



Cranborne

Church of England
First School and Nursery

Love, Learn, Fly

Do Everything in Love 1 Corinthians 16:14

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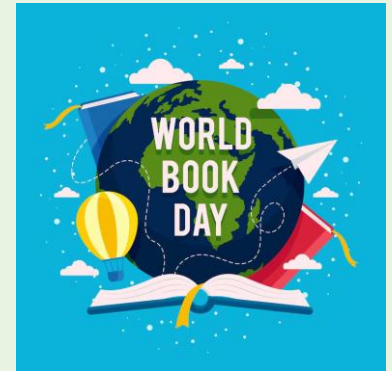
Friday 30th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope everyone is safe and well and you haven't been too badly impacted by recent flooding. We appreciate your usual journey into school will have been affected in some way and I'm very appreciative to staff who, for many, have been taking (longer) alternative routes each day. A positive is that we have made it through a long, wet January with hopefully lighter, drier days to come as February is just around the corner this weekend! It's hard to believe though that we have nearly reached the midway point of the school year with only two more weeks until half term. Before then we are looking forward to 'Get, Set, Cycle' and 'Bikeability' opportunities for our children, time to focus on our wellbeing through Children's Mental Health Week, our Year 4 pancake race and whole school pancake café and our little ones in Fledglings and Wrens spreading some joy in our community through their shroving activities! We are also pleased to have secured a local farm visit for our Robin and Crane children at the end of February, a letter will be sent home today but do check the diary dates at the end of the newsletter (and on the website) for new additions for the remainder of term.

Pancake Race and Pancake Café – Friday 13th February

We will be holding our annual Pancake Race on Friday 13th February just ahead of Shrove Tuesday which falls in the half term holiday this year. Our Year 4 children will once again race along Water Street showing off their pancake flipping skills! The whole school will be there to cheer them on from the Village Hall side of the River Crane and parents are invited to join us. The races will be followed by our Pancake Café back in school where every child will have the opportunity to try a pancake with lemon juice and sugar, if they wish. If your child has special dietary needs, please speak to your child's class teacher about providing an alternative for them. Thank you to our wonderful PFA who will be providing the pancakes!

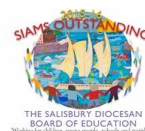


World Book Day Advance Notice!

The children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character on Thursday 5th March and to bring their favourite book to school to share. We can't wait to see their costumes! Each child will also receive a World Book Day token on the day. Many thanks.



Diocese of Salisbury
Academy Trust



Parent-Teacher Consultations

Parent-Teacher Consultation meetings will be held on Wednesday 11th and Wednesday 25th 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 is open on Arbor. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Kellaway in the school office who will be pleased to help.

Edmondsham Panto Colouring Competition

Well done to Purdey, Arthur, Thea Willow and Greyson, who won the Edmondsham Panto Colouring Competition! Each child has won a family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) to Beauty and the Beast during half term. Thank you to Mrs Woodjetts for inviting us to join this competition.

House of Opportunity - Christmas Box Appeal 2025

House of Opportunity would like to thank everyone at Cranborne First School & Nursery for donating 27 shoeboxes to their 2025 Christmas Box Appeal, which helped to spread joy to thousands of boys, girls, families and Communities in Bulgaria.

PFA Film Nights

Thank you so much for supporting our recent film nights. Our youngest children loved 'The Scarecrows' Wedding' and our older children enjoyed 'Abominable' alongside their popcorn treat! Together we raised £189. Thank you!

Solo Weekend Parent Group

Are you parenting alone at the weekend? A new group will be opening in Fordingbridge on Sunday the 8th of February running from 2-3.30 pm every other Sunday. The group is for anyone solo parenting at the weekend. Open to those whose spouse works weekends or single parents.

The Salvation Army, Fordingbridge (SP6 1AQ) has kindly offered to let us use their space - please join us for tea, coffee and good conversation. Toys will be out for the children to enjoy. If you have any questions or would like any further information, please feel free to email me:

emmac2304@gmail.com

Duck Race – Saturday 25th April 2026

This year our Duck Race is taking place on Saturday 25th 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. 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

Learning Conversations

Fledglings & Wrens

Over the last two weeks we have been learning all about people who help us, the children have been thinking about people in our community that do all sorts of supportive jobs; from Mechanics to Nurses, from Farmers to Dentists. We have been reading a lovely book called 'Real Superheroes' that talks about the jobs people do where they don't get to wear a cape but they do save lives every day. We have been thinking about being 'grateful' as a theme recently and these occupations really made us want to say a big thank you. So, if you are reading this, and have a role (however big or small) in one of these areas we wanted to say a massive big thank you to you for being absolutely awesome! And if you don't get to wear a cape every day – we definitely think you should!

