



## Cranborne

Church of England  
First School and Nursery

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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to welcome the children back last week and to enjoy some lighter, sunnier days together in school. You will have received your child's curriculum overview today sharing the exciting curriculum offer planned by your child's teacher for the summer term. Please have a look and consider ways that we can work together to support your child's progress through their final term of this academic year.

Mrs Lawford and I had the best time with your wonderful Year 4 children this week when we visited Hooke Court in Beaminster. The children took part in kayaking, a fun 'bridge the moat' activity, team building and problem-solving games, an evening campfire with songs and jokes and an amazing rocket building workshop! It was also lovely to explore free time in the grounds at Hooke Court and enjoy delicious food together. Mrs Lawford and I were so impressed with the children's resilience and independence and their kindness and support towards one another as we spent time away from home and school.

Thank you to our PFA for their incredible work preparing for our annual Duck Race tomorrow. This community event will run between 11 am and 4 pm and promises to be a really fun day for all the family! Alongside the duck races there will be a barbeque, bouncy castle, face painting, tea and cake and arts and crafts stalls. Thank you for all your support so far, see you there!

### Year 4 Hooke Court Residential 2026



Diocese of Salisbury  
Academy Trust



## Collective Worship Theme – Wisdom

This half term we are focusing on the Christian value of Wisdom in collective worship and are looking forward to visits from Keith Jewell, Reverend Angus and The Open the Book Team to explore this further.

Some questions for our whole school community to consider:

- How are children encouraged to act responsibly and think about the wisdom of their words and actions?
- Are school members actively praised for making sensible and wise choices?
- Which areas of the curriculum enable the children to consider the importance of thoughtfulness and wisdom?
- How can children be helped to appreciate the wisdom of others?
- How are children helped to understand the difference between being clever and being wise?
- Do children encounter words of wisdom from many different sources?
- How are children taught to respect the wisdom of parents and teachers?
- How are adults in the school helped to recognise the spiritual wisdom of the children?
- How do we help the children to reflect on what is of real value in life?

## INSET Days 2026-2027

We have now set our five INSET days for the next academic year. The school will be closed to the children on these days;

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2027

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2027

## Saltmine Theatre Company Rhyming Bible: Halos, Heroes and The Tree of Life

Thank you to St James' First School in Gaunts Common for inviting us to experience this wonderful theatre company alongside their visit last week. This musical performance was based around Bob Hartman's Rhyming Bible and brought to life stories of amazing Bible characters such as Jonah, Esther, Daniel and Zacchaeus, all journeying to find the Tree of Life! The actors were so talented and inspired the children with this wonderful production.



## **Cranborne Fete Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

The fete is back in the wonderful Cranborne Manor Gardens, by kind permission of Lord and Lady Cranborne, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2-4 pm. The fete offers an afternoon of fun for all the family, as well as being an important fund raiser for our village church. If you can offer any help with setting up, clearing away, donating a raffle prize or running a stall or game, please get in touch with Anna at [annamcelwaine@aol.com](mailto:annamcelwaine@aol.com).

We are delighted that our Crane children have been asked to provide a maypole dancing performance at this event. Thank you for responding, we nearly have our team in place!

## **Learning Conversations**

### **Fledgling & Wren**

These last two weeks have been a bit of a privilege for me on two counts. The first because I was lucky enough to take the Wrenbirds and Fledglings into the Bluebell Woods, some for their very first time. It is such a time-honoured tradition at Cranborne First and from my time as a newly qualified teacher to now it has never lost it's magic to see the awe and wonder in the children's faces. They never disappoint and this year was no exception, as we walk through the woods there is a point where we all stay quiet for a moment so we can really appreciate the stillness and all the flora and fauna around us. In the middle of this trail we usually stand in a circle – all of us hold hands and we say a little prayer together. This moment, with a couple of little mitts in mine (usually a little bit sticky I'm not going to lie!), is one of the most special moments in the entire year. I always look at these little faces in the circle and I am very glad for the time I get to spend with them. Although it is not quite the end of the year yet, this moment seems to show them as the grown up Wrenbirds and Fledglings they are now and I always squeeze those little hands a bit tighter.

The second was to issue yet more book awards to children that have completely filled their bookmarks - meaning that some of these little Wrenbirds have read three times a week for 18 weeks! Such an AMAZING achievement for our youngest children and I am always sooooo proud of them when they come to the front in worship and pick their very own book from the basket to take home. I always think of you guys in that moment too, in the middle of a busy week it can be really hard to find the right moment to hear and support these little learners so new to the world of reading and sometimes let's face it there are only so many times you can hear "c-a-t ... mat, pin, tap, pineapple?!"!!!! (I feel your pain there team!). But it always comes together and what a fantastic accolade for them and you. I always find it my biggest honour to be able to teach the children to write their name, something they will write for the rest of their lives and I treasure that we are a small part of that. Reading is the same and I am very thankful I get to share a part of that with you - to be able to unlock the children to a world of adventures, facts or mysteries or stories of friendship, or dragons or general merriment and mischief! This stage feels like a rite of passage and I could not be more delighted for them.

