



Dear Parents & Carers,

As a staff, we have begun to discuss and plan what transition looks like at Pilgrims' Cross. There are many transition points throughout your child's time at school, including:

- Making the transition from home to school, every day
- Children beginning their time in Early Years, transitioning from nursery
- The transition from one class/year group to the next at the end of each academic year
- The transition from Year 6 to secondary school

We are planning a range of moving-up days & activities for your child, beginning with them being asked the names of 3 friends with whom they would like to be in class next year- we will guarantee at least 1 of them. The teachers are already beginning to draw up class lists carefully, considering personal, social and academic factors, so that next year's classes are as well-balanced as possible.

We appreciate that this time of change can also be an anxious period for you as parents/carers. If you have any concerns or thoughts about your child and next year's classes, please do email me. I cannot guarantee that we can accommodate every request, but your concerns are important to us.

Lastly, we will let you know which teachers are in which classes in the week after half term, to give you as many weeks as possible to process this and prepare your children. In a change to previous years, we will host a "Meet the Teacher" meeting towards the end of this academic year, so you have a chance to meet and get to know them, before the summer break.

Enjoy the longer weekend!

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	Gracie - Mai W		
Willow		Chevelle Y	
Sycamore		Esme C-R	
Maple		Ashton L	
Hazel			Ambra B
Lime	Ellie M		
Elm	Skylar L		
Ash			Elechi P
Beech	Ziva B		
Pine		Indie P	Harrison E
Hawthorn		Edith L	
Aspen			Harry S
Juniper	Layan N		

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

### Willow & Oak

What a wonderful week we have had. Most of it had been spent outside enjoying the sunshine and warm weather. We learnt about the artist Georgia O'Keefe, who paints beautiful flowers, and then tried to copy her style of painting. We have extended our number knowledge up to 20 too. We have created our own seed packet for our imaginary plant and we have started to make a minibeast house out in the amphitheatre. We also practised our throwing skills into a target, which was a big hit with the children. Our final enjoyment was rolling down the hill: I mean, who doesn't love rolling down a hill? What a wonderful childhood memory to make!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

### Sycamore & Maple

This week the children have become authors and have begun writing their retelling of 'There's a Tiger in the Garden'. We are so impressed with the writing the children have produced so far and cannot wait to see how they finish it next week. We will then be taking our writing to other classes in the school to read! In Maths the children have been exploring sharing and grouping. Next week we move on to fractions, which will involve find half and quarter of a shape and quantity.

Within History we have learnt all about Christopher Columbus and his voyage. The children had to sequence the events in order. In Science the children have learnt to identify some wild and garden plants, enjoying a walk around the school site to spot as many different types as we could.

We hope you enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday!

Miss Miners, Mrs Wakefield and Mrs Edgington

### Lime & Hazel

This week year 2 have continued their work on *The Bog Baby*. They have designed and labelled their own terrarium and written a list of things they will need as well as a list of tools. This will help them when they are writing their instructions. They have also learnt about adding -ed to a verb to make it the past tense. In maths we have continued with our work on fractions, looking at a third of both a shape and a given number as well as beginning to understand that  $\frac{2}{4}$  is the same as a half, using the term "equivalent". In PSHE we have created our own school environments using our creativity! In science we have planted some seeds as a class to begin looking at what plants need to grow! In music we have looked and city sounds and learnt a new song!

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

### Elm & Ash

This week in Maths, we have been consolidating our understanding of place value and building confidence when using number lines. The children have worked really hard to place, compare and reason about numbers, and it has been great to see their confidence growing. In English, we have had an exciting start to writing our "love potion" instructions based on 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by using imperative verbs, conjunctions and well-structured steps. In Science, we explored how water is transported in plants. The children set up their own enquiry using food colouring and celery to observe how far the water travels through the plant over two days. We are looking forward to observing and discussing the results next week. In Geography, we took a virtual tour around Andover, where the children enjoyed identifying and discussing human and physical features within the local area. We hope you all have a lovely and relaxing bank holiday weekend.

Mrs Bryan and Mr Dookheran

## Beech & Pine

Year 4 have had an exciting learning week. We are close to completing our stories about a magical forest where a woodland keeper lives. He hands over a mythical stone, and the children take it back to their local estate where their homes are transformed. We shall be reading these stories to Year 1 children next week and they will be sharing their story writing with us, how lovely is that!

In science we have been studying the characteristics of certain birds and the children are then placing them into appropriate categories, as taxonomists do.

