



## Cranborne

Church of England  
First School and Nursery

**Love, Learn, Fly**

**Do Everything in Love 1 Corinthians 16:14**

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Newsletter Issue #1

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had an enjoyable summer holiday with your families. We are incredibly grateful for the thoughtful cards, messages and gifts received at the end of the summer term. Please know it is never expected but very appreciated.

It was so lovely to see the children when they returned to school last week and wonderful to welcome our new Wrens and Fledglings to our school family! We also welcome Mr Matt Williams, an experienced sports coach who will be teaching P.E. to Robin and Crane classes each week (and supported by Mrs Churchill) and we welcome back Mrs Philippa Trevor who will be teaching Robin class one morning a week to release Mrs Phillips for her leadership time.

We have shared all the important dates for the autumn term at the conclusion of the newsletter and will continue adding to these throughout the term. Please note there will be an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher next Wednesday after school, timings below. We hope you can join us.

Please read on for more school information...

### **Starting School at 4+ in September 2026**

We have parent tour appointments available for school places in September 2026 and Nursery places in preparation for this intake. Please contact Mrs Kellaway in the school office ([office@cranbornefirst.dsat.org.uk](mailto:office@cranbornefirst.dsat.org.uk)) to book an individual tour with the headteacher. Parents should visit the Dorset Council website <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/starting-school-for-the-first-time> to apply for Year R places. The deadline for Dorset applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026, with allocations confirmed on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026. If you live outside Dorset, please go to the local authority website for your home county.



### **Premises Work**

The summer period has included essential maintenance and servicing works, the installation of hall and kitchen storage, a deep clean of classrooms and shared areas and a tidy of our outdoor spaces.

### **School Collection Arrangements**

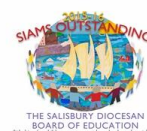
Please ensure you have updated this information on your Arbor account. Many thanks.

### **P.E. Days**

Please could children wear their school P.E. kit on their P.E. days each week. Monday Crane, Thursday Fledgling & Wren and Friday Robin.



Diocese of Salisbury  
Academy Trust



## Curriculum Information Meetings on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September

We hope you will be able to attend these meetings when class teachers will meet with parents and carers to explain the routines, arrangements and expectations for the year ahead and offer insights into the curriculum and learning planned. It will also be an opportunity for you to see your child's classroom. These meetings are intended for parents and carers only and not the children on this occasion.

Please note, Miss Hudson's meeting will be appropriate for our new starters in Fledgling (nursery) class but if Wren (reception) parents have any questions please contact Miss Hudson.

Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September		
3.30 pm	Nursery parents with Miss Hudson	Wren classroom (entrance through Secret Garden)
4 pm	Robin parents with Mrs Phillips (Year 1 and 2)	Robin classroom
4.30 pm	Crane parents with Mrs Lawford (Year 3 and 4)	Crane classroom

## 23 Coaching

Matt Williams, our sports coach who will be teaching Robin and Crane P.E. lessons this year, will also be leading a number of after school clubs for us. These will be open to children in years 1, 2, 3 and 4. Our first club opportunity will be 'Invasion Games' where over 5 weeks children will experience football, hockey, netball, rugby and a fun tagging game called 'Capture the Flag'. This club will run between **3-4 pm on Mondays; 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October**. The children will walk up to the Cranborne Sports Club with staff and should be collected from the recreation ground at 4 pm. The cost will be £30 for the five weeks. Please follow the link to book.

<https://23-coaching.classforkids.io/>

## Nut Free Food

Please remember that your child must not bring any food into school which contains nuts, whether this is a snack or for lunch. We appreciate your support to safeguard our children with serious food allergies.

## The Importance of Good Attendance

We are committed to ensuring our children achieve the best possible outcomes and good school attendance is key to achieving this aim. Good school attendance improves your child's chances of success in life as there is clear evidence of the link between good attendance at school and high levels of achievement in later life. Thank you for supporting us by establishing these routines and expectations early in the term for both attendance and punctuality which will support your children for the future.

