



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 #5

Friday 7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely half term break with your families. It was great to welcome the children back on Monday. Thank you for your patience and understanding with the unexpected disruptions to our hot school meals provision this week. We are grateful to Lorna, Helen and Simon for their hard work ensuring every child has been provided with a hot meal under difficult circumstances. We expect that all menu choices will be available from Monday and there will be no further disruption to service but if this isn't the case we will inform you over the weekend. Please check your emails.

If you have been creating Christmas boxes for the House of Opportunity charity you are very welcome to start bringing these into school ready for collection on the 27th. It will be great to see how many we donate again this year! There are a busy few weeks ahead with some new additions to the school diary; dodgeball after school club starting on Monday and a multi skills lesson from Year 8 Sports Leaders at Cranborne Middle School for our Year 3 and 4 children as well as many Christmas related activities!

23Coaching - Dodgeball

Matt Williams, our sports coach, will be running an after-school Dodgeball club for children in Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 over a six-week period. The sessions will take place on Mondays 10th, 17th, and 24th of November, and the 1st, 8th, and 15th of December, from 3-4 pm in the school hall. Parents can collect their children at 4 pm from the side gate at the left of the school building. The total cost for the six weeks will be £30. If you have any questions or would like to sign your child up for the Dodgeball club, please contact Matt Williams this weekend on 07487737297 or by email M.williams23coaching@outlook.com.

Crane class will already be wearing P.E. kit to school on a Monday for their P.E. lesson but please could children attending from Robin class bring sports kit to change into. Thank you.



The Royal British Legion

Poppies are available for a donation before and after school from the school office.

Cranberries Baby & Toddler Group – Friday Mornings

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

School Tour Dates

Please contact Mrs Kellaway in the school office to book an appointment for children starting reception class in September 2026. We would be delighted to show you around our wonderful school!



Diocese of Salisbury
Academy Trust



Parking

A polite reminder to please park responsibly at all times and to be respectful towards the residents in Water Street in particular; not blocking their driveways or parking on road markings (zig zags, hatchings, etc), bends or corners. Do remember that the Cranborne Sports Club very kindly allow our families to use their car park in Penny's Lane at drop off and collection time each day.

Reading Rewards

This week we have introduced reading bookmarks. The children will collect a sticker from their teacher when they read a minimum of three times a week at home with you. When they collect nine stickers they will be congratulated in celebration worship and can then choose a beautiful new book to take home and keep. Please can you complete your child's reading diary each time they read with you. Every day would be amazing but at least three times a week will have a positive impact on their reading development.

Nursery Applications – September 2026

Do you have a child turning three this academic year? (DOB 01/09/2022 - 31/08/2023) If so, we would love to invite you for a tour of our Nursery in readiness for a September 2026 start. We accept 15 and 30 hour funding and can offer early morning and after school club. If you would like a Nursery tour or application form, please contact Mrs Kellaway in the school office.

Early Morning Music Club with Cathy Murray

Theme: 'Dreaming of a White Christmas'

Mondays 10th, 17th, 24th November, 1st, 8th, 15th December 8-8.40 am in Kingfisher classroom. Please bring children to the hall entrance via the left-hand side of school where Cathy will greet the children.

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. 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 PFA for funding this important learning for the children. We are still in need of a few more 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. Please use the link below to make your online donation:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/cranborne-first-4?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

NHS Parent Drop-In Session

The school nursing team will be offering a Parent Drop-In session on **Monday 17th November** from 8.45 am. Parents and carers can gain 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 who will be pleased to book an appointment in for you.

Flu Immunisation in School Tuesday 18th November

If you would like your child to receive the flu immunisation in school you can register until **Thursday 13th November** using the online consent form - see the parent/carer letter for the link and our school code. Only those children whose parents have completed this process will receive the immunisation. For any consent forms completed after the deadline, the team will not be able to immunise the child in the school session and you will need to attend a catch-up clinic.

Collective Worship

Our Collective Worship theme this half term is Generosity.

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
Acts 20:35

A Christian Perspective on Generosity

God's generosity is best described as 'grace', love given freely without limit or conditions. This generosity, once experienced and acknowledged by an individual, can in turn release a generous spirit towards others.

