

Pilgrims' Cross Newsletter



Dear Parents & Carers,

Following some complaints about parents/carers parking on double-yellow lines, our JRSOs were out in force, to watch driving behaviour this week. A lot of drivers also whizz past school, so they observed the speed of some of the vehicles. Please drive and park considerately near our school.

The JRSOs also joined Year 2, as they had a road safety webinar this week, learning about safe road crossing.

Next Friday, 28th November, is our **Time to Shine Day**.



Please let your child wear their **BRIGHTEST** clothing rather than school uniform, to enjoy some road safety fun during the day at school! See below for more details...



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		Alicja J	
Willow	Storie P		
Sycamore			Ariana S
Maple		Wren U	
Hazel	Theo W		
Lime		Jaxson S	
Elm			George L
Ash			Dylan W
Beech	Alayah H		
Pine		Ivy P	
Hawthorn		Emma W	
Aspen	Cephas L		
Juniper	Judy A		

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

In Oak and Willow, we started to innovate the story this week. We changed the "treasure" and the "character". The children had some great ideas including family, gems, diamonds, cats, etc. Our phonics sounds this week have been z, qu and ch - this is the start of learning our digraphs which is always an exciting time.

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. We have now even extended to fish below the ground for the letter tails. This week it was d, g, q and s.

In maths we have been looking at 1 more, 1 less and how numbers are made up to the number 5, for example 1 and 4 and 2 and 3 add together to make 5 in total. We loved going on the "bus and picking up passengers for one more and dropping them off for one less.

It was freezing this week and the children loved investigating the ice. We talked about how it might melt and we looked through the ice. We also built castle and had a dragon kitchen. The children were great at telling their imaginative stories. Finally, we had Little Red Riding Hood on the stage- again the children were fabulous at role-playing this.

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

Sycamore & Maple

This week in Maths the children have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes. We have then used these to make repeating patterns. Naming the 3D shapes can be tricky so this would be something helpful for you to practice at home - cube, cuboid, cone, cylinder, sphere and pyramid.

In English the children have been thinking of noun phrases to describe Rapunzel e.g. brave girl, golden hair, white dress, kind heart. We will be using these next week to write some descriptive sentences with 'and' to join two noun phrases together.

In Science we completed an experiment exploring which materials were absorbent and which were not. Ask your children how we investigated this - which materials did we test, how did we test them and what did we find?

We had special visitors from Rock Steady Music this week who performed songs in the hall for us and guided us through some exciting music activities. The children thoroughly enjoyed this experience and we have heard them singing "We Will Rock You" around the school ever since!

We hope you have a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing you next week.

Mrs Edgington, Miss Miners and Mrs Oliver-Hawkins

Lime & Hazel

This week we have continued our learning on addition and subtraction and we have been exchanging when adding - which has been quite tricky! We have also been comparing numbers using the greater than, less than and equal signs. In English we have continued planning and writing the opening of our letters to Jack trying to persuade him not to climb the beanstalk, giving reasons why. We have been working on our non-negotiables making sure we always use our capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. In RE this week, we used our creative skills to make diya candles out of paper plates - they are displayed in the classroom if you would like to take a look! In science we investigated materials and talked about which ones we could twist, bend, stretch and squash. Please make sure your children are practising their Nativity parts so they are confident when performing- it is not long to go now! Well done Year 2 another wonderful week.



Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

Year 3 have had another week full of hard work. We explored all about food miles and how this impacts the environment. The children also had a great surprise when finding out how much we can grow in the UK across the 4 seasons.

In maths, we continued to improve our understanding of column addition and subtraction. The children used the knowledge they gathered about foxes to create some brilliant sentences in English, setting them up for some excellent big writes in the future.

Well done all and Mr Dookheran and Mrs Bryan are already looking forward to how we can build on this knowledge next week.

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

Beech & Pine

Year 4 have had a wonderful week. They have embraced the cold weather arriving in class wrapped in hats, scarves, gloves and earmuffs and (once thawed out) have worked extremely hard on their lessons.

In English, we have continued planning our stories from the perspective of *Leaf*, a polar bear who finds himself in a new realm. The children have been exploring themes of feeling like an outsider and the importance of friendship, and their ideas have been fantastic.

In Mathematics, we have begun our new unit on multiplication and division. This week, we focused on the 3, 6 and 9 times tables, looking closely at the patterns between them to help improve recall and efficiency—an essential skill as we work towards the Times Tables Check towards the end of year 4. We've also been delighted to see so many pupils practising on Times Tables Rock Stars since their new reading diaries (and passwords!) went home.

It has also been a very musical week in Year 4. In our music lessons, we have continued exploring Rock and Roll, learning about its beginnings in the 1950s, trying out some hand jive, and playing along to tracks using percussion instruments. The excitement continued during Wednesday's Worship, when 'Rock Steady' visited Pilgrims' Cross. The whole school enjoyed an energetic performance featuring electric guitars, bass, drums, keyboards and vocals. A lucky group of pupils even had the chance to perform live as a band—giving their very first gig to all of Key Stage 2!

What a fantastic week of learning, creativity and confidence-building experiences for Year 4!

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

We have had a super week in 5/6! We have successfully moved forward with our fractions learning. The children have shown courage in their learning when dealing with mixed numbers and equivalent fractions and successfully simplifying larger fractions. We have also entered the writing stages of our English learning journey; the children will be creating a scene using phrases and words that help build suspense and tension to create our outcome of a cliffhanger ending. Finally, we have enjoyed more badminton in PE. The children have visibly improved from a few weeks ago and have enjoyed plenty of games of 2v2 in the hall. A special thanks to Mr Cascarini for getting the big ladder out and fishing several shuttlecocks off the hall window ledges! Well done to all the children in 5/6 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..!



