

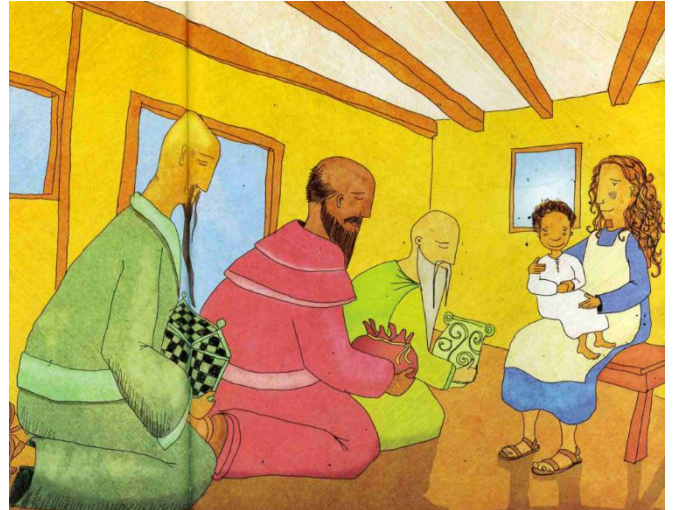


Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a very restful and fun-filled Christmas break.

Our children have returned to school in great spirits. The excitement of snow on the first day may have helped, but the whole week has been very productive and positive.

This week, the children have thought about the story of the Magi- the wise men. The Bible doesn't specifically mention that there were 3 but they were certainly wealthy and enjoyed astronomy! Epiphany is celebrated on the 6th January, and commemorates the visit of the Magi to Jesus. Unlike our school nativity plays, which have *all* the characters on stage at the same time, the visit of the Magi happened a few years later, when Jesus was an infant. These wise men discovered that Jesus had come to serve others, not to be served.



The children thought about how they, in turn, could serve others- at home and at school. This weekend, when not encourage them to help around the house, or to serve their siblings!

Our values of **Love**, **Courage** and **Trust** are more than just nice ideas. They underpin all we believe in and do as a school community. Let's begin this new year by putting these into practice in all aspects of our lives together...

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		Jimmy B	
Willow		Chevelle Y	
Sycamore		Asher-Blu H	
Maple	Luna D		
Hazel		Ambra B	
Lime	Imaan O		
Elm		Layton M	
Ash		Amiyah B	
Beech		Hallie L	
Pine		Millie S	
Hawthorn		Evie R	
Aspen	Cephas L		
Juniper	Kasandra W		

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

Welcome back Year R. It has been wonderful hearing what an amazing Christmas you have all had and seeing how settled you all were coming back into school.

What an exciting first day we had as well. There was snow on the Monday and then it snowed on and off through the morning of Tuesday. We all went out and followed the trails in the snow, we threw snowballs at the building, we made snow angels on the playground, and we tried to catch snowflakes on our tongues. We had the most fun and we loved hearing all of the children laughing while playing in the snow.

We cannot wait to see where their learning takes us this half term.

We are looking for donations for any clean milk bottles, milk or juice cartons and yoghurt pots so that we can make recycled bird feeders.

Thank you

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

Sycamore & Maple

It has been so much fun to have the children back in after the Christmas break! They have come back brilliantly and we have been so impressed with their readiness to learn and how quickly they have slotted into our usual routines and expectations.

In English we have begun exploring a new book - *Hermelin* by Mini Grey. The children will be discovering more about the story and the character Hermelin as we move through the story. In the end, they will be writing the story themselves! This week we have focused on using 'and' within a sentence and adding 's' or 'es' to the end of words to make them plurals.

In Maths the children have continued to work within 20 and are now exploring a number line to 20. This will support them when it comes to moving on to addition and subtraction within 20 next week.

In History we enjoyed sharing photographs of the children from their baby and early years. It was fun to talk about how they have changed over time and then share significant memories and moments, which the children then added to their own timeline.

A super first week back! Well done Year One!

Mrs Edgington, Mrs Wakefield & Miss Miners

Lime & Hazel

This week we have started our unit on money. We can now identify all the coins and notes in the UK! We have begun to add money together using just pounds, just pence and started a combination of both pounds and pence! Please go over this with the children at home. In English we have started a new text called "Tidy". We have predicted what we think we will happen in the text by using clues from the front cover and blurb. We have uplevelled sentences using adverbs and expanded noun phrases as well as unpicking new vocabulary. In science we looked at the human life cycle and the stages humans go through from birth. This week, in music, we have looked at pitch and talked about and used instruments and voices to make low-pitched and high-pitched sounds.

In Art we have revised the primary colours and had a fun time using paint to mix colours together to not only make secondary colours but also try and create some brand-new colours of our own. We created our very own colour wheels which was so much fun!

