



Dear Parents & Carers,

What a lovely way to round off the first half of term- with some fun Class Celebrations! I managed to duck into a few and it was lovely to see the children showcasing their learning and completing some arty projects. The clay Iron Man that year 3 pupils created was a highlight! To brighten your half term break, here are our wonderful Early Years children...

We also celebrated our Harvest Festival, with a huge pile of food contributions gleaned from your store cupboards. Thank you for your generosity. The lady from the Andover Food Bank was very pleased to accept the offering and spoke to the whole school about where the food goes and the difference it will make to people's lives.



Today, we have been thinking about behaviour as a staff. We have used the INSET time to go through our new Behaviour Policy, ready for rolling out after half term and also looked at parent/carer feedback from the recent survey- thanks to all who responded I will be sending you all out a separate email with the Policy and some notes about how we are implementing it. However, the newsletter is the ideal place to begin to outline some key points to note (see below)...

Lastly, please see below for exciting news about **clubs** for the second half of the autumn term & how to book on to these. Have a great half term break and thanks, as always, for your support in making Pilgrims' Cross even better!

Jim Cascarini – Headteacher [headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk)

## Behaviour Policy

You said...	We did...
<i>There is not enough focus on children who are demonstrating positive behaviours all the time...</i>	We have added more opportunities for recognition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly "Hot Choc Friday"- one child from each class who consistently demonstrates our values will get to enjoy hot chocolate with the Headteacher</li> <li>• Pilgrims Cross Compass Badge- awarded once per half term to one child from each class who consistently demonstrates our values. There is a bronze, silver and gold version of the badge!</li> </ul>
<i>Consequences of negative behaviours are inconsistently applied</i>	We have clarified consequences for children in EYFS, KS1 and KS2, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time off lunch/break times</li> <li>• Reflection time with Senior Leaders</li> <li>• Contact with parents/carers</li> </ul>

## *Pilgrims' Cross Compass*

We have drawn up 5 school rules, which cover all aspects of behaviour. We have named it the Pilgrims' Cross Compass- like pilgrims who are journeying, the children need guidance as to how to make those positive steps in their growth. Here are our 5 rules...

# Pilgrims' Cross Compass



In order to be a Loving, Courageous and Trustworthy member of the Pilgrims' Cross community:

- 1. I treat myself and others with respect;**
- 2. I make safe choices for myself and those around me;**
- 3. I come prepared and focused for my learning;**
- 4. I move through spaces calmly and quietly;**
- 5. I listen to and follow instructions from adults.**

Please begin to talk these through with your child- they have already begun to look at the Compass in Collective Worship this week.

The staff will work through these rules, discussing what following them looks like in EYFS, KS1 and KS2. If children choose not to follow these rules, there are clear consequences too. We want all of our children to use the Compass to guide them in all aspects of school life, in every part of the day.

Please talk about *why* these 5 rules will help not only them but also others around them.

## *What we have been learning this week*

### **Willow & Oak**

Thank you so much for coming to our parent celebration. It was lovely to see you all and to see the children showing off the skills they have learnt so far.

In Maths we are still working within 3 - finding one more and one less and working out the different ways of making a number for example 3 is made of 0 and 3, 2 and 1 or 1 and 1 and 1.

In phonics we have been re-visiting our sounds that we have already learnt, continuing to learn how to spell CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words- for example, 'bed' and how to read CVC words by blending the sounds together.

In English we created our own alliterative poems. We thought of a colour first, then an object or a thing that starts with the same sound.

Finally, we have enjoyed all the rainwater in our outdoor provision, we have also built houses using our large construction.

Well done Year R, you have successfully completed your first half term at school, and we could not be prouder!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure.

### **Sycamore & Maple**

Well, what a fantastic first half term we have had in Year One! The children have worked incredibly hard in all areas of their learning and have responded so well to the new routines and expectations in Year One. We are extremely proud of them.

In English this week the children have written a thank you note from Old Bear to his friends. The children worked really hard on their sentence writing and we were so proud of the results. Well done Year One!

