



Dear Parents & Carers,

Today, I was struck in worship by the theme- children getting the Vision Awards for **Courage**. As well as being adventurous in their learning, children were highlighted for demonstrating courage in trying again and again, whether it was phonics, handwriting or number facts. The saying 'practise makes perfect' definitely applies here. We know that repeated practise leads to increased fluency and recall in children's brains. Re-reading words, learning number bonds and going over times table facts again and again (yes, again and again) will stand children in good stead for the future.

Times tables are really important. I can't emphasis this enough. Please keep working on times table facts with your children- can they first count in steps of 2, 5, 10, 3, etc? After that, can they recall their times table facts in order? After that, how many can they remember out of order? Lastly, how quickly can they recall them?

By the end of Year 2, children should be able to recall their times table facts (and the associated division facts) for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables and be beginning on their 3s. By the end of Year 4, they need to know *all* their times table facts up to 12x12- and recall all of them within 6 seconds.

Without these essential facts, they will not have the fluency to access larger calculations mentally- e.g. $2 \times 7 = 14$, so: $20 \times 7 = 140$, $2 \times 700 = 1,400$, $0.7 \times 2 = 1.4$, $140 \div 7 = 20$. We do not want children to have to resort to written methods for these number facts, but to be able to work mentally to solve them. This can only be done fluently if their recall of the basic facts is already there.

Please help your child by continuing to work on these. *Times Table Rockstars* is great for this, but also just testing verbally whilst in the car, waiting for the bus, in the bath- wherever you have a few moments!

Happy learning!

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		Ada K	
Willow	Zuzanna W		
Sycamore	Rex C		
Maple		Athena B	
Hazel			Finley D
Lime		Rio P	
Elm		Evelin I	
Ash		Tilly F-P	
Beech	Reggie C		
Pine		Alec H	
Hawthorn			Jesse R
Aspen			Bobby C
Juniper			Toby R

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

The children have shown some lovely learning behaviours this week. We have been sewing buttons on to bracelets in the haberdashery. We have also been creating pictures in the style of Eric Carle using collage materials and the children have been getting more and more creative here. In construction it was lovely to talk the children about their creations, one of which was a campervan taking them on holiday to America, where they had a campfire and marshmallows. The other was a doctor's surgery.

Sadly, this week we say goodbye to the chicks, however we have managed to get them re-homed at a local pub, where they already have a friend waiting for them. We know they will be well-loved and well taken care of there.



Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

Sycamore & Maple

This week the children have been busy planning and writing fact files about their own Wild Thing. They have described what their Wild Thing looks like, how it moves and how it hunts. In Maths the children have learnt about length and height, furthering their skills by learning to measure accurately with a ruler. Next week the children will move on to exploring mass and capacity. In Geography this week the children went outside and together they learnt about compass directions by exploring what they could see in each direction in different parts of the school site.

This week the children will be bringing home information about **the upcoming Year 1 Phonics Screening Check** for you to read. Additionally, the children will also be bringing home a set of words to read at home in preparation for the test. These words will not be in the Phonics Screening Check itself, so the children do not need to memorise the words. Instead, it is about practicing spotting the digraphs/trigraphs, sounding out the words and blending the sounds together. It is important that they do this for each word as the alien words are nonsense words, so cannot be read by sight. Please do ask if you have any questions about the Phonics Screening Check - we are happy to help!

Next Wednesday we have our school trip to Marwell Zoo and the children are very excited! We hope you have a lovely weekend and enjoy a special Mother's Day.

Miss Miners, Mrs Wakefield and Mrs Edgington

Lime & Hazel

This week in maths we have been learning to measure in centimetres and metres. We had a fun lesson measuring things around the classroom and we even measured Miss Dewsbury! She was 1m90cm! We have also started comparing lengths. In English we have been writing a short explanation paragraph all about our inventions. We have used expanded noun phrases, adverbs which end in 'ly' and even used some commas in a list! In RE we compared two stories about Abraham and Moses and talked about God's promises. In History we learnt all about a wonderful lady called Bessie Coleman who was the first ever woman pilot who was a daredevil and loved doing tricks in the sky. In music we have learnt about the word 'dynamics' and have begun to compare pieces of music. We have responded creatively to the music using colour. During worship we have started to plan and write our letter to our twin school in Uganda. We cannot wait for them to see our letter and pictures- and for them to reply to us!

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

What a fantastic week it has been in Year 3! Our learners have been shining across every subject, showing curiosity, creativity and brilliant enthusiasm.

