Pilgrims' Cross Newsletter

Friday 20th November 2026

#92

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have focused on the theme of Anti-Bullying Week, 'Break the Silence' in our Collective Worship this week. The children have thought of ways in which they can help others, if they are being bullied. One main way is helping them to find an adult to talk to.



As part of our improvements in communication around our zero-tolerance of bullying behaviour, the School Council have helped put together our Child-Friendly Anti-Bullying Policy- see below. I will email it out with this newsletter for you to have a read. It is also available on the policies section of our website.

Learning, to make a positive difference, in God's world

Pilgrims' Cross CE Aided Primary School

Anti-Bullying Policy (Children's version)

Date Agreed: November 2026 (by our pupils, through School Council)

Review Date: October 2027

Our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children also enjoyed a pantomime in the hall this week. One of my aims is that *every* child will experience the joy of watching a live performance at the theatre before they leave Pilgrims' Cross. In December, our Key Stage 2 pupils will be enjoying *Beauty and the Beast* at the Anvil Theatre.



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		Gray M-H	
Willow			Julia D
Sycamore	Gracie-Mai W		
Maple		Ada K	
Hazel	Juliana Z-S		
Lime			Annabelle T
Elm		Arthur S	Addison R
Ash		Rio P	
Beech			Jax P
Pine			Anaya F
Hawthorn		Amelie S	
Aspen		Faith P	
Juniper	Zafir C		

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

What a lovely week we have had! The children continue to absolutely love their Forest School sessions, embracing the opportunity to explore, discover and learn in the great outdoors. Welly Wednesday has also been a big hit, with plenty of fresh air and outdoor adventures, learning about how we can care for our own environments!
The children have also been showing lots of interest in weddings, exploring the different traditions and celebrations that take place around the world. It has been wonderful, listening to the children's ideas and sharing their experiences.
In maths, we have been investigating the composition of numbers, thinking about the different ways we can make 3, 4 and beyond using the vocabulary of parts and whole to explain our thinking. For example, 2 is a part of 3, 1 is a part of 3 and 3 is the whole number.
Meanwhile, Nativity practice is now fully underway! The children are singing the songs beautifully, and we are so proud of their enthusiasm and growing confidence.
Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure.

Sycamore & Maple

What another fantastic week of learning in Year 1!
In English, we have finished our retelling of *The Three Little Pigs* and have been excited to explore our new vehicle text, *Rapunzel*. In Maths, we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes.
During Explore and Learn, the children have shown incredible independence in completing their challenges. In DT, they have designed houses for the Three Little Pigs, whilst in RE, they have explored the characteristics of different Hindu deities. In Geography, we have labelled maps of our school using symbols and words, and in science, we have sorted and compared the properties of two different materials.
The children have also been working incredibly hard to learn their lines and songs for our upcoming Nativity. Please continue to practise these with your children at home. We are very grateful for your continued support and cannot wait to see their hard work come together!
We hope you all have a lovely weekend and look forward to another fun-filled week with Year 1!

Miss Miners and Mrs Bryan

Lime & Hazel

This week in Year 2 we've been busy writing our instructions for *How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth*! In English we've focused on using imperative verbs, contractions and exclamation marks. It was fantastic seeing these used in our final write as well as seeing all the unique ways in which the children thought they could get a mammoth into a bathtub! In Maths we have been working on Multiplication and Division by starting to use arrays to help us see the relationship between repeated addition and multiplication. In Science we used the story of 'The Smartest Giant in Town' to discuss the suitability of materials based on their properties. In RE we talked about how people use light in many different forms and why it is important to so many and we rounded out the week exploring healthy foods in PSHE. All of the children have worked hard in our Nativity rehearsals - please continue to help your child learn their part! Next Wednesday we will be doing some History about classrooms of the past - if you have any old photos of your time at school that you would be able to share with us please email the Lime class email (lime@pilgrimscross.co.uk). We would also like to invite you in to talk about how your classrooms and school experience were different to how they are now - we'd love to hear from you! Please speak to Miss Samuel or email in if you can offer any time next Wednesday afternoon.