In Maths the children continued to explore addition and by the end of the week they were using number lines to solve word problems. I wonder if you can have a go at this in the holidays? For example, Miss Miners had 7 biscuits and Mrs Edgington gave her 2 more. How many does she have now?

We have also finished off our computing this week and the wonderful self-portraits are now being displayed in the corridor for when the children return to school!

Both classes have enjoyed a Class Treat to celebrate how they have shown the school values throughout the term and everybody looked super in the orange on Thursday!

We have sent home some high frequency words for the children to learn to read and spell. There are some suggestions of activities on the sheet to help you with this at home.

We hope you have a fabulous week and look forward to seeing you after the half term break!

Mrs Edgington, Miss Miners and Mrs Oliver-Hawkins

## Lime & Hazel

We have had a fun-filled week in Year 2! Thank you so much to all the parents and carers who joined us on Wednesday for our class celebration. The children really enjoyed exploring another form of crafting, printing their version of a map and we couldn't have done it without your help! This last week of our first half term back also saw a wave of authors pass through our year group as the children published their circular narratives inspired by 'A River' by Marc Martin. They have been so proud of their use of expanded noun phrases, and you can now find a selection of their hard work up in our corridor, on display with their illustrations too! In Maths this week, they solidified their addition and subtraction knowledge, making use of fact families to 10 to help them along the way. It was wonderful to see the commitment to the colour yellow on Thursday and we hope you all have a lovely half term, see you soon!

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

## Elm & Ash

Year 3 have well and truly earned their week off. This week we published our trap explanations to the mayor and carried on working very hard on our addition and subtraction. The children investigated nutrients and tried to build the most balanced and nutritious meal they could. As a year group, we also had a wonderful parent celebration where the children and their parents helped to bring the iron man to life through clay.

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

## Beech & Pine

It's been a busy and productive final week of the half term in Year 4! Despite a little tiredness creeping in, the children have continued to work extremely hard and show great enthusiasm for their learning. In Maths, we have been revisiting subtraction using the column method and tackling word problems to strengthen and extend our skills. In English, we've continued writing our newspaper reports about the Orca rescue, learning how to include speech correctly when adding witness statements. Our guided reading sessions have brought us to the end of *Matilda* — and we were pleased by the happy ending! This week, we've also been enjoying daily Art lessons, exploring tone, texture and proportion through a range of exciting drawing activities. To finish the half term, we had a wonderful parent celebration, where families joined us to share books and activities. Highlights included Orca research, creating clay teeth, and even writing birthdays in Roman numerals!

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

## Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

In Year 5/6 this week, we have completed our learning journey in English and written our bravery award speeches. The children focused on using formal language, adjectives, synonyms and antonyms, and quotes to make the speeches sound as professional as possible. We have also completed our learning around classification of animals; the children defined the differences between vertebrates and invertebrates and how they are grouped. The children enjoyed a fun final swimming session which involved getting floats, balls and rings out in the pool. To quote the instructors: "they are the best school we have ever had swim with us." Finally, thank you to all who attended the class celebrations this week, it was great to be able to celebrate the children's work with you all! Have a fun and relaxing half term and we'll see you in November!

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](mailto:recruitment@pilgrimscross.co.uk) email. More details are on the Hampshire Education website.

### *JRSO t-shirts!*

Here are the winning designs from the JRSO road safety t-shirt competition. The designs have now been translated onto the t-shirts by the competition winners. Very well done, everyone!



## Clubs

Exciting news! Clubs are back! Please see below for the clubs which will be running in the second half of the autumn term. Some are in-school, some are at lunchtimes. Most are free, except if there is a cost for materials. These are in addition to our regular clubs provided by Integr8 and Stow Sports...

Sign-up will be via Arbor, from Saturday morning. **Please be considerate and only book one club per child**, so that as many children as possible can take advantage of this opportunity. If you book more than one, your child's name will be removed from the lists, thank you.

