



Cranborne

Church of England
First School and Nursery

Love, Learn, Fly
Do Everything in Love 1 Corinthians 16:14

Headteacher: Mrs A Faithfull

Water Street, Cranborne, Dorset BH21 5QB
Email: office@cranbornefirst.dsat.org.uk
Website: www.cranbornefirst.dsat.org.uk
Tel: 01725 517439

Newsletter Issue #11

Friday 13th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was very special to hold our annual pancake race in the village this morning. Thank you for joining us to cheer the children on! We were so proud of our year 4s for taking part so enthusiastically and showing a healthy mix of competitiveness and kindness! Our finalists were Alfie and Meredith, with Alfie crowned the overall winner. Well done everyone! Thank you to our wonderful PFA who provided the delicious pancakes we enjoyed after the races too.

It was so lovely to see our youngest children in Wrens and Fledglings set off on Monday morning with their gorgeous bouquets (and the biggest smiles!). As part of our shroving tradition the children delivered their spring posies and kind messages to some very special members of our community.

Forward notice that our annual Duck Race is taking place on Saturday 25th April between 11 am - 4 pm, if you are able to help with the planning or running a stall on the day, please contact the PFA Team at cranbornefirstduckrace@gmail.com. More information is being sent home explaining how to purchase your ducks, and what activities to expect on the day. We really hope to see you all there in April cheering on your ducks and supporting our lovely school.



Diocese of Salisbury
Academy Trust



Safer Internet Day – Screen Awareness

As part of safer internet day, we focused together on all the positive uses of technology in our lives. We talked about 'screen time' and why it is important to set limits that are healthy for us (as children and adults!). Together, we created a list of all the healthy fun things we can do that don't involve screens and there were so many! Our list included colouring, drawing, arts and crafts, playing board games, baking, playing at the park, swimming, writing stories and reading. The 'internet matters' website have good advice on how you can minimise the risks of spending too much time online and help your children develop healthy relationships with technology and find balance with their screen time. Follow the link if you would like more information.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/protect-your-child/>

Children's Mental Health Week

A simple but powerful activity this week involved the children writing down things they are grateful for and placing these inside a 'gratitude jar' in their classrooms. Focusing on gratitude helps children to think positively, which is great for developing their well-being. Thank you, Mrs Spencer for providing the beautiful jars for this activity. It was lovely to see the Robin class jar overflowing with thankfulness this week!

Arbor Meals – Ordering after February Half Term

Don't forget to order your child's meals for after February half term. The deadline is **Tuesday 17th February** for meals the first week back. Many thanks.

23 Coaching – February Sports Club

Mr Williams at 23 Coaching and Mr Kearley at Fordingbridge Junior School, are running a Multi-Sports Club for 3 days during February at Fordingbridge Junior School. Would you like your child to play sports including Football, Rugby, Archery, Rounders and Capture the Flag?

£25 per day per child 9:00 - 3:00

£12.50 morning slot 9:00 – 12:00 - £12.50 afternoon slot 12:00 – 3:00

Sibling Discount £20 per day £10 per am/pm

Running 3 days Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th and Friday 20th February

Telephone: 07487737297

Link to book <https://23-coaching.classforkids.io>

Crane Class PE Kit - Tuesday 24th February

If your child is in Crane Class, please could they wear their PE kit to school on the first day back after half term - Tuesday 24th February. As Monday is an INSET day Coach Williams will teach PE on Tuesday afternoon. Mrs Kellaway will send another reminder on Monday 23rd! Many thanks.

Project Manna Farm Experience for Robin and Crane Class

We are all very excited for the upcoming educational visits to Project Manna Farm for both Robin and Crane classes! The visits promise to be a wonderful experience for the children. To ensure your child can participate, please remember to make the necessary payment and provide your consent through your Arbor account **by Monday 23rd February 2026**.

Priory Hub Netball Tournament – Tuesday 24th March

We are delighted that a number of our Year 3 and 4 children will be taking part in a Netball Tournament on Tuesday 24th March at Trinity First School with our Priory Hub Schools (Wimborne St Giles' First, Trinity First and St James' First). If your child is attending you will have received an individual letter. The aim of the event is to encourage our children to enjoy sport, work together as a team and represent their school. **Please complete the parent consent form on Arbor by Monday 23rd March 2026.**

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.

Learning Conversations

Fledgling & Wren

On Monday we went as a little gang through the village delivering flowers! We were taking part in the tradition of 'shroving', an old British tradition to deliver flowers and spread a little joy. The children looked so sweet, all walking in a line resplendent in colour and petals. Thank you so much to all of the grown-ups that spent time at the weekend sourcing these bouquets and a very special thank you to the parents who bought more than one bunch to spread even more kindness.

