



Dear Parents & Carers,

It is vital that our children understand our Fundamental British Values- how we work together in the UK as a democratic, respectful society, respecting individual views whilst showing tolerance towards others.

This week, I had the privilege of taking a group of our Year 5/6 pupils to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. Many of the children I took are School Councillors, so they had the chance to learn about how they serve in a similar way at Pilgrims' Cross (representing the views of their peers) to the MPs in the House of Commons or the Lords and Baronesses in the House of Lords.

We visited both chambers, toured the building and popped into Westminster Hall (pictured), where the late Queen lay in state a few years ago.



Our children were SUCH a credit to the school- see below for more details...

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	Rosie S		
Willow			Scott W
Sycamore		George M	
Maple			Jaycob C
Hazel	Ashton L		
Lime			Freddie M
Elm		Alfir C	
Ash	Olivia F		
Beech			Ben S
Pine		Izzy R	
Hawthorn			Ellis B
Aspen		Charlie J	Daniel H
Juniper	Scarlett-Hope B		

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

We have had such a wonderful week being imaginative about cars and transport. We have seen huge bridges being made with beams and supports around the bottom, so they don't fall over. The children have thought about imaginative cars like dinosaur cars, shark cars, marshmallow cars, bath cars and even cars that sound like choirs. Their play has been so purposeful this week and we have enjoyed engaging with their play. Maths has all been about number work for the numbers 2 and 3. They have loved being out in the rain (as have we)!! We have loved all the stories about dragons attacking castles or rockets going into space and looking out for meteors.

The children take us on such a wonderful journey, and we can't wait to see what next week brings. Well done year R

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure.

Sycamore & Maple

This week in English, we have continued with our retelling of the story *Old Bear*, developing our ideas and using our writing skills to tell the story in our own words. In Maths, we have moved on to exploring part-whole models within 10 and have been finding different ways to split numbers into parts. During Explore and Learn, we have been thinking about toys in the past, present and future as part of our History learning. In Science, we have been observing the weather throughout the week and discussing what we need to wear to protect ourselves in different weather conditions. In PSHE, we have been learning to recognise how our faces can change when we experience different emotions, while in RE we have explored Humanist beliefs about how the world began. A quick reminder to please book a parents' evening slot if you haven't already. Thank you, as well, for all of the wonderful conker donations – they have been very much appreciated! The children have been wonderful this week, and we are already looking forward to another great week ahead!

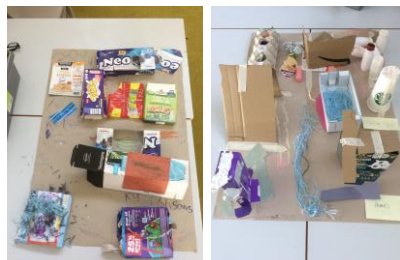
Miss Miners and Mrs Bryan

Lime & Hazel

This week in Year 2 we've been doing lots of measuring in Maths. We started with centimetres and metres, using rulers and metre sticks to measure things in our environment before moving on to measure mass using grams and kilograms. We enjoyed using the scales and weighing various resources! In English, we finished our learning journey about *Leo and the Octopus* by writing our own narrative about the main characters Leo and Maya. We learnt about different Harvest Festivals around the world in RE and how people say thank you in different ways. In Science we found out how different animals depend on each other and drew them in their habitats.

Thank you to everyone who brought in their recycling! We loved using it to make some great 3D maps in Art after having another look at our focus artist, Emma Johnson.

Miss Samuel and Miss Dewsbury



Elm & Ash

In English, we have been immersing ourselves in *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. The children have enjoyed exploring the character in depth, thinking carefully about his appearance, personality, friendships and the materials he is made from. Using the information we have gathered from the text, the children are now preparing to write their own information texts all about the Iron Man. We will be focusing on organising facts into sections and using features of non-fiction writing to inform our readers. In maths the children have worked hard to add and subtract different amounts of liquid and have been developing their confidence in solving a range of practical and reasoning problems.

In RE, we have been learning about revelations and thinking about how people receive important messages and guidance within different faiths. The children have enjoyed discussing what revelations mean and why they are significant to believers. In Computing, we have been learning about computer networks and how information is sent from one device to another. The children have explored how devices connect and communicate, developing their understanding of the technology we use every day.

