends to be one of the first signs. **Checking hair regularly** is important to help keep them at bay and reduce spreading.



They grow up to 3mm long and have **3 stages of life**.

Fed up of feeling like they seem to have head lice all the time or every few weeks?? Read along to find out a possible reason why...



EGG, attaches to the hair shaft and is very sticky to the hair.

NYMPH, immature louse that hatches from the egg after around 7 days.

ADULT LOUSE, after around 9 days the nymph becomes an adult and can lay up to 10 eggs per day and live for 3-4 weeks.

Now think how quickly this can escalate without intervention!



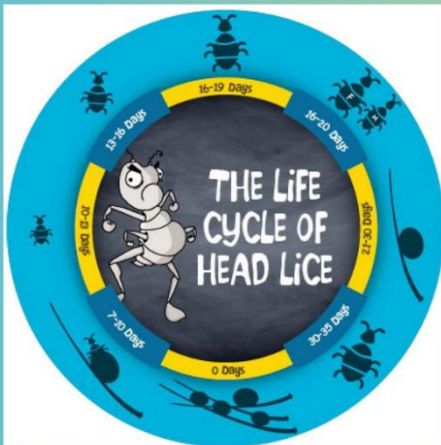
Keep long hair tied back and secured, you can also use a prevention spray found online or in a pharmacy.

How to get rid...

CHECK, check hair weekly to keep on top of any new Lice. Wet Combing, use any conditioner or Lice spray along with a nit comb (plastic or metal) to comb the hair through in small sections. Wipe the comb on some tissue after every 'comb through' to decrease risk of putting any back into the hair. **Repeat this process on day 1 , 5, 9 and 13** to catch any newly hatched lice. **Check the hair again on day 17** to make sure all lice/eggs are no more!

Use a nit treatment in which you can buy online or in your local pharmacy and follow their guide on how to use. There are many all-in-one treatments out there that although maybe a little more expensive can help irradiate all 3 stages of their lifespan leading to less treatments needed.

If unsure some brands of treatment include Nitwits, Hedrin, Nitnot, Vosene and Lyclear.



FOPS Update

Bag2School

Wednesday 22nd October

Collection times are Tuesday evening 21st October 7pm – 8pm

Or Wednesday 22nd October at school drop off

Non-Uniform Day – Wear your Colour

Thursday 23rd October

Please provide a gift / donation of your colour towards our colour raffle

Firework Night - Tickets on sale now!

Wednesday 5th November

Get your tickets from School reception, early bird prices available at £15 family ticket or £4 per person. On the gate price, £20 family ticket or £6.50 adults, £4 children

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Sunday 23rd November

A few spaces available for both am & pm sessions.

Childcare an issue then bring them along! Children are welcome and will be entertained while you create your own festive masterpiece.

Christmas Disco “Jingle Bell Boogie”

Wednesday 10th December

Come & have fun at the Christmas disco – tuck shop (for years 1 – 5) & temporary tattoos will be on sale

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
- Thursday 23rd October- “Wear your colour day”
- 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>