### **Fraser Portraits – Individual Photographs Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

Fraser Portraits will be in school on the 24<sup>th</sup> September to take individual and sibling group photographs. Please ensure your child is looking suitably smart with the correct uniform! If you have a child in Fledgling class who doesn't usually attend on a Wednesday you are welcome to bring them to school for 8.30 am to have their photograph taken on their own and with their sibling if you wish. Please let Miss Hudson and Mrs Maple know if you would like to take part. Many thanks.

### **Harvest Service and Welcome to our new Wren class on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Cranborne Church**

We hope you will be able to join us on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October in Cranborne Church at 8.45 am for our Harvest Celebration. It would be wonderful if each child could bring a small offering of fresh fruit or vegetables, or an item of tinned or packet food to form the collection in the church. Our contributions will then be distributed to those less fortunate in our community.

All our families are invited to this celebration service when we will be welcoming our new reception children into our Cranborne First family. We will be presenting each child with a Bible story book and praying for God's blessing upon them as they begin their school journey with us.

Refreshments will be provided for adults in the church from 8 am so please join us before the service if you can!

### **Collective Worship Theme – Friendship**

Our collective worship theme this half term is Friendship

#### A Christian Perspective on Friendship

Christians believe they can call God their friend because of the relationship made possible through Jesus.

#### Reflecting as a whole school community

Some questions to consider:

- How does the school support and encourage friendship bonds by providing opportunities for children to work cooperatively and collaboratively in pairs and groups?
- How does the school community find ways to support and include children who might be left out of friendship groups?
- How does the school help to restore broken friendships and promote reconciliation?
- How does the school help children know where they might receive advice and support if they need it?

### **Pupil Premium**

If your income has reduced you might be eligible for pupil premium. If you think this might be the case it's easy to check your eligibility on the Dorset Council website. You only need to do this once and it will last for the duration of your child's time at their current school. This will ensure that our school and the children we serve are as well funded as possible. If you would like more information about this or help with the application process, please speak to our Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Phillips.

## **Learning Conversations**

For the benefit of new families who have joined our school this term I wanted to explain the 'Learning Conversations' that are included in our fortnightly newsletter. In addition to providing class topic information on our website, we want to encourage meaningful conversations that you can have with your child based on their learning in school. Children talking about their learning with their family, even for a short period of time each day, is a great way for them to consolidate and extend their understanding and this may even avoid your child's response of 'nothing' when you ask them 'What did you do today?!'

## **Fledglings & Wrens**

How lovely it has been to visit all of our Fledglings and Wrens at home, thank you so much to all of our families that made Mrs Maple and I feel so welcome. We met Parents, Guardians, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, siblings and lots of fluffy and fur members of the family too! Mrs Maple and I reflected so much on what beautiful families we have in our community and were very grateful for every offer of water, tea and biscuits. Everybody was so kind and we could have quite happily sat on your sofas for much much longer.

It is always such a privilege to be the people who welcome these little ones into the world of learning, what an honour to see children begin to emerge into friendships and to start to grow into the little people they will soon become. Some already love to paint, others instinctively offer a hand to hold, some just love a little backpack of treasures on their back. Every single one of you little loves are very welcome here. I cannot wait to get to know you and will treasure the time we have in this little unit together, along with the ledge that is Mrs Maple (Maypole) and that little (big) floop Roo bear. Who is possibly the most excited of all of us to meet his latest pack additions. Let the adventures begin, come on 2025-26 we're ready for you!

*Miss Hudson*

## **Robins**

It has been so lovely welcoming all the children to our new Robin class over the last few days. They have been so excited to share their experiences during the summer holidays and to see all their friends. They have already been familiarising themselves with the story of 'The Gruffalo' with the repeated phrases within the text. In science, they have labelled the human body and thought about the similarities and differences between some animals.