Time to Shine Day!

5 top tips on how to **BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN**

- 1** Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2** If you're out and about when it's dark wear reflective items to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3** Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4** If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5** Of course, 'Being Bright' helps drivers to see you but that won't guarantee that you keep safe. You still need to make sure that you stop and look in all directions for traffic every time you cross.

**Be Bright,
Be Seen**

THINK

Health matters

This update includes the following topics

- Norovirus
- Respiratory Illness & infections diseases
- Infectious Disease Guidance

Norovirus

This is the time of year when we see cases of norovirus start to increase. In the last few weeks confirmed cases of norovirus have fluctuated but remain within expected levels. Currently rates are highest in children aged 0 - 4 yrs. As we approach the colder months it is important to remember the simple steps we can all take to prevent the virus spreading.

Handwashing with soap and water is the most effective way to prevent infection and limit the spread but other cleaning and disinfection actions are important. Remember hand sanitiser is not effective against norovirus.

Respiratory illness & Infectious Diseases

Children are known to be superspreaders of cough and cold viruses. Thank you for supporting the nasal flu immunisation programme by working with the School Age Immunisation Service. This vaccination is proven to reduce influenza infection in children and therefore reduce the spread to others. Unfortunately, we don't have a vaccine for all the respiratory viruses out there, so we need to continue to take action to prevent spread in other ways.

- Cases of **scarlet fever** in England are currently increasing but are inline with expected seasonal levels.
- Confirmed cases of **measles** in England are decreasing since a peak earlier this year. Cases in Hampshire are very low. [Measles: Frequently asked questions](#)
- Cases of **chickenpox** in England are inline with seasonal trends and currently decreasing. [Chickenpox fact sheet](#)

Cold Weather

Please note the following:

- Children aged 5 years and under are particularly vulnerable to the effects of adverse cold weather. However, the effects of cold, especially in combination with other environmental conditions including damp, can affect children of all ages and particularly those with underlying medical conditions
- Cold weather can increase the risk of respiratory infections, skin conditions such as eczema and mental health problems
- Please equip your child with cold weather clothing, including a warm, rainproof coat and gloves/hat, where necessary

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@pilgrimscoast.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.



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 (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>



Managing Your Child's Anxiety

An online workshop for parents and carers at Andover primary and junior schools offering information around what anxiety is and tips for how to support your child.

Date: Monday 24th November, 2025

Time: 12pm (lasting 45 minutes – 1 hour)

Location: Online via Teams using the link below:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 376 824 739 913

Passcode: SF3Zw9VA

Topics covered:

- What is anxiety?
- When & why does anxiety become a problem?
- Causes of anxiety
- Maintenance of anxiety
- How to help your child
- Strategies and resources

What To Expect:

This online workshop will be delivered by experienced mental health practitioners from your schools' Mental Health Support Team. They will talk through the topics listed and give strategies on how to support children who may be having difficulties with managing worry and anxiety. There will be opportunity for general questions.



Meet the Governors...

Each week, we will introduce you to a school Governor. Our Governors do a wonderful job, monitoring and holding the school to account in terms of progress and achievement. We feel that they deserve to be highlighted- as a lot of their hard work is behind the scenes!

We begin with our new Chair of Governors, David Rawlins...



David Rawlins

Chair Of Governors & Parent
Governor

After 12 years in the military — where I was medically discharged following injuries sustained in Afghanistan — I built a new career focused on leadership, integrity, and continuous improvement.

I now lead a consultancy that supports organisations with governance, compliance, and risk management, helping them to build transparent, responsible, and high-performing cultures.

As Chair of Governors, I'm committed to ensuring our school provides a safe, inclusive, and inspiring environment where every child is encouraged to thrive, every voice is valued, and every decision supports the best possible outcomes for our pupils and families.

Lunchtime Assistant vacancy

Monday to Friday 11.30 to 1.00pm or 12.00 to 1.30pm = 7.5 hours a week depending on the needs of the school. Termtime only but please be aware that you will be required to attend 5 inset days during the school term. Hourly rate £12.66.

Interested? Contact recruitment@pilgrimscross.co.uk

FOPS Update



Year 6 Hoodies

We are hoping to order these ASAP ready for the new term, so please ensure your £10 is fully paid by Tuesday 25th November – 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 friendspilgrimscross@gmail.com to book your tickets

Christmas Artwork – Shop Re-opened!!

FINAL Closing date – Monday 1st December

There's a second chance to purchase your child's artwork on cards, mugs, keyrings, teddies and more!

Shop re-opens Friday 21st November

Pre-Loved Toys, Books & Uniform Sale

Wednesday 10th December 4pm – 7pm



Having a clear out ready for the festive season?
We are looking for any donations of toys, games, teddies, books or uniform for our pre-loved sale.
Please drop any donations in to reception
Thank you!



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, permission forms coming home soon

- 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

- Wednesday 26th November- Parent Workshop- Big Feelings (school hall), 8.30am (see details above)
- Friday 28th November- **Time to Shine Day- non-uniform (wear your brightest clothing!)**
- 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
- Thursday 18th December – Service Children Christmas party @ 1.45pm
- Friday 19th December - Christmas Party Lunch and Christmas Clothes Day
- 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>