



Dear Parents & Carers,

What a fantastic start to the new school year!

Engagement in learning has been high this week, as pupils began finding out about their new topics and learning 'in earnest' alongside their new classmates. Walking around the school this week, I have been struck by the positivity around the building. In Worship this morning, Miss Samuel even commented that her Vision Award winner had been "bringing the energy" in class- how brilliant!



Year 5 began their swimming sessions today and all our pupils had their first Forest School session- see below. This is something that I have been keen to introduce to Pilgrims' Cross, but the timing had to be right, factoring-in all the other changes which have been made. Mrs Burgess and Mrs Arnold commented on how well they feel *all* of the pupils have done, in their first proper outdoor session. Thank you for equipping your children for outdoor learning- don't forget that we will do this *all* year, so get prepared now with gloves, hats and thick coats for the winter days!

Lastly, if you haven't already, check out our Ofsted report by scanning the QR code opposite. Have a great weekend!



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		George H	
Willow		Jax K	
Sycamore		Grayson T	
Maple			Charlie B
Hazel		Rex C	Asher-Blu H
Lime		Nathan V	
Elm			Frankie H
Ash		Jaxon K	
Beech		Rosie B	
Pine		Orianna S	
Hawthorn			Emma W
Aspen		Kit P	
Juniper		Albie S	

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

CONGRATULATIONS YEAR R, you have completed your first full week in Primary School!!

We have had a wonderful week at school. We have spent a lot of time exploring all of the areas within the classroom and in our outdoor provision, even when we had a little rain. Junk modelling has been a big hit this week and some children have made houses for their families and rockets. The children have enjoyed using our calm corners and we have enjoyed listening to the stories that the children have made up while playing with the house and in the dinosaur world.

Forest School was great fun and we had a lovely time outside. The children also really enjoyed making, and travelling across, their obstacle course.

Well done Year R, we are so proud of the start you have made, let's keep going!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure

Sycamore & Maple

What a fantastic first full week we have had in Year 1! The children are settling into their new routines brilliantly and have been working hard across all areas of their learning. In Maths, we have begun our Place Value learning by practising counting to 10 and exploring one more and one less than a number. In English, we have started our new book, *Old Bear*. The children have enjoyed exploring the story, writing sentences and using adjectives to make their writing more interesting. We have also seen some lovely learning during Explore and Learn this week, with the children experimenting with different types of lines in Art. On Friday afternoon, we had a special visit from the dentist and the children took part in a fantastic workshop all about keeping their teeth healthy. We discovered that we already have some dental experts in Year 1, as well as a few budding dentists! If you brought wellies into school for your child while they were in Year R, please collect them from the Year R area. Any wellies that are left will be donated to Forest School to use as spares. Please also remember to email or send in a photograph of your child with their favourite toy for our History learning this week. We are very proud of how well the children have settled into Year 1 and are looking forward to another exciting week!

Miss Miners and Mrs Bryan



Lime & Hazel

Well done to everyone for a great full first week in Year two. This week we have been learning about place value- tens and ones, looking at the value of each digit. In English we have started our unit on *Leo and the Octopus*, predicting what we think the story will be about. We have been using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. Some of us even used exclamation marks! In Geography we recapped human and physical features as well as naming and locating the 7 continents using Atlases. In art we did an artist study on Emma Johnson and created our very own maps, which was great fun. In science we learnt the seven life processes and what they mean. The children enjoyed their first Forest School lesson. Reading folders will be coming home today with their *Numbots* passwords. Who will win: LIME OR HAZEL?! The children will also be given their correct banded reading book so please ensure you write every time they read in their red diaries.

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

Bonjour! This week Year 3 have been settling into Key Stage 2 and starting to learn French for the first time, starting with French greetings. Another first was visiting Forest School and finding out how this will run in preparation for a longer session next week. In Maths, we have been reviewing our understanding of 2-digit numbers, ready to get stuck into 3-digit numbers next week. In English we have been looking at clues to our new book- *The Iron Man* and predicting what we think might happen in the story.

Mrs James, Miss Hall and Mr Dookheran

Beech & Pine

Welcome back to the first full week back at school!

We have had an exciting time, making new friends and exploring the classroom.