*Miss Hudson and Rufus*

## **Robin**

What a wonderful start to the summer term with our annual Bluebell walk! The children were amazed by the sea of blue amongst the trees and the strong smell of the beautiful wild garlic.

In English, the children have been familiarising themselves with the story of 'The Great Kapok Tree'. They have been describing the animals that live in the rainforest and thinking about the actions and sounds that they make. In science, the children have been identifying different everyday materials and their properties within our school. In maths, they have been measuring the length and height of different objects and ordering and comparing them according to their length or height.

In our phonics lessons, the year 1 children have been practising their phonics everyday including the alien words which they will read within the phonics screening test in June to prove they can decode and blend different sounds using phonics knowledge. If you wish to practise with your child at home, you can access different games and sound checks which will enable your child to practise these words on the following website. You can sign up and access these freely.

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)

Please continue to read at least 3 times a week with our child. We have continued to give a sticker (on their book marks) for the children who have read with an adult three times a week. Some of the children have already been awarded with a new book for this achievement. Well done! Thank you for your support at home with daily reading.

*Mrs Phillips*

## **Crane**

The sun has come out and how lovely to enjoy drier weather at last! Britain is so beautiful and lush at this time of the year. A lovely new Year 3 pupil has joined us, the children are loving their playtimes outside, and it was a joy to venture out for both our annual bluebell walk and our Year 4 residential in the last week. I am writing this feeling so grateful to be a teacher in this beautiful county of Dorset. Crane class are also all feeling excited and are so looking forward to having fun at our annual Duck Race tomorrow! See you there!

## **Geography**

Where is Egypt in the world, and what is its climate like? Is Egypt hot or cold? Is it mostly wet or dry? (Egypt is in North Africa, near the River Nile and close to the Mediterranean Sea. It has a hot, dry climate, with lots of sunshine and very little rain. Much of Egypt is desert, so it can be very hot in the day.)

## **History**

What does the word irrigation mean?

Why was the River Nile important to the Ancient Egyptians? (The River Nile was important because it provided water for drinking and farming, made the land fertile for growing crops, and helped people travel and trade.)

What was a shaduf? (A shaduf was a machine, like a crane, that Egyptians still use today to pull water out of the Nile. Egyptians used it to irrigate the soil and grow crops like wheat, barley and onions.)

## Maths

What is a fraction?

What does equivalent mean?

Are  $1/2$  and  $2/4$  equivalent fractions? How do you know? (Yes, they are equivalent because they show the same amount. Two quarters is the same as one half.)

*Mrs Lawford*

As well as the Duck race, this Sunday is Breakfast Church in our school hall between 9-10 am. The topic will be 'Discover His Joy'. It would be lovely to see you there! Forward notice that our next Breakfast Church on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May is Pentecost Sunday. Reverend Angus will be speaking and is keen that we recreate a combined choir of children from Cranborne First and Wimborne St Giles' First also. Please do come along and join in if you are able!

Kind regards,

*Mrs Faithfull*

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

Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	11 am-4 pm	Cranborne Duck Race
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in our school hall
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	3-4 pm	Tennis Club with Coach Williams 2 of 4
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	3-4 pm	Creative Club 3 of 6
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	12.15 start	Priory Hub Rounders Tournament at Cranborne Middle School (a group of children from Crane class will be invited)
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May		Bank Holiday – school closed
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May		Crane Class to wear PE kit today
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	3-4 pm	Creative Club 4 of 6
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	3-4 pm	Tennis Club with Coach Williams 3 of 4
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May		Fraser Portraits – class photographs and individual Year 4 photographs
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	3-4 pm	Tennis Club with Coach Williams 4 of 4
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	3-4 pm	Creative Club 6 of 6
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	2-4 pm	Cranborne Fete at The Cranborne Manor Children in Crane class will be invited to perform maypole dancing at the event.
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in our school hall
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May		Half Term
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June		Children return to school
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June		Year 4 Multiplication Timestable Check Week
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	3-4 pm	Creative Club 1 of 6
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June		Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Week
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	3-4 pm	Creative Club 2 of 6
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June		Life Education Visit
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June		Year 4 Leavers' Service at Salisbury Cathedral

Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	3-4 pm	Creative Club 3 of 6
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June		Priory Hub Athletics Tournament at Wimborne St Giles' First School (a group of children from Crane class will be invited)
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	3-4 pm	Creative Club 4 of 6
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June		Transfer Day (children move to their new class and year 4 move to their middle school for the day)
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in our school hall
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	3-4 pm	Creative Club 5 of 6
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	9-10.30 am	Sports Day at Cranborne Sports Club
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July		Waterwise Lesson for Crane class
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July		Children's Annual Reports sent home
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July		Parent-Teacher Consultations from 3.30 pm if needed following annual reports
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July		Class Discos with Liam from Outalimits
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	8.45 am	Year 4 Leavers' Service at Cranborne Church
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July		Last day of term. Finish at usual time of 3 pm.
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July – Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August		Summer Holiday
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in our school hall
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in our school hall
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September		INSET day – school closed to children
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September		INSET day – school closed to children
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September		Autumn Term begins