Teacher	Club	Day	Time	Max number
Mrs Edgington	Singing for Fun – Year 2 & 3 No Cost	Wednesday	12.30	30
Mr Edgington	Construction Club Year 1 & 2 No Cost	Friday	12.30	30
Mr Edgington	Handball Club – Year 5 & 6 No Cost	Friday	3-4	21
Mrs Cleary-King	Disney songs – singing EYFS & KS1 No cost	Tuesday	12.30	20
Mrs Featherstone	Lego Club Year 3 & 4 No cost	Tuesday	3.00-3.45pm	10
Mrs Treasure	Art club KS2 £2	Thursday	3.00 - 4.00pm	20
Mr Cascarini	Book Club Year 5/6 No cost- but you MUST read the book each month!	Once a month, on a Monday*	3.00 - 4.00pm	No max, but it is for fluent, able readers to tackle challenging texts!

\* For Mr Cascarini's Book Club, please email [headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk) to register your child's interest by returning the slip on the letter which is attached with this newsletter's email.

## 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

## 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](mailto: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:

11<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30am

26<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30am

20<sup>th</sup> January at 8.30am

04<sup>th</sup> February at 8.30am

To book your space please follow the link below:

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

## *Sports news...*

We have a fantastic new sports board in school!

At school we would like to celebrate sporting achievements, whether they are accomplished within the school building or outside of it. We would love to fill our board up 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- Chicken Pox*

We have had a lot of it going around! Please check the guidance below...

### **Chickenpox**

Chickenpox is a common infection that spreads easily and mostly affects children. It usually gets better on its own after 1 to 2 weeks without needing to see a GP, but can be serious in some people.

### **Symptoms of chickenpox**

The main symptom of chickenpox is an itchy, spotty rash. It can be anywhere on the body.

Before or after the rash appears, you might also have:

- a high temperature
- aches and pains, and generally feel unwell
- loss of appetite

Chickenpox happens in 3 stages, but new spots can appear while others are becoming blisters or forming a scab.

## Stage 1: small spots appear

The spots can:

- be anywhere on the body, including inside the mouth and around the genitals, which can be painful
- spread or stay in a small area
- be red, pink, darker or the same colour as surrounding skin, depending on your skin tone
- be harder to see on brown and black skin



## Stage 2: the spots become blisters

The spots fill with fluid and become blisters. The blisters are very itchy and may burst.



## Stage 3: the blisters become scabs

The spots form a scab. Some scabs are flaky, while others leak fluid.



## How you can treat chickenpox yourself

If you have chickenpox, you'll need to stay off school, nursery or work until all the spots have formed a scab. This is usually 5 days after the spots first appeared.

There are things you can do to treat chickenpox yourself at home without needing to see a GP.

### Do

- ✓ drink plenty of fluids (try ice lollies if your child is not drinking)
- ✓ take [paracetamol](#) to help with any pain and discomfort
- ✓ cut your child's fingernails and put socks on their hands at night to stop them scratching
- ✓ use cooling creams or gels from a pharmacy
- ✓ speak to a pharmacist about using [antihistamine medicine](#) to help itching
- ✓ bathe in cool water and pat the skin dry (do not rub)
- ✓ dress in loose clothes

### Don't

- ✗ do not use [ibuprofen](#) unless you're told to by a doctor, as it may cause serious skin infections
- ✗ do not give aspirin to children under 16 years
- ✗ do not scratch the spots, as scratching can cause scarring

### Important

Do not go near newborn babies or anyone who's pregnant or has a weakened immune system, as chickenpox can be dangerous for them.

### Parent/carer evenings

We are holding parent/carer consultations on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Booking on Arbor is now open. We look forward to communicating with you how your children have been doing in the first half of term. Please sign up now!

### FOPS events...

### FOPS Update

#### Firework Night - Tickets on sale now!

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> December**

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

### *Key dates*

- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October- INSET day 3
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November- FOPS Firework Night 5.30pm-7.30pm
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Book Fair (more details to follow)
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November- Parent Workshop (school hall)- Big Feelings, 8.30am (see details above)
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November- Parent/Carer Evening
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November- Parent/Carer Evening
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November- Parent Workshop- Big Feelings (school hall), 8.30am (see details above)
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Jumper Day
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Dinner
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December- KS2 Christingle Service @ St Mary's, Andover
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Party Lunch
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026- INSET day 4
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 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>