Pilgrims' Cross Newsletter

Friday 13th November 2026

#91

Dear Parents & Carers,

Trust has been the theme of our Collective Worship all week. On Monday, the children were shown some lovely new lunchtime play equipment. They discussed how trust was important at lunchtimes and in the use of the equipment. On Tuesday, the School Councillors took the views of their classmates as they led a review of our new Child-Friendly Anti-Bullying Policy. This condenses down the longer, more adult Policy into a shorter, memorable document. Today, the School Councillors debated the changes. You will see a version soon, sent out with a Newsletter in the future.



On Wednesday, the whole school community paused to remember those who gave their lives to keep us safe, allowing us to live in a free, fair and democratic society. We were joined by many of our Service families too.



Children from our *Little Troopers* group also contributed to this special time- thank you, Mrs Scowen for organising this. Well done to one of our KS1 pupils, who laid a poppy down in the local Remembrance parade, last 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		Rosie T	
Sycamore			Elsie-May B
Maple			Edith D
Hazel		Leander G	
Lime		George B	
Elm			Evie T
Ash		Maya A-R	
Beech			Myla D
Pine		Tay K	
Hawthorn			Amelia B
Aspen		Mayan P	
Juniper			Alayah H

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

Another amazing week in Willow and Oak!

We have continued to explore our focus text, *Star and the Jar*, looking deeper into the story and sharing our thoughts and ideas. Alongside this we have looked at the traditional ways in which Diwali is celebrated and the story of Rama and Sita.

We have stepped up our focus on mark-making, exploring different ways to make marks using paints, big chalks and writing phonics, if appropriate. We have also begun our Kinetic Letters stories! The children are meeting new characters, Magic Turtle, Bounce and Skip, who will help us develop our letter-formation skills.

Lastly, we are incredibly proud of how respectfully the children were during our Remembrance service. They also enjoyed creating their own poppies in class, helping us remember the important occasion.

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure.

Sycamore & Maple

In Maths, the children have really impressed us with their understanding of halving. They have worked incredibly hard, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence growing. In English, we have been focusing on using capital letters and full stops correctly, applying these skills to write our own sentences about *The Three Little Pigs*.

Our Explore and Learn time has been full of exciting activities! In DT, the children have been investigating how to make structures stable using weights, whilst in RE, we worked together to create a beautiful whole-class piece of artwork inspired by Islamic art. In Science, we have been identifying and labelling materials found in a garden, and in Geography, we have enjoyed creating our very own messy maps!

In PE, we have started our new units in gymnastics and invasion games. The children have shown great enthusiasm and are really enjoying developing their new skills.
It has been another busy and brilliant week, and we are so proud of the effort and enthusiasm the children continue to show in their learning!

Miss Miners and Mrs Bryan

Lime & Hazel

This week in Year 2 we have written letters about finding a mammoth! We used all the skills we learnt last half term to help us including conjunctions and different suffix endings (-er, -est). In Maths we rounded out our addition and subtraction unit by bridging tens in subtraction and addition. We also looked at the related facts and how we can use them.

We learnt further about Diwali in RE this week, understanding the importance of light and making our own Diya lamps. In PSHE we talked about why sleep is so important – **maybe you could have a chat at home about your bedtime routines. We agreed in class that it's important to turn off screens (TV's, phones, tablets) to help our bodies relax.** We finished the week with a focus on DT, experimenting with strength and thickness of materials before making some chairs for our class teddies!

Miss Samuel and Mrs Lay

Elm & Ash

This week in Year 3, we have continued our exciting work on the beautifully illustrated book *Fox*. The children have been exploring the characters in greater depth, discussing their personalities, motivations and relationships. We have enjoyed gathering evidence from the text to support our ideas and have been developing our inference skills by thinking carefully about why characters behave in certain ways.

In Maths, we have been building our understanding of fractions. The children have practised finding ½ and ¼ of quantities using practical resources and pictorial representations. We have also explored equivalent fractions and discovered that ½ is the same as 2⁄4. The children impressed us with their ability to explain their reasoning and demonstrate their understanding using different methods.

In Religious Education, we have been investigating the question, *What makes humans special?* We have explored a range of viewpoints, paying particular attention to the Humanist worldview. The children engaged thoughtfully in discussions about what gives life meaning and value, considering ideas such as kindness, relationships, achievements and helping others. They showed great respect for different beliefs and perspectives throughout our learning.

The children did not have the chance to change their coloured book band books this week, but both classes will do this on Monday.

Well done, Year 3, for another week of enthusiasm, curiosity and hard work! We look forward to sharing more of our learning with you next week.

Mrs James, Miss Hall and Mr Dookheran

Beech & Pine

It has been another busy and exciting week in Year 4!

In English, we have been exploring our class text *Leaf* by Sandra Dieckmann. We have been analysing some of the key features of the text, as well as thinking carefully about how characters might be feeling at different points in the story. In Maths, we have finished our multiplication and division unit by exploring a range of effective mental calculation strategies. The children have been developing their ability to use known facts and place value to solve problems more efficiently.

In Science, we have been investigating electrical circuits. The children were excited to build and test different circuits, making predictions and exploring why some circuits worked while others didn't. In PSHE, we have been thinking about respectful behaviour and what this looks like in different situations. Through role-play and discussion, the children explored how our words and actions can affect others and considered positive ways to respond in different scenarios.

Well done Year 4 for another fantastic week of learning. We are now looking forward to our trip to The Living Rainforest on Monday!

