



Dear Parents & Carers,

A busy last week to the term. We focused on Children's Mental Health Week throughout this last week of term, focusing on children's sense of 'belonging'.

Thank you for coming to our week of class celebrations, to celebrate children's learning. The turn-out was fantastic!

We had a busy sporting week too, with one cross-country race and three football fixtures. The match reports are at the bottom of this newsletter.



In other matters, you will have received an email from me with a parent/carer survey. Please help us to continue to improve by filling it out. The link is here too: [Parent/carer school survey, February 2026 – Fill in form](#)

The week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> March will see us celebrating Pilgrims' Cross Book Week, with a **dress-up day** on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March**. Throughout the week, there will be many opportunities for children to read, share books and complete book-themed activities in school.

Lastly, may I take the opportunity to thank you all again for the hard work and support that you have been putting into the school? We are making good progress in many areas of school life. In conversations with many of you, you are saying the same thing to me. I hope your children enjoy a well-earned break!

Jim Cascarini – Headteacher

[headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk)

## Vision Awards

Congratulations to all our children who received a Vision Award this week...	Love	Courage	Trust
Oak	Adie		
Willow		Bailey	
Sycamore		Allswell	
Maple		Athena	
Hazel		Phoebe Ava	
Lime	Amelia		
Elm	Anaya		
Ash			Willow
Beech		Ryan	
Pine		Charlotte	
Hawthorn		Octavia	
Aspen		Coby	
Juniper	Ruby		

## What we have been learning this week...

### Willow & Oak

We've another busy but fun week in Oak and Willow class. In our phonics lessons we have been reviewing all our learning from this term.

In literacy we have been looking at an alternative version of Goldilocks, called *Goldy Luck*. There are lots of similarities and differences and it has linked perfectly with our learning about Lunar New Year. The children have really enjoyed finding out what animal their birth year represents and that we are going to be entering the year of the horse.

In maths we have been looking at the composition of numbers up to 8 and combining two amounts. We have been really impressed with their understanding and how confidently they can use the sentence stem '...is a part and ...is a part'.

We loved seeing so many of you at our parent celebration and look forward to hearing about how well your cress is growing.

This week our PSED learning has been a whole school focus around belonging. The children have completed various tasks each day and have taken part in discussions about belonging.

In PE this term we have really enjoyed our dance unit. This week we visited Old Macdonald's farm and thought of ways to move to represent the different jobs that a farmer would do. We also had to keep our movements in time with a beat of 8, this was quite tricky.

We ended our week with our treat for earning all our compass balls. We iced heart-shaped biscuits for valentines' day and enjoyed watching a film together. The children have had a fantastic term!

Have a wonderful half term break.

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

### Sycamore & Maple

What a wonderful end to the half term we have had.

In English the children finished writing their Hermelin stories and wowed us with a piece of independent writing on Thursday. In Maths we have begun working up to 50 and will continue to do so after the holidays. I wonder if you can practice counting up to 50 at home and even trying to jump in 10s to 50.

The children enjoyed inviting you into the hall for our Class Celebration on Thursday. The 3D paper sculpture cities that you created together were amazing and the children have written a reflection of what they are proud of and what they would like to change next time in their sketch books.

We have ended the week with Class Treats for filling our Compass Ball jars. Well done to both classes for all of the hard work they have put into showing the school values this term. We are really proud of you!

Miss Miners, Mrs Wakefield and Mrs Edgington

### Lime & Hazel

This week we have finished our first narrative writing about Pete the badger using all the skills we have learnt! A HUGE thank you to all the parents who came to our parent celebration and bought out their best badger skills! Have a wonderful holiday and see you all in a week for another exciting half term!

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury



## Elm & Ash

It was wonderful to see so many families join us for our parent celebration this week. Things got a little messy as we created textured prehistoric art backgrounds together, but the results are truly heart-warming! The finished pieces look fantastic and we cannot wait to display them proudly around the school.

In English, we wrapped up our unit with some impressive setting narratives, the children's writing really captures the reader and brings their worlds to life. Maths has been full of measure (and a great deal of fun!), as we explored length by measuring objects - and even people - around the classroom. In Geography, we went on a mini expedition around the school, using maps and compass points to guide one another like true explorers. In RE, we have been learning about the Qur'an and the respect shown towards it, as well as comparing stories found in both the Tenakh and the Bible.

It has been a half term filled with creativity, curiosity and lots to love. We look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for another brilliant chapter in Year 3.

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

## Beech & Pine

Year 4 pupils have worked incredibly hard this week, even though a little end-of-term tiredness has begun to creep in as we approach the half-term break.

