

Pilgrims' Cross Newsletter



Dear Parents & Carers,

A week full of community events!

On Monday, we had an Odd Socks Day, as part of Anti-Bullying week. We wore socks which didn't match to celebrate diversity and affirm that we are all different. The rest of the week followed this year's theme: Power for Good. The children thought about how we all have power to effect positive change.

On Tuesday, we celebrated Remembrance Day, joined by some parents/carers who are/were in the Forces. It was a reflective moment- and a powerful one, as children from Year 5/6 read from *In Flanders Fields*. Children who are in Cubs, Brownies, etc. wore their uniforms too- see below.



We held two very successful parent/carer evenings on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Thank you for attending and dialoguing with your children's class teachers- I hope you found these appointments useful. We want **100% of parents/carers to engage with school** so, if you did not manage to attend, we will be contacting you to arrange an appointment in the next couple of weeks.

Today, we celebrated Children in Need & the children enjoyed not only being in non-uniform, but making a positive difference in God's world with the money raised. Thank you!

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		Ellie B	
Willow			Zuzanna W
Sycamore		Lilly H	
Maple	Millie L		
Hazel		Poppy H	
Lime		Evie H	
Elm		Elsie B	
Ash	Scarlett OGJ		
Beech	Hunter B		
Pine		Wilfred T	
Hawthorn		Lilly N	
Aspen			Layla L
Juniper		Charlotte B	

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

In Willow and Oak this week we have been looking at the story *Star in a Jar* and thinking about the different parts. We thought about what the opening, build up, problem and ending of the story were and used key vocabulary to help us verbalise the story in order. We even started to add our own fun details! In kinetic letters, we have been learning to write letters from the "Abracadabra Family". These letters pull around from the scared monkey tree (Skip) and push along the ground. For example: d, c, o and a. Our letters are beginning to form great shapes!

In Maths we have been looking at the numbers 4 and 5. How do we know it is 4 or 5 and how it doesn't matter what it looks like, it will still add up to that total. We have also been learning about Remembrance Day. We coloured pictures of poppies and created 2 large poppies using sugar paper. We created small poppies using sugar paper too and held a minute silence in class. For Welly Wednesday we created fireworks and bonfires using leaves.

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure.

Sycamore & Maple

It has been another fun week in Year One. We have all so enjoyed having you in for Parents' Evening to talk about your wonderful children and hope it has helped you too.

This week in English the children made potions to catch the witch from our *Rapunzel* story! The children enjoyed adding frog eggs, toad slime, snake skin and secret leaves to their potions before mixing in the magic. Next week they will be writing instructions for the potion making and will be thinking carefully about how we lay the instructions out on the page, whilst using bossy verbs and time connectives to make our instructions really clear for the reader.

In Maths the children have moved onto shape and have revisited their prior knowledge of 2D shapes and their names. I wonder if you can go on shape hunts at home. How many triangles can you find in your house? What is the difference between a square and a rectangle?

In Geography we furthered our understanding of aerial views and maps by adding symbols to a map of our school. In Science we identified what different items in our Year One outdoor area are made of - plastic, glass, wood or metal. In RE we considered what we think God is like and represented him in pictures.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Edgington, Miss Miners and Mrs Oliver-Hawkins

Lime & Hazel

This week we have been busy with lots of exciting learning! In English, we have been reading *Jack and the Baked Beanstalk* and exploring the structural and language features of a letter. We even started writing our own letters to Jack using some of the skills we have learnt this year. In Maths, we have been practising adding and taking away two two-digit numbers. Our Nativity rehearsals are now well underway and are going really well. Please make sure the children are practising their lines at home! In DT, we have started to investigate how different shapes can affect strength as we begin designing and building a chair for Baby Bear. In RE we have read the story of Rama and Sita and created our very own story boards.

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

Year 3 have worked hard again this week. We have been exchanging in our column addition and subtraction. In English, we have been researching foxes for our information write. We also investigated contact forces using cups and looked at where different food is grown around the world. Well done all.

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

Beech & Pine

It's been a great week in Year 4, and the weather has not dampened our spirits. Far from it actually, as we have been active in our learning (and not just in PE). We have learnt some new dance moves, keeping in time with some fast-paced music entitled 'The Spy'.

