Pilgrims' Cross Newsletter

Friday 27th November 2026

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Dear Parents & Carers,

Every week, Mrs Hathaway and I sit down together and look over our school attendance. There is lots to celebrate! We are above the National Average and have low levels of authorised and unauthorised absence.

As we come into the winter season, it's natural to think that it might be worth keeping your child off school for a cough, cold or sore throat. However, **they should really be in school**. Please look over the NHS guidance below (also attached to the email with this Newsletter) for when to keep your child off school- there are fewer reasons than you may think!

Every day missed by your child is a day that they will have to catch up with their peers. There is a **strong** link between attendance in school and Key Stage 2 SATs outcomes, GCSEs and other qualifications. Don't wait until secondary school to "take school seriously"- it begins now. If you do receive an attendance letter from myself and Mrs Hathway, please do not be offended. Schools are given attendance targets by the Department for Education, and we all want our pupils' attendance to be as high as possible.



Please also try and refrain from taking medical appointments in school time and holidays during term time. Unfortunately, these will not be authorised.

Attendance is also a safeguarding issue: children are legally entitled to an education. If children are either kept off school or allowed to remain at home for low-level reasons, this will be challenged by the school.

Lastly, please remember, we can give Calpol to children in the day- we keep some in school. If your child 'wilts' a little during the day, we will ring you to ask if you are happy for them to have some, ensuring they complete their school day.

Thanks for working with us in these matters.

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		William L	
Willow			Thomas M
Sycamore	Henry M		
Maple			Adie D
Hazel			Ariana S
Lime		Millie L	
Elm	Isla M		
Ash		Laura O	
Beech			Joseph A
Pine		Grace H	
Hawthorn		Lena K	
Aspen			Laila L
Juniper		Ruby G	

What we have been learning this week...

Willow & Oak

It has been another lovely week in EYFS, filled with lots of exciting learning and play!
We have been busy practising our nativity songs, getting ready for our upcoming Christmas performance. The children are becoming more confident with the words and actions, and we are enjoying singing together.
In Literacy, we introduced our new text, *How to Catch a Star*. We explored the story and thought carefully about how it is similar to and different from our previous text, *A Star in a Jar*. The children enjoyed discussing the characters, events and features of each story, developing their comparison and communication skills.
In Maths, we have been practising counting forwards and backwards to 5, as well as developing our understanding of one-to-one correspondence. We have been focusing on matching one number to one object when counting, helping us to build confidence and accuracy.
Our continuous provision has continued to inspire lots of imaginative play. The children have particularly enjoyed role-playing weddings, taking on different roles and creating their own wonderful scenarios. We have also been using a variety of shapes to design and build different modes of transport, exploring how shapes can be combined to create different structures.
Well done, everyone, for another fantastic week of learning, creativity and fun!

Mrs CK, Mr Edgington and Mrs Treasure.

Sycamore & Maple

What another fantastic week of learning in Year 1!
In English, we have been developing our sentence-writing skills, focusing on 'who', 'what' and 'where' to help us build sentences. In Maths, we have been exploring numbers to 20 and developing our understanding of number.
Explore and Learn has been full of adventure this week! In Geography, the children have designed and labelled their dream playgrounds. In Science, we had a green goo emergency and the children became super scientists, investigating which materials were absorbent. In RE, we have been designing Christmas cards using our knowledge of the Nativity story. In DT, the children have really got stuck into building their houses for the Three Little Pigs. We even had a visit from the Big Bad Wolf, who tried to blow them down to test their stability!
We have been incredibly impressed with the children's creativity, enthusiasm and problem-solving skills this week. We look forward to another exciting week of learning together!

Miss Miners and Mrs Bryan

Lime & Hazel

In Year 2 this week we have opened a new story called ' A Thing Called Snow'. We met the goose, caribou, tern, salmon, hare and fox but we didn't finish the story because we are going to be writing part of it! We did make some predictions about what would happen though!

In Maths we finished looking at division using sharing and grouping before starting to understand halves of shapes. We delved into History this week, looking at classrooms of the past. We learnt about school in Victorian times followed through the 1900s and made some comparisons. We made a timeline and heard from our teachers what school was like for them - most children decided they would rather stay in school as it is now! We also learnt about Hanukkah in RE, understanding the story behind the celebration.

