



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 #1

Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had an enjoyable summer holiday with your families. We are incredibly grateful for the thoughtful cards, messages and gifts received at the end of the summer term. Please know it is never expected but very appreciated.

It was so lovely to see the children when they returned to school last week and wonderful to welcome our new Wrens and Fledglings to our school family. We welcome Mrs Cleeve to her teaching role in Robin class with Mrs Phillips and we extend a warm welcome to Miss Clarke our new Crane class teacher. We have shared all the important dates for the autumn term at the conclusion of the newsletter and will continue adding to these throughout the term.

As we begin the new academic year, please prioritise reviewing your arbor account to ensure school collection arrangements for your child/ren are up to date. Many thanks.



Premises Work

The summer period has included essential maintenance and servicing works including a complete upgrade of our fire security and lockdown system, the erection of new boundary fencing in our secret garden area, a deep clean of classrooms and shared areas including fresh paintwork and a tidy of our outdoor spaces.

P.E. Days

Please could children wear their school P.E. kit on their P.E. days each week (royal blue t-shirt, white shorts or navy/black joggers and trainers). Monday Crane, Thursday Fledgling & Wren and Friday Robin. Many thanks.

Anaphylaxis

Please remember that your child must not bring any food into school which contains nuts. We appreciate your support to safeguard a number of our children who have serious food allergies. We are pleased to share that we now have a 'Kitt Medical' Anaphylaxis box in school providing emergency treatment for severe allergic reactions.



Diocese of Salisbury
Academy Trust



Reading Rewards

Reading is an essential life skill for SO many reasons; for discovering new information and learning, opening up opportunities, opening up minds to great stories and adventures - escaping to somewhere new and exciting. Research shows that children who read for pleasure will achieve more than those who don't, later in life. As a school, we are committed to ensuring that all children become independent, fluent readers during their time with us, through developing a culture of reading for pleasure, not only wherever you go around our school and throughout our curriculum, but also at home too.

Each child has been given a new reading bookmark they can use to collect stickers if they read at home a minimum of three times a week with you. When they collect nine stickers they can choose a beautiful new book to take home and keep. These are presented in Celebration worship on a Friday. 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. Many thanks!

Healthy Food

As we begin the new school year, we'd like to take a moment to remind families about the importance of healthy lunchboxes and water-only bottles in school. A balanced, nutritious lunch not only supports children's physical health but also helps them stay focused, energised and ready to learn throughout the day. Including a variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and proteins makes a real difference. Sugary snacks and drinks, even in small amounts, can affect children's concentration and behaviour and their long-term health choices. The government are currently consulting on plans to update the School Food Standards for the first time in over a decade, with a focus on making meals healthier, more balanced and more consistent across all schools. Please follow the link if you would like to learn more.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2026/04/new-school-food-standards/>

In support of this, children's mid-morning snacks must be healthy options, for example, chopped fresh fruit or vegetables, a small savoury sandwich, bread sticks or cubes of cheese. High sugar and fat content snacks such as crisps and chocolate are not appropriate for a mid-morning snack. Please be aware that children in years R, 1 and 2 will be provided a piece of fruit or vegetable as part of the Government Fruit and Vegetable Scheme but children in nursery, years 3 and 4 will need to bring their own mid-morning snack into school. All children should also bring a filled water bottle to school each day. Water helps to keep children hydrated and alert and it's the best choice for healthy teeth too. Thank you for your continued support in helping us promote good habits that will benefit your children for life.

The Importance of Good Attendance

We are committed to ensuring our children achieve the best possible outcomes and good school attendance is key to achieving this aim. Good school attendance improves your child's chances of success in life as there is clear evidence of the link between good attendance at school and high levels of achievement in later life. Thank you for supporting us by establishing these routines and expectations early in the term for both attendance and punctuality which will support your children for the future.

Amazon Wish List

We are delighted to let you know that our Amazon Wish Lists have now been updated. A huge **THANK YOU** to all of our wonderful families for your incredibly generous donations so far. Every single item received is greatly appreciated and makes a real difference to our children and school community. Your kindness and support mean so much to us. We will be updating our Wish Lists **once a month**, so please do check back regularly to see if there are any new items that could benefit our school.

