Cranborne
Church of England
First School and Nursery
Love, Learn, Fly
Do Everything in Love 1 Corinthians 16:14

Headteacher: Mrs A Faithfull

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Newsletter Issue #4

Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We were incredibly proud of our Year 4 children who took part in the Celebration Concert at Salisbury Cathedral on Wednesday led by iSingPOP. Our children joined Year 4 children in our Trust to perform songs that celebrate our unity, diversity and strength. The children sang and performed so confidently (in such an inspiring place of worship) and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience! We are now looking forward to Crane class teaching these songs to our Fledglings, Wrens and Robins so that we can all enjoy them together in school.

Thank you to the many parents who attended consultation meetings on Wednesday this week. Further appointments with your child's teacher are available on Wednesday 11th November between 3.20 pm – 6 pm. Please prioritise this opportunity to learn more about the progress your children are making and ways that we can work together to support them further. Bookings can be made on your Arbor account.

We were sad to say goodbye to Mr Williams this week as he leaves to begin a new role in a Hampshire School. We have really valued his PE teaching and his valuable support with our Priory Hub Tournaments. We wish him every success in his new role!

Cranberries Baby & Toddler Group – Friday Mornings
Cranborne Village Hall – for more information please contact Anna at anna@cranbornevillagehall.org.uk or 07748522218.

Arbor Meals - Ordering after October Half Term
Please remember to order your child's meals for after half term.
Many thanks



The Royal British Legion
Poppies are now available for a donation before and after school from the school office.

Breakfast Church
Do join us between 9-10 am on Sunday 25th October in our school hall for this relaxed, church gathering. There will be refreshments, singing and prayer for all the family.

Summer Reading Challenge
It was a delight to present certificates to the children who completed the Dorset Summer Reading Challenge 'Read to the Beat' this year. Well done everyone!

Chair of Cranborne ASEC

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

I am writing to let you know that, after many years, I have officially stepped down as Chair of the school's Academy Standards & Ethos Committee (ASEC), which serves as our school's governing board.

It has been a great privilege to serve the school, particularly during such an exceptional period of progress and development. I am immensely proud of all that has been achieved and grateful to have worked alongside such dedicated governors, staff, families and members of the wider school community throughout my eight years in governance. Serving as Chair has been enormously fulfilling, and I will look back on my time in the role with great warmth and pride.

I would like to offer a special thank you to our Headteacher, Mrs Faithfull, for providing such a strong platform upon which we have been able to build sustained support and effective governance over the years.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust for its valued support and guidance in governance throughout my time as Chair.

I am delighted to introduce Mike Beal, who will succeed me as Chair. I have every confidence that he will be an exceptional Chair, and I take great comfort in knowing that the ASEC and the wider school will be in such capable hands.

Although I have stepped down as Chair, I intend to remain in a supportive role until the end of the academic year to help ensure a smooth transition. Thank you for the support and trust you have shown me over the years. It has been an honour to serve the school community, and I wish Mike, the ASEC and the whole school every success for the future.

With best wishes,

Nikki Gates

Nursery Applications – September 2027

Do you have a child turning three this academic year? (DOB 01/09/2023 - 31/08/2024) If so, we would love to invite you for a tour of our Nursery in readiness for a September 2027 start. We accept 15 and 30 hour funding and can offer early morning and after school club. If you would like a Nursery tour or application form, please contact Mrs Kellaway in the school office.

Benefice Christmas Card Competition

The churches of the Knowlton Benefice [Cranborne, Edmondsham, Wimborne St Giles and Woodlands plus Gussage All Saints and Gussage St Michael] are arranging a variety of ways to celebrate Christmas together and would like to give a Christmas card to every household in the benefice. We have been invited to take part in a competition to design a Christmas picture that can be printed on the front of the card. When the design is chosen it will then be printed on 1000 cards and delivered in December. Please send your child's entry to Mrs Kellaway in the school office by **Friday 13th November**. Please include your child's name and class. We request that these designs be 'portrait' and any medium can be used. Many thanks.