We have written our class charter and have thought carefully about the importance of sharing, trying our best in everything we do and looking after one another both in the classroom and at playtimes. Our Christian value this term is Friendship, a very important Christian Value and one that children can relate to through their everyday experiences.

All the children have been given a new reading book to read at home with an adult. In addition to this, each child has received a love of reading book which is a book for an adult to share and read with their child.

*Mrs Phillips*

## **Cranes**

It has been wonderful to welcome Crane Class children back into school to begin their Year 3 and Year 4 journeys. I love the beginning of a school year. Newly sharpened pencils and shiny new shoes!

On our first day, we discussed a set of class agreements of how we will work together this year. The children had some lovely ideas of how we will thrive in class. We agreed that we should show respect and kindness to each other, we should try our best in our learning, that we will encourage each other and cheer each other on. Sometimes we will make mistakes, but that is OK because we are learning. Sometimes we will need to say sorry to others in the class, and also that we will need to forgive each other. What thoughtful ideas Cranes!

This week we visited the brilliant Ancient Technology Centre. Crane Class enjoyed the opportunity to experience this amazing site and do hands-on activities to support their learning on the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age this autumn. The children were transported back in time to appreciate the difficulties of everyday life and the technologies that were used by our ancestors. During the day, the children got to see a fire being made with flint and iron and look and touch some animal skins, coyote, beaver, wild boar and fox. In the granary, they ground an ancient wheat to make a Stone Age 'bread', worked in a forge to make a simple knife (as they would have done in the Iron Age) and wove willow using Stone Age tools.

Learning questions:

### History

What are you learning about in History? In the stone age, what were the tools made of?

What does chronology mean?

In English, when do we use 'a' and when do we use 'an'?

*Mrs Lawford*

Thank you for such a positive start to the new academic year! We wish you a lovely weekend with your families and look forward to seeing the children back on Monday.

With kind regards,

*Mrs Faithfull*

## Cranborne CE First School & Nursery – Autumn Term 2025

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September		Robin class visit to Castle Hill Woods
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September		Curriculum Information Meetings for Parents Fledglings 3.30 pm Miss Hudson Robins 4 pm Mrs Phillips Cranes 4.30 pm Mrs Lawford
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September		iSingPOP rehearsal day in school (Crane class)
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	3-4 pm	Invasion Games after school club for years 1, 2, 3 and 4 begins (5-week block) Booking essential
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September		Fraser Portraits individual and sibling photographs
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September		Samba Lessons begin with the Dorset Music Service for Crane class (10 weeks)
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September		Breakfast Church in the school hall
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	3-4 pm	PFA Film Night for Years R and 1
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October		Harvest Service at Cranborne Church – with a special welcome to our Reception children. Everyone welcome, refreshments served for parents from 8 am.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	3-4.45 pm	PFA Film Night for Years 2, 3 and 4
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	3.20 - 6 pm	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings in the hall
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October		House of Opportunity Assembly – Christmas Box Appeal
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October		Year 4 attending iSingPOP event at Salisbury Cathedral
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	3.20 – 6 pm	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings in the hall
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the school hall
<b>27<sup>th</sup> October – 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>		<b>Half Term</b>
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	8 am	(Early Morning!) Music Club for years 1, 2, 3 and 4 with Cathy Murray (6-week block) Booking details to follow!
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November		STEPS Road Safety Day

Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November		Children in Need Fundraising Day – children invited to wear dotty, spotty, Pudsey-inspired clothing for a donation
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the School Hall
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November		Priory Hub Football Tournament at St James' First School
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	12.30-1 pm	Crane class invited to sing at the 'Circle Lunch Club' at the Cranborne Garden Centre
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	2 pm	Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity in the school hall
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	2 pm	Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity in the school hall
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	6 pm	Crane Carol Service at Cranborne Church
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December		Last Day of Term Children invited to wear Christmas party clothes Image Music Theatre performance of Dr Dolittle Christmas Lunch
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b>		<b>Christmas Holiday</b>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the School Hall
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January		INSET Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January		Children return