



Dear Parents & Carers,

Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

The guide from Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner, (attached to this week's newsletter email) focuses on the challenge of managing children's everyday online habits. It is a reflection of children's views and the Youth Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Panel to get their expertise on what works and what doesn't work between parents or carers and children in the 21st Century.

She writes: *When I speak to children about what they would do differently when it comes to being online, with the benefit of hindsight, I ask them: would they give a smartphone to their own teenager? Almost unanimously, they tell me no. They want to be protected from it as long as possible. Children are clear that they value firm, informed and protective boundaries when adults have concerns about the content they are accessing online. As parents, carers, and educators, our job must begin and end with our children's care and safety. It's what they expect and what they want from you.*

As one young person told me: "Don't be afraid to be firm... If you are worried [that] your child is seeing harmful content and you don't know what they're watching and it's affecting the behaviour, just take it that you know best – they don't."

I hope this guide will be a useful resource for you,

Do come and chat with anyone from the school further, if you want to discuss your child and online safety,

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			Oscar T
Willow	Ivy C		
Sycamore			Wyatt S
Maple			Kleo D
Hazel		Noah T	
Lime			Amelie D
Elm		Everlea B	
Ash			Oriana S
Beech		Poppy L	
Pine			Wilfred T
Hawthorn			Rebecca B
Aspen		Alfie S	
Juniper		Alfie R	

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

This week in maths we focused on the number 7. We used a website called *Popular* to support our maths learning. We learnt what number 7 looked like, how we make it and what's 1 more and 1 less. We became the character from our story, thinking about what questions we would ask and also how we would answer the questions. We thought about and wrote down what attributes our airlock would have like the ability to taste, smell, jump, run and hop.

Across the rest of the provision we have loved making cityscapes and learning what a city is, painting and dressing the mansions using smaller clips. The most exciting though was making bird feeders and placing them around the year r areas ready for the big bird watch next week.

We can't wait to see what exciting learning we will do next week

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

Sycamore & Maple

This week in English, we have been diving deeply into characters in our story. We have thought about what Hermelin looks like and how he is feeling at different parts of the story. In Maths we have been working on addition facts to 20. The children have tried really hard to use their number bond facts to 10 to help us with facts to 20. In History we have explored how we celebrate special events. In Art we used our 3D paper skills to make trees. In PSHE we learnt how to make an emergency call and when we may need to use them. Your child will be going home with a sheet explaining what they have learnt. Perhaps you could go through this with your children at home.

Mrs Edgington, Mrs Wakefield & Miss Miners

Lime & Hazel

This week we have been learning about writers' knowledge and being detectives trying to find evidence from the text! We have even learnt how to use commas in a list. We are reading a wonderful book about a cheeky dog called Heinz! In science we asked children from all year groups to join our science lesson on age and growth! We found out that just because you are tall you may not be older than someone else! In music we have worked on pitch and used our bodies as instruments to create a song as a class! This was so much fun! In RE we learnt the story of Daniel and the lions.

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

This week in Year 3 has been full of curiosity and creativity. The children became Antarctic researchers, creating brilliant postcards to share their discoveries about Antarctica. In Maths, they challenged themselves by using their multiplication knowledge to divide two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers, showing growing confidence and resilience. In Science, the children began exploring fossils, building excitement for next week when they will become palaeontologists. In PSHE, they turned into superheroes, identifying their own strengths and learning how kindness and courage can be used to help others. It has been wonderful to see just how thoughtful and caring this year group continues to be.

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

Beech & Pine

Year 4 pupils have had a fantastic week of learning.

In Music, the children have been exploring the origins of Samba music and have begun practising **syncopated rhythms**, working together in groups to create a samba band. They showed great teamwork and enthusiasm during these sessions.

In English, we have enjoyed revisiting and sequencing our myth adventure story *Arthur and the Golden Rope*. This has helped prepare the children for writing their own paragraphs over the coming weeks. They have been working hard to include **expanded noun phrases** and **fronted adverbials** in their writing.

In Maths, we have started learning about **factors**. A factor is a number that divides exactly into another number with no remainder (for example, 1, 2 and 4 are factors of 4).

In science, as part of our *States of Matter* topic, the children have been investigating the properties of **liquids and gases**, carrying out practical activities and sharing their observations.

Across the year group, the children have been demonstrating our worship theme of **encouragement**. It has been lovely to see them supporting and helping one another, particularly in maths and computing.

Well done to Pine and Beech pupils for another brilliant week!

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

In Year 5/6 this week, we have extended our fractions knowledge, learning how to multiply two fractions and including mixed numbers. The children have worked very hard, laying out their work and completing the methods of calculation in the correct order. It's been great to see so many books on the 'thumbs up' piles at the end of each lesson. We have also begun planning and writing our setting description in English. The children have included detailed expanded noun phrases and used dashes for parenthesis to add extra detail. We have carefully planned each part, and the children have been able to tick items off their checklist when they have included them. In PE, we have developed our hockey skills, learning how to trap the ball and push the ball rather than swinging and trying to hit it. The children enjoyed playing 'crush the castle' and working on their accuracy skills. As usual, well done to all the children for their hard work this week!

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

Hot Choc Friday!

I am meeting this week's children for hot chocolate *next Monday*, so they'll feature in the newsletter next week!

Attendance

Our current whole school attendance this year so far stands at **95%** which has slightly improved. Thank you for your support for ensuring regular attendance is a priority.

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.

Mrs Hathaway Familysupport@pilgrimsross.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 Foundation Governor, Mrs Scowen...



Jessica Scowen

Foundation Governor

I moved to Andover from London 10 years ago with my husband and 4 children. I have been a military wife for the past 25 years. I enjoy spending time with my family, being creative and getting out on my bicycle when I can.

I am a Foundation Governor and work in the school as an HLTA. I also run the group for service children, *Little Troopers*. I have been a Governor, in 4 different schools, totalling 12 years.

I love my job at Pilgrims' Cross and can't think of anywhere I would rather work! All the children are amazing, and I feel privileged to get to help them learn.

Key dates

- Monday 2nd February – Friday 6th February – Year 6 Residential
- Wednesday 4th February- parent workshop, 8.30am, school hall – **POSTPONED DATE TBC**
- Monday 9th February – Year 5/6 Class Celebration @ 8.45am
- Monday 9th February – Year 4 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Tuesday 10th February – Year 3 Class Celebration @ 8.45am
- Tuesday 10th February – Year R Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Wednesday 11th February – Year 2 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Thursday 12th February – Year 1 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- 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>