



Dear Parents & Carers,

Good primary education enlarges pupils' understanding of themselves and their place in the world. Being part of the global community is something which children should increasingly understand- it is part of our school vision for our pupils, that they *make a positive difference in God's world*.

A while back, I discovered that Pilgrims' Cross Primary School is twinned with a school in Uganda- Kithoma Primary. Some of you with older children in the school may remember that some work was done between children here and in Uganda, comparing lives and sending photos to each other of school, home and surroundings.

On Monday, Chris Lloyd, who led that work, came in to refresh our link. He told us that the school is 8 hours by bus from Kampala, the Capital City of Uganda. The school is in a very rural location and children's daily lives are quite different. However, through the photos that children in both schools took and shared, we could see many similarities.

Our children are keen to re-instate a meaningful link between schools, so we are beginning with each class here writing a letter to send over to Kithoma Primary School over Easter.

Why not see if you can find out more about Uganda at home?

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	Malia M		
Willow			Hunter-Robert G
Sycamore			Ethan D
Maple			Arifa J
Hazel		Mia O-N	
Lime			Charlotte P
Elm	Tahlia I		
Ash	Riley M		
Beech		Leela T	
Pine		Sadie-May B	
Hawthorn		Ellis B	
Aspen			Poppy T
Juniper	Jack S		

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

Wow, this week has been so jam-packed with fun and excitement. Our chicks arrived Monday and couldn't wait to make an appearance. 2 hatched by Wednesday, one hatched on Wednesday during our phonics and 3 more hatched by Thursday. The children LOVED seeing them pipping and hatching. We still have another full week of them. If you think you could give one of the girls a lovely home, please let us know and we can see what the process is for adoption. We also had the amazing gymnast Kelly Simm in. What an inspiration she was!! We completed all of her circuits, and everyone put in a million percent effort. THEN ... we had world book day!! The children looked amazing and we loved sharing their stories.

Thank you for all of your efforts both children and families, whether it was sponsoring or helping children dress up. It always makes such a huge difference to the children, and we really appreciate it also.

We look forward to another week of chicks and fun and excitement.

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure



Sycamore & Maple

This week the children have designed their own 'Wild Thing' in English and over the next two weeks they will be writing a fact file all about their character. The children have really enjoyed this task and are excited to be writing about a character of their own!

In Maths the children finished their 'Place Value within 50' unit and we are so proud of everything they have achieved. Moving beyond 10 felt big at the start of the year, now we are working within 50 and soon beyond! Next week it will be a change of focus, and we will be working on measuring length, height, mass and volume.

We have ended the week with classrooms full of costumes, colour and excitement! It has been such fun to see everybody dressed up and to hear about the stories they love to listen to at home. In the afternoon the children from Year 5/6 visited us to read stories to us, which was really special!

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Miss Miners, Mrs Wakefield and Mrs Edgington

Lime & Hazel

This week we have finished our unit on multiplication and division and did our end of unit assessment. Next week we will start our unit on measurement. In English we have been looking at the features of an explanation text and have been detectives finding these. In science we have been classifying minibeasts using scientific vocabulary and even went out into the school grounds to go on a minibeast hunt (but specifically searching for worms as both classes have made their own wormery!) We managed to find centipedes, millipedes, lady birds, slugs, snails and worms!

In music we have been learning about dynamics and the children have started to understand what a composer is. They have been responding to music using their bodies. They then creatively responded to a piece of music called Mars using colours linked to how it made them feel. Concentrating on lines and shapes. In RE we have continued our work on what is a prophet and have looked at prophets from other religions! We also had the pleasure of Kelly Simm the Commonwealth Gold medalist coming to our school. A huge well done and thank you to everyone who participated!

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury



Elm & Ash

Year 3 have had a very exciting week. We had the talented Kelly Simm in to tell us her sporting journey and even give us a quick workout session! We also had world book day. The children all made a very good effort and looked excellent. In maths, we started our fractions unit. All children have worked very hard and appear to have taken this unit in their stride. In English, we continued our description of settings and Egg. As teachers, we have been very fortunate to have read so many fantastic sentences.

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

Beech & Pine

In Year 4 this week we have been learning about the Vikings in our 4 Reads. We have discovered that they sailed and travelled as far as Asia from their Scandinavian starting point. We know this because precious artifacts have been discovered by archaeologists, including a meditating bronze Buddha from the 500's!

In English we are planning a traditional tale with a twisted ending. So, sadly, there are no happy endings there. But this will all be part of the fun within the writing and children's ideas. Rapunzel and her Prince may end up in trouble, with the cruel Witch getting her way for once.

In PE we are building on our hand-eye coordination to improve our rounders skills and in PSHE we are looking at how to be sensible with money. We asked a big question: if you were given £100, what would you do with it? Save, spend or invest?

All enjoyable holistic learning and we're already and looking forward to building on this in Week 3.

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

New lunchtimes...

We have worked hard on improving our lunchtime provision- your children may have spoken to you about this! Eating in the hall is calmer and the children are more independent in organising themselves. We have an alternative, quiet space to eat in too!



We also have 3 indoor options: a colouring club, a construction club and a film club. Children can sign up for a couple of lunchtimes.



Great Athlete!

Kelly Simms, a GB gymnast, recently visited our school as part of the Great Athletes programme, bringing an exciting and inspiring day for the whole school. Pupils from every year group took part in energetic HIIT sessions, where everyone was active, engaged and enthusiastic. The atmosphere in the hall was fantastic as classmates cheered each other on, encouraging everyone to give their best effort. Even the teachers joined in and had a go, which made the sessions even more fun!

