



Dear Parents & Carers,

I often have conversations with families who are struggling, need advice- or just a good chat and dose of reassurance that they're doing a good job...

A fabulous new resource is opening very soon in our area! The new Best Start Family Hub in Andover is officially launching on Thursday 29 October, from 14:00 to 17:00, at Spring Meadow Children's Centre. The Hub will see a joined-up approach from family support agencies and local partners to ensure the hubs reflect the needs of children, families and communities in Andover.

Whether it's health and wellbeing or childcare questions, you can find help, answers and support.

Why not scan the QR and find out more?

Jim Cascarini -
Headteacher



Funded by UK Government

Best Start in Life

FAMILY HUBS

Your new Best Start Family Hub in Andover

Calling all parents and carers!

FREE opening day fun!

Tell your family and friends!

Your new Best Start Family Hub is opening at Spring Meadow on 29 October.

Discover a **free one-stop shop** of trusted information, advice and support to help you through your journey as a parent.

Come and chat with our friendly Hub Connector, who can signpost you to information, advice and support for families from pregnancy through to age 19, or up to age 25 for young people with SEND.

Whether it's health and wellbeing or childcare and education questions, you can find everything you need to support your child to have the best start in life.

Also part of the Best Start Family Hubs Network:

Andover Library
Chantry Centre,
Andover, SP10 1LT

Lots of activities for children and families.

Best Start Family Hub at Spring Meadow

Smannell Road, Andover, SP11 6JP

29 October 2026
2 to 5pm

Scan the QR code to learn more about Best Start Family Hubs, including locations, services and opening times.



[ConnectToSupportHampshire.org.uk/BestStartInLife](https://connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/BestStartInLife)

headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Vision Awards

Congratulations to all our children who received a Vision Award this week...	Love	Courage	Trust
Oak		Robin M	
Willow	Eden O		
Sycamore		Imogen S	
Maple			Amara P
Hazel		Poppy M	
Lime		Darcey S	
Elm		Lucas W	
Ash	Charlotte P		
Beech			Alayah-Rose D
Pine			Lissy C
Hawthorn			Eddie H
Aspen			Lilly M-H
Juniper		Eleanor C	

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

It has been a lovely week when we can be outside lots and lots. The children have enjoyed drawing jelly fish with the chalk and investigating the signs of Autumn. We have also still enjoyed creating buses outside and going on journeys. We have started a new story this week based on what the children have shown us they are interested in. The story is called *Cars Galore!* We have been looking at crazy cars and describing what they look like. For example, scary shark car, ferocious dinosaur car, speedy racing car, etc. This week we have been helping our puppets to count to 5. First, they didn't know the last number is the total amount of objects, then they didn't know when to stop so they were counting too many. The children helped the puppet to count, using one-to-one correspondence. We cannot wait to see where the children take the learning next week.

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure.

Sycamore & Maple

This week in English, we have continued writing our retelling of *Old Bear*. In Maths, we have been exploring measurement, comparing taller and shorter objects, investigating lighter and heavier objects, and learning about capacity using vocabulary such as full, empty, half full and nearly full. In Explore and Learn, we have been busy across lots of areas of our learning. In Science, we looked at how daylight hours change across the different seasons. In History, we learnt about timelines and ordered toys according to when they were made. In RE, we explored the Hindu creation story, and in Art we have been identifying shapes within pictures, including the shapes we can see in our faces. We also had a very early taste of Christmas spirit as the children enjoyed designing their Christmas cards! Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our 'Day in the Life of Year 1' presentation. Well done to all the children for another fantastic week of learning – we can't wait for another great week ahead!

Miss Miners and Mrs Bryan

Lime & Hazel

This week in Year 2 we were so happy to host many of our wonderful parents for our 'Life in Year 2' presentations! Don't worry if you weren't able to make it as your child should have come home with any handouts in their home learning folder on Friday.

In the classroom this week we have been exploring different habitats and learning about various animals that live there. This linked in with our chat about different climates in Geography last week as we located the Equator. In English this week we've been focusing on the skills used by writers, finding them in our example text and using them within our own character descriptions of Maya the octopus. In Maths we've been practicing our related facts to 10 and 20 - we've really enjoyed playing hit the button to help build our recall with this. We've had another successful Forest School session and we've learnt about how people say thank you in RE.

Next Thursday we will be doing some 3D artwork so can we ask that each child brings in any bits of recycling that they think could be stuck to paper to build a map so we can make a fantastic collaborative piece.

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury

Elm & Ash

It has been another busy and exciting week in Year 3!