Times Table Rockstar tournament update: Elm has won again. Making it 3 in a row! Well done, Elm. This means that they are 3-0 up against Ash.

We are incredibly proud of the hard work, enthusiasm and curiosity Year 3 continue to show in all areas of their learning. Keep up the fantastic work, Year 3!

Mrs James, Miss Hall and Mr Dookheran

Beech & Pine

This week in Year 4, we have been continuing to explore our book *Into the Forest* by Anthony Browne and have written diary entries as the boy from the story.

In Maths, we have been applying our addition and subtraction skills to different units of measure, including length and mass. We have solved problems involving length and mass, carefully converting units and using reasoning to explain our answers.

As part of our learning about rainforests, we created informative posters about saving the rainforest. The children are excited to visit the Living Rainforest in November to see some of the things we have been learning about in action.

In RE, we learned all about World Religion Day and explored how people of different faiths celebrate and promote understanding, respect and unity between religions around the world.

Mrs Wakefield, Miss Hardy and Miss Howick

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

It's been a busy week again in Year 5/6. In maths, we have nailed multiplying a 4-digit number by a 2-digit number. We have also applied this by using problem solving word questions and two step problems. The children have completed these using two different methods- the column multiplication method, and the grid method. The children have been able to select which method they prefer out of the two and apply it. In English, we have completed our diary entry and as a result, our learning journey around our text *Oranges in No Man's Land*. Given the fact that it is a first attempt for the year, we have thoroughly enjoyed reading the children's work and have been impressed by their level of detail and their chronological retelling of the story. In particular, the use of prepositions and adverbials to begin their sentences to add that extra layer of detail. We investigated solutions in science. We mixed several different materials to see what would happen in water and concluded whether they turned cloudy, remained clear, or had a layer of particles at the top/bottom. We also role-played as salt and water and demonstrated happens when you add water to salt and the journeys of the different particles. Finally, there was another successful week of swimming. Mr Childs and Mrs McNee were impressed particularly by the children's listening and enthusiasm in the pool. Well done to all the children for their hard work this week.

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

Parliament trip

We travelled up by train: the children behaved impeccably on the journey (surrounded by grumpy commuters who seemed to have forgotten that they ever were children themselves!) and on their walk along Embankment, on busy pavements. On the tour, the children asked intelligent questions and could recall many aspects about our democracy. Knowledge of our different political parties was a bit sketchy- any work you can do at home to explain how they differ would be appreciated!

We got to see many 'behind the scenes' features of the wonderful building including:

- Henry VIII's bedroom
- The robing room, where the King gets dresses for the State opening of Parliament
- The voting corridors
- Both chambers
- Queen Victoria's tiny throne



I was so proud of our wonderful Pilgrims' Cross children, who demonstrated our Values throughout the day. They even coped graciously with a super-packed train on the return journey, sitting on the floor all the way home!

Hot Choc Friday!

Children who have been chosen for hot chocolate will be featured in next week's newsletter...

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!

Forest School

A mixed week of weather this week, some long-awaited rain meant we had a lot of fun in the mud! Thanks for sending your children in with wet weather clothes, we have spares, but they are limited.

Lots more conkers have been generously donated, and each class made a conker wreath to decorate base camp- they look fabulous.



Did you know that conkers make a great natural and gentle soap? We used hammers to break up conkers and Mrs Arnold took them home to soak in hot water. Thursday nurture club washed some very muddy forest school teddies!

Mrs Burgess and Mrs Arnold



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.

() (also referred to as **Svigaplátan**, which translates to **The Bracket Album**) is the third studio album by Icelandic post-rock band Sigur Rós. It comprises eight untitled tracks, divided into two parts: the first four tracks are lighter and more optimistic, while the latter four are bleaker and more melancholic. The two-halves are divided by a 36-second silence, and the album opens and closes with a click of distortion. Lead singer Jón Þór Birgisson ("Jónsi") sang the album's lyrics entirely in "Hopelandic", a made-up language consisting of gibberish words.



Check it out!

Attendance

A huge thank you to all our children and families for their commitment to excellent attendance this term so far.

We are delighted to share that our current whole-school attendance is **97.2%**, which is **above the national average**. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the value our school community places on being in school every day, ready to learn.

