



Dear Parents & Carers,

Well, the house points have been counted and **Water House** have won the dress-down treat on the first Friday back after half term- a very well done! It was lovely to see so many of you at the Class Celebrations this week too...

We celebrated the first Compass Badges of the year today in Worship too. For those of you who aren't up to speed, Compass Badges are awarded to one child from each class who has been following our Pilgrims' Cross Compass rules consistently, all term. It was an absolute pleasure for me to award these. However, **the vast majority of our children** have been showing excellent behaviours all term- thank you, parents & carers, for supporting us in acknowledging and celebrating good behaviour.

Lastly, thank you for attending parent/carer consultations this week. I really valued meeting with the parents/carers from Hazel Class- I do really miss being a class teacher and talking about learning! I hope that you got a clear picture from our staff of how your child has settled into their new class and year group.

Phew! It has been a busy term- and I think that we are all ready for the break. Enjoy the week,

Jim Cascarini – Headteacher

headteacher@pilgrimscross.co.uk



Pilgrims' Cross Compass



In order to be a Loving, Courageous and Trustworthy member of the Pilgrims' Cross community:

1. I treat myself, others and property with respect;
2. I make safe choices for myself and those around me;
3. I come prepared and focused for my learning;
4. I move through spaces calmly and quietly;
5. I listen to and follow instructions from all adults.

Vision Awards

Congratulations to all our children who received a Vision Award this week...	Love	Courage	Trust
Oak	Emma F		
Willow		Khalid O	
Sycamore	Hunter -Robert O'N		
Maple		William L	
Hazel			Bluebell H
Lime		Athena B	
Elm		Ambra B	
Ash		Sophia D	
Beech	Poppy M		
Pine		Amiyah B	
Hawthorn			
Aspen	Therupakana U		
Juniper			Jennifer S

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

What a wonderful first term we have had in Willow and Oak Class! We are incredibly proud of all the children and how beautifully they have settled into school life.

Our recent Class Celebrations were a lovely opportunity to share some of this learning with you. Thank you so much for coming along and supporting the children. It was a very special occasion, and we hope you enjoyed seeing just how much they have achieved and how proud they are of their learning. We have had lots of fun exploring stories and language, particularly performing our *Three Little Pigs* narrative. The children have enjoyed bringing the story to life and developing their storytelling skills. In maths, we have been busy comparing all manner of things, using the language of **greater** and **fewest** to describe what we notice. Our adventures have continued outdoors, too! Forest School has provided plenty of opportunities for muddy hands, messy fun and wonderful exploration. We have also been busy making plenty of delicious pumpkin soup, embracing the season.

We hope you have an amazing, well-earned half term break.

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure.

Sycamore & Maple

What a lovely final week of the half term we have had in Year 1! In Maths, we have been counting beyond 10 and exploring counting in tens. In English, the children have applied the writing skills they have developed through our work on *Old Bear* to write their own forest setting descriptions. During continuous provision, the children have created wonderful musical performances based on *The Three Little Pigs*, using their voices to bring the different characters to life. In Art, we have been developing our observational drawing skills by sketching autumnal vegetables, while in PSHE, we explored the things that help us feel calm. It has been a fantastic first half term, and we are so proud of all the children and their enthusiasm for learning. We hope you all have a wonderful, restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back!

Miss Miners and Mrs Bryan

Lime & Hazel

This week in Year 2 we have rounded out our first half term back by writing letters! Through our text 'A River' by Marc Martin, we have explored different habitats and described what we saw in our letters to each other. The children used noun phrases, expanded noun phrases with a comma and even a simile(!) to describe what they heard and saw. We had a focus on Computing this week, learning how to control computers as well as going on a Technology safari around the school! We designed some inventions that would do tasks like make a cake and discussed how we would use inputs such as buttons to create the output. It was fantastic to see so many parents and carers at our Parent Celebration, thank you so much for getting stuck-in to the printing. The end results were wonderful! Both classes enjoyed a class treat for collecting their Compass balls on Thursday with Lime class building some blanket dens. We'll see you after the half term ready to start our History focus of 'Classrooms in the past'.

