



Dear Parents & Carers,

We are always very proud of our pupils when they put our values into action. **Courage** has very much been on my mind this week, as I have observed how our children respond to learning challenges and personal battles. We looked at the Latin root of **Courage**, which is 'cor', meaning 'heart'. To be courageous, you show your heart in how you face up to life's hard moments.

This week, in Collective Worship, we have been looking at the value of **Courage** in relation to the story of David & Goliath. You may not be familiar with the story, but David (a little shepherd boy) trusted God, gained courage and stood up to the mighty giant, Goliath. The story can also be taken as a metaphor for the things which we need **courage** for. What are your 'Goliaths' that you need courage to face? Our children thought about their own battles, wrote them down on paper, scrunched them up and, like David slinging his stone at Goliath, threw them in the bin. We will all have challenges in life, but the Bible encourages us that God cares about us and can give us strength to face them.

I have also been so **encouraged** by how our Year 6 pupils have prepared themselves for their SATs tests next week. Mr Hambidge, Mr Childs & Mrs McNee couldn't be more proud of how they have worked hard, taken on board feedback and completed extra learning at home to prepare themselves for their tests. **All the best for next week, Year 6!**

Thank you, parents & carers, for how you have supported your children at home too. If you have children in other year groups, please don't forget to be hearing your children read regularly at home, practising 'alien words' (year 1) and giving your child to practise on *Times Table Rockstars* and *Numbots*. **Please also write in their Learning Journal, so that the children earn 'learning challenge points' - the winning class at the end of the year will earn Domino's pizza for the whole class!**

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			Elsie T
Sycamore			Poppy M
Maple			Daisy J
Hazel	Austin J		
Lime		Landen L	
Elm			Ben S
Ash	Violet C		
Beech	Poppy L		
Pine			Gina L
Hawthorn			Ruby B
Aspen		Neriya M	
Juniper		Mayci I	

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

We have had a wonderful week exploring a non-fiction about planting seeds. We have really enjoyed learning about the features of a non-fiction text and how this differs from a fiction text. In maths we have started to apply our number knowledge so that we can add two numbers together. We have been using the key vocabulary of *first I had 4 then I add 2 more and now I have 6*. We have done this using concrete resources this week, like multilink. We used the bikes and scooters outside and really enjoyed playing in the mud kitchen as well as continuing to practise our aiming skills.

WE NEED YOUR HELP PLEASE

Please could you bring in any clean yoghurt pots, plastic bottles, safe tins, dishwasher/washing machine tablet plastic boxes, cardboard cereal boxes, pizza boxes or other cardboard items. We are going to use these to plant seeds, make bug houses and for our general junk modelling.

Thank you for all your help and support

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

Sycamore & Maple

We have had another busy week in Year One. The children have finished writing their retelling of 'There's a Tiger in the Garden' and read them to Year 4 and Hazel Class. We are incredibly proud of the children's final writing outcomes. Well done Year One!

In Maths the children have been exploring halves of shapes and amounts. Perhaps you could practice finding half of a group at home using objects like socks, pasta pieces, toy cars etc. Next week we will be moving on to finding a quarter. Please can we encourage you to continue encouraging your child to access *Numbots* at home, as this will really support them with their calculation and place value skills.

Within Science this week the children learnt about deciduous and evergreen trees. They explored the trees on the school grounds to identify the different leaves. Why not see if you could identify some leaves on the way home? In History the children have learnt about Matthew Henson and his exploration of the Arctic region.

We also just want to praise all of the children and the huge amount of work they have been putting into their phonics recently! We are seeing such determination and resilience from them all and feel very proud of their efforts and progress.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Miners, Mrs Wakefield and Mrs Edgington



Lime & Hazel

This week year 2 have continued their work on *The Bog Baby*. They have been unpicking the text and being detectives, looking for openers, adverbs, expanded noun phrases, commands and even commas in a list and contractions! We have started teaching the children contractions using an apostrophe to substitute missing letters from words. In Maths we have continued looking at finding and recognising three quarters of both a number and a shape. Our next unit is on time so feel free to start teaching children quarter to and quarter past and telling the time in 5-minute intervals! In music we have been using symbols to represent sounds linked to our work on coastal, city and countryside sounds. In science we will be keeping a plant diary looking at how our seeds and bulbs, which we planted last week, are growing. We have started talking about transitioning into year 3 in our PSHE lessons and discussing any worries and concerns the children may have moving up into KS2. In RE we have been looking at different things people use to pray and in PE have been keeping, fit talking about resilience and stamina!

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

This week in Year 3, the children have worked incredibly hard across all areas of learning. In English, the children completed their latest Big Writes and showed fantastic creativity, improved vocabulary choices and growing confidence in their writing skills. We were very impressed with the effort everyone put into planning, editing and presenting their work.

In Maths, we finished our recap unit on place value. The children have been practising recognising the value of digits, comparing and ordering numbers and representing numbers in different ways. It has been wonderful to see their confidence continue to grow.

In Geography, we explored the historical and modern land use of our local area. The children enjoyed discussing how the area has changed over time and comparing what spaces were used for in the past with how they are used today. They showed great curiosity and asked thoughtful questions about how communities develop and change.