In English, the children completed their *Egg and Pip* Big Write, producing some truly imaginative transformation narratives. They planned carefully, wrote with growing confidence and showed how far they've come, using rich vocabulary and detailed description. We are incredibly proud of the effort they put into their writing. In Maths, our focus was on fractions. The children worked hard to recognise unit and non-unit fractions, compare different fractions and represent them on number lines. They've shown great resilience when tackling trickier challenges. In History, we explored a fascinating question: *Did the Celts really want the Romans to invade?* Through discussion and debate they explored many different viewpoints. In Music, Year 3 had great fun learning about the pentatonic scale. They experimented with patterns and explored how melodies are built.

Overall, it has been a week full of energy, learning and impressive achievements. Well done, Year 3!

Mr Dookheran & Mrs Bryan

Beech & Pine

This week in Maths, Year 4 have begun learning about fractions greater than one whole. The pupils used bar models and number lines to help them count in fractions and to order fractions, including mixed numbers. It was wonderful to see them showing determination as they recalled their learning from Year 3 and built on it to meet the expectations of Year 4. Well done!

In English, the children have been writing their own 'not-so-happy' endings to the traditional tale of *Rapunzel*. This creative twist has sparked lots of enthusiasm and imagination. Some of the stories have been quite spooky, and the vocabulary used to describe the villainous characters has been particularly impressive.

In PE, we have been practising our rounders skills, including bowling and batting, while also developing teamwork and sportsmanship. The children have shown respect for the umpire's decisions—when hearing the call of "no ball"! As well as patience, as they watch the ball fly over the fence again! We will continue to practise the skill of batting with precision!

Mrs Howick, Mrs Featherstone and Mr Osmond

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

It's been a work-filled week in Yr 5/6. We have finished our documentary narrative on our text *The Ways of the Wolf* and after looking closely at examples and images, the children have written some wonderfully descriptive pieces of work. They have used parenthesis, semi-colons, and adverbials to create in-depth descriptions and ensure the reader is fully informed about wolves and how they hunt. The children have used their time wisely – editing and checking their work thoroughly. In Maths, we have continued looking at decimals; figuring out what they round to and how to add using column addition. We have also created our own US state in Geography, focusing on how the USA uses its energy and thinking about what we would change to make the country more sustainable and eco-friendly. The children thought carefully about where to place towns and cities, as well as how they could best use natural features such as rivers, mountains, and open plains. We're looking forward to *Bikeability* next week. **Year 6 - please remember your bikes and place them on the top end of the playground at the summerhouse end when you come in through the gate in the morning!** Well done to all the children for their hard work this week – as usual.

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

Parents'/carers' evenings

We are delighted to let you know that we are holding our next parent/carers consultations on **Tuesday 14th & Thursday 16th April**, from 3.00pm-6.20pm, in the school hall.

Booking will be available via Arbor from Tuesday 17th March at 10am.

Pine Class Only

Parent/carers consultations will take place on **Thursday 16th April** and **Monday 20th April**.

Hot Choc Friday!

Here are the delightful children who had 'Hot Chocolate with the Head' on Wednesday and Friday...



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@pilgrimsross.co.uk

FOPS Update



Books to the Moon Challenge

Well done to all those who entered the 'Books to the Moon' challenge and a huge well done to all the class winners – there were so many books read during these past few weeks so keep it up! We also loved seeing your World Book Day costumes and comfy outfits, we especially loved the Minions!!

We have heard that there are a few independent book clubs popping up during lunchtimes, which is brilliant to hear!

Happy Mothers Day

Happy Mothers Day from the FOPS team, we hope you all enjoy your gifts from the children this year.

Thank you to the FOPS team for organising & resisting any sneaky nibbling.

Crazy Hair Day!

Friday 27th March is the last day of term before Easter break and time for crazy hair day!



Please donate either an Easter Egg or a chocolate present that will be donated to the Andover Food Bank on behalf of the School community. Please hand this to your teacher in the morning.

Summer Fete

Our Summer Fete is one of the highlights of the year, and we really need your help to make it bigger and better than ever, so if you could spare an hour on the day, we would be very grateful.

Whether you're a master of the tombola, a whizz with 'spin the wheel', or simply happy to lend a hand, we'd love to have you on board.

We would also really appreciate any donations of;

- Tombola / raffle prizes
- Cuddly toys
- Pre-loved books & toys
- Pre-loved uniform



If you have any ideas or feedback to share with the FOPS team, please email us at friendspilgrimscross@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!

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

This is so important, I have kept it in the newsletter for a second week!

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

- 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
- Monday 20th April (Pine Class Parent/carer appointment evening)
- 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>

Holiday fun!



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