



Dear Parents & Carers,

We are half-way through Advent now- not much longer for our children to have to wait! There are many special events and off-timetable experiences over these weeks. The recent pantomime was a hit, Christmas dinner & Christmas jumper day was fun, the FOPS disco was well-attended- and the upcoming Key Stage 1 plays are, I'm sure, going to be a lovely reminder about the meaning of Christmas.

We had an absolutely wonderful time together on Thursday evening, at St Mary's Church, taking part in our Christingle service. It was great to see so many parents & carers there, to sing carols- and to make the Christingles. The Spiritual Ambassadors led us through the elements of the service and it was good to meet Peter Harwood, the new Rector, who told us about the meaning of the elements of the Christingle.

Being a Church of England primary school is a distinctive and previous element of our school culture. I gather that it has been a long time since we were last at St Mary's Church- only older siblings in year 8 & 9 that I spoke to could remember going! A big 'thank you' goes to the team at the church, who made us all feel so welcome.

For me, it was a great way to begin to get 'into the Christmas spirit'!

Have a great weekend,

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		Evie-Grace D	
Willow			George M
Sycamore	Noa S		
Maple		Jayme W	
Hazel		Jack Payne	
Lime		Alexander D	
Elm		Louis H	
Ash		Sikemi B	
Beech		Addilyn S	
Pine		Drishya R	
Hawthorn		Corey M	
Aspen		Darci M	
Juniper			Lorilee L

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

It has been a really exciting week in Oak and Willow class!

In maths we have been learning all about measure- we weighed presents and compared them with each other, focusing on key vocabulary: heavier and lighter. We have compared capacity and discussed how a container is full, empty and overflowing.

In English we have continued to explore our vehicle text, *The Christmas Department Store*. We have made predictions and thought about the key events of the story and re-ordered them.

Our big exciting journey this week has been our Nativity! We have been busy practising and on Thursday we did our dress rehearsal to KS1. It was a bit nerve-wracking, being on stage in front of an audience, but we did so well and the feedback was positive. On Friday it was the big show day and we performed in front of parents/carers. Everyone felt a little nervous but we understood that's a normal feeling. Despite the nerves everyone did an amazing job and our cheeks all hurt from smiling so much. We are so proud of everyone and all their hard work. All ready to do it again on Monday!



Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

Sycamore & Maple

What a busy week! We finished our Rapunzel story on Monday and really enjoyed reading them to Year 5 and 6. We have moved on to instructions and will be writing these instructions next week about how to grow a reindeer. In Maths, we have moved on to numbers to 20 and have worked hard to identify the 10s and 1s in a given number. In Computing we have learnt about commands. The children have really impressed us on their recent phonics assessments so well done everyone! Maple Class had their class treat on Monday and loved to decorate Christmas biscuits. Sycamore Class will have their treat on Wednesday 17th December. Please can the children wear pyjamas to school and bring a cuddly toy. We have been busy practising our Christmas show and can't wait to show you next week. **Just a reminder that the children need to bring a Christmas jumper in a named carrier bag by Monday 15th December at the latest.**

Mrs Edgington, Mrs Wakefield & Miss Miners

Lime & Hazel

This week we have continued our maths work on shape. We have learnt to sort 3D shapes mathematically and count their faces, vertices and edges. We have also learnt how to sort 2D shapes into groups. In History we have been learning about classrooms from the past. We have looked at classrooms and how they differ from classrooms today. Thank you to everyone who has bought in their Nativity costumes. We did our first dress rehearsal today which was so much fun! We are all ready to show you how hard we have been working. We have also had our assessments and the children have worked very hard. 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.

We would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and we hope you enjoy the Nativity.

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

What a fabulously festive week we've had in Year 3!

We have finished off our Big Write all about fantastic foxes, and in Maths we've been challenging ourselves with multiplication and division. In Science, we experimented with bar magnets to discover which objects in our classroom were magnetic and non-magnetic. It was also wonderful to see so many familiar faces at our school disco and Christingle service this week. The children have shown great determination and tenacity in their end-of-term assessments, and we are feeling incredibly proud of them all.

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

Beech & Pine

Year 4 have enjoyed a wonderful week, embracing the Advent theme through class worship, singing carols, and quite literally *spreading the light* as they decorated their classroom. Despite proudly owning the smallest Christmas tree in KS2 (Pine Class) they are certainly full of festive cheer!

In Computing, the children have been putting the finishing touches to their interactive digital greetings' cards. They have been coding movement, sound and speech into their characters—showing that they are beginning to learn how to *create* games, not just play them.