Miss Samuel and Mrs Lay

Elm & Ash

Year 3 have had one last hard-working week before a well-deserved break. We looked at and designed our own ballads. Year 3 have done incredibly well to tackle multiplication and division, showing great resilience to tackle problems that have increased in complexity.

In our English we wrote our information texts on the iron man. All included some really well-structured and descriptive writing.

Thank you to all who were able to come to our parent/guardian celebration. Staff and children really enjoyed being able to share skills we have learnt in both art and English.

Hope everyone, young and old, have a wonderful half term.

Mrs James, Miss Hall and Mr Dookheran

Beech & Pine

It was wonderful to welcome parents into our classes this week for our Parent Celebration, where we created our own villains inspired by our work on *Inside the Villains*. The children thought carefully about how to make their characters as interesting as possible, adding flaps that revealed what was inside their villain's mind or what they had eaten! They showed great imagination and loved sharing their creations with each other. In English, we used our villains as inspiration for writing our own information texts. The children came up with some brilliant ideas, thinking about their villain's favourite food and what they are scared of.

In Maths, we have been consolidating our knowledge of number facts to 1000 and building confidence in using these facts to solve problems. In Computing, we were excited to start exploring Scratch and its different features. In Music, we completed our body percussion unit, with the children creating and performing their own rainforest-inspired pieces.

We are very proud of all the children's hard work this half term and how well they have settled into Year 4. Have a fantastic half term!

Mrs Wakefield, Miss Hardy and Miss Howick

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

It's been a full final week of the half term. We have finished our persuasive piece of writing in English about our text, *Gravenhunger*. The children used high-level adjectives and thought about their descriptions of certain objects. We thought about how we can change negative aspects of a house to a positive in order to sell to perspective buyers. We were able to have the time to write up in neat. Expect to see some of these pieces of work on the corridor display soon! The children aimed to make their handwriting as neat as possible to gain their pen licenses. Don't worry if you don't get your pen license on the first go, there are plenty more opportunities throughout the year! We enjoyed a nice end to the non-uniform day on Thursday. The afternoon consisted of creating knitted pumpkins with Mrs McNee, playing some cricket games with Mr Childs and Mr Hambidge showing off his moves with some Just Dance! Have a wonderful half term and come back rested to do it all again in a week's time.

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

Forest School

What a wonderful way to wrap up our very first half term of Forest School! Despite the wet and muddy weather, the children embraced every moment, and we were even treated to a beautiful burst of sunshine at the end of the week. This week we talked about harvest and which fruit and veg was in season. We used pumpkins to develop our hammer skills by tapping golf tees into pumpkins to create patterns and class names. The children also showed fantastic creativity by using sticks and wool to craft unique decorations. Thank you so much for all your support this term, we are already looking forward to more outdoor adventures next term!

Hope you have an enjoyable half term with some outdoor adventures.

Mrs Burgess and Mrs Arnold



A Little Note from the Chair of Governors

I wanted to take a moment to say how lovely it is to see so many of you around the school, whether that's at drop-off, pick-up or one of our school events. I always enjoy having a chat and hearing your thoughts about school life.

One thing I did want to touch on is how we raise questions, concerns or feedback.

As Chair of Governors, I'm always happy to listen, and I want parents to feel that the governing body is approachable and accessible. However, we do have processes in place to make sure concerns are dealt with fairly, consistently and, most importantly, by the right people.

I completely appreciate that catching me in the playground or dropping me a message might feel like the quickest way to get something resolved. In reality, though, it's not always the most effective route, and sometimes it can actually make things a little more complicated.

Our teachers and school leadership team are best placed to address most day-to-day matters, and we have a clear process for raising concerns should something need to go further. The governing body's role is to provide oversight, support and challenge, rather than get involved in the day-to-day running of the school.

So please don't think I'm avoiding a conversation if I point you back towards the school! It's simply about making sure everyone has the opportunity to follow the same process and that concerns are handled properly.

Ultimately, we all want the same thing: a happy, safe and successful school where our children can thrive. That works best when parents, staff, school leaders and governors work together.