Miss Samuel and Mrs Lay

Elm & Ash

This week, Year 3 have continued to work exceptionally hard across the curriculum and have enjoyed exploring a range of exciting topics. In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of fractions, focusing on thirds and tenths. They have practised finding fractions of quantities and explored how wholes can be divided into equal parts. The children have shown increasing confidence when solving reasoning and problem-solving challenges involving fractions.
In English, we have been writing our own retell of the fable *Fox*. The children have worked hard to sequence events clearly, use exciting vocabulary and include features of a fable in their writing. We have been particularly impressed with their use of descriptive language and dialogue to bring the characters to life.
Our Science lessons have focused on friction. Through investigations, the children explored how different surfaces affect the movement of objects. They made predictions, conducted fair tests and discussed how friction can either help or hinder movement. In History, we have been learning about Skara Brae, the remarkable Stone Age settlement discovered in Orkney. The children investigated what archaeologists have learned from the site and used evidence to discover how people lived thousands of years ago. They were fascinated by the well-preserved homes and artefacts found there.

Miss Hall and Mr Dookheran

Beech & Pine

This week has been a very exciting one for Year 4, as we started the week with our trip to The Living Rainforest. The children represented the school brilliantly and were a credit to themselves throughout the day. We had lots of fun exploring the rainforest environment and seeing a variety of animals, including free-roaming birds, snakes and Cinnamon the sloth, who quickly became the year group favourite! The trip was a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate everything we have been learning in our Geography lessons.

In English, we have begun our new learning journey with *Leon and the Place Between* by Angela McAllister. To help immerse ourselves in the story, we have been exploring what a circus is like, watching different circus acts and magic tricks. The children have been full of excitement and curiosity, and we are looking forward to exploring the story in more detail over the next few weeks. In Maths, we have started our new unit on fractions. We began by learning about tenths and hundredths before moving on to explore decimal numbers and how they are linked.

Mrs Wakefield, Miss Hardy and Miss Markham





Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

Another busy week down in Year 5/6! We have finished our piece of writing about our English text *The Errand* and after much discussion and editing, the children have written three detailed, instructive, and suspenseful paragraphs leading an unsuspecting errand boy towards certain doom. The children ensured they used modal verbs, short, impactful sentences and a variety of different sentence starters to keep the reader entertained. In Maths, our fractions work has continued. The Year 5s have looked more into developing their fractions knowledge – understanding what a fraction looks like in different representations and finding equivalent fractions. Year 6 have completed several problem-solving sessions involving several different SATS-style questions. The children successfully discussed how to understand a problem, make a plan and solve the problem which will be vital for their reasoning tests in May. Finally, the children learned more and more about the rules of hockey and the techniques to use to successfully pass and stop the ball. There have even been some full-on hockey games snuck in at the end of sessions! Thank you to all the children for their continued hard work this week!

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.

Forest School



Our tree planting projects are well underway; this week we planted willow and hazel leading up to our Basecamp. A lovely sensory hedgerow with catkins and soft leaves that should make an appearance in spring!

Thursday afternoon was a big day for us with our first fire; we were all very excited. We whittled sticks for toasting and then set to building our small campfire. We lit this using fire strikers and cotton wool. The hard work was rewarded with a delicious, toasted marshmallow! Well done everyone 😊

All children will have the opportunity to experience this at forest school in the coming months.

A big 'thank you' also to Bawden Tree Care for the logs which make our seating under the canopy!



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.

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, we had one of my favourite albums of all time- Carole King's *Tapestry*. Linking in with Anti-Bullying Week, we listened to *You've Got a Friend*.



"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

- 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!
Ofsted
Outstanding Quality
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


Christmas Fair
ARMY FLYING MUSEUM
Date: 21/11/2026
Time: 10.00 - 15.00
Buy special gifts for your loved ones from a wide range of local stall holders, including jewellery, candles, original artwork and home furnishings.
Christmas craft activities available for children
Festive treats available in the Apache Café
Entry : Adults £3, Children £2
armyflying.com
01264 781086


ARMY FLYING MUSEUM
Santa's Flying Visit!
Saturday 5th December
10.00 - 15.00
Meet and greet with the AFM elf
Professional Photo with Santa in the Scout helicopter
Christmas Craft Activity
Join our AFM elf to make magical reindeer food to take home for Christmas Eve
Drink and Christmas Treat
from our Apache Cafe
Follow our Festive Trail
Collect your gift from the AFM elf
All for £22 per child
Adults £12 (Annual pass holder £6)
Children under 2 years or over 10 years (not participating) Free
If you wish for your under 2 year old to participate and receive a gift etc. please buy a child ticket
armyflying.com
01264 781086