



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 #2

Friday 26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We may only be a few weeks into the new year but there were plenty of children to celebrate in Celebration worship this morning! Many children were awarded with a 'learner' or 'value' award from their class teacher and there were lots of names in the 'special mention' book for children being noticed for special acts of kindness. It was wonderful also to welcome each of our year 4 children into a school council. These councils include supporting collective worship and sport in school, getting involved in decision-making through our school council and helping to raise awareness of environmental issues and how we can be a more sustainable school through our eco-council. We are looking forward to seeing our Year 4s take a lead in these important areas this year! If your children achieve any 'out of school' certificates, badges or medals we would love to celebrate with them! They are welcome to bring these into school on a Friday to share with the whole school.



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Parent – Teacher Consultations 15th and 22nd October

We will be holding Parent-Teacher Consultations on 15th and 22nd October. These will be 10-minute appointments in the school hall between 3.20-6 pm. Do arrive a little before your appointment to have a look at your child's books. Bookings will be available on your Arbor account from 9 am on Monday 29th September until 9 am on the day before 15th or 22nd October. We look forward to seeing you then. Many thanks.

iSingPOP – Year 4

Crane class had a brilliant day last Thursday learning new songs with Emma from iSingPOP. Our Year 4s are now looking forward to performing at Salisbury Cathedral on Wednesday 22nd October. A letter with more details has been sent home.

The Ancient Technology Centre, Damerham Road Apple Weekend

27th and 28th September

10 am – 4 pm

Events include apple pressing, ancient crafts, living history, heritage skills, storytelling, medieval combat displays, cakes, BBQ and refreshments!

No prebooking needed

£10 for adults

£5 for children (under 5s are free) Service dogs only please



Diocese of Salisbury
Academy Trust



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 our Administration Officer Mrs Kellaway in the school office (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 15th January 2026, with allocations confirmed on 16th April 2026. If you live outside Dorset, please go to the local authority website for your home county.

Harvest Service and Welcome to our new Wren and Fledgling children Thursday 2nd October at Cranborne Church

We hope you will be able to join us on Thursday 2nd 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 nursery and reception children into our Cranborne First family. We will be presenting each child with a small gift 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!

Benefice Christmas Card Competition

It is now less than 100 days until Christmas and the wonderful happy and joyous season that surrounds the main day will be here even sooner! The churches of the Knowlton Benefice [Cranborne, Edmondsham, Wimborne St Giles and Woodlands plus Gussage All Saints and Gussage St Michael] are arranging a variety of ways to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus and we would love everyone to join us at whatever event they feel suits.

There will be carol singing in the pubs, and around Christmas trees in the villages, including in Cranborne churchyard which has now become a popular tradition; there will also be nativity plays and a Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and a family friendly service on Christmas morning.

There will be a lot going on and we do not want anyone to miss out, so we would like to give a Christmas card with all the information to every house in the benefice. **Cranborne and Wimborne St Giles' First Schools are organising a competition for all the pupils to design a Christmas picture which we can put on the cover of this card.** Two of the designs will be chosen and we will then arrange to have 1000 cards printed, and deliver them in December. We cannot wait to see the pictures you all create!

Please send your child's entry to Mrs Kellaway in the school office by **Friday 7th November**. Please include your child's name and class. We request that these designs be 'portrait'. Many thanks.

Dr Sandi Malpas

STEPS Road Safety Day

We are delighted to be welcoming back Karen and Amanda from Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council on **Thursday 13th November** to deliver the STEPS (Safe Training Education Programme) with each year group. The day will involve roadside training in small supervised groups for the children in Year 1 and Year 4. These year groups will receive a separate letter after half term with more information and a consent form for parents to sign and return. If you are able to help on these roadside sessions, please let Mrs Kellaway in the school office know. We would be very grateful.

Nursery, Year R, Year 2 and Year 3 will take part in a range of activities in school including talks, road safety role play activities and games. Thank you to our wonderful PFA for funding this important learning for the children.

Learning Conversations

Fledglings & Wrens

Well what a lovely couple of weeks it has been getting to know our Wrens and Fledglings. We have rekindled old friendships, made new ones and started to begin our school journey together. The children have already begun their new year so well, they have been kind and considerate to one another and also shared quite a few giggles together along the way too. This bunch are fuuunny and I think we are going to have lots of moments where Mrs Maple and I look at each other and smile with this bunch.

We have talked a lot about our families this week and who means the world to us. We have shared lots of books with different types of families in too – learning about the unique ways that families and homes can be. Learning that whether your family is of many, or just one special person that takes care of us... the real magic that makes a family is ... (can they tell you what it is?).. it's a little thing called love. Something I think this crew demonstrate in bucket loads.

We have had a lot of firsts this week too, we were lucky enough to have a visit this week from Mrs Munday with two little ducklings. They were completely gorgeous and absolutely made our Monday afternoon... or rather Munday afternoon! The children were very excited and so was a certain 10 month old puppy. Meeting a little duckling was a first for him! It was such a special visit, thank you so much Mrs Munday for bringing in your little sidekicks (and I can confirm that both ducklings made it out of the room safe and sound!).