In Music, we have been singing and learning the Bill Haley song 'Rock around the Clock!' during our study of Rock 'n' Roll, which included a hand-jive in time to the beat.

In maths we have gone on an exploration of the school in search of two-dimensional shapes, where we then estimated and calculated surface area using post-it notes and finally we continued to delve into the book *Leaf*, with focus on the main character (a polar bear who is named 'Leaf' by the other animals), in preparation for creating our own narrative told from his point of view.

Other highlights of the week included successfully completing electrical circuits using the right components, in Science and role play today, where *curious crows* asked 'Leaf' some searching questions.

The children are looking forward to next week already but please enjoy the weekend first and hopefully the weather will improve!

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

In Year 5/6 this week, we have continued our writing linked to our text *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. We have written to create a tone and atmosphere of suspense and anticipation. We have had a special focus on parenthesis and prefixes and have tried to use as many opportunities to use them in our work as possible. In Maths, we have continued our fractions work – finishing the week by comparing and ordering three fractions with different denominators. The children demonstrated a strong understanding of finding the lowest common multiple to use as their denominators and multiplying the numerator and denominator by the same amount (what I do to the numerator, I do to the denominator). PE was equally as hard work this week as it was the previous week, with the children all competing in different stations set up in a circuit. Cue the red faces and tired children! In Geography, we have developed our learning around population and what might cause a birth rate to rise and fall as well as death rates. We analysed different themes and situations and discussed whether they would affect the birth or death rate. Lastly, **don't forget that there is a homework club Monday lunchtime** should the children wish to attend. If they find a question difficult in the homework and would like some 1:1 help or want a quiet place to complete their homework, they are extremely welcome to choose to attend.

Well done to all the children for their hard work this week!

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

Hot Choc Friday!

Here are this week's exemplary pupils who enjoyed a cup of hot chocolate with Mr. Cascarini..!



Staff news

Mrs Oliver-Hawkins in Sycamore Class will be leaving us at the end of the autumn term. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Wakefield, who has been teaching around the school over the last few weeks, will be in Sycamore on Monday-Wednesday each week.

Look at our uniforms!

The children who attend a Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs or Scouts group wore their uniforms on Tuesday along with a poppy.

Children who wore uniform will receive a badge to say they wore their uniforms to school, Mrs Burgess and Mrs Boare will collate the numbers to order the badges required...



SEND news

Learning Plans have been e-mailed out to parents and carers today so please have a look in your inbox. As part of the Send Graduated Response at the Review stage we are very keen to involve families in reviewing the progress children make against their targets. Moving forward we will be asking parents to send any comments that they would like recorded on their child's learning plan to the class e-mail accounts (e.g. ash@pilgrimscross.co.uk) The next formal review will take place in December at the end of this term. We hope that you find it useful to refer to the targets that your child is working on in school.

Nessy

We are pleased to share that we have recently subscribed to Nessy, which is an online learning resource aimed at supporting children with phonics, reading, writing, maths and spelling. We have also started to use **Nessy Dyslexia Quest** in school this week which is a screening tool. The screening tool does not diagnose children but will show if there is an area that is of concern and interventions are then suggested. If you have requested for your child to have a Dyslexia Screening your child's teacher or I will be sharing the results with you over the next few weeks as we work our way through the assessments.



Some children across the school will be accessing Nessy as part of planned interventions in school and they will receive log in details in their reading diaries. Children with log-ins will also be able to access Nessy resources at home. Please see your child's teacher if you have any further questions or e-mail me at senco@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Many thanks, Mrs Hutchison, SENCo.



Please see below a testimonial from Nessy:

About Us

At Nessy we are best known as advocates for children with dyslexia around the globe. But the Nessy programs are not only for dyslexia. Nessy is widely used for whole class, phonics, maths, typing and early reading instruction. Nessy collaborates with some of the world's leading academics, and follows the Science of Reading, to ensure our programs are based upon proven research.



The Nessy Approach To Learning

Nessy learning is inclusive because it is individualised. Methods are based on Structured Literacy, and are guided by the Science of Reading.

<https://www.nessy.com/en-gb/about-us/mical-the-film>

<https://youtu.be/jjjmb86OCyw>

Well done, everyone!



Thank you!

Pilgrims Cross School

Your donation of 164.72kg is fabulous and will enable us to help our local community.