Reflecting as a whole school community

Some questions to consider:

- Do children truly understand the concept of giving without seeking any reward?
- How are children encouraged to act with generosity in both their words and their actions?
- Which areas of the curriculum enable the children to consider the importance of being generous not only with material objects but also with time, spirit and talents?

Christmas Events

Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity

Our children in Fledgling, Wren and Robin classes will shortly begin preparations for their Nativity which will be performed in our school hall on Thursday 11th December at 2 pm and Friday 12th December at 9.15 am. Our families with children in these classes will be allocated 2 tickets per performance, per family. If you have tickets that you do not need we are very happy for you to share or exchange these with other parents. Please arrange this amongst yourselves, I'm afraid we are not able to hold or redistribute tickets from the school office.

To meet Health & Safety regulations we are limited to the number of individuals in the hall at any one time. If, however, you need to bring babies and toddlers they will need to sit on your lap and we politely ask that if they become restless or noisy that you take them out to allow the children performing the opportunity to 'shine' without distractions. Tickets will follow shortly.

Christmas Disco

The PFA have booked a school disco for **Tuesday 16th December** as a special treat for the children which will involve all classes throughout the morning. We politely ask for a voluntary donation of £3 per child, which can be paid directly into the PFA account or cash is accepted. When the PFA receive your donation, your child will receive a special Christmas Disco Ticket! Children are welcome to wear their own party clothes to school on this day.

Christmas Raffle

Christmas Raffle tickets will soon be making their way into your child's bookbag, please keep an eye out for them! Extra Raffle ticket will be available from the office to purchase in the coming weeks. The PFA are collecting some generous prizes from local businesses and individuals that you will want to win!

Crane Carol Service

Preparations will soon be underway for our beautiful evening Carol Service at Cranborne Church. This will be held on **Wednesday 17th December at 6 pm**. Our children in Crane class will be leading this special time of worship with readings, carols and prayers, alongside Reverend Angus Mayhew and with the support of Cathy Murray.

This evening is open to all and it would be lovely to welcome all our Cranborne First School families to this occasion. Crane class will need to arrive by 5.45 pm on the evening and will need to wear their school uniform. Thank you!

Christmas Party Day

On **Friday 19th December**, the last day of term the children will enjoy a workshop and performance of 'Dr Dolittle' with the amazing Image Music Theatre Company. Thank you to our PFA for funding this wonderful experience for the children.

As Friday 19th December is the last day of term the children are invited to come to school dressed in their own clothes. We're looking forward to seeing lots of festive Christmas jumpers on that day, but please ensure your child is warm enough, has a coat and wearing clothes and footwear that are suitable for running and playing in.

Christmas Cards and the Christmas Post Box

Our Christmas Post Box will be in operation again this year for children who would like to send individual cards to their friends, however you may also want to consider alternative options for sending Christmas greetings this year. I know that many of our children are passionate about reducing waste and caring for our environment so you may want to consider your child writing one card for their class that can be displayed rather than sending individual cards. In addition, you may decide to donate the money you would have spent on individual Christmas cards to a charity that is special to your family. It would be lovely if your child could talk about their chosen charity with their class. Whatever you decide, thank you for considering these ideas with your children.

Learning Conversations

Fledglings & Wrens

This week we have been learning all about Bonfire Night. We have been learning all about the history of why we celebrate Bonfire Night and we have been so impressed with the children's inquisitive questions and their interest, not only in the story, but also in the period of time when the Gunpowder Plot took place. I think we may have some budding Historians on our hands! Can your Wrenbird tell you about key parts of the plot? Can they tell you about what life was like then? ('What no phones?!' was the biggest shock this week!). Can they remember some of the key names, words and phrases that we have learnt this week? (Guy Fawkes, gunpowder, cellar, King James, Houses of Parliament)

The Wrens and Fledglings also learnt about how to keep safe around bonfires, fireworks, and sparklers – either at home or when watching a public display. Can they share any top tips?! If you and your family are continuing to enjoy fireworks this weekend – we hope you all have a lovely time, I'm sure the children will keep you most informed on all aspects!

Miss Hudson

Robins

What a positive start to the new term! The children have enjoyed listening to the story 'The Magic Paintbrush,' which we will use to write character and setting descriptions.

