



Dear Parents & Carers,

Our pupils certainly looked bright and stood out this week! In our collective worship this week, we thought about how we could make a difference and be a 'light to others' in our behaviour.

Our JRSOs also inspired the school to think about how to keep safe on their journeys to and from school and how to 'stand out' in the dark. We had a wonderful array of bright clothing on show and 6 lucky winners were chosen to receive a hi-viz bag and reflectors. Winners announced next week!

As our thoughts turn to the start of Advent on 1st December, we are pleased to announce our upcoming Christingle Service...

On the evening of the 11th December, we will be holding our KS2 Christingle service at St.Mary's Church, Andover. Due to capacity of the building, this will only be for children in Key Stage 2 (years 3-6)

All pupils will be making a Christingle in the w/b 8th December (thanks to FOPS for donating the ingredients!) and will be encouraged to come with their parents/carers in the evening on the 11th for a 6pm start. All parents/carers of children in Key Stage 2 are invited to attend, as part of our Christmas festivities.

I will be asking KS2 Spiritual Ambassadors and other children for help with readings/contributions. Please join us for this festive occasion!

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	Zuzanna M		
Willow		Braxton F-R	
Sycamore	Benjamin S		
Maple	Poppy G		
Hazel		Holly C	
Lime			Arianna Y
Elm		Oliver T	
Ash	Sikemi B		
Beech		Ziva B	
Pine		Indie P	
Hawthorn		Annabelle E	
Aspen	Freyja H		
Juniper			Archie K

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

Year R have had a lovely wintery week. We went outside to explore all of the ice, thinking about how it was made and what it looked like. We have continued to learn our digraphs in phonics and we have re-visited 1 more, 1 less and how the numbers 4 and 5 can be made.

We have also been working very hard on our nativity, learning lines, learning where to stand and learning our songs. We can't wait to show you how great our nativity is!

We can't wait to start all of our fun Christmas activities next week!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

Sycamore & Maple

This week Year One have enjoyed learning about road safety and it has been such fun to see the children all dressed in their bright clothes to end our week!

In Maths we have recapped some of our learning from this term. We have practiced completing part whole models, using number lines for addition and subtraction and have explored number bonds to 10 once again. Number bonds remain an area of focus for the children and so we would like to encourage as many children as possible to access NumBots at home. Don't forget you can turn the countdown timer off in the corner of the screen by tapping it, if that helps your child focus and enjoy the activities more.

In English the children have now learnt what nouns, adjectives and verbs are! They used this new knowledge to write a poem about Rapunzel's bedroom. We were really proud of the children's writing and cannot wait to begin rewriting Rapunzel with them next week!

In Science the children completed an investigation into materials and whether or not they are waterproof. It was fun to hear the discussions between the children and to observe the children work together in groups to investigate each material's properties.

In Geography the children drew a map of the school playground and the improvements they would like to make to it. They created a key to go with their map to help identify the key features.

Well done Year One for another fantastic week!

Mrs Edgington, Mrs Wakefield & Miss Miners

Lime & Hazel

This week we have continued writing our letter to Jack by using persuasive language. We have written our opener and our first paragraph and have looked at the skill of adding 'ful' and 'ness' as suffixes! We have used all or non-negotiables to write some wonderful sentences using our kinetic letters. In maths, we have started our unit on shape. We now know the difference between a 2D and 3D shape and some of their key properties (please ask your child how many vertices a pentagon has!!) This week we have been scientists and have conducted an experiment on different materials and how far they stretched! Some Nativity costumes have started to come in, which is fabulous and very well prepared! - Thank you! Please carry on rehearsing your lines and well done to those who have memorised them!

SPECIAL REQUEST: Next Thursday (4/12/25) at 1.45pm we love to host a volunteer in each class to talk to us about their experience at school- specifically the school environment. This is to support our learning in History about classrooms of the past. Please contact the office if you are available and we will get back to you as soon as possible to confirm - we look forward to seeing you.

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

Another week gone, and another week of hard work and achievement for both year 3 classes. We have now finished our long unit of addition and subtraction. All the children have worked really hard throughout this and have learnt lots of new concepts. In English, we have planned our last big write of the year and look forward to seeing how our information reports on foxes turn out. In our reading, we started looking a new text linked with our history. It is called *The Stolen Spear* and follows a boy called Wolf in the Stone age. Elsewhere in the curriculum, we have looked at how we could create soundscapes for a piece of video with not sound and also tested which surfaces have the most friction.

Well done to everyone for their love, courage and trust when it comes to their learning this week.

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

Beech & Pine

Year 4 have had another busy week this week, finished with our 'Be Bright, Be Seen' Day where the children all dressed up accordingly and some could definitely be spotted from miles away! Good job everyone.

We have been continuing our work around times tables in maths, learning some rules and patterns to help us remember them more easily. During our English we have been finishing off our story of the Polar Bear 'Leaf' and telling his story. The children have all used a great range of expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials to describe settings and characters.

Our history topic of 'How children's lives have changed' has been proving very interesting and this week we have focused on the jobs that children used to have to do. I think some of the children became very happy about their lives and coming to school for 6 hours a day rather than being stuck down a coal mine with no light or food for 14 hours.

We look forward to the start of Advent next week and the run up to Christmas where we will be enjoying some Christmas-themed activities, including the Pantomime and Christmas decoration making next Tuesday.