And, of course, if you see me in the playground, please do still come and say hello!

David Rawlins
Chair of Governors
Pilgrims' Cross CE (VA) Primary School

School Cleaner Required

We are looking for a reliable and hardworking Cleaner to join our school team. Duties include cleaning classrooms, corridors, toilets, and communal areas to maintain a safe and hygienic environment for students and staff.

- ✓ Reliable and punctual
- ✓ Attention to detail
- ✓ Previous cleaning experience preferred but not essential

Hours are Monday to Friday 3.00pm to 6.00pm. Termtime only but flexibility will be required for deep cleans during the school holidays.

Rate of pay £13.07 an hour.

To apply, please contact the school and request an application pack from

recruitment@pilgrimscross.co.uk

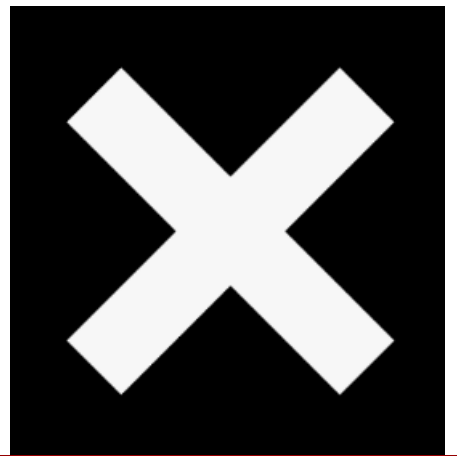
Christmas Shoebox Appeal

This year we will once again be taking part in the Shoebox appeal. The scheme is run by the Andover Rotary Club who gather filled shoeboxes with certain items and ship them to children across the world as it may be the only present, they get at Christmas. It is a wonderful scheme, and we are proud to be taking part in this again. If you can and wish to take part, please complete the form that has come home with your child and return the filled box by Monday 2nd November. Please remember to add a £2 coin to the top of your filled shoebox and to not seal the box. You can make it extra special by wrapping it in Christmas Paper. I have attached a copy of the form to this email in case the forms get lost on the way home, we also have spare copies available in the office to collect. **We have shoe boxes available from the office donated by the Rotary club. However, any decorated shoe boxes from home will also be suitable.**

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.

This week, in Collective Worship the children have been listening to tracks by the indie pop band The XX. Why not enjoy their chilled, electronic sound over half term?



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

Bonfire Menu

On Thursday 5th November the Kitchen will be offering a "Special Bonfire" Menu



Clubs

Please see below the clubs running next half term. Some are after school and some are at lunchtimes. The clubs will run from Monday 2nd November to Friday 18th December. Most are free, except if there is a cost for materials. These are in addition to our regular clubs provided by Integr8, Active gymnastics 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	Stories and Scribbles Year 3,4,5 and 6 No Cost	Thursday	12.30 -1pm	20
Mrs Edgington	Singing For Fun Club Year 1,2,3 and 4 No Cost	Tuesday	12.30- 1pm	30

Mr Edgington	Girls Football Club Year 5 & 6 No Cost	Friday	3-4pm	20
Mr Edgington	Boys Football Club Year 5 & 6 No Cost	Thursday	3-4pm	20
Mr Hambidge	American Football Club Year 5&6 No Cost	Thursday	3-4pm	16
Miss Miners	Netball Club Year 4,5 & 6 No Cost	Monday	3-4pm	20
Mrs Treasure	Art Club £8 Year 3,4,5,6	Thursday	3-4pm	15

Key dates

- Tuesday 3rd November - Firework Night
- Wednesday 11th November- Remembrance Worship- all Service families invited- 9.10am
- Monday 16th November – Year 4 Trip to The Living Rainforest
- Thursday 19th November - Year R-2 In-House Pantomime - Dick Whittington
- Friday 11th December – Year 5&6 Pantomime “Beauty and the Beast” @ The Anvil
- Wednesday 16th December- KS2 Christmas Service @ St. Mary’s- 6.00pm
- Thursday 17th December – Year 3&4 Pantomime “Beauty and the Beast” @ The Anvil
- 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>