Playground Leaders Academy





It was a pleasure to accompany our Year 4 Sports Leaders as they took part in the Playground Leaders Academy at Ferndown Leisure Centre last week. During the day the children took part in activities to help build their confidence, teamwork and active communication and learned a variety of games. Now that they are officially trained they will be taking on active lunchtime responsibilities in school planning and leading fun, active games helping to ensure everyone has a safe, kind and active break time. Well done children!

Children in Need

We are delighted to be supporting Children in Need on **Friday 13th November**. The children are invited to wear spotty, dotty and Pudsey Bear inspired clothing to school for a donation either online or by bringing a cash donation to school. https://www.justgiving.com/page/cranborne-first-6?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

House of Opportunity Christmas Box Appeal 2026

For many of us, Christmas is a time of joy, an opportunity for family and friends to spend time together and perhaps grab the odd moment of calm in our busy lives. But not everyone is able to enjoy the season, especially those who live in poor communities and those who don't have families to share Christmas with. The House of Opportunity Christmas Box Appeal brings joy to thousands of marginalised families and individuals in Southeast Europe every year.

Cranborne First School has been a wonderful supporter of this project in years past. Please, would the school join with us and help spread joy to thousands of children and families again this Christmas time?

We ask for a donation of £4 per box to help cover the cost of transporting and distributing the presents. Any surplus is used to help our long-term projects, which help to prevent modern slavery and transform lives through Southeast Europe. Your child will have brought home a leaflet today explaining more. Christmas boxes will be collected on **Thursday 26th November**.

Instagram Account - Cranborne1stschool_nursery
Over the coming weeks, we will be launching a brand new Cranborne CE First School and Nursery Instagram page. This page has been created especially for our families and will provide another way for us to share and celebrate the many wonderful moments that take place across our school community.

To help ensure the privacy and safety of our children, our Instagram account will be set up as a private account. Parents and carers will need to request access to follow the page, and only approved followers will be able to view our content. This page is intended solely for our school families and will not be shared with the wider community.

In addition, before any photographs or videos of your child are shared on our Instagram page, you will need to provide consent through your **Arbor account**. If consent is not provided or left as pending, your child's image will not be featured on Instagram. We do ask parents and carers not to screenshot any photos from our Instagram account to share with the wider community.

Our new Instagram page will allow us to share more of those special day-to-day moments, achievements, learning experiences, and memories that make school life so special. We hope it will provide families with an extra window into your child's journey at Cranborne and help you feel even more connected to school life.

We look forward to sharing these moments with you!

Learning Conversations
Fledglings & Wrens
Well what a half term! The Wren and Fledgling children have settled in so well and the unit is in full swing. We have continued with our learning all about Autumn and Harvest over the last two weeks, we read 'After the storm' together (A Percy the Park Keeper favourite!) – can a Wrenbird tell you about the story?! They end up using the wheelbarrow as a… well can they remember?!

In Maths we have all been learning to compare – learning about size, length, height and amounts. The children have been using the language '**more and fewer**', **'long and short'** and '**tall and short'** and we have been thinking of as many ways as we can to describe '**big and small**'. Teeny and ginormous being a couple of our faves. The Fledglings have been reading 'Dear Zoo' and making different size compartments for different animals, thinking about each of their differing needs – that giraffe sure needs a bit of help!

The children have grown and progressed so much in the last seven weeks, it feels like they have always been part of our school family. We are so proud of them, especially for that lovely Harvest service but they really have settled in so beautifully. We hope they get a good rest over the holiday and that you all have a lovely half term.
Miss Hudson and Rufus

Robins

In English, the children have been planning and writing their recounts about their visit to the church for the Harvest Festival. They have used time connectives to sequence their writing after orally reciting their recount.

After that, the children have been reciting autumn poems before writing their own. They are been identifying the rhyming words within the poems. This would be a good thing to continue to practise at home as some children found the rhyming a challenge. In maths, we have been focusing on taking away. We have used part- part whole visuals to think about taking away from the whole amount. In art, they have used a variety of fallen leaves to the leaves using shading.

