



Dear Parents & Carers,

The season of Advent has begun! Each day, in collective worship, our children have been reflecting on the theme of waiting. Often, waiting is difficult but there is something powerful in waiting... making the expected event even better when it arrives. Over the next few weeks, we will be thinking about the Christmas story- God sending His long-awaited Son.

We would love to extend our Advent celebrations by offering you an invitation to join us for our **Key Stage 2 Christingle Service** at St Mary's Church, Andover next Thursday, 11th December, beginning at 6pm. Children from Year 3-6 are invited to come with their parents/carers to participate, sing carols... and make Christingles!



On another note, pantomimes are part of many people's Christmas. We all enjoyed *Beauty and the Beast* this week. Don't forget that we have Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper day coming up too- see the calendar below for more details.

Happy Advent!

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	Luuk S		
Willow		Ayesha N	
Sycamore		Everly F-E	
Maple			Matthias P
Hazel			Lola N
Lime			Laura O
Elm		Oliver C	
Ash		Tilly F-P	
Beech		Addilyn S	
Pine		Leo C	
Hawthorn	Annabel E		Amelia B
Aspen	Max D		
Juniper		Baboucarr S	

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

We've been busy in Oak and Willow this week, preparing for our nativity performance. The children have all been incredibly resilient to changes to our usual timetable and have taken it all in their stride. In phonics we have been reviewing all the sounds we have learnt this term and have been practising reading words with 's' on the end such as 'sits' and 'dogs'.

In maths we have been learning about routines and calendars. This has worked perfectly with the start of advent. We have also been learning about squares and rectangles. We know they are 4-sided shapes and that we can combine them to make other shapes. We had so much fun exploring this.

In literacy we have met a very clumsy polar bear, wondered where some mysterious presents came from and started our adventure into the Christmas department store.

Christmas has arrived in our classrooms this week, and they now look very festive. The children have enjoyed decorating the trees and have done such a good job we think they could start their own decorating business!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

Sycamore & Maple

It has been another fun week in Year One!

The children have become authors this week and have been busy writing a retelling of the Rapunzel story. They will be completing these on Monday and then will be sharing them with Year 5/6 on Tuesday! We are so proud of the progress the children have made in their writing so far this year. Well done Year One!

In Science this week the children investigated whether or not materials were tough. They explored this by seeing whether or not they were easy to tear. We found that the silicone, plastic, felt and fabric couldn't be torn easily so they were tough materials.

In Design and Technology, the children constructed their pencil pots. They worked hard to mirror their original design and followed the instructions very carefully. We are really happy with the final results and the children have tested how many pencils their pots can hold!

Year 1 will be doing a Christmas performance on 16th December at 3pm and 18th December at 9:15am.

For this performance we would like them to wear a Christmas jumper/outfit. Please send your child in with this in a named carrier bag by Monday 15th December.

Thank you

Mrs Edgington, Mrs Wakefield & Miss Miners

Lime & Hazel

This week we have continued our maths work on shape. We have learnt to name 3D shapes and count their faces. We have used mathematical language such as edges, vertices and faces. We have also learnt how to sort 2D shapes into groups. In English we have learnt some new skills using conjunctions such as or, if, but, so and because and we have linked our sentences to Jack and the Beanstalk. We have even used our sentence checker to ensure all our non-negotiables are in our sentences. In RE this week we have learnt about advent as well as Hannukah (Judaism) and the significance of the candles in such festivals. We had two wonderful visitors this week help support our History work. The children had great fun using the questions they had written to find out about schools from the past! Thank you to everyone who has bought in their Nativity costumes. our first live performance to parents will be the **16th December at 9.15am** make sure you buy your tickets in advance! We also have a **3pm performance on the 17th December**. The children will go straight to the hall from school so parents on this day we hope to see you in the hall to watch. Any issues regarding the Nativity please email hazel@pilgrimscross.co.uk.

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

Year 3 have had a very enjoyable week. On Tuesday, we had the pleasure of watching a production of the *Beauty and the Beast* pantomime, which was enthralling from start to finish. We also had the chance to finish our upstairs downstairs mental health workshop on how to regulate our big emotions and help us to 'repair the stairs.' All the children engaged very well so make sure you ask them all about their emotional toolkits. Within lessons, we started our multiplication and division unit. Also, the children have started writing their informative writes which all look amazing so far.

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

Beech & Pine

It has been a productive and enjoyable week in Year 4 with Christmas approaching. We enjoyed the pantomime so much that we decided to send the performers some *Thank You* messages and cards. In English we have completed our final write inspired by the story of 'Leaf'. We became the main character and told a short narrative from the polar bear's point of view and the journey he took to find his way back home. Next week we shall start to plan and craft an information piece concerning Polar Bears, and life in their own natural habitat, the High Arctic. Did you know they spend 4 months underground during those dark, frozen winter months, in which time they also give birth to their cubs?