We also wanted to say a big well done to Wrens and Fledglings (and grown-ups too) for bearing with us with our new early morning routine. After Christmas we started our very little ones off on an Early Morning activity where they get to use the whiteboards for the first time. The children are starting to learn to form symbols and early letters - they have taken to it amazingly and we have been so proud of them. Wrenbirds have had a change also, and are now sitting at the table in this time and are starting to use handwriting books which is soooooo very snazzy too. The Wrenbirds are very independent but whilst they are new to the skill they just need an occasional bit of help, or a little bit of a boost cheerleader style. Literally it is a case of ... give me a cursive d, give me a cursive o, give me a cursive g... aaaaand what have you got? "Roo Bear". Errrrm... close :) So I am staying a little bit closer to help in those moments, and obviously Mrs Maple is doing sterling work aiding many little Fledglings brandishing whiteboard pens. So far this week we have had far less unintentionally drawn on mooostaches and hardly any full beards. So we are on the way up!

Please do send your little one from the secret garden gate or come on down to the door, seeing you is still just as important and hopefully in time we can inch our way back down the playground for lovely chats and longer welcomes. As ever thank you for being so supportive, and if you get the chance ask your Wren or Fledgling to show you their new skills. They are getting really jolly good!

Miss Hudson and Rufus xxx

Robins

In Robin class, the children have been enjoying reading the book 'Where the Wild Things Are'. They have familiarised themselves with the story with our echo and choral reading to prepare themselves for their descriptive writing. In science, we have been watching the weather and recording the daily forecast which has included the daily temperature. It has been a joy to see all the children engaged with their learning.

In geography, the children have learned about the seven continents and five oceans around the world. I'm sure that they would love to share this learning with you at home. In maths, the children have really persevered with their learning as we have been adding and subtracting 2 two-digit numbers. What a super effort Robin class!

We have continued to award a sticker (on their book marks) for the children who have read with an adult at least three times a week. Many of the children have already been awarded with a new book for this achievement. Well done everyone!

Mrs Phillips

Crane

Crane Class has been busy diving into some exciting learning this fortnight. In Science, the children have been exploring their *Alive and Thrive* unit, investigating what plants, animals, and humans need not just to survive, but to truly thrive. They've enjoyed comparing different living things and discussing how environments and nutrition help them grow.

In Maths, the class has been working on understanding *area*, using squares to measure and compare different spaces. They've been practising counting square units and explaining how they know which shapes cover more or less area.

In English, the children have been learning how to punctuate speech accurately. They've been experimenting with dialogue in their writing and practising how to use inverted commas, commas, and capital letters to show when someone is speaking.

Questions to Ask at Home

Science:

What do all living things need to survive?

What are the main food groups and what would be a balanced lunch-box meal?

Can you think of a habitat that helps an animal thrive and explain why?

Maths:

What is area?

How do you work out the area of a shape using squares?

English:

What have we read in the Aladdin story so far? How do you show speech in writing?

Can you tell me a sentence with speech and explain where the punctuation goes?

Mrs Lawford

Don't forget to sign up for your parent-teacher consultation meetings on the 11th and 25th February. It is such a privilege to teach your wonderful children and this provides a great opportunity to celebrate their progress and to work together to help them achieve even more in the remaining year. Wishing you a lovely weekend with your families.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Faithfull

Cranborne CE First School & Nursery – Spring Term 2026

Monday 2 nd February	3-4 pm	Dodgeball 2 of 5 with Matt Williams
Thursday 5 th February		Cathy Murray Workshop with Crane class in preparation for 'Sing it Loud' Music Event
Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th February		Children's Mental Health week – 'This is my place' Screen Awareness week
Monday 9 th February	9-11 am	Get Set Cycle session in school with Lucy
Monday 9 th February	3-4 pm	Dodgeball 3 of 5 with Matt Williams
Tuesday 10 th February	1-3 pm	Bikeability Level 1 Training in school with Lucy
Wednesday 11 th February	3.15-6 pm	Parent-Teacher Consultations in the school hall
Friday 13 th February	9 am	Year 4 Pancake Race followed by whole school Pancake Café in school
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February		Half Term
Sunday 22 nd February	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in our school hall
Monday 23 rd February		INSET day school closed to children
Wednesday 25 th February	3.15-6 pm	Parent-Teacher Consultations in the school hall
Thursday 26 th February		Farm Visit for Robin Class
Friday 27 th February		Farm Visit for Crane Class
Monday 2 nd March	3-4 pm	Dodgeball 4 of 5 with Matt Williams
Thursday 5 th March		World Book Day – children are invited to dress up as a book character today
Monday 9 th March	3-4 pm	Dodgeball 5 of 5 with Matt Williams
Thursday 12 th March		Cathy Murray Workshop with Crane class in preparation for 'Sing it Loud' Music Event
Friday 20 th March		'Sing it Loud' event at Verwood Hub – Crane class invited. More details to follow.
Sunday 22 nd March	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the school hall
Tuesday 24 th March		Rescheduled Priory Hub Netball Tournament at Trinity First School (children selected from Crane class)

Friday 27 th March	8.45 am	Easter Service at Cranborne Church – everyone invited
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th March		Easter Holiday
Monday 13 th April		DSAT Trust INSET Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 14 th April		Children return to school for summer term