

Pilgrims' Cross Newsletter



Dear Parents & Carers,

Worship was busy this morning...

Fire house won the half-termly housepoint competition again! Congratulations to the children in Fire, who will receive a dress-down day as a treat on the first Friday back after half term.



This morning, we also celebrated those children who have received a bronze Compass Badge for consistently following our Pilgrims' Cross Compass.

We also found out that Maple Class and Pine Class are currently in front in the Home Learning Point Challenge. The winning class at the end of the year will receive Domino's Pizza as a class treat! Have you been writing in your child's Learning Journal every time they read (books or phonic words) or complete maths at home? Each time your child completes home learning, they earn a point for their class...

Phew! A very busy half of term. I hope the children enjoy a restful week off!

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		Amara P	
Willow	Santino D		
Sycamore		Abigail K	
Maple	Nathan V		
Hazel		Esmae B	
Lime		Charlotte P	
Elm		Ruben O	
Ash		Adam L	
Beech			Abdul M
Pine	Drishya R		
Hawthorn		Sienna P	
Aspen	Eyla M		
Juniper	Maxi C		

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

Well, that is Summer 1 now finished and what a lovely way to end it with the amazing hot weather. The children have one more half term of Year R, it's unbelievable that 5 half terms have passed and the children have made such wonderful progress. We have really loved all the explorations we have done around minibeasts so far this term and can't wait to see what else we can discover next half term.

We started a new text this week. it was the traditional tale called *The Enormous Turnip*. We loved the repeating phrases "the farmer pulled and pulled. Still the turnip did not move." We even got a chance to act this out. One person was a farmer, the other his wife, we also had a dog, cat and a little bird. Finally, we also had a turnip that could POP out of the ground. In maths this week we have been looking at word problems and deciding if the operation is to add or to subtract. We looked at key words like "more", "less" and "left" to help us to decide. Then we had the opportunity to solve these problems using our mental maths skills.

We hope you all have a lovely hot half term break and can't wait to see you all for Summer 2!!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

Sycamore & Maple

We cannot believe that we are already at the end of another half term!

It has been another busy week for the Year Ones. They have finished their unit of work on Fractions, exploring how to find the whole if you know one of the parts e.g. *Half of the group of apples is 5. How many are in the whole group?*

In English the children completed a completely independent piece of writing retelling the story *How to Find a Yeti*. They worked hard to include all of the skills they'd learnt in previous weeks, planning and writing the final piece themselves. We will be continuing our work on this text after half term.

In Science the children explored which parts of a plant we can eat. They had fruit and vegetables to explore and identified whether it was the roots, leaves, stem, flowers, seeds etc that we can eat. In History we rounded off our Explorers learning journey by designing a coat of arms, celebrating the key achievements of an explorer we have learnt about this half term. This has been such a popular unit, and we have so loved hearing the children's enthusiasm.

Thank you to all of the parents and guardians who joined us for our Parent Celebration on Thursday. The puppets that we made together look FANTASTIC!

We hope you have a wonderful half term break. The sun is going to be shining for you all!

Miss Miners, Mrs Wakefield and Mrs Edgington

Lime & Hazel

This week has been full of fun, laughter and great learning. In English we have finished writing our instructions to make a terrarium for our Bog babies and some children have taken it upon themselves to make their own terrarium which is fantastic! We have continued our science project growing some bulbs and we have a record- the tallest bulb ever grown in a year 2 classroom! In maths we have continued our work on time and can now tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes! Thank you to all who came to enjoy our class celebration and have fun with clay. We have designed, evaluated and created not only pinch pots but also beach hut tiles! We have done an independent study on our focus artist, Rachel Whiteread. A massive well done to everyone for their instruction writing you've blown our minds with your use of adverts, imperative verbs, expanded noun phrases and all our non-negotiables!

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury



Elm & Ash

This half term, Year 3 have been extremely busy with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. In DT, the children designed and built their own castles, thinking carefully about different features such as towers, drawbridges and battlements. They showed fantastic creativity and teamwork while constructing their models.

In English, we explored lost narratives and wrote imaginative stories about being lost in the forest. The children used descriptive language, powerful vocabulary and suspense to make their writing engaging and exciting for the reader.

In Maths, we have completed our consolidation work on addition and subtraction. The children have worked hard to build confidence when using different methods to solve problems and explain their reasoning.