Thank you once again for your continued generosity and support. It truly does make a difference!

Fledgling & Wren Class - https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/33USU7LRLSC68?ref=wl_share

Robin Class - https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3MG0GN23EXIZV?ref=wl_share

Crane Class – https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/U9SEJM9UJ7A2?ref=wl_share

Early Morning Club & After School Club -

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/27TJA13DSD48W?ref=wl_share

Playtime Wish List - https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2QGOSLYWI6SPH?ref=wl_share

Gardening Wish List - https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3FK2EHRA3W6VB?ref=wl_share

Watches

While we encourage your children to wear watches to learn how to tell the time, any smart watches that have additional features such as messaging, calling, taking photographs, or recording videos are not permitted in school. This is an important safeguarding measure to ensure the safety and privacy of all pupils and staff. We kindly ask that any watch your child wears to school is limited to telling the time only. Thank you for your support in keeping our school a safe and secure environment for everyone.

Fraser Portraits – Individual Photographs Thursday 24th September

Fraser Portraits will be in school on Thursday the 24th September to take individual and sibling group photographs. If you have a child in Fledgling class who doesn't usually attend on a Thursday you are welcome to bring them to school for 8.30 am to have their photograph taken on their own and with their sibling if you wish. Please let Miss Hudson and Mrs Maple know if you would like to be included. Many thanks.

Harvest Service and Welcome to our new Wren class on Thursday 1st October at Cranborne Church

We hope you will be able to join us on Thursday 1st October in Cranborne Church at 8.45 am for our Harvest Service. It would be wonderful if each child could bring a small offering of fresh fruit or vegetables, or an item of tinned or packet food to form the collection in the church. Our contributions will then be distributed to those less fortunate through The Trusell Trust in Ringwood.

All our families are invited to this celebration service when we will be welcoming our new reception and nursery children into our Cranborne First family. We will be presenting each reception child with a Bible story book and praying for God's blessing upon them as they begin their school journey with us and we have a little gift for our newest fledglings too! We hope you can join us.

1st Alderholt Scout Group

1st Alderholt Scout Group are accepting new members! Looking for something amazing for your child to get involved in? Scouting is so much more than camping! It's about trying new things, making lifelong friends, building confidence, learning practical skills, helping others and having adventures they'll never forget. Give your child the chance to discover what they are capable of! Come and join the adventure - we would LOVE for you to join us.

Please contact us on the below emails for more information:

nigel.scouting@gmail.com - Scouts (age 10yrs+)

ceri.scouting@gmail.com - Cubs (age 8yrs+)

onehappylassie@gmail.com - Beavers (age 6yrs+)

23Coaching After School Club

Coach Matt will be running an after-school Invasion Games Club for children in Year 1 - 4 on the **Mondays** listed below:

14th September

21st September

28th September

5th October

12th October

19th October

If you would like your child to take part, please use the sign-up link provided:

<https://23-coaching.classforkids.io/>

Collective Worship Theme: Responsibility

This half term we are looking at the Christian value of responsibility. The Bible teaches that life is a gift from God and it is our responsibility to use our talents and abilities in the best way we can. This week we focused on the 'Parable of the Talents' in Matthew Chapter 25. Jesus was teaching that whatever money, talents or abilities we have been given it is our responsibility to use these in the very best way we can, not only thinking of our own needs but also the needs of others. This term we are looking forward to visits from Reverend Angus Mayhew, Reverend Nick Wood, Open the Book and Keith Jewell,

Starting School at 4+ in September 2027

We have parent tour appointments available for school places in September 2027 and Nursery places in preparation for this intake. Please contact Mrs Kellaway, our Administration Officer (office@cranbornefirst.dsaf.org.uk) to book an individual tour with the headteacher.

Parents should visit the Dorset Council website <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/starting-school-for-the-first-time> to apply for Year R places. The deadline for Dorset applications is 15th January 2027, with allocations confirmed on 16th April 2027. If you live outside Dorset, please go to the local authority website for your home county.