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

What a successful week it has been in 5/6! Firstly, the children have all completed and written up some brilliant cliffhanger narratives about our text *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. The children have worked hard to include plenty of detail and description throughout their pieces and finished them with some small art pieces. We cannot wait to put as many of these on display as possible! We have also developed our fractions knowledge further. The children nailed their adding and subtracting to and from a mixed number and are moving onto adding two mixed numbers together. We also investigated patterns of migration and looked at the key factors behind why people move to and from certain places. The children clarified the difference between a push and a pull factor and discussed which pull and push factors there might be for certain countries around the world. Well done on another week of hard work!

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..!



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

Faces at the window...

Lots of our younger children are struggling to settle after being dropped off at their classes. Please could parents and carers not hang around, tap on the glass and stare at the children as they put their coats away? Please get in the habit of saying goodbye and leaving the site promptly- this will give your child the best chance of settling for the day.

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

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!

This week, it's one of our Foundation Governors, Jenny Evans...



Jenny Evans

Foundation Governor

My working life was spent in education, starting as a secondary school teacher in SE London before taking a career break to raise my 3 children, then retraining as a primary school teacher. After that, I worked in the same one-form entry school in Dartford for almost 25 years, teaching classes in all year groups except Reception. For the last part of my career, I was appointed as Assistant Head and then took over as Acting Head for the last year. Throughout most of my time in this school, I was on the Governing board as a Staff Governor.

On retiring, I moved to Andover with my husband, and we settled in happily here about 20 months ago. I have 4 (soon to be 5!) grandchildren living in Bristol and Kent. I decided to offer my services as a Governor because of my desire to see schools become the best they can, offering opportunities to all children to become keen learners and to achieve their potential.

I am a committed member of St Mary's Church in Andover, where I am involved in leading the children's work and the Parent and Toddler group. Outside of this, I have enjoyed having time to work in the garden, getting to know the area by visiting local towns and attractions and taking walks in the countryside whenever possible.

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:

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>

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@pilgrimsco.co.uk

Football reports...

PILGRIMS CROSS (5) 9 ANTON B (2) 4

A marvellous time was had by all in our first competitive football match of the season. Pilgrims' Cross hosted Anton in a highly entertaining and skilful encounter, with Pilgrims' Cross coming out on top 9-4.

Pilgrims got off to a flying start and were 5-0 up within the first 15 minutes of the game. Goals were flying in from all directions and if it hadn't been for the Anton goalkeeper, the scoreline would have been even more impressive. Both posts and bar were hit as Pilgrims' attacked with vim and vigour,

Anton then started getting into their stride and brought the score back to 5-2 by half time. They began the second half in much the same way they finished the first, and if it wasn't for James Beecham in the Pilgrims' goal and the stout defending of Albie Stone, the scoreline could have been reduced further.

Pilgrims', after this initial salvo, soon found their feet and scoring boots again, with Jude S and Harry S contributing hat-tricks. Toby R held the midfield together with Oscar N and Alfie C displaying neat touches and brave commitment on the wings. Jesse R and Luke W also played superbly, with Jesse S (who gave everything), Luke and Alfie scoring the other goals.

A fine match, played in a wonderful competitive spirit by both schools, was enjoyed by the children and parent supporters alike and even some of the Year 5/6 children came out to cheer on the boys in the second half, which added to the enjoyable atmosphere.

Mr Osmond



This week we have had our first girls' football match of the season against Balksbury. The group have only had 2 training sessions under their belt before the fixture but showed great courage and camaraderie in wanting to go and play in their first competitive match.

The first half was frantic and the team showed wonderful resilience with Edith starting in goal Ruby, Laila and Lacey steadfast in defence. The whole team started to show some real promise, keeping their shape

more and more as the game progressed making Darci and Layla far more effective in midfield. The tenacious defending continued but could not withstand for the whole half conceding the lead before the half. In the second half we grew into the game and started to apply some pressure ourselves with Aurora and Kasandra leading the charge. This resulted in some lovely play, knocking the ball around in the middle of the pitch and starting to find some space to connect with one another. As a result, we scored our first goal of the season which was a lovely team goal where nearly every player on the pitch touched the ball before it was coolly slotted home by Lola.

The result was not in our favour, with a 7-1 defeat. However, the commitment, determination and progression within the game meant the girls thoroughly deserved their goal against a very experienced Balksbury side and shows signs of good things to come.

A fantastic game by all. Mr Edgington

FOPS Update



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

friendspilgrims@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!

Safeguarding- Roblox

We have been made aware of a pop-up that is appearing on Roblox, encouraging children to download an app called polybuzz (or polyfuzz in some spelling cases). The app seems quite simple - where children are asked questions, and it generates an Artificial Intelligence 'friend'. This starts off quite innocently but then begins to show extreme content (including suicide, self-harm and pornography).

Please talk to your child about not clicking on pop-ups in games and that they should report anything that is worrying or inappropriate to a trusted adult.

Roblox has parental controls and instructions on how to put these on can be accessed via this link - [Parental Controls Overview – Roblox Support](#) .

Please remember that while parental controls will stop some pop-ups, they will not stop them all. Therefore, children should be appropriately supervised when playing on devices.

Key dates

- 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>