In maths we have been exploring place value in numbers up to 100 and 1000 as well as adding and taking away 10 and 100. In English we have been immersing ourselves into a wordless picture book; *The Whale* by Ethan and Vita Murrow. The children made predictions about what they think might happen in the book – all to be revealed next week. In year 4, we have looked into the importance of looking after ourselves by making a balanced diet and creating our own healthy lunch boxes. During R.E we looked into 8 religions and searched for connections between them in terms of festivals, key figures and geography.

We wonder if your child could name the 5 main food groups and tell you what the ‘go, grow and glow foods’ are?

Mrs Wakefield, Miss Hardy and Miss Howick

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

Congratulations to all in Hawthorn, Aspen and Juniper for completing their first week in Year 5/6! It's fair to say we have started the work immediately! We have read 8 chapters of our class book *Oranges in No-Man's Land* and have analysed our character, Ayesha, as she travels through bomb sites and warzones to try and find medicine for her family. We have completed our first piece of independent writing in the form of a postcard from the perspective of Ayesha to her friend Samar; explaining what the journey through no-man's land has been like so far. In Maths, we have already almost finished place value, understanding what the value of each digit of a number represents and how we can partition and order numbers based on the number of digits and the value of each number column. Finally, well done to the Year 5's for completing their first week of swimming. We have heard lots of feedback about the courage and maturity you all demonstrated on Friday afternoon. Well done! Have a restful weekend and prepare to do it all again next week!

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

Forest School

It's been a brilliant first week at forest school. All classes have enjoyed their first sessions. We became familiar with the site and identified the plants, trees and creatures. Some children were able to identify their class tree. One of the highlights of the week we found some wasp spiders. The children have started foraging within the hedgerows and started using their finds in the mud kitchen area. Another BIG thank you to FOPS for kitting us out with spare waterproofs and resources.



We are looking forward to next week and please remember wellies and waterproofs. Also, look out for details in the coming weeks of our forest school grounds morning.

Mrs Burgess and Mrs Arnold

Vacancy news

Thank you to those of you who applied for the Cleaner and Mid-Day Supervisor positions. The position has now closed and we will be shortlisting and interviewing soon.

Music of the week

Music is one of the pleasures of life. My aim is to expose our pupils to a whole range of musical genres and styles over their time at Pilgrims' Cross.

The children have been listening to some calm and smooth jazz/Bossa nova by Stan Getz & Astrid Gilberto in worship this week. Why not listen to some of this great album at home this weekend? Track 1, *The Girl from Ipanema* is the most well-recognised.



Attendance

I think just a note to say well done to the majority of children who have made a solid start returning. Also just mention that minor coughs and colds can be treated in school with Calpol so please send your child in.

Mrs Hathaway Familysupport@pilgrimscross.co.uk



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/>



A new way to get support, closer to home.

Andover Foodbank Community Hubs across Andover, are making it easier for people to access Foodbank and support nearer to where they live. Our Community Hub sessions are open:

Ludgershall Memorial Hall, SP11 9LZ
Mondays 10am-12pm

Picket Twenty Community Hall, SP11 6TY
Tuesdays 10am-12pm

King Arthurs Hall, SP10 4BS
Wednesdays 9.30am- 11.30am

Bridge Street Methodist Church, SP10 1BL
Wednesdays 10am-12pm

St John the Baptist Church, SP10 3AD
Thursday and Fridays 10am-12pm

To receive support from Andover Foodbank, please arrange a **referral** through a supporting agency, your child's school, your GP surgery, or another professional who is supporting you. If you're not already working with a support agency, you can call 0808 812 6681.

Our hubs will offer the **same Foodbank Support**, alongside a cup of tea, warm welcome, signposting and access to additional support including Citizens Advice.

Questions? Call us on 01264 362111
Website: andover.foodbank.org.uk/locations

andover.foodbank.org.uk
Registered charity 1199568 Registered in England and Wales

Key dates

- Wednesday 16th-18th September – Year 6 Bikeability
- Wednesday 30th September – Flu Vaccine Clinic
- Monday 19th October – Individual school photographs
- Tuesday 20th & Thursday 22nd October- parent/carers' evening
- Friday 23rd October 2026 - Inset Day 3
- Tuesday 20th July 2027 – Inset Day 4
- Wednesday 21st July 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>