In RE, pupils have been exploring the key events that led to the writing of the Buddhist Canon (a collection of texts describing Buddhist teachings). They have also been learning about how Buddhists might use these texts and developing their skills in distinguishing between evidenced information, beliefs and opinions.

This week, Year 4 have also begun researching, planning and writing an information text about polar bears. After watching some captivating videos of polar bears in their natural habitat, we discussed fascinating vocabulary such as *blubber* and explored the polar bear's extraordinary sense of smell—strong enough to detect a seal from up to 20 miles away (the equivalent of us smelling our dinner in Winchester all the way from school in Andover!). The children were amazed to learn that a polar bear's paw can be up to 30 cm wide! and is partially webbed to help it swim.



Alongside all this exciting learning, pupils have been completing their end-of-term assessments in Maths, Reading and Spelling. They have shown excellent focus and determination, working independently to demonstrate everything they have learned this term.

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

Congratulations to all the children in 5 and 6 for getting to the end of test week! We are very proud of their efforts and have seen lots of great scores throughout the course of the week. Alongside this, we have continued developing our learning in lessons such as Maths – where we have moved on to multiplying 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers using the long multiplication method. As well as this, we have investigated how periscopes work in science; we have looked at reflection and the angle which the mirrors must be placed at. We have also designed our ideal town in Geography – looking at aspects such as sustainability, energy efficiency and safety for people in the community. We talked about pull factors and what would make people want to move to your town.

Well done to all the children for their hard work this week and have a restful weekend ahead of the final week of term!

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..!



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, Rev. Howard Jameson...



Howard Jameson

Foundation Governor

I have lived near Andover for over 30 years and, although getting ordained meant I worked away for over twenty years, we always counted Andover as home. My wife and I worship at St Mary's Church, although I take services all around the area. My current Clergy role is that of Assistant Archdeacon of Winchester. Previously, I have been a Vicar around Bradford-on-Avon and then moved to urban north Bristol to live on a brand-new housing development. Whilst in north Bristol, I was also on the Diocesan Board of Education, and for the last three years there I was the Vice Chair of the Board. This is the sixth school at which I have been a Foundation Governor.

I am married with two grown-up sons and one grandson. I have just completed an MA in Theology. In 2023, I walked the West Highland Way in order to be able to write more knowledgeably about being alone in the wilderness. I play the guitar and love photography. My wife and I try to spend time away in our camper, preferably in France. When I'm at home, I love to cook and bake bread regularly.

Christmas fun...!



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>

Key dates

- 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.pilgrims�ross.co.uk/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8&pid=8&viewid=1>

HAMPSHIRE MUSIC EDUCATION HUB

LEARN ONLINE MUSIC PRODUCTION WITH HAMPSHIRE MUSIC SERVICE

ARE YOU AGED 8-13 WITH A DREAM OF CREATING MUSIC?
JOIN OUR ONLINE MUSIC PRODUCTION COURSE, OPEN TO ALL, REGARDLESS OF ABILITIES AND MUSICAL BACKGROUND!

CREATE AND RECORD YOUR OWN MUSIC ONLINE WITH EXPERT TUITION FROM HMS STAFF!

SESSIONS ARE HELD ON THURSDAYS, 16.30 - 17.30	A MINIMUM OF 20 LESSONS OVER THE SPRING AND SUMMER SCHOOLS TERMS	DEVELOP YOUR SEQUENCING, RECORDING AND EDITING SKILLS!
---	--	--

£70 PER TERM - JUST £7 PER LESSON!

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP NOW!

for more information, visit: musicproduction.hantsmusic.org.uk

Hampshire County Council Music Service | Supported using public funding by Department for Education | ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Pop Up Ensemble FREE

Pop Up Ensemble Lift Winton, Andover

JMST theatre, Lift Winton, London Road, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 2PS
Sunday 18 January 2026 9.15 - 13.15

Beginner to Grade 4

Back by Popular Demand!

Come and be part of a 'from scratch' orchestra!

Scan the QR code to register your place

Hampshire County Council Music Service



CHRISTMAS IN NEVERLAND



Come fly away to Neverland...
second star to the right and straight
on 'til morning!

Sunday 21st December
From 1pm - 4pm



At Picket Twenty Pavilion,
Telegraph Road



Come and join Peter & Tinkerbell
for some Christmas magic!

All pixies, pirates, and lost boys welcome.

Hold on tight... and here we go!

FREE Event



www.p20residentevents.co.uk



VIVID
plus+

CHRISTMAS BAKE OFF

£3 PER ENTRY

Bring your bakes to our
Christmas in Neverland event
on 21st December at 1pm
**£100 CASH PRIZE,
for 1st Place**

To Enter visit our website
www.p20residentevents.co.uk