Katie Vincent
Foodbank Manager

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 (PBS) 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:

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>

FOPS Update

Donation of Laptops

Arranged by Becca Cutler and Sadie Wallis, Simplyhealth have very generously donated 60 laptops to the school to support the IT program, the first 30 have been delivered this week!

This means that the school is able to enhance the curriculum, foster digital literacy and ensure that the children have the opportunities to develop essential skills for the future.

Huge thanks to Simplyhealth, Becca and Sadie for their support and generosity.

Pre-Loved Toys, Books & Uniform Sale

Date TBC

Having a clear out ready for the festive season? We are looking for any donations of toys, games, teddies, books or uniform ready for our pre-loved sale.

Please drop any donations in to reception

Thank you!



Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Sunday 23rd November

A few spaces available for both am & pm sessions.

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

Tickets are £30 per person and this includes everything you need to create your wreath.

Email friendspilgrimsross@gmail.com to book your tickets

Christmas Disco "Jingle Bell Rock"

Wednesday 10th December

Come & have fun at the Christmas disco!

Tuck shop (for years 1 – 6) & temporary tattoos will be on sale

Entrance is £2, which will be collected on the door

- Year R – 4.00 – 4.45pm (45 mins)
- Year 1 & Year 2 – 5.00 – 5.45pm (45 mins)
- Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 – 6.00 – 7.00pm (1 hour)



Volunteers Required

We are always looking for volunteers to come along & help at events or even share your skills & experience with the school, maybe gardening is your thing, or painting, or even reading with the children?

Why not come along to one of our meetings and share your ideas, email us at friendspilgrimsross@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!

Key dates

- Thursday 13th November- Parent/Carer Evening
- Wednesday 26th November- Parent Workshop- Big Feelings (school hall), 8.30am (see details above)
- Tuesday 2nd December – Pantomime: *Beauty & The Beast*- in school, £3.77 per child
- Thursday 11th December- Christmas Jumper Day
- Thursday 11th December- Christmas Dinner
- Thursday 11th December- KS2 Christingle Service @ St Mary's, Andover- 6.00pm
- Friday 12th December – Year R Nativity @1.30pm
- Monday 15th December – Year R Nativity @ 3pm

- Tuesday 16th December – Year 2 Christmas performance @ 9.15am
- Tuesday 16th December – Year 1 Christmas performance @3pm
- Wednesday 17th December – Year 2 Christmas performance @ 3pm
- Thursday 18th December – Year 1 Christmas performance @ 9.15am
- Friday 19th December - Christmas Party Lunch
- Monday 5th January 2026- INSET day 4
- Monday 2nd February – Friday 6th February – Year 6 Residential
- Monday 16th March – Wednesday 18th March – Year 6 Bikeability
- Friday 19th June 2026- INSET day 5
- Friday 26th June 2026 – Year 6 Leavers Service at Winchester Cathedral

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>

We have been approached by Spotlight who are a charity that work with families across the South of England and provide access to discounted events, activities as well as supporting children with a variety of different needs. They have very kindly offered to work with Pilgrims' Cross CE (A) Primary School and wish to extend their offer for all families here.

They would like to offer families discounted and free fun activities like bowling, laser tag, donutting, paddleboarding, soft play, clip n climb, ninja warrior, Lagoona waterpark, swimming trampolining as well as discounted days out to places like Thorpe Park, Chessington (they offer payment plans for days out to give time to pay).

They would like to organise a timetable of events for families at a discounted price then the charity would subsidise the difference.

Spotlight normally have a gold membership which is a yearly one off fee of £7.50 per person and then families can receive up to 50% off however they would like to offer our families a discount on the gold membership for £5 per person and then this entitles you to activities at up to 50% off.

This is open to all pupils.

If you would like to sign up please complete the form below or scan the QR code on the poster attached. They will then send a timetable of fun activities.

<https://forms.gle/TM7gKy7ui7hsAVJx>

Discounted Family Fun upto half price off





Ninja Warrior

Laser Tag

Soft Play



Donutting

Glo Golf

Bowling

Flip Out

Days Out including Chessington, Legoland 4 Kingdoms and more

AND MORE...

Gold membership is £5 per person per year which gives activities at upto 50% off and then our charity funds the difference.
For more details please visit our website
www.spotlightuk.org or email activities@spotlightuk.org