We also had our very first school photos taken this week, it always feels like a special moment to witness that - a moment in time, a rite of passage. I always look at their faces, full of earnest and little round cheeks. They will grow so quick and will be having their photos as a Year 4 before we know it, but how much I treasure knowing we have this whole year ahead of us. It was also time for Rufus to have his first school photo too, and George the Photographer did it in just a couple of shots! What a ledge. Massive shout out to Bonio, for sponsoring that photoshoot :)

Happy first few weeks team, very glad to be sharing this year with you.

Miss Hudson and Rufus xxx

P.S. We also wanted to wish everyone in our school family with South African ancestry a very Happy Heritage Day for the 24th. Including our very lovely Mrs Owen, Happy Braai day from all of us here.



Robins

In Robin class the children have been using their knowledge of The Gruffalo to write descriptive sentences and list poems. Our postponed walk to Castle Hill Woods will take place on Monday 29th September.

The children have been really focusing on their handwriting, making sure that their letters are formed correctly using ascenders and descenders. In phonics, the children have refreshed their knowledge after the summer holidays and have begun to learn the extended code within the Sounds-Write program beginning to learn digraphs e.g. /ae/. Year 2 have continued to focus on additional sounds.

In Maths the Year1 children have been completing number lines to 20 and thinking about more than and less than when comparing groups of objects. In Year 2, the children have been completing number lines to 100 with different intervals. In Science, we have been thinking about our senses and why these are important in our everyday lives. In geography the children have been learning about the different between physical and human geography.

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

Crane Class have been doing some wonderful learning this fortnight and are settling in brilliantly into our class routines.

Science

In science, we're learning about forces, learning that these are a power, in simple terms, a push or a pull on an object.

There are different types of forces, we're learning about friction, a contact force, when objects touch each other.

Questions to ask your child:

What is friction?

What happens when you push a box or a toy along a rough surface?

What would be different if the surface was smooth, like a wooden floor or lino?

School/Class Worship

Our Christian theme this term is friendship.

How can we be a good friend to others?

What does being a good friend mean?

Art

Who was Picasso?

How do artists make a 2D flat picture or painting 'look' 3D? (They use tone and shade)

If your child has some time at the weekend, could they have a go at drawing a fruit or vegetable at home?

Look at the outline of the shape, the areas that are lighter and darker, as well as the shadow the fruit or vegetable makes on the surface it is resting on.

History

What is a primary source?

What is different about a secondary source?

Mrs Lawford

Just a reminder it is Breakfast Church this Sunday between 9-10 am in our school hall. Everyone is very welcome. There will be a breakfast of yoghurt and fruit, toast and marmalade and bacon rolls with coffee, tea and orange juice and the time will include singing, prayer, a short talk and a craft activity for the children. Do join in this community time if you are able.

With kind regards,

Mrs Faithfull

Cranborne CE First School & Nursery – Autumn Term 2025

Sunday 28 th September	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the school hall
Monday 29 th September		Booking opens on Arbor for Parent-Teacher Consultations
Tuesday 30 th September	3-4 pm	PFA Film Night for Years R and 1 'The Gruffalo'
Thursday 2 nd October		Harvest Service at Cranborne Church – with a special welcome to our nursery and reception children. Everyone welcome, refreshments served for parents from 8 am in the church.
Tuesday 7 th October	3-4.45 pm	PFA Film Night for Years 2, 3 and 4 'Rio'
Monday 13 th October		Year 4 Sports Leaders attending The East Dorset Leaders' Academy in Ferndown
Wednesday 15 th October	3.20 - 6 pm	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings in the hall
Thursday 16 th October		House of Opportunity Assembly – Christmas Box Appeal
Wednesday 22 nd October		Year 4 attending iSingPOP event at Salisbury Cathedral
Wednesday 22 nd October	3.20 – 6 pm	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings in the hall
Sunday 26 th October	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the school hall
27th October – 31st October		Half Term
Monday 3 rd November		Children return after half term
Monday 10 th 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 th November		STEPS Road Safety Day
Friday 14 th November		Children in Need Fundraising Day – children invited to wear dotty, spotty, Pudsey-inspired clothing for a donation
Sunday 23 rd November	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the School Hall
Monday 24 th November		Priory Hub Football Tournament at St James' First School
Tuesday 9 th December	12.30-1 pm	Crane class invited to sing at the 'Circle Luncheon Club' at the Cranborne Garden Centre

Thursday 11 th December	2 pm	Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity in the school hall
Friday 12 th December	2 pm	Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity in the school hall
Wednesday 17 th December	6 pm	Crane Carol Service at Cranborne Church
Friday 19 th December		Last Day of Term Children invited to wear Christmas party clothes Image Music Theatre performance of Dr Dolittle Christmas Lunch
22nd December – 2nd January		Christmas Holiday
Sunday 28 th December	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the School Hall
Monday 5 th January		INSET Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 6 th January		Children return