



## 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 #9

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to welcome the children back to school last week and hear all their Christmas adventures! Thank you for the thoughtful messages, cards and gifts we received at the end of term, you are very kind. Please know it is never expected but very appreciated.

We hope everyone is well at the start of 2026. This week we have celebrated a whole year of our beautiful Irish Terrier Roo Bear and this month will be the two-year anniversary of Breakfast Church, which we host on the fourth Sunday of each month. How time flies!

The children have been engaging well with all their new learning. Please take time to read the 'learning conversations' at the end of the newsletter to find out more from their teachers.

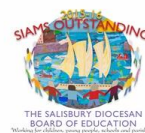
In celebration worship this morning we presented the first group of children, who have received nine stickers on their bookmark, a beautiful reading book to keep as a reward for regular reading at home with you. Thank you so much for your support! We know the impact this will have, not only on your child's attitude to reading and their reading development but their progress across all curriculum areas.

### Early Morning and After School Club

Please be aware that the booking time for After School Club has been extended. You can now book your place up until **12:00 pm on the same day** through your Arbor account. We hope this change makes it easier for you to plan your schedule. Please note that the deadline for Early Morning Club remains unchanged at 7 am. Please be aware in order to secure a refund, **we require 24 hours notice of cancellations** to early morning club or after school club. Many thanks.



Diocese of Salisbury  
Academy Trust



## **Parent-Teacher Consultations**

Parent-Teacher Consultation meetings will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February between 3.15-6 pm in our school hall. This will provide an opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher and to look through your children's books. Booking will open on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 8.30 am on Arbor. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Kellaway in the school office who will be pleased to help.

## **Duck Race – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

This year our Duck Race is taking place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 11 am-4 pm, if you are able to help with the planning or running a stall on the day, please contact Laura Morgan or Alex Anders-Brown from the PFA Team [cranbornefirstduckrace@gmail.com](mailto:cranbornefirstduckrace@gmail.com). More information will follow letting you know how to purchase your ducks, and what fab things to expect on the day. We hope to see you all there in April cheering on your ducks!

Many thanks in advance for your support,

*Cranborne Parents and Friends Association*

## **Epiphany**

It was wonderful to focus on the meaning of Epiphany in collective worship last week. The children learned that Epiphany is celebrated on the twelfth night after Christmas, 6<sup>th</sup> January, which marks the visit to Jesus by the Wise men.

We considered the significance of the Wise men's gifts, each like a story, telling something about who Jesus was and what he would do. Gold was a costly gift, fit for a king, a reminder that Jesus is King. Frankincense was a sweet-smelling perfume used to worship God, a reminder that Jesus is God's Son. Myrrh was a spice used to prepare people for burial. This was a look to the future when Jesus would one day die and be raised to life again. The children were thoughtful and reflective as we considered the meaning of Epiphany together.

## **Collective Worship Theme: Truthfulness**

This half term our collective worship theme is 'Truthfulness'.

### A Christian Perspective on Truthfulness

Christians believe that truth is revealed in the Bible and supremely in the person and life of Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' teaching we are given an insight into the nature of God and the way in which he means us to live.

As we develop this half terms' value of Truthfulness, we will consider the following:

- How does our school encourage all members of the school community to be truthful in their dealings with one another?
- How do we help our pupils to understand that life is about a search for truth and meaning?
- How does our school community understand the concept of being true to ourselves? (i.e. standing up for one's own beliefs)
- How, as a school, we can help our children make moral choices?

## Learning Conversations Fledglings & Wrens

This week in our little unit we have been learning all about our local area. We took a walking tour around the village and focused in particular on all the local landmarks. We are so lucky in Cranborne to have so many sights to see – from the vets to the war memorial it gave us lots to talk about. The children always love going past Vic and his family's shop and we made sure that we gave everyone working there a really good wave and our best smiles! We loved being able to see the Fire Engine peeking through the windows of the Fire Station too, we always call it Jupiter (after Fireman Sam's obvs, nothing says 90's kid like that reference) and we always pause to think and be thankful to all of those who work for the village Fire Service, often on top of their day job. Thank you so much if you are one of those amazing people - we are definitely very grateful for you and all you do.

