Pilgrims' Cross Newsletter

Friday 6th November 2026

#90

Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you for turning out in your droves and supporting our wonderful Fireworks evening on Tuesday. The Friends of Pilgrims' Cross (FOPS) worked so hard to give us all a thoroughly enjoyable evening. There were delicious food stalls, a great BBQ, wonderful singing from Jake- and great community spirit! We were all thankful that the rain stopped after set-up, allowing us all to enjoy clear skies and beautiful fireworks.



The firework theme has been followed up this week in Forest School, where the children have made some wonderful firework creations. They then threw them into the air to test their flight! The children have also experienced their first fire-lighting: learning to use a flint striker to light small fires. Forest School is all about exposing the children to managed risks, giving them new and enriching experiences. Thank you, Mrs Burgess & Mrs Arnold!



Enjoy the beautiful autumn colours this 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	Nova-Leigh T		
Willow		Amelia L	
Sycamore		Ivy C	
Maple		Chevelle Y	
Hazel	Elodie S		
Lime		Everley F-E	
Elm		Aurora Q-S	
Ash			Landen L
Beech		Nanlung L	
Pine		Scarlett O-J	
Hawthorn		Olivia G-B	
Aspen		Kylo M	
Juniper		Dottie K	

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

It has been so lovely to welcome all the children back after the half-term break! They have returned beautifully, settling straight back into our routines and showing such lovely learning behaviours. We are so proud of how ready they have been to learn, explore and enjoy being together again.
This week, we have started our new story, *Star in the Jar*. This has sparked some lovely discussions as we begin to think about what it means to belong and what the word 'treasure' means to us. We are looking forward to exploring these ideas further through our stories, conversations and creative activities.
We have also loved hearing all about the children's Fireworks Night celebrations! There have been some wonderful stories and exciting discussions about the sights and sounds they experienced. We have enjoyed getting creative too, making our own junk-model rockets and creating beautifully-printed fireworks artwork.
There is lots to look forward to as we begin our next exciting chapter of learning. The children are particularly excited to start bringing home their reading books, and we can't wait to see their confidence and enthusiasm grow.

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure.

Sycamore & Maple

We've had a great week back in Year 1 this week. We have started our new English book, *The Three Little Pigs*, and the children have really enjoyed retelling the story, participating in role play, and joining in with the repeated phrases.
In Maths, we have been exploring equal amounts and splitting quantities into equal groups. For example, the children used counters to split 8 into 2 equal groups.
During Explore and Learn this week, the children have created stable towers in DT, considering how to create a base to help keep their towers stable. In Science, we have sorted classroom objects into the materials they are made from, such as metal, plastic, and wood. In Geography, the children have used symbols to label an aerial photograph of Picket Twenty with its key features, such as the park, school, and shop.
The children have come home today with letters outlining their roles within our Nativity play.
We hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Miners and Mrs Bryan

Lime & Hazel

We started our week with our teachers making sandwiches in a very strange way! We were learning about command sentences and imperative verbs in English, so Miss Samuel and Mrs Lay were instructed by us on how to make a sandwich! It turns out you have to be *very* specific when writing instructions so that they can be followed correctly.
In Maths we've been learning how to do addition and subtraction including bridging the ten. We've worked with tens frames and counters as well as number lines to help us show our workings out. In Science we started looking at everyday materials and their properties. We learnt about the story of Rama and Sita in RE so we can understand why light is important to some Hindus.
Most excitingly we have properly started our Nativity rehearsals this week and your child should have come home with their character name and any lines they need to learn! Please do help your child to memorise these as much as possible, any questions about costumes etc please ask and we look forward to our performances at the end of term!