It was lovely to welcome parents into school to celebrate the children's learning. Beech Class treated visitors to a lively and energetic samba performance, while Pine Class proudly demonstrated their online safety knowledge and keyboard skills from their computing lessons. The children really enjoyed sharing their achievements.

In English, pupils have been busy writing an information text titled "*A Guide to Monster Hunting*" for parents — just in case any mythical creatures are spotted at home! This fun and imaginative activity has provided an engaging way to practise using expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials.

In maths, we have begun learning the formal written method for short multiplication, multiplying two- and three-digit numbers by a one-digit number. The children have been carefully aligning digits according to place value, multiplying starting with the ones, and regrouping tens and hundreds where needed. Some pupils have also used place value counters alongside the expanded written method to further support their understanding.

A key focus continues to be secure knowledge of times tables up to  $12 \times 12$ . Rapid recall of these facts makes written calculations much more efficient, so regular practice at home is hugely beneficial.

We are now looking forward to a well-earned and restful half-term break!

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

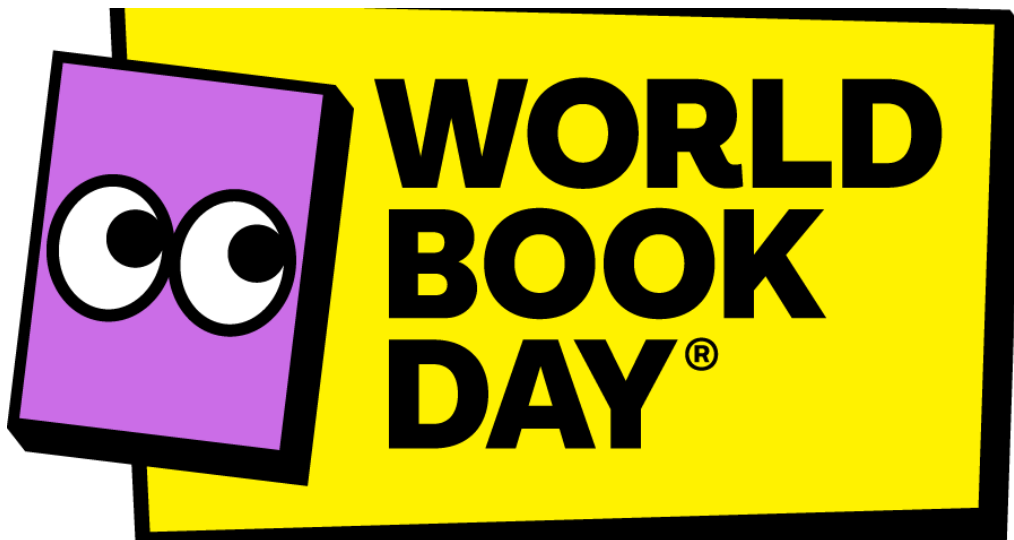
## Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

In Year 5/6 this week we have completed our final push of work for the half term. We have written a short diary entry from the point of view of Michael, describing his morning. We used plenty of time adverbials, parenthesis, and relative clauses to make our writing as descriptive as possible. We have also nailed area and perimeter of squares and rectangles in Maths. The children remembered to add on a squared to the end of their area measurements, as well as remembering the formula of area = length x width. We also looked at natural selection and survival of the fittest in science – using tweezers, rice and our fingers to investigate the adaptations finches have had to make in order to survive in the Galapagos Islands. Finally, we enjoyed a Friday afternoon of 'choosing time' as a reward for all their hard work this half term. Well done and thank you to all the children for their hard work this half term and enjoy a well-earned break!

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

Book Week, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Please see below for details of our week of book-related fun..!



To celebrate World Book Day, we would like to invite the children to come into school on FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup>, dressed either as a character from a book, OR in comfy clothes they can 'snuggle up' in and read a book.

During the day, we will be sharing some of our favourite books between classes, with younger and older children buddying up to read together. There will be a fun reading challenge arranged by FOPS during the week (see below) and other activities in classes for the children to celebrate reading. Please keep an eye on the newsletters between now and the 6<sup>th</sup> for any additional information.

## Clubs

Please see below the clubs running after Christmas. Some after are school and some are at lunchtimes. The clubs will run from 23<sup>rd</sup> February until the 27<sup>th</sup> March. Most are free, except if there is a cost for materials. These are in addition to our regular clubs provided by Integr8 and Stow Sports...

Sign-up is available on Arbor. **Please be considerate and only book one club per child**, so that as many children as possible can take advantage of this opportunity. If you book more than one, your child's name will be removed from the lists. Once the Club is full Arbor will not display this as a club to book on your child's Arbor account. Thank you!