In maths we have focused on how we can deepen understanding and increase our fluency by making links between the 3, 6 and 9 times-tables, whilst in Dance we performed paired movement, shape and dynamics to represent music from 'The Spy'. PE has involved honing hockey skills and we have enjoyed learning about the Buddhist scriptures in RE this week.

Two weeks and still plenty to learn and do...

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

In Year 5/6 this week, we have begun our maths learning journey into multiplication and subtraction. The children have started by learning how to multiply two 2-digit numbers together. We used the long multiplication method, using a placeholder when multiplying by a multiple of 10. The children successfully picked up the method very quickly! In English, we have continued our investigative work when analysing a written report. We have identified the scene in which we will be writing about and have done some thorough analysis looking at structural and language features. Finally, the children used torches to complete an experiment in science based around shadows and sizes. We concluded that the closer an object is to a light source, the larger the shadows it creates. Well done to all the children at the end of a very busy week!

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

New School Caterers- Chartwells

We have a new school catering company, Chartwells.

In the spring, school meals will cost a reduced price of **£2.75**. Please check out the menus and introductory letter, attached with this newsletter.

Hot Choc Friday!

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



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

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 Parent Governors, Rowena Hansen...



I am a veterinary surgeon with a PhD in parasitology. I work as a senior leader within the civil service, and as an advocate for animal health and welfare, and the environment. I am an active Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) ambassador with a strong commitment to inspire interest in STEM fields in education.

As a parent at Pilgrims' Cross for ten years, I have been a part of the school's journey of growth and change. As a Parent Governor, I value the collaboration between families and educators to enhance the school experience and education for our children.

Dr. Rowena Hansen DVM PhD
MRCVS

Football match report

Balksbury Junior 1 Pilgrims' Cross 0

Pilgrims' Cross encountered their second football match of the season away to Balksbury Junior School on Thursday. Once again it was a superb showing from the children, in what proved to be an excellent match between two well-matched teams.

Pilgrims' Cross started the brighter, passing the ball around with ease and working well as a team as they attacked the Balksbury goal. If it wasn't for some assured goalkeeping and strong defending from the home team, Pilgrims' would have taken an early lead. Zac U went close, as did Cephas L but Balksbury resisted this early onslaught. Slowly but surely Balksbury started to take some control of the game and James B in the Pilgrims' goal was called into action, making several outstanding saves. Archie K and Ethan B defended stoutly and Oliver P in midfield ran his socks off! Hugo E came on to shore-up the defence with some vital interceptions and Alfie R added steel to the midfield as Balksbury continued to press forward.

Coby K broke free on two occasions, running in on the Balksbury goal, with one shot flashing just past the far post and a second hitting the side netting from distance. Honours even at half time 0-0.

Balksbury took an early lead in the second half with a well constructed move and goal and they would have gone two nil up soon after if James B hadn't spread himself brilliantly to deny the previous goalscorer. Robin T was called upon to make several important challenges and provide a cheeky back-heel, as Pilgrims' Cross bravely fought back. And it was Pilgrims' who were pressing for an equaliser for the final 5 minutes of the game. Wave after wave of attack was repelled by the Balksbury defence, with a final cross shot from Zac U signalling the end of a highly entertaining game of football.

The boys behaved impeccably, shaking hands with all the opposing players and referee at the conclusion to the game. Thanks to Mrs Hopgood for her support and to all the parents who kindly drove their children to and from the venue.

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.

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@pilgrimscross.co.uk

FOPS Update



We are looking forward to seeing you at the pre-loved toy sale! Drop the kids off at the disco & come & do a bit of Christmas shopping in the library without them seeing!!

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) will be on sale Entrance is £2, check your children's bags for permission forms & return them by Wednesday

- o Year R – 4.00 – 4.45pm (45 mins)
- o Year 1 & Year 2 – 5.00 – 5.45pm (45 mins)
- o 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

friendspilgrimscross@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!

CAS KIDS - weekly art club



For 5 - 12 year olds

Every Friday from 4pm - 5pm
in Andover (term time only)

The weekly classes run by Chapel Arts Studios offer a space for children to engage with a range of materials and with their ideas in a hands-on approach, discovering new artists and techniques and developing their self-expression in a relaxed environment.



Sessions take place at various venues in collaboration with local spaces in Andover each term.

For more information and to book visit
www.chapelartsstudios.co.uk/cas-kids

Safeguarding- Roblox

We have been made aware of a pop-up that is appearing on Roblox, encouraging children to download an app called pollybuzz (or pollyfuzz 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

- 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>