Miss Samuel and Mrs Lay

Elm & Ash

This week, Year 3 have proudly completed their first Multiplication and Division unit in Maths. The children have worked hard to develop their understanding of multiplication facts and have begun using these to solve division problems. We have been impressed with their perseverance and growing confidence when explaining their mathematical thinking. We look forward to starting fractions together next week.
In English, we have started immersing ourselves in the fable *Fox*. The children have enjoyed exploring the characters, discussing the themes of the story and describing feelings and appearance. We are looking forward to using the text as inspiration for our own retell over the coming weeks.
Our new History topic has taken us back in time to Prehistoric Britain. We have begun learning about the Stone Age, discovering where it sits within the chronology of human history and exploring just how long ago it is. The children had lots of excellent questions about not only pre-history, but the history of humanity as a whole.
We look forward to sharing more of our learning journey with you next week!

Mrs James, Miss Hall and Mr Dookheran

Beech & Pine

We have had an excellent start to the new half term in Year 4!

We have had lots of fun exploring our new class text, *Leaf* by Sandra Dieckmann. The children have really enjoyed getting to know the main character, asking Leaf questions and acting out different scenes from the story. This has helped us to develop our understanding of the text and think more deeply about the characters. In Maths, we have been exploring multiplication and division, focusing on different strategies that can help us to use our times table facts more confidently. The children have been working hard to explain their thinking and choose the most efficient methods.

In Science, we began our new topic on Electricity and Circuits. We investigated how energy moves through a circuit by creating our own human circuits and discussed the different electrical appliances we use at home. The children were fascinated by how many everyday items need electricity to work! In PE, we thoroughly enjoyed our first rugby lesson. We learnt how to pass the ball accurately and practised our teamwork skills.

It has been another busy and enjoyable week, and we are proud of how the children have got stuck back into their learning across all subjects!

Mrs Wakefield, Miss Hardy and Miss Howick

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

In Year 5/6, it has been an intense, work-filled first week back. We have begun our new English book *The Errand.* We have analysed the images and the language used and created some wonderful art pieces using handpicked colours and styles. We are yet to finish the story so have been predicting the ending. Is the witch evil? Why is the boy running errands for a witch in a dark, horrifying forest? These are questions we have investigating in depth. We have split the children up for maths with two classes focusing on multiplying decimals and whole numbers by 10 and 100 and the other beginning their fractions work. All three classes have been successful with their learning this week and it has been fun allowing the children new classrooms to work in. In History, we have investigated the origins of the Viking invasion of Britain, realising that the Romans originally held the power in Britain until they had to retreat to Italy. We then finished with the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and the end of the Viking reign. Well done to all the children for their hard work on their first week back after half term!

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

Hot Choc Friday!

A surprise for our hot chocolate winners this week…. I was in an important meeting, so Mrs Crosland kindly had hot chocolate with our delightful children who consistently have followed our Pilgrims' Cross Compass rules. Thanks, Mrs Crosland!



Forest School

Autumn 2 term has started with a fresh feeling, it's lovely to see children prepared for the cold weather with layers and warm clothing.



Children were excited about the fireworks display at school this week, so we continued this theme with our very own 'forest school fireworks '. They loved making these and launching them on the field!

The Thursday group are working on their fire-lighting skills this term, they showed amazing perseverance and teamwork.



Lots of lovely child-led play too, with children collecting a variety of autumnal leaves to make wands and decorations.

The weather is looking slightly wetter next week, so wellies and waterproofs will be needed, thanks in advance.

Mrs Burgess and Mrs Arnold

School meal increase

Chartwells would like to let you know that the price of a school meal under the Hampshire managed catering contract will increase from **£2.75 to £2.95** from January 2027**.** We recognise the financial pressures facing schools and families and have negotiated robustly with Chartwells to keep the increase as low as possible while ensuring the contract remains sustainable.

The increase reflects the higher costs of delivering the service, particularly staffing costs following increases in the National Living Wage, alongside continuing pressures on food, energy and transport costs arising from inflation and wider global events. The new price represents an increase of 20p per meal and remains well below the £3.20 price charged in 2025.

We will continue to work closely with Chartwells to support schools, improve the service and encourage increased meal uptake.