The children have completed their Big Writes inspired by *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. They have worked hard to develop their descriptive writing, using adventurous vocabulary and a range of writing techniques to bring their ideas to life.

In Maths, we have been exploring mass and measurement, learning how to measure and compare different objects using grams and kilograms. The children have enjoyed putting their measuring skills into practice!

We have also been learning all about diet in Science. The children have been thinking about what diet is and how it varies between different animals.

Beech & Pine

We have had another excellent week in Year 4!

In English, we have started a new book - *Into the Forest* by Anthony Browne - and have been exploring the use of fronted adverbials and descriptive language. In Maths, we have been developing our addition and subtraction skills with numbers up to 3-digits, including solving a variety of word problems.

During PSHE this week, we thought about the different people we can go to for support when we need help, advice or someone to talk to. In Science, we investigated the teeth of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores, investigating how their teeth are adapted to help them eat different types of food, before looking at food chains next week. In Geography, we discussed why the rainforest is such an important part of our world.

We wonder if your child can explain the importance of the rainforest?

Mrs Wakefield, Miss Hardy and Miss Howick

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

It's been another busy week in Year 5 and 6 this week! In Maths, we have practiced multiplying a 4-digit number by a 2-digit number – making sure we use our placeholder and understanding the deeper thinking involved in column multiplication. The children have been so successful and determined with this tricky concept. Having book piles that are majority green is a great sight!

In English, we have planned our diary entry – looking at features to include and high-level vocabulary that can be incorporated into our sentences. We also practiced extending sentences and understanding how to add detail to our words throughout the use of prepositions and adverbials at the beginning and throughout our writing. We will begin writing up next week!

In Science, we investigated filtering and understanding how the process works. We used a water bottle and several different materials to filter some horrendously muddy water into clean(er) water. We established that even though the water was a better colour, there were still plenty of smaller particles, germs and bacteria that were residing inside. Finally, in RE we detailed how Guru Hargobind was falsely imprisoned by the Mughal empire for attempting to free 52 political prisoners. We had an attempt at drawing the Harmandir Sahib and detailed why this event was an attack of the religious freedom of Sikh worshippers. Another busy week down, enjoy the weekend!

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

Hot Choc Friday!

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



Forest School

Thank you to all the children that have been going for autumnal walks and donating conkers to Forest School, we have been very creative with them! We will also be carrying on with conkers next week so there is still time to head out on a family walk and collect some this weekend!

EYFS and KS1 children made snails and caterpillars, while KS2 made webs, spiders and even a wobbly conker car! We used palm drills and conker clamps to safely make a hole through the conkers. Potion recipe blocks were added to the mud kitchen, and the children worked well together to make friendship and sunshine potions.

If any families have any spare wellies at home (especially KS2) then we would love to re-home them at school for spares.

Reminder of your child's Forest School day.

Monday; Year 3

Tuesday; Years 4, 5/6

Wednesday; Reception and Year 1

Thursday; Year 2



Mrs Burgess and Mrs Arnold

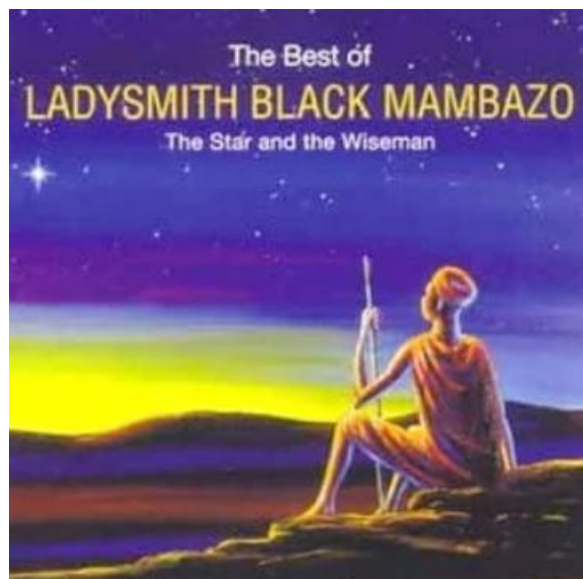
Staff vacancy

An exciting job opportunity has arisen at Pilgrims' Cross Primary. We are looking for a Learning Support Assistant (preferably with experience) to join our friendly team. The hours are 8.00am until 3.00pm, Monday to Friday, with 5 inset days throughout the year for training. Hourly rate of pay £13.28. Please make enquiries through recruitment@pilgrimscross.co.uk. All offers of employment are subject to satisfactory references and DBS checks.

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 music by the South African choir, Ladysmith Black Mambazo. Some tracks are a cappella, whilst others are more upbeat voice & instrument tracks, in collaboration with artists such as Paul Simon and Dolly Parton. Why not check them out?