After the activities, we gathered together for a special Great Athletes collective worship. Kelly shared her inspiring journey to becoming an elite gymnast, talking about the dedication, resilience and hard work needed to reach the top of her sport. Pupils were thrilled to see her latest Commonwealth medal up close, and Kelly even demonstrated some fundamental gymnastics skills.

It was a memorable visit that motivated pupils to stay active and believe in what they can achieve through perseverance in life as well as sport.

Sponsorship is still open online or by handing in donation forms. Thank you to everyone who has already fundraised – the total is rising all the time and we are grateful for the support.

Mr. Edgington & Miss Dewsbury



Job Vacancy

Would you like to join the team at Pilgrims Cross helping to keep the school clean, tidy & hygienic, and join a friendly team.?

If the answer is yes, we currently have a position for a cleaner working from **3.00pm to 6.00pm Monday to Friday**, 15 hours per week.

This is a termtime only contract, but you would be required to do extra hours to do deep-cleans during the school breaks. Hours will be discussed and agreed to suit for this.

An estimated monthly wage will be £705.00.

Please email recruitment@pilgrimscross.co.uk to ask for details.

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

Safeguarding- when should I let my child have a phone?

Please be CAUTIOUS before you allow your child a phone. There is no need for them to have one at

Questions and answers about children and phones

How do phones impact my child's wellbeing?

Phones can be helpful for communication and learning, but they can also affect wellbeing if not managed carefully.

Risks include disrupted sleep, reduced attention span, and increased anxiety from social media pressures. Setting boundaries and encouraging offline activities helps maintain balance.

I don't want my child to have a phone until they are older. How do I go about doing that?

It's important to explain your reasons clearly and consistently. Focus on the benefits of waiting, such as more time for play and face-to-face interaction. Offer alternatives like family messaging apps on shared devices or basic feature phones without internet access for emergencies.

My child could benefit from a phone for travelling to school but I'm worried about the risks. What do I do?

Consider a phone with limited features, such as calls and texts only, or use parental controls to restrict apps and screen time. Talk to your child about safe use, including not sharing personal details and reporting any unwanted contact. Regular check-ins and agreed rules can help reduce risks.

primary and we would advise that, even in Year 6, they have a simple 'brick' phone. Please look over the really helpful guidance from the NSPCC- link below. The guide offers balanced, practical advice on readiness, boundary-setting, parental controls, and ongoing conversations about safe and responsible use.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/children-phones-online-safety/>

Within the NSPCC material, there is also a link to a helpful NSPCC/Vodafone tool, to see whether it really is the time to give your child a phone or not.

Is my child ready to have their own phone?

We know that deciding whether your child is ready for a mobile phone is a challenging decision and one families want to get right. There is no one size fits all approach, but there are some key factors that can help you make a decision that feels right for your family.

This tool has been created by NSPCC experts to help you think through those factors. It includes 8 short questions and should take around 10 minutes to complete.

The tool is designed to help you reflect on what is right for your family - whether you're ready to decide now or just starting to think it through.



Key dates

- Friday 13th March- **Water House** treat- non-uniform day.
- Monday 16th March – Wednesday 18th March – Year 6 *Bikeability*
- Wednesday 18th March – Year 1 Trip to Marwell
- Friday 27th March – Non School Uniform – **Crazy Hair Day!** (Please provide an Easter Egg to be donated to the Food bank.
- Tues 14th April & Thurs 16th April- Parent/carer appointment evenings
- Friday 22nd May – Non School uniform Day – **Make the Rules!** (Please pay 50p per rule changed)
- Saturday 13th June – Summer Fete
- Friday 19th June 2026- INSET day 5
- Friday 26th June 2026 – Year 6 Leavers' Service at Winchester Cathedral
- Tuesday 14th July – Year 6 Graduation at the Lights Andover
- Wednesday 22nd July – Non School Uniform Day – **What I want to be when I grow up!**

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>



Easter Fun



1st April - Goat Movie - Aldershot - 11am -£4.50
1st April - High Score Farnborough - 2pm - £6.50
1st April - Bowling and Laser Tag Andover - 6pm £6.50

2nd April - High Score Newbury 1pm -£6.50
2nd April - Family Swim Basingstoke -2pm - £4.50
2nd April - Soft Play Oxygen Reading - 2pm - £4

3rd April - Jungle Mania Soft Play Reading 6pm- £4
3rd April - Bowling Basingstoke -6pm - £3.50

4th April - Family Swim Basingstoke - 1pm - £4.50
4th April - Ice Skating Basingstoke - 3pm - £6

For more details please email activities@spotlightuk.org



Easter Fun



7th April - High Score Arcade Farnborough - 1pm -6.50
7th April - Bowling & laser Tag Camberley -6pm -£6.50
7th April - Bowling in Reading - 6pm- £3.50

8th April - Flip Out Basingstoke -5pm - £6.50
8th April - Soft Play Camberley - 4.45pm - £3.50
8th April - Atmosphere Trampoline - 6-8pm - £4.50

9th April - High Score Arcade Andover- 2.30pm - £6.50
9th April -Ice Skating Basingstoke - 3pm - £6.50
9th April - Soft Play Reading - 1pm - £4
9th April - Bowling in Basingstoke - 6pm - £3.50
9th April - Bowling in Andover - 6pm - £3.50
9th April - Bowling in Aldershot - 6.15pm -£2.50
10th April - 360 Play Farnborough - 6.60pm - £4.50
11th April - Family Swim Basingstoke - 1pm - £3.50
11th April - High Score Newbury - 2pm - £6.50

For more details please email activities@spotlightuk.org