Teacher	Club	Day	Time	Max number
Mrs Edgington	Singing for <u>Fun</u> Years 1, 2, 3 & 4 No Cost	Wednesday	12.30	30 (children from Spring 1 carrying over – no sign up on Arbor needed)
Mr Edgington	Girls Football Club Year 5 & 6 No Cost	Friday	3-4pm	20
Mr Edgington	Boys Football Club Year 5 & 6 No cost	Monday	3-4pm	20
MS Dewsbury	Netball Club Year 4,5 & 6 No cost	Monday	3-4pm	15
Mrs Bryan	Dance Club Years 3,4,5 &6 No Cost	Tuesday	12.30-1pm	15

## Great Athletes – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March

We're excited to be welcoming a top GB athlete Kelly Simms to the school soon with Great Athletes!

All pupils will take part in a **sponsored fitness circuit** led by the [athlete](#), and come home with some important and inspiring lessons learned during a **motivational assembly** and **Q&A** session.

Not only will the visit connect the pupils with an extraordinary athlete role model but will also help to **raise money for new sports equipment that will improve levels of physical activity in our school!**

You can sponsor your child by visiting: <https://sportal.greatathletes.org/events/landing>. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code to go directly to the online sponsorship page.



As a thank you, pupils will receive the following thank-you gifts for meeting these milestones:

**Raise anything: A5 sheet of motivational stickers**

**Raise £10 or more: sheet of stickers, plus a blue Great Athletes wristband**

**Raise £25 or more: all of the above, plus a red wristband with the athlete's signature**

**Raise £50 or more: all of the above, plus a signed athlete poster**

Please ensure that the sponsorship form and money are returned to the school office **1 week** after the event has taken place.

Please also make sure that your children come to school on the event day with their PE Kits!

Thank you in anticipation of creating a terrific and memorable event.

## Hot Choc Friday!

Here are the delightful children from hot chocolate time on Monday and Friday...



## Parking

Please DO NOT park on the double-yellow lines opposite the school. If you see other parents/carers parking there, please politely mention this to them. Our Junior Road Safety Officers have been out with the local police, looking at parking in the school area. They cannot be out all the time, however. We need every member of the school community to play their part, thank you.



## Attendance

Our current whole school attendance this year so far stands at **95.4%** 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@pilgrimscross.co.uk](mailto:Familysupport@pilgrimscross.co.uk)

## Key dates

- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March - Great Athletes Sponsored fitness circuit **with gymnast Kelly Simms**
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March – Pilgrims' Book Week (Friday 6<sup>th</sup>, dress up as your favourite character or come in your comfy clothes for a snuggled-up day of reading)
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Year 6 *Bikeability*
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Year 1 Trip to Marwell
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Non School Uniform – **Crazy Hair Day!** (Please provide an Easter Egg to be donated to the Food bank.
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Non School uniform Day – **Make the Rules!** (Please pay 50p per rule changed)
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Summer Fete
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026- INSET day 5
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Non School Uniform Day – **What I want to be when I grow up!**
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026 – Year 6 Leavers' Service at Winchester Cathedral
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Graduation at the Lights Andover

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>

## FOPS Update



### **Books to the Moon Challenge!**

To celebrate World Book Day on 5<sup>th</sup> March, the FOPS team have launched a 'read-a-thon'.

How many books can you read before 4<sup>th</sup> March??