Regular attendance helps children make the most of every learning opportunity, build strong friendships and develop positive routines. We know that maintaining such high attendance is a team effort, and we are grateful for the support of parents and carers, as well as the dedication of our staff and pupils.

Let's keep working together to ensure every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed. Every day counts, and every minute matters! ✨

Mrs Hathaway Familysupport@pilgrimscross.co.uk

Safety on site

I am writing to ask you all to support us in making the school run more accessible for those with disabilities or movement difficulties.

Many of our parents, carers or grandparents with hidden or visible disabilities use the school grounds everyday. The window to access the school site between gates opening and classrooms being accessible

means that the school run can make these peak times busy or crowded. Please can I ask you all to be on the lookout for others when moving around the school site? I've noticed adults standing in groups in the middle of paths, pairs or groups of adults taking up both sides of the path, adults walking with the expectation that people step aside for them, or bumping into others due to not giving each other enough space on the school grounds.

Our values of Love, Courage and Trust apply to all of us, so please can I ask you all to "go the extra mile" and look out for others, particularly those more vulnerable?

Lastly, please remind your children that they are not to scoot or cycle around the site, once they have come through the gates.

Thank you.

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

Funded by UK Government

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.

Best Start Hub

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?



This is a fantastic opportunity to help us raise funds towards our new Outdoor Learning Area, which will provide our children with a wonderful space to learn, explore, play and connect with nature.



Every time you shop at Waitrose, you'll have the opportunity to receive a green token. Please pop your token into our school's collection box and help us reach our fundraising goal!

It may seem like a small contribution, but every token really does count. If lots of our school community get involved, those little tokens can add up to make a big difference.

So next time you're shopping at Waitrose, please look out for our school and give us your token!

Thank you for helping us turn our outdoor learning vision into a reality! 🌱



Tuesday 3rd November 5pm – 7pm

Tickets will be available via School Reception from Monday 12th October – Grab them before 3pm on Monday 2nd November to access the early bird discount;

Family of 4 £15
Per person £4
Under 3's Free!

On the gate prices;
Family of 4 £20
Adult £6.50
Child £4
Under 3's Free!



We are also looking for volunteers to help out with stalls, so please let us know if you can help!



Bags 2 School is back on Tuesday 13th October 2026.

Having a sort out ? Any unwanted items? Bag them up and bring them along to help raise money for the School .

Bring your bags to the school carpark between 8am-8.30am on Tuesday 13th October

Non-Uniform Day – Wear your Rainbow Colour

Thursday 22nd October

Come to school in your rainbow colour and please provide a gift / donation of your colour towards our colour raffle



Volunteers Required

We are always looking for volunteers to come along & help at events or even share your skills & experience with the school, maybe gardening is your thing, or painting, or even reading with the children?

Why not come along to one of our meetings and share your ideas, email us at friendspilgrims�ross@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!

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
- Monday 16th November – Year 4 Trip to The Living Rainforest
- 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>

Book Fair

We will be Holding our School Book fair **On Parents evenings on the 20th and 22nd October** from 3pm till 6pm in the School Library.

We will have lots of lovely books for sale which will help earn books for our school.

You will be able to pay by cash, or by card though the QR code.

Please look out for the posters on your classroom doors for more information.





SCHOOLS OUT FREE TASTER

TRY OUR AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS AT THE SCOTT CENTRE &
PILGRIMS CROSS SCHOOL

Our After School Clubs are the perfect place for children aged 4-13 to play, learn, make friends and grow after the school day until 6pm. From baking and STEM projects to sports, crafts, gardening, and forest school, there's something for everyone!

New families can enjoy free taster sessions at select schools to discover what we offer and see how their children can thrive.

Spaces are limited - contact Paige to book and come and join the fun! [Email: scottcentre@youthoptions.org.uk](mailto:scottcentre@youthoptions.org.uk)

- ✓ Part of a trusted OFSTED registered charity with 85+ years experience
- ✓ Safe, nurturing environments where children feel they belong
- ✓ Wide range of daily clubs – active, creative and educational
- ✓ Local school pick-up from participating schools



www.youthoptions.org.uk

Youth Options is a registered Charity (1056463).



**PRESCHOOLS
& CHILDCARE**

PREVENTION

TARGETED

PROGRESSION

**OUTDOOR
LEARNING**