Pupil Premium – reminder of information sent in June 2026

From 1 September 2026, all children with a parent or carer receiving Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals, although this will be divided into two categories:

1. Targeted Eligibility - Families receiving Universal Credit and earning less than £7,400 per year
 - FSM eligibility will begin as soon as your application is approved
 - You may also be entitled to additional support, including the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme
 - Your child's school will receive Pupil Premium funding to support learning
2. Expanded Eligibility - Families receiving Universal Credit and earning over £7,400 per year
 - This group will receive Free School Meals only
 - Eligibility will begin from 1 September 2026

Reapplication required

- All families currently receiving Free School Meals must reapply. If you do not reapply, your child may not continue to receive meals from September 2026. If your circumstances have changed, you may no longer be eligible under the new rules.
- You must submit a separate application for each child, even if they attend the same school.

Applications

- Applications opened from 1 June 2026
- All applications will be assessed under the new criteria
- Approved applications will remain valid until 31 August 2027

You can apply here:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/free-school-meals>

or call Dorset Council 01305 221090

You will need your National Insurance number and details of your universal credit claim

Why this matters

Registering for Free School Meals ensures:

- Your child can receive a free, nutritious meal each school day
- The school may receive additional funding to support learning, resources and wellbeing
- Access to additional programmes and support where eligible

Need any further help?

If you are unsure whether you qualify or need further support completing an application, please contact Mrs Kellaway, our Administration Officer who will be pleased to help. For further queries, you can also contact: freeschoolmeals@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Thank you for such a positive start to the new academic year! We had a fantastic day at the Ancient Technology Centre on Wednesday with your Crane children (there are lots of lovely photos to enjoy on our facebook page). Thank you to those who were able to attend our class information evening on Wednesday. Mrs Kellaway has emailed the information shared for those unable to attend. If you have any further questions, please feel welcome to contact your child's class teacher. We wish you a lovely weekend with your families and look forward to seeing the children back on Monday.

With kind regards,
Mrs Faithfull

Cranborne CE First School & Nursery – Autumn Term 2026		
Wednesday 23 rd September		Crane class Samba Lessons commence with Pete Whitmarsh – Dorset Music Service (10 weeks)
Thursday 24 th September		Fraser Portraits individual and sibling photographs
Sunday 27 th September		Breakfast Church in the school hall
Tuesday 29 th September	3-3.45 pm	PFA Film Night for Nursery, Year R and Year 1 children
Thursday 1 st October	8.45 am	Harvest Service at Cranborne Church – with a special welcome to our Wrens and Fledglings.
Tuesday 6 th October	3-4.45 pm	PFA Film Night for Years 2, 3 and 4 children
Wednesday 7 th October	9 am – 3 pm	iSingPOP rehearsal for Year 4 children at Cranborne First and Wimborne St Giles' First – hosted at Cranborne
Wednesday 14 th October		House of Opportunity Christmas Box Assembly
Friday 16 th October		Flu Immunisations
Wednesday 21 st October		Year 4 attending iSingPOP event at Salisbury Cathedral
Wednesday 21 st October	3.20 – 6 pm	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings in the hall
Sunday 25 th October	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the school hall
26th October – 30th October		Half Term
Monday 2nd November		INSET day – school closed to children

Wednesday 11 th November	3.20 – 6 pm	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings in the hall
Friday 13 th November		Children in Need Fundraising Day – children invited to wear dotty, spotty, Pudsey-inspired clothing for a donation
Thursday 19 th November		Priory Hub Football Tournament at St James' First School (children invited from year 3 and year 4)
Sunday 22 nd November	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the School Hall
Thursday 26 th November		Christmas Boxes collected today
Tuesday 1 st December		Christmas Post Box opens
Monday 14 th December	2 pm	Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity in the school hall
Tuesday 15 th December	9 am	Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity in the school hall
Thursday 17 th December		PFA Class Discos – Liam from Outalimits
Thursday 17 th December	6 pm	Crane Carol Service at Cranborne Church
Thursday 17 th December		Christmas Post Box closes
Friday 18 th December		Last Day of Term Children invited to wear Christmas party clothes Christmas Lunch
21st December – 1st January		Christmas Holiday
Sunday 27 th December	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the School Hall
Monday 4th January		INSET Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 5 th January		Children return to school