Our Science topic of Materials has come to a close with us learning about how important the development of new materials can be with focus on inventors and designers from the past. We will be moving on to how animals not only survive but thrive by eating the right diet and exercising.

Our focus in R.E. this half term was Creation. We have discussed the different beliefs of Christians, Jewish people and Muslims and how the world was created. The children have reflected upon the broken promises of Adam and Eve and how keeping our promises is important. They have also thought about how they could care for the world. Please ask your child about their promises.

We continue to talk about friendships and kindness as we build our class team spirit using our Class Charter. We have also learned a new song 'The Harvest Samba' which we performed to the Wren and Fledglings last week.

Thank you for all your support with reading with your child at least three times a week. In their reading folder they will have a reading book to read to you and a love of reading book which you may like to read to them.

Mrs Phillips and Mrs Cleeve

Cranes

Crane class have certainly had a jam-packed term - filled with school visits, Samba lessons and lots of learning! During our final week of this half term, we have been as busy as ever- completing our Lego story recounts, practising column addition in maths, conducting science experiments (one involving chocolate!).

Year 4 had a wonderful time at Salisbury Cathedral for our iSingPOP event- we hope the children have lasting memories from this experience. Year 3 have already practised some of the songs, in preparation for next year when it will be their time to shine! We have been full steam ahead with our times tables revision, which will continue after half term. Any additional practice at home is always helpful.

We have definitely earned a well-deserved break! Have a lovely half term, doing lots of things you enjoy.

Miss Clarke

Finally, we want to extend our thanks to Nikki Gates for her outstanding contribution to our school through her role as Chair of Governors. We are pleased that Nikki will be continuing in governance until the end of this academic year and now look forward to welcoming Mike Beal into his new role as ASEC Chair.

The children (and staff!) have worked so hard this half term and we are very proud of everyone's achievements! We wish you all a safe and happy half term holiday with your families and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 3rd November when we begin the countdown to Christmas!

With kind regards,
Mrs Faithfull

Cranborne CE First School & Nursery – Autumn Term 2026		
Sunday 25th 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**
Tuesday 3rd November		Children return to school
Tuesday 3rd November	3-4 pm	Performing Arts Club begins (6 weeks)
Tuesday 10th November		Year 8 CMS Sports Leaders leading a Multi-Sports lesson with Crane class in school – please could Cranes wear PE kit today.
Wednesday 11th November	3.20 – 6 pm	Parent-Teacher Consultation Meetings in the hall
Friday 13th November		Children in Need Fundraising Day – children invited to wear dotty, spotty, Pudsey-inspired clothing for a donation
Friday 13th November		Closing date for Benefice Christmas Card Competition
Thursday 19th November		Priory Hub Football Tournament at St James' First School (children invited from year 3 and year 4)
Sunday 22nd November	9-10 am	Breakfast Church in the School Hall
Thursday 26th November		Christmas Boxes collected today
Tuesday 1st December		Christmas Post Box opens

Wednesday 2nd December 2.10 – 2.30 pm	Crane Samba Performance for Parents in the hall
Tuesday 8th December	Crane class invited to sing at The Cranborne Luncheon Club Christmas Meal at Cranborne Garden Centre – Christmas inspired accessories can be worn to bring some Christmas cheer!
Thursday 10th December	NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe Assembly
Monday 14th December 2 pm	Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity in the school hall
Tuesday 15th December 9 am	Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity in the school hall
Wednesday 16th December	NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe Workshop for year 1 and 2 children
Thursday 17th December	PFA Class Discos, Children invited to wear Christmas party clothes – Liam from Outalimits
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Post Box closes
Thursday 17th December 6 pm	Crane Carol Service at Cranborne Church
Friday 18th December	Last Day of Term Children invited to wear Christmas party clothes Christmas Lunch
21st December – 1st January	**Christmas Holiday**
Monday 4th January	**INSET Day – school closed to children**
Tuesday 5th January	Children return to school