Well done, Year 3, for another fantastic week of learning!

Mrs Bryan and Mr Dookheran

Beech & Pine

This week in Year 4, we have been finishing off the final paragraphs of our narrative which we then shared with Maple class in Year 1. This was a great time for the Year 4 pupils to demonstrate their role model behaviour and be supportive partners, listening intently to the work of the younger children whilst also sharing what they had done. We have also continued our geography unit around rivers, looking at the ways in which rivers can be used (for example, to support the growth of crops, fishing and transportation). Within our French this half term, we have been looking at food and this week we have focused on the different types of food shops that you can go to, including un boulangerie and un marché. See if the children can tell you the types of shops these two examples are! Have a lovely weekend and we will see you all next week

Miss Howick, Miss Markham and Mr Osmond



Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

We had our practice SATS test in 5/6 this week. Thank you and well done to all the children who played important roles in making it a seamless process and ensuring all went smoothly. In the hall, the Year 5's had a short maths paper in solidarity with the Year 6's, with a wordsearch afterwards for some fun. It was strange seeing our classrooms move around and look different. However, all the children helped move things and, if it were a house move, it would have been completed in less than an hour! As well as the excitement from SATS, we have investigated what the inside of a blood vessel looks like and the purpose of each different part of the blood. We compared white blood cells to red blood cells and understood the difference between them. We also completed a small experiment where we made our own blood vessels complete with blood cells (marshmallows and red Cheerios), plasma (yellow food dye) and platelets (tiny sprinkles). It'll be a tough week next week, but we know that all the children will be amazing and try their hardest. There will just as much fun/relaxation time as time spent in test conditions. Year 6's – we will see you at 7:50 on Monday morning!

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

Hot Choc Friday!

Here are the delightful children who had 'Hot Chocolate with the Head' the last few weeks...





Staffing

Mr Osmond will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. I am pleased to announce that he has obtained a Deputy Headship for September. Do please wish him all the best when you see him next. We will miss him but are also really please for him, in this next step in his career.

Attendance

Our current whole school attendance this year so far stands at **95.8%** - still creeping up, well done!. 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

Music of the week

The children have been enjoying some jazz this week in collective worship. Fancy listening at home? I talked about improvisation and now the instrumentalists took turns on their instruments to play solos. You need **Courage** to play without music!



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.





Safeguarding- The Big Future

As Children's Commissioner, I am writing to ask you to ensure all of your children complete my new survey, [The Big Future](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture).

Under the Children Act 2004, it is my role to promote the views and interests of children in England, and I have done this so far by conducting the two largest ever children's surveys: The Big Ask and The Big Ambition.

Now, for the first time, hundreds of thousands of children will be eligible to vote in the next general election, the biggest change to the franchise in half a century. Yet just one in five children say politicians listen to them. That's why I'm launching my final survey, The Big Future.

Your students should complete the survey

here: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.

I want to make sure that I hear from as many children as possible, aged 0-18, from all backgrounds, in all schools and colleges, and in every part of the country. To do that, I need your help.

I am asking children about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything, I want to know what they think a good childhood should look like today.

I am asking you to share the survey with all the children, parents and carers in your school or college community. Schools and colleges that achieve high participation rates will receive formal recognition for their contribution to amplifying children's voices and encouraging civic engagement, and a summary of their pupils' responses.

To support you to do this, I have created a pack of resources which include an introductory video, a lesson plan, and FAQs, which are available on [my website](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture). I would be grateful if you could ensure that every child in your school or college has taken part before the deadline of Friday 23 October.

I will be publishing my findings next year, and they will be used to advocate at the highest level for solutions that children want to see, to the problems that they tell me are most important to them.

Thank you for your support. **Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner**

Key dates

- Monday 18th May- Year 5/6 Class Celebration @ 8.45am
- Monday 18th May - Year 4 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Tuesday 19th May – Year R Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Wednesday 20th May – Year 3 Class Celebration @ 8.45am
- Wednesday 20th May – Year 2 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Thursday 21st May – Year 1 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Thursday 21st May – Year 4 Trip to Stockbridge Common
- Friday 22nd May – Non School uniform Day – **Make the Rules!** (Please pay 50p per rule changed)
- Friday 12th June – Year R Trip to Hillier Gardens (more information to follow)
- Saturday 13th June – Summer Fete
- Friday 19th June 2026- INSET day 5
- Monday 22nd June – Sports Day! (more information to follow)
- Wednesday 24th June – Year 2 Trip to Southsea Beach and Castle (more information to follow)
- Friday 26th June 2026 – Year 6 Leavers' Service at Winchester Cathedral
- Tuesday 7th July – School transition: Moving up day 1
- Monday 13th July – School transition: Moving Up day 2
- 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>



Be tick aware

1 Use a repellent that prevents ticks

2 Wear long sleeves and long trousers to reduce direct skin exposure

3 Keep to clearly defined paths and avoid brushing against vegetation

4 Regularly check for ticks and brush off any you find immediately

5 When you're back indoors, check for any ticks on you, your children and pets

6 If you find a tick, safely remove it as soon as possible