PE involves tennis skills, where we are working on volleying at the net.

Our study on rivers culminates with a trip to Stockbridge in the last week of half term. Note parents, that the children will be bringing home a letter detailing this, today. This will line up well with our classification skills for vertebrates and invertebrates within science and our geographical learning. Hopefully the weather will be much like today.

Enjoy the bank holiday weekend everyone.

Miss Howick, Miss Markham and Mr Osmond

## Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

It's been another work-filled week in 5/6. We have completed another piece of writing about Macbeth and the scene when he encounters Banquo's ghost in the great hall after his coronation. The children's descriptions of Banquo and his ghostly form were brilliantly ghastly and bloody. We have had great fun reading these! We have also completed some more practice papers in preparation for SATS. The progress the children have made this year is so evident with the scores they are getting and their consistency paper to paper. Also, thank you to the Year 5's who also partake in some practice at the same time. This will only benefit you in the long run! In PE, yet more tennis balls have ended up on the roof of the school - having been either top-edged in cricket or sliced during tennis. However, the children have been enjoying their time in the sun, and we made the most of it on Friday afternoon again by having some bonus playtime outside to reward the children for their hard work this week. We hope you all have a wonderful bank holiday weekend and come back refreshed for a special 4-day week, beginning on Tuesday!

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

## 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](mailto:Familysupport@pilgrimsross.co.uk)

## Music of the week

The children have been enjoying some 'music with a message', this week in collective worship. Fancy listening at home? Check out the track *Where is the Love* by The Black-Eyed Peas. The song reminded us that love is an action, not just a nice word.

THEBLACKEYEDPEAS  
WHEREISTHELOVE?



## HOT Weather

With the warmer temperatures now approaching, please ensure that children have a hat and plenty of water. On hot sunny days sun cream needs to be applied & they can have spare cream in their bag to re-apply to themselves during the day.



## TT Rockstar Day

Today, all children dressed up for the occasion of Times Tables Rockstars Day. We have had everything from spiked up hair to full sleeves of tattoos: everyone looks truly awesome! In worship this morning, we celebrated the three children in the whole school who logged in to TTRS the most over the month of April to practice their all-important times tables. Well done to Louis (Pine), Layla (Aspen) and Drisha (Pine) for your hard work over the whole month. And to everyone, always try and practice your times tables at any spare opportunity you have because it really does help with creating a solid foundation in your Mathematic studies. Well done everyone and here's to next year's Rockstar Day!



# Safeguarding- Online grooming

Online Grooming is when someone befriends and builds an emotional relationship with a child and communicates with them through the internet with the intent to commit a sexual offence. In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as strangers online, closed messaging and emotional attachments.



Online Grooming is when someone befriends and builds an emotional relationship with a child and communicates with them through the internet with the intent to commit a sexual offence. This type of victimisation can take place across any platform; from social media and messaging apps to online gaming and live streaming. Often it involves young people being tricked, forced or pressured into doing something they wouldn't normally do (coercion) and often the groomer's goal is to meet the victim in a controlled setting to sexually or physically abuse them. In some cases children may be abducted or have long-lasting psychological damage.



## What parents need to know about

# ONLINE GROOMING



### CHILDREN ARE MOST VULNERABLE

Unsurprisingly children are often most at risk as they are easy to target and unlikely to question the person who is engaging in conversation with them. Groomers will use psychological tricks and methods to try and isolate them from their families and friends and will often choose to target more vulnerable children who may be easier to manipulate. Predators will stalk apps and websites that are popular with young people and will use a 'scattergun' approach to find victims, contacting hundreds online to increase their chances of success.



### LIVE STREAMING CONCERNS

Predators may use live video to target children in real-time using tricks, dares or built-in gifts to manipulate them. Grooming often takes the form of a game where children receive 'likes' or even money for performing sexual acts. Social media channels, such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat, all have live streaming capabilities, but there are many apps which children can use to live stream, including Omegle, Live.me, BIGO Live, YouNow and many more.



### ANYONE CAN BE A PREDATOR

The internet has made the ability to interact with strangers online easy. Many sites and apps are reliant on individual users entering their own information when signing up. However individuals can remain anonymous if they choose to enter inaccurate information and many online predator cases are due to groomers using impersonation techniques. However, often the greater threat comes from adults who 'hide in plain sight', choosing to befriend young children without hiding their real identity.



