



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 #4

Friday 24th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We were incredibly proud of our Year 4 children who took part in the Celebration Concert at Salisbury Cathedral on Wednesday led by iSingPOP. Our children joined Year 4 children in our Trust to perform songs that celebrate our unity, diversity and strength. The children sang and performed so confidently (in such an inspiring place of worship) and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience! We are now looking forward to Crane class teaching these songs to our Fledglings, Wrens and Robins so that we can all enjoy them together in school. Please read on for more school information...

New Parent Governor

We are delighted to announce that Mike Beal has joined our governing board as a Parent Governor. Mike brings a wealth of experience and a strong commitment to supporting our school community. As a parent of a child in school, he is passionate about ensuring every student receives the best possible education and opportunities. We look forward to the valuable insights and perspectives Mike will bring to our governing team. We would be so pleased for you to join us in welcoming him to this important role!

Nikki Gates, Chair of Academy Standards and Ethos Committee

Benefice Christmas Card Competition

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 Christmas together and would like to give a Christmas card to every household in the benefice. We have been invited to take part in a competition to design a Christmas picture that can be printed on the front of the card. When the design is chosen it will then be printed on 1000 cards and delivered in December. 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.



Starting School in September 2026

School Tour Dates

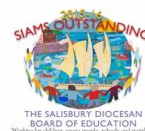
We have appointments available for school tours during November and December. Please contact Mrs Kellaway in the school office to book an appointment for children starting school at 4+ in September 2026. We would be delighted to show you around our wonderful school!

Breakfast Church

Do join us from 9-10 am on Sunday 26th October in our school hall for this relaxed, church gathering. There will be refreshments, singing and prayer for all the family.



Diocese of Salisbury
Academy Trust



Cranberries Baby & Toddler Group – Friday Mornings

Cranborne Village hall – for more information please contact Anna at anna@cranbornevillagehall.org.uk or 07748522218.

Important Safeguarding Information: Children's 'Spy' Books

As per our recent email please be aware of an issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pups series. Some editions of these books include a printed web address. This link previously led to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content. The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

If your child has any Spy Dog, Spy Cat or Spy Pups books at home, please check the front and back for website links and ensure they do not try to visit the site. It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link. We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

We can reassure that our IT team ensured the website was blocked and therefore cannot be accessed on devices in our school.

Reading Rewards

Reading is an essential life skill for SO many reasons; for discovering new information and learning, opening up opportunities, opening up minds to great stories and adventures - escaping to somewhere new and exciting.

Research shows that children who read for pleasure will achieve more than those who don't, later in life. As a school, we are committed to ensuring that all children become independent, fluent readers during their time with us, through developing a culture of reading for pleasure, not only wherever you go around our school and throughout our curriculum, but also at home too.

After half term we will be introduced Reading Bookmarks for the children to collect stickers if they read at home a minimum of three times a week with you. When they collect a set number of stickers they can choose a beautiful new book to take home and keep. We will explain more about this to the children after half term!

Watches

While we encourage your children to wear watches to learn how to tell the time, any smart watches that have additional features such as messaging, calling, taking photographs, or recording videos are not permitted in school. This is an important safeguarding measure to ensure the safety and privacy of all pupils and staff. We kindly ask that any watch your child wears to school is limited to telling the time only. Thank you for your support in keeping our school a safe and secure environment for everyone.

House of Opportunity Christmas Box Appeal 2025

For many of us, Christmas is a time of joy, an opportunity for family and friends to spend time together and perhaps grab the odd moment of calm in our busy lives. But not everyone is able to enjoy the season, especially those who live in poor communities and those who don't have families to share Christmas with. The House of Opportunity Christmas Box Appeal brings joy to thousands of marginalised families and individuals in Southeast Europe every year. Thanks to our fantastic supporters, nearly 7,500 Christmas presents were distributed in orphanages, schools, kindergartens, Roma communities, homes for the elderly and to Ukrainian refugees in 2024.

Cranborne First School has been a wonderful supporter of this project in years past. Please, would the school join with us and help spread joy to thousands of children and families again this Christmas time?

We ask for a donation of £4 per box to help cover the cost of transporting and distributing the presents. Any surplus is used to help our long-term projects, which help to prevent modern slavery and transform lives through Southeast Europe. Your child will have brought home a leaflet explaining more. Christmas boxes will be collected on Thursday 27th November.

Kind regards, **Rich Parsons, Operations Manager**

Arbor Meals - Ordering after October Half Term

The new Winter Menu from CleverChefs is available to order through your Arbor account, please remember to order your child's meals for after half term. Many thanks.

Early Morning Music Club with Cathy Murray 'Dreaming of a White Christmas'

Mondays 10th, 17th, 24th November, 1st, 8th, 15th December 8-8.40 am in Kingfisher classroom. If you have returned your reply slip Cathy will contact you directly over half term to confirm spaces and payment.

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 STEPS (Safe Training Education Programme) with each year group. The day will also involve roadside training in small supervised groups for the children in Year 1 and Year 4. These year groups will have received a separate letter this week with more information and a consent form for parents to sign and return. 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. We are in need of volunteers to support with the Year 1 and Year 4 roadside sessions in the village on the day. Please could you let Mrs Kellaway know if you can help. Thank you!

Children in Need

We are delighted to be supporting Children in Need on **Friday 14th November**. The children are invited to wear spotty, dotty and Pudsey Bear inspired clothing to school for a donation either online or by bringing a cash donation to school. Robin class will still enjoy their P.E. lesson with Mr Williams in the afternoon so sensible footwear please.