Another highlight of the last week has been celebrating the fact that Rufus, our very own Irish (well...Welsh) Roo bear, has been at school a whole year! What a privilege it has been to be able to bring Rufus up in school over this last year - all these things we have been able to get up to with our furry comrade alongside. The children have been AMAZING with him all year, and the Robin children are still (and always will be) his very special guardians. Now, I am not sure if Mrs Faithfull will let me keep this in this newsletter... but here goes... because without Mrs Faithfull's kindness I would not have been able to bring this little gingery, fuzzy rascal into our midst. She has let me not only spend my day with the most beautiful of three to five year olds there are, but she also let me add a puppy into the mix too. There are not often people who you work alongside that allow you to make decisions that change your everyday, but Mrs Faithfull truly did. She allowed me, and us in our little unit, to have an adventure like no other, and I am exceptionally grateful for her thoughtfulness and gusto into everything that has become our life with this little bear.

So, to all Rufus's friends, whether little or big, from Auntie Phillips with THE BEST Welsh fuss to Auntie Faithfull and her kindness, to Auntie Maple who puts up with a ridiculous amount of daily shenanigans to Auntie Kellaway who always gets a bounce on her way by, to all the other super kind staff, to every single Cranborne First child ... and to all of you, the best parents, who have really embraced all that Rufus is about... thank you for a truly wonderful year.

Love from *Miss Hudson and Rufus xxx*



## Robins

What a delight it has been to welcome all the Robin children back after their Christmas holidays!

In D&T, the children were excited to design and create their own moving models of different vehicles. They thought carefully about their designs, creating and evaluating them to complete the design process.

In English, the children have been creating their own animals riddles I'm sure that they would love to share their ideas at home.

In guided reading, we have been reading 'The Bog Baby', using choral and echo reading. The children have thought carefully about their predictions and character's feeling within the story.

In maths the children have been using their knowledge of number bonds to 10 to add to the next ten and across ten. Their daily fluency lessons have supported their understanding and knowledge of adding to ten. What a super effort Robin class!

Please continue to read regularly with your children. We have continued to award a sticker (on their bookmarks) for the children who have read with an adult at least three times a week. Thank you for your support!



*Mrs Phillips*

## Crane

It's been so lovely welcoming Crane Class back to school after the Christmas break. The children have settled in beautifully and are already diving into their new learning with enthusiasm. Below are some ideas to help spark learning conversations at home and give you a window into what we've been exploring this term.

### Design & Technology

This term in D&T, the children are designing and making their own kites. They've been thinking carefully about shape, structure and materials, and many have already begun sketching out their ideas.

- Can your child tell you about their kite design and what inspired it?
- What are the key parts of a kite and why are they important?
- Does your child have ideas already about how they will help their kite to 'fly'?

## Science

Our science work focuses on nutrition in plants and animals, as well as how living things grow and stay healthy.

- What are the five main food groups in a healthy human diet?
- Why is it important to eat a variety of foods? And why do we aim for at least five different fruits and vegetables a day?
- What conditions do plants need to grow and thrive?
- How has your child ensured that the experiments they planned are fair tests?

Encouraging your child to explain their thinking helps them deepen their understanding and use scientific vocabulary with confidence.

## Geography

In geography, we've begun exploring the South West of England — its counties, landscapes and what makes the region special.

- Can your child name the counties that make up the South West (Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Bristol)
- What famous landmarks can they tell you about?
- Why might people choose to live in the South West — what makes it an appealing place?

The children have enjoyed discovering how varied the region is, finding out that our climate is mild and warmer than much of the UK, and looking at key features, from rugged coastlines to rolling countryside and vibrant cities.

*Mrs Lawford*

Finally, please check the Spring term diary dates below and as always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us. We wish you a lovely weekend with your families!

With kind regards,

*Mrs Faithfull*

### Cranborne CE First School & Nursery – Spring Term 2026

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January		INSET day – school closed to children
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	3-4 pm	Dodgeball 1 of 5
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	3-4 pm	Dodgeball 2 of 5
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	3-4 pm	PFA Film Night (nursery, reception and year 1)
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January		Priory Hub Netball Tournament
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the school hall
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	3- 4 pm	Dodgeball 3 of 5
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January (timing to be confirmed)		PFA Film Night (year 2, year 3, year 4)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	3-4 pm	Dodgeball 4 of 5
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February		Get Set Cycle session in school
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	3-4 pm	Dodgeball 5 of 5
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February		Bikeability Level 1 Training in school
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	3.15-6 pm	Parent-Teacher Consultations
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	9 am	Year 4 Pancake Race followed by Pancake Café in school
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February		Half Term
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in our school hall
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February		INSET day school closed to children
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	3.15-6 pm	Parent-Teacher Consultations
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March		World Book Day – children are invited to dress up as a book character today
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the school hall
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	8.45 am	Easter Service at Cranborne Church