Miss Samuel and Miss Lay

Elm & Ash

It has been another fantastic week in Year 3, with lots of exciting learning taking place across the curriculum! In Maths, we have begun exploring the properties of 3D shapes. The children have been identifying and comparing different shapes, looking closely at their faces, edges and vertices. We have been developing our mathematical vocabulary and thinking carefully about what makes each 3D shape unique. In English, we have been researching the Australian red fox to support our non-fiction fact file writing. The children have been practising selecting relevant information and retrieving key facts from different sources. We are learning how to identify the most useful information and organise it ready to share with our readers.

In RE, we have been exploring the soul and considering what this means. The children have been encouraged to think deeply, share their ideas and consider why the soul is important. In Science, we have been investigating friction through a practical experiment. The children explored how different surfaces affect movement, making predictions, carrying out tests and observing the results. It was a great opportunity to develop our scientific enquiry skills and think about how friction affects objects in everyday life. Well done, Year 3, for another week of enthusiasm, curiosity and fantastic learning! Keep up the brilliant work!

Miss Hall and Mr Dookheran

Beech & Pine

This week in English, we have continued to explore *Leon and the Place Between,* immersing ourselves in the magical world of the circus. We have been thinking carefully about the questions we would like to ask the characters, practising reading with expression and exploring circus life. The children wrote some excellent information texts about the circus using skills from the previous unit. In Maths, we have continued our work on fractions and decimals. The children have been finding this challenging, but we have been incredibly impressed with their perseverance. They have been working hard to develop their reasoning skills and think deeper about key concepts.

In History, the children stepped back in time and imagined what life might have been like for a Victorian child. They wrote some excellent diary entries, considering long working hours and difficult working conditions. It has been another busy week, and we have been impressed by the children's resilience and willingness to give things a go, even when they seem tricky at first.

Mrs Wakefield, Miss Hardy and Miss Markham

Aspen, Hawthorn & Juniper

In Year 5/6 this week, we have begun our new English Learning Journey. Instead of a text, we are using a video stimulus linked to the moon *Pandora* from Avatar. The children have investigated tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary and thought about what a good narration sounds like in speech and looks like in text. The children accurately punctuated their sentences with semi-colons, dashes, and commas to break up long sentences and allow a reader to read the text fluently and smoothly. On Friday, the children spent time in lesson planning vocabulary and descriptive sentences. On Monday, the children will be using their own plans to write an independent paragraph using instructive language and direct sentences directing a person travelling through the jungle of Pandora. In Maths, Year 5 have looked at properties of shape and angles. We have had some fun lessons, folding paper to investigate lines of symmetry and have started to classify angles based on their size and direction. Year 6s have looked at converting units of measurement such as miles to kilometres and litres to millimetres. Finally, as a teacher team, we have decided that the best part of our week has been the discussions we have had with the children over kindness and honesty and how their actions can affect others. It is clear to see and difference in the majority of children from the middle of the week compared to the end of the week. The emphasis on thanking people who do things for you has not gone unnoticed- and long may it continue. Well done to all the children this week for their hard work - bring on December!

Mr Childs, Mr Hambidge and Mrs McNee

Hot Choc Friday!

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



Forest School

Happy national tree week!

We have certainly made an important contribution to national tree week and the natural world with our epic tree planting project. The children have loved decorating their trees with daisies and stones to help them identify the location 😊

We have also been making our pledges to how we can help nature for a future display in school.

The coming weeks will be a mix of festive crafts, as we get nearer to Christmas!

Mrs Burgess and Mrs Arnold





NHS illness guidance...

Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for 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

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 a cracker of an album- *Hopes and Fears* by the band Keane. The staff were certainly vibing all around the outside of the hall to the tracks which brought back frond memories for them. This album is so well-mixed, with every instrument given the space to breathe and add the right texture.

Why not check it out this weekend, if you are not familiar with it?



Holiday food & fun…



Key dates

- Thursday 3rd December – Year 3 Trip to Stonehenge
- Wednesday 9th December – Christmas Discos
- 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


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