NHS Parent Drop-In Session

The school nursing team will be offering a Parent Drop-In session on **Monday 17th November**. Parents and carers can get advice about a range of issues, including toileting, sleep, development, behaviour, healthy eating, mental health, bullying, school refusal and exam stress. If you would like to make an appointment, please contact Mrs Kellaway in the school office.

Learning Conversations

Fledglings & Wrens

Well what a half term! The Wren and Fledgling children have settled in so well and the unit is in full swing. We have continued with our learning all about Autumn and Harvest over the last two weeks, we read 'After the storm' together (A Percy the Park Keeper favourite!) – can a Wrenbird tell you about the story? They end up using the wheelbarrow as a... well can they remember?!

In Maths we have all been learning to compare – learning about size, length, height and amounts. The children have been using the language '**more and fewer**', '**long and short**' and '**tall and short**' and we have been thinking of as many ways as we can to describe '**big and small**'. Teeny and ginormous being a couple of our faves. The Fledglings have been reading 'Dear Zoo' and making different size compartments for different animals, thinking about each of their differing needs – that giraffe sure needs a bit of help! The children have grown and progressed so much in the last seven weeks; it feels like they have always been part of our school family. We are so proud of them for settling in so beautifully! We hope they get a good rest over the holiday and that you all have a lovely half term.

P.S. Diwali fell a little earlier this year, and although we will be learning all about it in a couple of weeks, we have already started to discover lots about this special festival. We all went to visit the Patel family in the village shop on Monday to hand deliver our card, with the children resplendent in ribbons and flower garlands! We also made a card for the Patel-Rathod family with us in school too. We want to wish everybody celebrating in our community a very Happy Diwali, may this time of light bring you happiness, prosperity and peace from all of us at Cranborne First.

Miss Hudson



Robins

What a busy half term! The children have written their recounts of their walk to Castle Hill Woods using their pictures plans to write independent sentences.

In art, they have created repeating patterns in our 'inspired by nature' theme using stampers to paint using autumnal colours.

In science they have sorting animals according to different characteristics and discussed their findings.

In R.E., the children have reflected upon 'creation' and talked about the differences and similarities in Christian, Islam and Judaism beliefs.

They have really enjoyed their guided reading sessions where they are learning to echo and choral read as a whole class. They were amazed to find out, at the end of our story about 'The Two Bears', that we have hybrid bears which are called a Pizzly or Grolar bears because of climate and habitat changes which has resulted in Grizzly and Polar bears meeting.

I hope that you all have a wonderful half term holiday. I just wanted to let you know that all the children have been given a 'love of reading' book and an additional reading book to read during the half term holiday. I have also told the Robin children about our sticker awards which will be happening after the half term holiday. They will be awarded a sticker for reading at least three times a week at home. If they continue to achieve this, after nine weeks they will be able to choose a book to keep and take home. I do hope that this will be a wonderful reward for reading every week.

Mrs Phillips

Cranes

What a lovely last week of half term we've had in Crane Class!

Science

In Science we've been continuing our learning on Forces. This week we've been learning all about magnets and magnetism, learning that this is a non-contact force. We were able to prove this, by using magnets to pull ball-bearings through a glass tube, as well as moving iron filings around in a sealed plastic container.

Here are some questions to ask your child:

What are magnets? - A magnet is a metal that can pull or attract (or repel, push) other types of metals.

What are magnetic materials? - Magnetic materials are materials that are attracted to magnets - for example, some metals such as Iron.

What is this force called? - The force of magnets is called magnetism. Magnetism can work over a distance.

Where in real life can your child see magnets being used? On the Fridge, in alarms, cupboard doors and also in junkyards to name just a few!

Maths

Can your child show you 'the balloon method' to round a number to the nearest 10 and 100? Try the number 173.

Year Fours - Can you round the number 6713 to the nearest 1000, 100 and 10.

History

Can your child explain why historians know that the Iron Age was a violent time? (They may be able to tell you that they lived in Tribes or Clans in Iron Age Hill Forts to protect themselves from enemy tribes.)

What were the parts of an Iron Age Hill Fort? (Ditches, Plateau, Ramparts and Palisades)

What was the Celtic Iron Age tribe nearest to us in Cranborne? According to the Romans, it was the Durotriges tribe! The Durotriges were a Celtic tribe that lived in southern Britain during the Iron Age, primarily in what is now Dorset. Evidence suggests they may also have reached the Isle of Wight. They were known for their hill forts, such as the famous Maiden Castle, and for issuing their own coinage before the Roman conquest, though their coins were simple and lacked inscriptions. Wishing you all a lovely half term! As the golden leaves fall and crisp autumn air fills our days, we hope you and your families enjoy a well-deserved break this half term. May it be a time for cozy moments, long walks and making special memories together, soaking up all the beauty this season brings!

Mrs Lawford

The children (and staff!) have worked so hard this half term and we are very proud of everyone's achievements! We wish you all a safe and happy half term holiday with your families. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 3rd November when we begin the countdown to Christmas! Take care everyone.

With kind regards,

Mrs A Faithfull

Cranborne CE First School & Nursery – Autumn 2025		
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).
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
Thursday 27 th November		Christmas Boxes collected today
Tuesday 9 th December	12.30-1 pm	Crane class invited to sing at the 'Cranborne 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