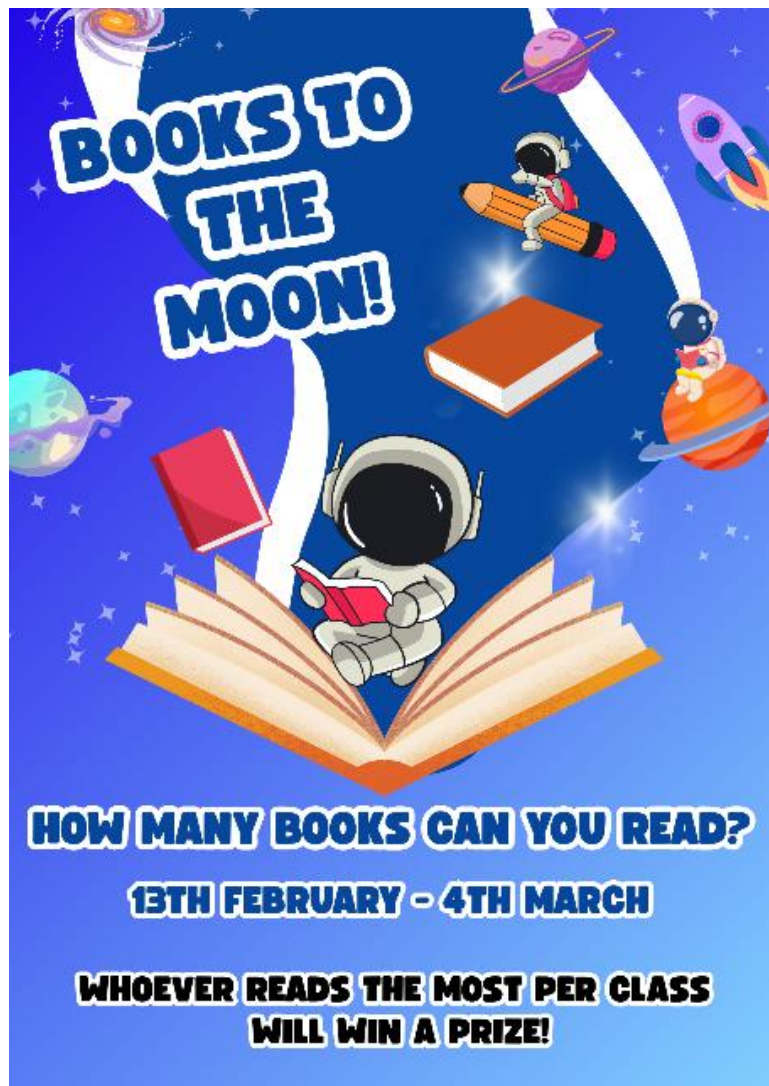
Look out for a form to complete with all the books you have read, this should be coming home in your school bag today.

There will also be a prize per class, so lets get reading!!



If you have any ideas or feedback to share with the FOPS team, please email us at [friendspilgrims@gmail.com](mailto:friendspilgrims@gmail.com)

*Thank you for your support!*



## *Sports reports...*

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February

14 children from years 4, 5 and 6 took part in a cross-country competition at Harrow Way School on Tuesday. They competed against many other local schools, in either a Y3/4 or a Y5/6 race. Everyone did amazingly well, coping with rain and a very slippery course! Not only did they all excel in the running, but they also showed great sportsmanship, cheering each other on. Well done to everyone who took part.

Mrs Lucas & Mrs Hopgood

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

#### **Pilgrims' Cross Girls 1 - Knights Enham Girls 1**

Pilgrims' Cross and Knights Enham girls shared the spoils in an exciting draw that showcased a great attacking mindset and excellent team play. From the start, Pilgrims' looked positive on the ball, dominating possession with neat inter-passing and purposeful runs that unsettled their opponents. The breakthrough came with a super strike by Mayci, who netted a brilliant shot to give us the lead. The hosts led for most of the game, and debutant Bonnie impressed with her passionate performance. Both teams fought hard in the final moments of the game in search of a winner. The Knights Enham keeper stopped a number of wonderful strikes that looked destined to secure a win but it was not to be. All the girls played wonderfully and resulted in a fantastic performance.

Mr Edgington

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February

#### **Pilgrims' Cross 7 - Knights Enham 2**

Pilgrims' Cross hosted Knights Enham on Thursday afternoon, and a highly entertaining football match ensued.

Pilgrims' were on the attack from the outset and it was no surprise when the goals finally started to rain in. If it wasn't for the Knights Enham goalkeeper and stout defence, this would have happened sooner. Harry, Toby (2), Oscar and Alfie R scored the goals in a pulsating first half, 5-1 at the break. In the second half Knights Enham bravely came back into it with two goals of their own before Alfie C will be a superb volley and another from Oscar sealed the victory. James B was excellent in goal and Kylo, Ethan, Bobby and Cody were industrious and committed in midfield and defence.

The boys demonstrated the school's values in all its fullness and were worthy winners. Thanks to parents for their support on the day, it was much appreciated.

Mr Osmond



### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

#### **Pilgrims Cross Girls 0 - St Johns Girls 2**

In monsoon-like, water-logged conditions and driving hail, the girls showed immense passion and determination in a fiercely contested match. The opposition stormed into an early two-goal lead, capitalising on early pressure, but the Pilgrims' Cross heads never dropped. With dogged determination, the team battled their way back into the game, fighting for every ball despite the soaking pitch. Zafir made her first appearance and worked tirelessly throughout.

Layla nearly produced a moment of magic, smashing the crossbar from close to the halfway line which would have made the game even more interesting. At the other end, Ruby pulled off a series of super saves, while the defence stood firm against a very attack minded opposition.

Mr Edgington