Attendance

Attendance across the school is currently 96.9% which is an excellent start to the academic year and is above national average.

If your child has been absent, even in these first few weeks, you may have noticed we may be contacting you. This is so that we can work together with you to ensure that any barriers to attending school are recognised early so that we can best support your child accessing their education.

Thank you to you for continued support.

Mrs Hathaway Familysupport@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Parent/carer evenings

We are holding parent/carer consultations on Tuesday 20th & Thursday 22nd October. Bookings are now open via ARBOR; you will find this under the Parent Consultation section. We look forward to communicating with you on how your children have been doing in the first half of term. Please sign up now!

Best Start in Life Hub- PEEP programme

I am also pleased to share that they will be running the Peep Learning Together Programme in the second half of this term, for families of children aged 3 and 4 years old. There is no cost to attend, and the sessions are delivered by fully trained practitioners. For more information about Peep, please visit: [Peep Learning Together Programme - Peeple](https://www.peep.org.uk/parents-area)

The programme helps parents improve their children's life chances by making the most of everyday learning opportunities, supporting school readiness. It runs over six weeks and families are welcome to attend one of the Stay and Play sessions beforehand to get a flavour of what to expect.

peep
Learn, play and
grow together.



Peep supports parents and carers to make the most of everyday moments, helping your child grow in confidence and get ready for school.

Fun, friendly sessions with songs, stories and simple ideas to try at home.

Peep Stay and Play for 3-4-year-olds



Monday 5 October - **Gruffalo Granny Tea Party**
Wednesday 7 October - **Autumn is Awesome!**



13:30-14:30am at **Spring Meadow Children's Centre**

FREE, no booking required

www.peep.org.uk/parents-area



Raising Resilient Children Online course

Mondays 28 September - 19 October
7pm - 9pm

FREE - Eligibility criteria applies

This is an online course using Microsoft Teams. Participants will be required to use Microsoft Teams.

Booking is essential, please visit

<https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/library-courses> to book your place. If you have issues booking online please contact branch staff or call 02392 232957



Positive Parenting Online course

Mondays 2 November - 30 November
7:30pm - 9pm

FREE - Eligibility criteria applies

This is an online course using Microsoft Teams. Participants will be required to use Microsoft Teams.

Booking is essential, please visit

<https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/library-courses> to book your place. If you have issues booking online please contact branch staff or call 02392 232957



School Photographers

On **Monday 19th October**, Tempest Photographers will be in school to photograph your children for their annual individual portraits.

If you would like to have siblings photographed together, we ask that you come to the school hall from 7.55am and this can be done. **We will be unable to take sibling photographs during the day.** If you have pre-school or older siblings, you wish to have included then of course please bring those with you also for that 7.55am slot.

These photos make great Christmas presents for relatives!

Key dates

- Friday 16th October- Harvest Festival (please donate some produce- see below)
- Monday 19th October – Individual school photographs
- Monday 19th October – Year 4 Class Celebration @ 8.45am
- Monday 19th October – Year 1 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Tuesday 20th October – Year 5/6 Class Celebration @ 8.45am
- Tuesday 20th October – Year R Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Tuesday 20th & Thursday 22nd October- parent/carers' evenings
- Wednesday 21st October – Year 3 class Celebration @ 8.45am
- Wednesday 21st October – Year 2 Class Celebration @ 2.15pm
- Friday 23rd October 2026 - Inset Day 3
- Tuesday 3rd November - Firework Night
- Wednesday 16th December- KS2 Christmas Service @ St. Mary's- 6.00pm
- 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>

Harvest appeal

We are collecting for our Harvest Festival on Friday 16th October.

Please could you consider donating some of the items below, to help those in need? Please drop any items into class or the School Office before the 16th October. We will arrange for someone from the Food Bank to collect items after our Harvest Festival.

Thank you!



Harvest appeal



Help support Andover Foodbank this Harvest

So far this year the Foodbank has supported 4700 people in our community with over 40,000 meals and other essential items

Donate food



Donate 1 or 2 items so we can provide food for people in your community who cannot afford the essentials

Donate money



Help to cover our operating costs, including a Citizens Advice caseworker to provide financial support

Shopping list

- Tinned meat meals
- Tinned/instant potatoes
- Tinned soup/spaghetti
- Tinned fruit/veg
- Rice 500g
- Rice pudding/custard
- Pasta sauce
- Milk (long life)
- Breakfast cereal
- Biscuits/Chocolate

01264 362111

andover.foodbank.org.uk

Registered charity in England & Wales 1199568