In Music, Year 3 enjoyed learning about jazz music and explored the fun technique of scatting. The children loved experimenting with rhythm and improvisation using their voices and showed great enthusiasm during performances.

Well done Year 3, for all your hard work this half term!

Mrs Bryan and Mr Dookheran

Beech & Pine

What a fantastic last week to the half term it's been!

We have been looking at structures this week in art and have been looking at a variety of different ways that sculptures can be made and which materials can be used. We've even created our own soap sculptures with bars of soap and carving tools which the children will be bringing home to share their creative skills with you. We will be finishing this topic after half term with one final sculpture piece, so we have that to look forward to.

In maths this week, we have been focusing on our addition and subtraction skills and recapping the methods needed for when the questions are too tricky to do in our heads. Our English has seen us continue on our narrative journey and get ready for the big write, trying to incorporate the skills we have learned throughout the year and not just on this piece of writing.

The most exciting part of our week is that we have been on our trip to Stockbridge and we couldn't have asked for better weather. It was lovely to walk up and down the high street and observe the river and the geographical features around it. We also went into the church to identify a lot of the key elements we have been learning about (some examples include the lectern, the pulpit and the altar). Finally, we sat together as a year group and had our lunch out in the sunshine which was the perfect end to the trip. Have a lovely half term Year 4, enjoy the break and we will see you for the final half term in a week's time 😊

Miss Howick, Miss Markham and Mr Osmond



Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

Well done all the children in Hawthorn, Aspen, and Juniper for their hard work this week. It's always tricky working after SATS week – Year 5 included – but they demonstrated great commitment to their work and powered through the final maths and English learning journeys of the half term. We analysed the eerie book *The Watertower* and created a dialogue between two characters after setting the scene. The children have created some particularly creepy and spine-tingling pieces of writing about the Watertower and the contents within it. We analysed how to lengthen sentences and create a feeling of suspense. In maths, we have mastered coordinates and introduced the 4 quadrants. The children looked at translation, reflection, and coordinate plotting throughout the week. Finally, we had a particularly enjoyable RE lesson looking at how religion spreads around the globe. Using gloves and paint we concluded that religious messengers, war, and social media led to countries full of multiculturalism and different world views. On Friday, we finished off a hectic half term with ice lollies on the field. Have a great half term and we'll see you in June.

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

Hot Choc Friday!

Here are the delightful children who had 'Hot Chocolate with the Head' today...



Classes next year

We will let the children, parents/carers know next year's classes after the half term break. The teaching staff have been working very carefully on these and we hope the updated transition timeline (including 2 "moving up" dates- see calendar, below) will help to smooth the transition process.

Safeguarding- new policies

I would like to draw your attention to two policies (attached with this newsletter), which were ratified by our school governors last night.

Mobile Phones & Tech Policy

This policy clarifies our position on internet-enabled devices within school. The headlines are:

- From September, **Year 6 pupils will NOT be allowed to bring smartphones into the school**, if they walk independently to and from school. Only a 'brick' phone will be accepted. I want parents/carers of children in our current Year 5 cohort to know this as soon as possible, to have plenty of time to purchase a 'brick' phone (if a phone is even needed at all) before September
- **No smartwatches will be allowed in school** after half term for any pupils

Food & Healthy Eating Policy

This policy brings clarity around the school's position on healthy eating. A few years ago, boundaries were clear, but I feel that the school culture has 'slipped' in some areas. Clarifying this through a clear policy will help parents/carers. From after half term:

- **Sweets will not be allowed to be brought in to be distributed**, to celebrate children's birthdays. However, **children WILL be allowed to come in to school, dressed in their own clothes on their birthday!**
- **No squash in drinking bottles, only water**
- Clarification on healthy snacks only for break times

Please can I ask you to read through these policies and share with your children, so that your children are clear as they come back after the half term break. I anticipate that, for some of our children, this will need parents/carers to explain and help with adjusting to these changes. Please can I ask you to support us in these areas? Thank you.