It was a real privilege to take the children around the village to do this, the residents that we visited were so chuffed to see them and I was so proud to take such kind, polite and thoughtful children out into the community. They were so gorgeous to do this with, and it was a really special way to spend a Monday morning together. Thank you for always rallying and for being super special members of the community too. Have a lovely half term, can't wait to see you and these little ones back again already.

Miss Hudson and Rufus



Robin

In Robin class, the children have been planning and writing their recounts as Max from 'Where the Wild Things Are'. They thought carefully about their sentences and edited their writing to check for correct punctuation and capital letters.

Well done to all our year 1 children for completing a mock phonics assessment last week. What a super effort Robin class! In geography, the children have learned about the different temperatures across the world and were able to identify the seven continents and five oceans. I'm sure that they would love to share their learning. In art we have been focusing on expressive art and have been looking at paintings by Van Gogh and Cezanne. The children have thought about how the paintings make them feel and used primary colours to paint in the style of these artists.

We have continued to award a sticker (on their book marks) for the children who have read with an adult three times a week. Many of the children have already been awarded with a new book after receiving nine stickers. Well done!

Mrs Phillips

Crane

With our annual pancake race, this week is a very special one for Crane class and a rite-de-passage!

Art

In art this fortnight, the children have been diving into the world of landscapes, taking inspiration from the striking work of Vanessa Gardiner. They've been experimenting with drawing and painting their own scenes, thinking carefully about how artists use colour and space to bring a landscape to life. We've also been exploring colour mixing in more depth. The children now know that primary colours—red, blue and yellow—can be combined to make secondary colours like green, purple and orange. From there, they've moved on to tertiary colours, created by mixing a primary with a secondary. This is how we get those beautifully nuanced shades, such as yellow-green or blue-violet, that make artwork feel rich and layered. To help them understand how artists build a sense of place, we've talked about the *foreground*—the part of the picture closest to the viewer—and the *background*, which shows what's furthest away. These ideas are already helping the children add depth and interest to their own landscape pieces.

Questions to explore together: Can you think of a place in nature where you've seen tertiary colours—perhaps in leaves, sunsets or the sea?

When you look at a picture or photo at home, what do you notice in the foreground and background?

In **Maths**, we've been strengthening our understanding of multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. The children have been practising questions such as:

What is 6×10

What is 54×10

What is 27×100

They've also been working on dividing larger numbers:

What is $5300 \div 10$

What is $5300 \div 100$

We've revisited factors too—numbers that divide exactly into another number.

A great discussion starter: Can you explain what a factor is in your own words? What are the factors of 12 and 24, and how do you know?

Music 'Sing it Loud' Event in March

Our singing sessions have taken on a special energy as we begin learning the powerful and uplifting song 'Something Inside So Strong' as well as some very special songs. The children are already responding to its message of resilience and courage in our singing workshops with Cathy Murray. Linked to this, we've been talking about Nelson Mandela—who he was, why he is remembered around the world, and how his determination helped bring about profound change in South Africa. The children have shown real curiosity and empathy as they learn about his life and legacy.

Ask your child: How does this song make you feel when you sing it? Why do you think it's such an inspiring piece?

What do you think made Nelson Mandela such an important leader? What qualities did he show that we can learn from today?

I wish all our wonderful children and families a wonderful half term and a rest from routine!

Mrs Lawford

The children and staff have worked incredibly hard throughout this half term. We are so proud of the children's progress and achievements and look forward to all that is ahead in the next half term (hopefully there will be less wet playtimes!). We wish you all a restful and healthy half term break and look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 24th February.

With kindest regards,

Mrs Faithfull

Cranborne CE First School & Nursery – Spring Term 2026

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
Tuesday 24 th February		Crane class PE day (changed from Monday)
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 7 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 7 with Matt Williams
Thursday 12 th March		Cathy Murray Workshop 2 with Crane class in preparation for 'Sing it Loud' Music Event
Monday 16 th March	9-11 am	Get, Set, Cycle session with Lucy Bemand on school playground (booking required)
Monday 16 th March	3-4 pm	Dodgeball 5 of 7 with Matt Williams
Tuesday 17 th March	1-3 pm	Bikeability Level 1 for Year 4 on school playground with Lucy Bemand (booking required)
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		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 April		Easter Holiday
Monday 13 th April		DSAT Trust INSET Day – school closed to children