### CAN BE DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Unfortunately, most children find the 'grooming' process (before any meeting) an enjoyable one as the predator will compliment, encourage, and flatter them to gain their trust, friendship and curiosity - 'a wolf in sheep's clothing' scenario. This often means children fail to disclose or report what is happening. If the groomer is also previously known to the child, their family and their friends, then this can make detection even harder.



### FROM OPEN TO CLOSED MESSAGING

Online predators may contact their victims using any number of ways including social media, forums, chat rooms, gaming communities or live streaming apps. Sometimes there is little need to develop a 'friendship / rapport stage', as the victim has already shared personal information online and is communicating openly with others. Children may also be prepared to add other online users they don't know so well to gain 'online credibility' through increasing their friends list. Predators will often seize this opportunity to slowly build a relationship and then move their conversation with the child to a more secure and private area, such as through direct messaging.

### EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENTS

Online predators will use emotive language and aim to form close, trusted bonds with their victims through showering them with compliments and making them feel good about themselves. Often victims will refer to them as their 'boyfriends' or 'girlfriends' and it can be difficult to convince some young people that they have been groomed, often leading to lasting psychological effects.



## Safety Tips for Parents & Carers



### IT'S GOOD TO TALK

It's unlikely that you can stop your child using the internet, nor can you constantly monitor their online activities, but you can talk to your child on a regular basis about what they do online. By talking openly with them about online relationships, they can quickly ascertain the kind of behaviour which is appropriate or inappropriate. Ask them whether they have any online friends or if they play online games with people they haven't met. This could then open up conversations about the subject of grooming.



### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

In order to give your child a safer online experience, it is important to check privacy settings or parental controls on the networks, devices, apps, and websites they use. Disable location sharing if you can. If you use location-sharing apps to check where your child is, remember that these could always be used by strangers to follow your child without their knowledge. Ensure that you check options so that location information is never shared with anyone except those they have permission to share with.



### MONITOR SOCIAL MEDIA & LIVE-STREAMING USE

It's important to be aware of what your child is sharing on social media and with whom. Create your own profile and become 'friends' with them or follow them so that you can monitor their activity. Similarly, always check on them if they are live streaming and implement privacy controls. Choose a generic screen name and profile picture that hides their identity. You may also feel more comfortable being present each time they live stream.



### STICK TO 'TRUE FRIENDS'

Make it clear to your child that they should not accept friend requests from people they don't know and to verify friend requests with people who they do know. Encourage them to only interact and engage with 'true friends' i.e. those friends who don't ask personal questions such as close family and friends. Remind them to never agree to chat privately with a stranger or someone they don't really know and to never divulge personal information, such as mobile phone numbers, addresses, passwords or the name of their school.



### DISCUSS HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Talk to your child about what a healthy relationship looks like and how to detect someone who might not be who they claim to be. Explain that groomers will pay your child compliments and engage in conversations about personal information, such as hobbies and relationships. They may admire how well they play an online game or how they look in a photo. Groomers will also try and isolate a child from people close to them, such as parents and friends. In order to make their relationship feel special and unique.

### BE SUPPORTIVE

Show your child that you will support them and make sure they understand they can come to you with any concerns they may have. They need to know they can talk to you if someone does something they are uncomfortable with, whether that is inappropriate comments, images, requests or sexual comments.



## Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former covert internet investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



### LOOK OUT FOR WARNING SIGNS

Child safety experts have identified key grooming patterns and advise parents to look out for:

- Secretive online behaviour.
- Late night internet or smartphone usage.
- Meeting new friends in unusual places.
- Becoming clingy, develop sleeping or eating problems or even bedwetting.
- Lack of interest in extra-curricular activities.
- Having new items, such as clothes or phones, unexplainably.
- Seem withdrawn, anxious, depressed or aggressive.
- Having older boyfriends or girlfriends.



## Key dates

- Monday 18th May- Year 5/6 Class Celebration @ 8.45am
- Monday 18th May - Year 4 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Year R Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Year 3 Class Celebration @ 8.45am
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Year 2 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Year 1 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Year 4 Trip to Stockbridge Common
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Non School uniform Day – **Make the Rules!** (Please pay 50p per rule changed)
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Year R Trip to Hillier Gardens (more information to follow)
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Summer Fete
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026- INSET day 5
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Sports Day! (more information to follow)
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June – Year 2 Trip to Southsea Beach and Castle (more information to follow)
- 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
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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>