Attendance & INSET days

In order to help you plan ahead as much as possible and avoid unauthorised holiday in school time, please see the INSET days for 2026/27 below:

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Wednesday 2nd September 2026
- Friday 23rd October 2026
- Monday 4th January 2027
- Friday 18th June 2027

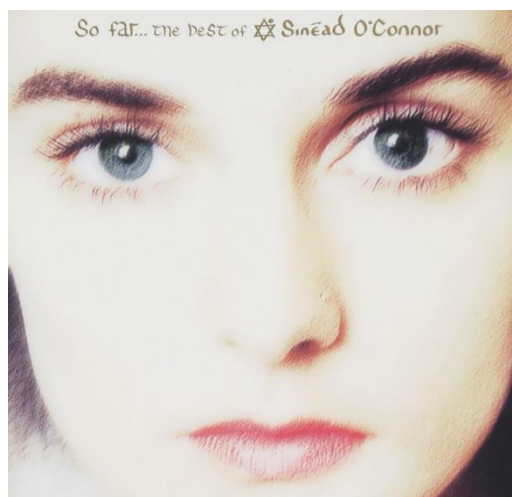
Our current whole school attendance this year so far stands at **95.8%** - still creeping up, well done! Thank you for your support for ensuring regular attendance is a priority.

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 the soulful voice of Sinead O'Connor this week in collective worship. Fancy listening at home? The children particularly enjoyed *Thank You for Hearing Me*.



Relationships & Sex Education consultation

New Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) comes into effect from September. As part of the DfE legislation, there is a requirement to consult with parents.

We are writing to invite you to a consultation meeting to hear a presentation of our draft RSE Policy, statutory RSE curriculum and non-statutory sex & relationships education.

The meeting will take place at 5pm on Friday 5th June in the school hall.

The link to the statutory DfE guidance is here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6970e7e67e827090d02d42e0/Relationships_education_relationships_and_sex_education_RSE_and_health_education_for_intro_1_September_2026_.pdf

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to me or contact the school office.

Clubs

Please see below the clubs running after May Half Term. Some are after school and some are at lunchtimes. The clubs will run from 1st June until the 22nd July. 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 Fun Club Year 1,2,3 & 4 No Cost	Wednesday	12.30 -1pm	30
Mr Osmond	Cricket Club Year 4,5 & 6 No Cost	Tuesday	3-4pm	20
Mr Childs and Mr Hambidge	Golf Club Year 5 & 6 No cost	Thursday	3 - 4pm	16
Ms Dewsbury	Netball Club Year 4,5 & 6 No cost	Monday	3 - 4pm	15
Mr Edgington	Athletics Year 1,2 & 3 No Cost	Monday	3-4pm	25

Useful parent links

- Free CAMHS events for parent and carers. Full details and booking links are available on the CAMHS events page:
<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/>
- The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has published a guide to help parents and carers navigate the challenge of managing children's everyday online habits. This is a practical resource to share with parents and carers, particularly at transition points or where online harms are presenting in school.

The downloads can be found [here: 'What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England](#)

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.



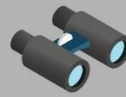
Key dates

- Friday 5th June- RSE consultation meeting, 5pm school hall
- Friday 12th June – Year R Trip to Hillier Gardens
- Saturday 13th June – Summer Fete
- Friday 19th June 2026- INSET day 5
- Monday 22nd June – Sports Day!
- 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 15th July – School Summer Disco (Year R-5)
- Friday 17th July – Year 6 Leavers Disco
- Wednesday 22nd July – Non School Uniform Day – ***What I want to be when I grow up!***
- Tuesday 1st September 2026 - Inset Day 1
- Wednesday 2nd September 2026 - Inset Day 2
- Friday 23rd October 2026 - Inset Day 3
- Monday 4th January 2027 - Inset Day 4
- Friday 18th June 2027 Inset Day 5

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>

Psst. Look out for our
**May half term
fun activities!**



KEEP IT A SECRET!!



25th to 29th May
Join us at our **craft tables**
10.00 to 12.30 to put some
secret agent skills to the
test.



Discover the stories of real-
life secret agents as part of a
fun **code cracking trail** around
the Museum.

Trail available all week.



WE need you, yes YOU, and your super-cunning
spy skills for a mysterious **Family Mission!**

Come along and become an Undercover
agent. See website for timing.



26th & 31st - **Model Making**
10.00 - 15.00

All ages are invited to learn
how to make & paint plastic
models at one of the free model
making sessions with Models for
Heroes.

armyflying.com

01264 781086

 UK Health Security Agency

Tick Awareness

Be tick aware

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

1 Use a repellent that prevents ticks

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

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

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

3 Keep to clearly defined paths and avoid brushing against vegetation