A request from Miss Samuel...

If you have any of the following costumes at home that you would be able to donate to the school, we would be very grateful. In KS1 we are doing three different nativities and have a gap in costumes that we already have!
If you have any Shepherd/villager/servant costumes, a Mary costume or king costume that you know isn't going to be used at home we would love to be able to put it to good use! Our goal is to be able to provide the costumes needed each year so parents and carers don't have to worry about providing one for their child (that will probably only get used once). Please bring any donations to the school office - thanks in advance!

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

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 Enya. I love her ambient, Celtic music. The children listened to her album *The Celts* this week. Why not check it out?



SEND news

Hampshire County Council is currently undergoing a Local Area SEND Inspection led by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The inspection considers how effectively education, health and social care services work together to support children and young people aged 0–25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
As part of the inspection, Ofsted and CQC want to hear from children, young people, parents / carers and practitioners and professionals working with children and young people with SEND across education, health and social care services.
Please help us ensure the survey reaches as widely as possible across Hampshire:
Complete the Ofsted/CQC Area SEND survey closes at 9am on Tuesday 10th November 2026
The survey responses go directly to Ofsted/CQC rather than being collected by Hampshire. The views shared will help inspectors understand people's experiences of the SEND system, including what is working well and where improvements may be needed.
For further information about Hampshire's Local Area Partnership please visit the Local Area Partnership – Hampshire and for further information about the Local Area SEND Inspection, you can visit: Area SEND inspections: information about ongoing inspections - GOV.UK

Christmas Performances Year R,1 and 2

Bookings for our Christmas performances are now open!
To book your tickets, please log in to Arbor and visit the School Shop section, where you can select tickets for your chosen performance.

This year, we are delighted to be able to offer extended family members the opportunity to come along and enjoy the performances too. To help make this possible, we have allocated a maximum of two tickets per child, per performance.
We look forward to welcoming you and sharing the children's festive performances!

Key dates

- 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
- Thursday 3rd December – Year 3 Trip to Stonehenge
- Thursday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner
- Friday 11th December – Year 5&6 Pantomime "Beauty and the Beast" @ The Anvil
- **Tuesday 15th December – Year 1 Nativity "Christmas Counts" @ 9.30am**
- **Tuesday 15th December – Year 2 Nativity "A Miracle in Town" @ 2.30pm**
- **Wednesday 16th December - Year 2 Nativity "A Miracle in Town" @ 9.30am**
- **Wednesday 16 December – Year R Nativity "Whoops a Daisy Angel" @ 2.30pm**
- Wednesday 16th December- KS2 Christmas Service @ St. Mary's- 6.00pm
- **Thursday 17th December – Year R Nativity "Whoops a Daisy Angel" @ 9.30am**
- **Thursday 17th December - Year 1 Nativity "Christmas Counts" @ 2.30pm**
- Thursday 17th December – Year 3&4 Pantomime "Beauty and the Beast" @ The Anvil
- Friday 18th December – Christmas Party Day
- 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

KOOSA Kids Christmas Holiday Club

KOOSA Kids Christmas Holiday Clubs at Portway Infant School 21st to 23rd December. **Bookings are open.**
Our fun-packed Merry & Magical activity programme is designed for children aged 4-13, featuring a mix of active games, art & crafts, go-karts, science, sports and challenges that cater to all age groups and interests. Prices start from just £31.50 per child (Standard day 10.00am to 4.00pm; extended days available 8.15am-6.00pm) and your third sibling goes FREE!
Visit www.koosakids.co.uk/holiday-club to book or call our friendly customer service team on 01276 21884.

KOOSA kids
FUN ACTIVE CHILDCARE!
Outstanding Quality
Ofsted Registered

MERRY & MAGICAL!

HOLIDAY CLUBS FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-13

21st-23rd December 2026



From just £31.50 Per day!

BOOK NOW



CHRISTMAS PARTY - 23RD DECEMBER