In science, the children have been labelling a flower and a tree and discussing the different parts of each plant. We have been reflecting about Remembrance Day and they have carefully drawn a poppy.

In guided reading, the children have been busy reciting a poem about our seasons using choral and echo reading. They have thought carefully about the phrasing in the poem and identified the key parts within each verse.

Please continue to read at least 3 times a week with our child. We have started to add stickers to the children's new bookmarks for anyone who has read with an adult three times this week. When the children receive nine stickers they will be presented with a beautiful book they can take home and keep.

Mrs Phillips

Cranes

What a lovely return to school after half term! I hope you all had a lovely rest over the week and a chance to spend time together as a family.

Remembrance

Today we were visited by Mrs Penney (Isaac's mum) who helped us to prepare for Remembrance weekend and to share what it is like to be in a Military family.

We talked about why we wear poppies. Many of the children are taking part in parades as part of Brownies, Scouts and Cubs and could talk about their preparations.

In English we have been reading the poem '**The River**' by Valerie Bloom. She is a wonderful Caribbean poet who writes fantastic poems for children.

To introduce this, we've explored the parts of a river. Can your child tell you the vocabulary we have learned?

(river source, riverbed, banks, mouth etc)

In **maths**, we have been learning to round numbers. Can your child round 173 to the nearest ten? To the nearest 100?

History - what were Staters in the Iron Age? How did settlement change in the Iron Age?

Mrs Lawford

It was lovely to welcome our Regional Director of Education, Kate Masters to school this week alongside James Law who is a headteacher in another DSAT school. Together we spent time in classrooms observing lessons, considering our provision for children with additional needs, looking through children's books and meeting with subject leaders and groups of children to learn more about the strengths of our school and areas we can improve even further through this academic year. We were incredibly proud of how beautifully your children were able to articulate their learning and talk about what makes our school special. Thank you everyone!

With kind regards,
Mrs A Faithfull

Cranborne CE First School & Nursery – Autumn 2025

Monday 10 th November	8 am	(Early Morning!) Music Club for years 1, 2, 3 and 4 with Cathy Murray (6-week block).
Monday 10 th November		Group of Crane children (with parental consent) will be filmed engaging in a Samba drumming lesson with Pete Whitmarsh from The Dorset Music Service. These recordings will support online resources being created for Dorset schools.
Monday 10 th November	3-4 pm	Dodgeball Club for years 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the school hall with Matt Williams (6-week block)
Thursday 13 th November		STEPS Road Safety Day
Friday 14 th November		Children in Need Fundraising Day – children are invited to wear dotty, spotty, Pudsey-inspired clothing for a donation
Monday 17 th November	from 8.45 am	School Nurse Appointments (please book an appointment by contacting Mrs Kellaway)
Tuesday 18 th November		Flu Immunisations (with parental consent)
Wednesday 19 th November	1.20-2.30 pm	Year 8 Sports Leaders from Cranborne Middle School will be leading a Multi-Skills Session with Crane class on our school playground (please could Crane class wear P.E. kit to school on this day)
Sunday 23 rd November	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the School Hall
Monday 24 th November		Priory Hub Year 3 and 4 Football Tournament at St James' First School (Mrs Lawford will advise shortly if your child is attending this tournament)
Thursday 27 th November		Christmas Boxes collected today
Monday 1 st December		Christmas Post Box opens
Wednesday 3 rd December		Crane Samba Drumming performance for parents and carers (Time to be confirmed shortly)
Tuesday 9 th December	12.30-1 pm	Crane class have been invited to perform Christmas songs at The Circle Lunch Club at the Cranborne Garden Centre. Alongside their school uniform children can wear a Christmas 'accessory' to bring some Christmas cheer to our audience!

Thursday 11 th December	2 pm	Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity in the school hall
Friday 12 th December	9.15 am	Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity in the school hall
Tuesday 16 th December		Class Discos in the school hall during the morning. Voluntary donation to PFA £3. Children invited to wear party clothes today.
Wednesday 17 th December	6 pm	Crane Carol Service at Cranborne Church
Thursday 18 th December		Christmas Post Box Closes
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