Mrs Wakefield, Miss Hardy and Miss Markham

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

It has been another busy week in Year 5/6 again. In English, we have designed our own maps linked to our class book *The Errand*. The children will use their own creations to compose a list of instructions next week. We looked at direct and instructive language as well as the effectiveness of modal verbs.

In maths, we have had a mix of decimals and fractions. The year 5s have been developing their deeper understanding of decimals by using place value grids and hundred squares to understand the links between tenths and hundredths, as well as understanding how important the lining-up process is when adding two decimals together.

Finally, in science, we investigated evaporation and looked at some examples of salt flats around the world. We recapped the water cycle and the process of evaporation. The children were able to describe that liquid turns to gas during the process of evaporation.

Well, done to all the children for their continued hard work.

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

Hot Choc Friday!

Here are the delightful children who had 'Hot Chocolate with the Head' today…



Learning Support Assistant Required

An exciting job opportunity has arisen at Pilgrims' Cross Primary.

We are looking for a Learning Support Assistant (preferrably 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 satisfactorily references and DBS checks.

Little Troopers!

Here are our Service children, with some of their parents and carers. We value our Service families and want to thank them for keeping us safe!



Forest School



Tree planting at Pilgrims' Cross!

This week we had deliveries of native trees from the Woodland Trust and Tree Appeal. We quickly got to work at planting a hedgerow across the field to mark the boundary to Forest School. The children were very excited to start planting and were quicky learning the names of these trees and feeling a real sense of ownership and legacy for future generations of children at Pilgrims' Cross.

We still have more trees to get in the ground and other exciting projects in mind! We would love to invite parents and carers to come along and help with tree planting during your child's upcoming Forest School sessions over the next few weeks. It is a wonderful opportunity to get outdoors, get your hands muddy, and help shape our school grounds, alongside your children.

If you would like to join us, please email the school office and remember to wear warm clothes and wellies!



We also marked Remembrance Day by making our own poppies using sticks and wool, with some lovely reflections from the children on the significance of this important day.
Looking forward to next week!

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!

Well done, us!

A message from Andover Food Bank: *Please pass on our thanks to all at Pilgrims' Cross School for your fabulous donation of **158.56KG** of food, following your Harvest Festival. Your kindness in supporting the Andover Foodbank will enable us to continue to help our local community during the winter months.*

Andover Foodbank
Together with Trussell



Thank you!

Pilgrims Cross School

For your incredible fundraising efforts in support of Andover Foodbank.
Your fantastic donation of 158.56KG will enable us to continue to help our local community

Katie Vincent
Foodbank Manager

Registered charity number 1199568. Registered in England and Wales.

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

Governor update...

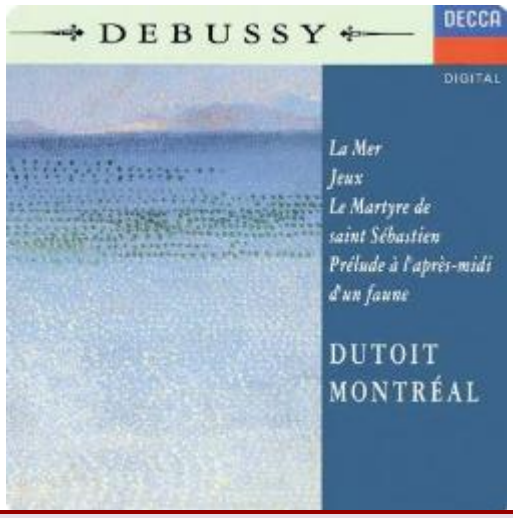
As the school's Health and Safety Link Governor, I am fortunate to see first-hand the care, dedication and hard work that goes into making our school a safe, happy and nurturing place for every child. Through regular site visits, meetings with school leaders and staff, and by chairing our termly Health and Safety Committee meetings, I help support the school's ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of pupils, staff and visitors.
This year, my work has included reviewing and updating a number of important policies, including those relating to our Allergy Policy (Benedict's Law); and our invacuation, lockdown and communications procedures in line with the future implementation of Martyn's Law. Through the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body, together we ensure that our procedures continue to reflect best practice and provide the highest levels of safety and care.

Dr Rowena Hansen

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 pieces by Claude Debussy. His music certainly made pictures in our heads!



"My child needs an EHCP..."

Hampshire SENDIASS provides free online workshops for parents and carers to help them understand SEND processes and clarify matters, including applying for an EHCP, reviewing draft plans, SEN Support and Ordinarily Available Provision. These sessions offer practical guidance and opportunities to ask questions in a supportive environment. Parents can view all upcoming workshops and access the links via SENDIASS website: https://www.hampshiresendiass.co.uk/workshops/.

All workshops are delivered online and run either **fortnightly or monthly**, depending on the topic.

EHCP – Considering an Education, Health & Care Plan
Who is it for?
Parents considering whether their child may need an EHCP, or those wanting to understand the application process.
What it covers:

- What an EHCP is
- When and why a child may need one
- How to begin the application

Session frequency: Monthly.

Responding to a Draft EHCP

Who is it for?

Parents who have received a **draft** EHCP and need help understanding how to respond within the required timeframe.

What it covers:

- How to review the draft plan
- How to request changes
- What to look for in each section
- How to prepare feedback

Session frequency: Fortnightly.

Ordinarily Available Provision & SEN Support

Who is it for?

Families of children **without an EHCP**, or those on SEN Support.

What it covers:

- Support every school should provide as standard
- What additional help is available for children on SEN Support
- How to work with the school to ensure needs are met

Session frequency: Monthly.

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

- 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.