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

Year 3 have really hit the ground running this week. The children have produced some excellent reading in 4 reads and have been able to think really deeply because of this. In maths, we have continued with our multiplication and division. The children have been looking at reasoning their comparisons of different number sentences. In English, we have started to look at the *Rythm of the Rain* and how it describes the setting of different areas of water. Elsewhere, the children have started to count in French and look at lines of latitude and longitude in Geography. Well done to all involved.
Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

Beech & Pine

Happy New Year!

We've had a really great first week back. The children have returned with positive attitudes and a real enthusiasm for learning.

We've started looking at the book 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' in English and will be working towards writing our own mythical narrative using this as our example. In maths this week, we have continued our work on times tables and have been solving problems involving the 11 and 12 times tables. Our new geography unit is all about where our food comes from and we started by looking at the different biomes around the world and the impacts that eating a range of different foods has on the environment. It has been great to hear about everyone's Christmas holidays and lovely to see some home learning still be completed, trying to get those challenge points! Keep it up Year 4!

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

We have had a very successful return to school this week in year 5/6. We kicked off the week with the excitement of the snow, where we were able to enjoy playing in it during an extended break time. In Maths this week, we have recapped our understanding of short division and moved on to long division. Long division is a tricky concept to grasp but all teachers across the year group are amazed at how successful it has been. In English, we have begun our new learning journey focusing on our new narrative, FAR^{THER}. All children have immersed themselves into the topic well and lots of deep conversations were had. As well as core subjects, we have begun hockey in P.E, expressing ideas in ART and exploring the census in History. Well done to all pupils for a successful first week back!

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

The Spring term PE timetable is as follows...

Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Willow					
Oak					
Sycamore					
Maple					
Lime					
Hazel					
Ash					
Elm					
Beech					
Pine					
Juniper					
Aspen					
Hawthorn					

Hot Choc Friday!

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



Medication

I am pleased to let you know that, as of January, if your child feels a bit “under the weather” at school, we will be able to give a dose of paracetamol- e.g. “Calpol” (after having phoned you and got your permission) so that they can continue the day. This will not only allow the child to complete their school day if nothing major is wrong but also allow parents/carers not to have to come in from work to collect their child mid-day!

Caretaker Vacancy...

For only the third time in 12 years the position of Caretaker has become available, and we are seeking to appoint a reliable and enthusiastic person to join our friendly team at Pilgrims' Cross Primary School!

We are seeking a reliable, practical, hard-working and conscientious person to join our school team. The successful candidate will play a key role in maintaining the school premises and ensuring a safe and secure environment.

Key Responsibilities

- Opening and closing the school premises on a daily basis
- General maintenance and minor repairs
- Monitoring the condition of the buildings and grounds
- Ensuring health and safety standards are met
- Managing security, including locking/unlocking and alarm systems
- Supporting cleaning and site management as required
- Setting up rooms for school activities and events

The Ideal Candidate

- Has previous caretaking, maintenance, or facilities experience (desirable)
- Is practical, hardworking, and able to work independently
- Has good awareness of health and safety procedures
- Is reliable, flexible, and trustworthy
- Enjoys working in a school environment

The position will be 37.5 hours a week

Monday to Friday Split shifts of 6.00am to 10.00am and 2.30pm to 6.00pm

52 weeks a year contract

4 weeks holiday, to be taken outside term time

Closing date the 22nd January 2026

If you would like to have a discussion or a tour with Mr Cascarini please call on 01264 369523 or email recruitment@pilgrimscross.co.uk for an application pack.

Safer Recruitment

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We will ensure that all our recruitment and selection practices reflect this commitment. All successful candidates will be subject to Disclosure and Barring Service checks along with other relevant employment checks.

Attendance

Our current whole school attendance this year so far stands at **95.4%** which has taken a hit, due to recent illnesses which have been circulating.

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 Christmas, 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 our Local Authority Governor, Abi Churchill...



Abigale Churchill

Local Authority Governor

Having lived in Andover my whole life, I moved to P20 in the first wave of housing on the new development. My son joined when the school opened, and I became a Parent Governor that same year. I remained on as a Governor when my son left for seniors and now have the position of Local Authority Governor.

I enjoy helping in my community and over the years have volunteered at the community centre and the schools PTA. I attend church each week and currently serve within the Primary helping with singing time. Not as an example I might add!

I have my own Carpet & Furniture business which has been a family business since 1986. I left for a while and had a career in Supply Chain Management, Inventory and Purchasing but came back when I had my son.

I have a daughter, son, 2 beautiful granddaughters and an energetic Cockapoo. My free time is essentially full of family activities. I love the school very much and so being a Governor has always and continues to be a pleasure for me.

Ofsted information

Ofsted has produced some helpful. There is some written information- [click this link](#), and a helpful video on understanding the new 'Report Card' format and gradings. They are different from the old style inspection and it's important to note that the one-word judgement has been replaced by gradings in different areas of school life, Please check out the link and [video](#) for more information.



Key dates

- 20th January- parent workshop, 8.30am, school hall

- Monday 2nd February – Friday 6th February – Year 6 Residential
- Wednesday 4th February- parent workshop, 8.30am, school hall
- 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>