**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 #5

Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely half term break with your families. it was great to welcome the children back on Tuesday.

If you have been creating a Christmas box for the House of Opportunity charity you are very welcome to start bringing these into school ready for collection on the 26th November. It will be great to see how many we are able to donate again this year, thank you for your generosity!

Our second parent-teacher consultation evening will be next Wednesday 11th between 3.20 – 6 pm in the school hall, please sign up through your Arbor account to make an appointment. Thank you.

**Parking**
A polite reminder to please park responsibly at all times and to be respectful towards the residents in Water Street in particular; not blocking their driveways or parking on road markings (zig zags, hatchings, etc), bends or corners. The Cranborne Sports Club very kindly allow our families to use their car park in Penny's Lane at drop off and collection time each day, so please remember this is an option.

**School Tour Dates**
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. Please also contact Mrs Kellaway to book an appointment for children starting reception class in September 2027. We would be delighted to show you around our wonderful school!




**The Royal British Legion**
Poppies are available for a donation before and after school from the school office. Children who are members of rainbows, squirrels, brownies, beavers and cubs are invited to wear their scouting uniforms to school on Wednesday 11th November to represent their associations on Remembrance Day if they would like to.

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

**PFA & Generous Parent Contribution**
Thank you to our PFA and a generous competition winner for providing the school with wonderful new football kits, shin pads and goalie gloves ready for our year 3 and year 4 children to use later this month at our first Priory Hub Tournament!

**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. Please use the link below to make your online donation: https://www.justgiving.com/page/cranborne-first-6?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

**Bag2School**
Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing. Remember, the more you collect the greater the benefit to our school. PLEASE USE YOUR OWN BAGS (THERE IS NO LIMIT). When the clothes have been removed from the bag the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling. We are collecting good quality items for RE-USE: men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.
(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please). Please bring your donations to school on **Friday 4th December 2026 by 9 am**. Thank you.

**Fundraising Opportunity**
Ebanie Gallagher (leader of Creative Club and Performing Arts Club) will be running the London Marathon in April 2027 to raise money for Barnardo's Children's Charity. If you would like to support her in her pledge to raise £2,600 please visit her JustGiving page. Many thanks!
https://www.justgiving.com/page/ebanie-gallagher

**Collective Worship Theme: Peace**
This half term our collective worship theme will be 'peace'. The children will be learning about the peace that we experience when it is quiet and still, the things that make for peace of mind and the qualities of a peacemaker.

Some questions to consider as a whole school community;

- What strategies do we have in place to encourage children to appreciate quietness and opportunities for calm reflection?
- How do we encourage children to solve their differences in a constructive way, and to develop the skills of a peacemaker?
- How do we introduce children to the Christian concept of 'peace with God'? and the 'peace of God'?
- What opportunities do we take to introduce children to issues of peace and justice both locally and internationally?

**Fraser Portraits Photography Session**
Did your child miss out on their school photography session this year? Open to all individuals, siblings and families on Thursday 10th December between 3-6.30 pm at Broadstone Methodist Church Hall, Lower Blandford Road, Broadstone BH18 8DP. Call 01202 692433 to book a space.

**Christmas Events**
**Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity**
Our children in Fledgling, Wren and Robin classes will shortly begin preparations for their Nativity which will be performed in our school hall on Monday 14th December at 2 pm and Tuesday 15th December at 9 am**.** Our families with children in these classes will be allocated 2 tickets per performance, per family. If you have tickets that you do not need we are very happy for you to share or exchange these with other parents. Please arrange this amongst yourselves, as we are not able to hold or redistribute tickets from the school office.

To meet Health & Safety regulations we are limited to the number of individuals in the hall at any one time. If, however, you need to bring babies and toddlers they will need to sit on your lap and we politely ask that if they become restless or noisy that you take them out to allow the children performing the opportunity to 'shine' without distractions. Many thanks. Tickets will follow shortly.

**Christmas Disco**
The PFA have booked a school disco for **Thursday 17th December** as a special treat for the children which will involve all classes throughout the morning. We politely ask for a voluntary donation of £3 per child, which can be paid directly into the PFA account or cash is accepted. When the PFA receive your donation, your child will receive a special Christmas Disco Ticket! Children are welcome to wear their own party clothes to school on this day.

**Christmas Raffle**
Christmas Raffle tickets will soon be making their way into your child's bookbag, please keep an eye out for them! Extra raffle tickets will be available from the office to purchase in the coming weeks. The PFA are collecting some generous prizes from local businesses and individuals that you will want to win!

**Crane Carol Service**
Preparations will soon be underway for our beautiful evening Carol Service at Cranborne Church. This will be held on **Thursday 17th December at 6 pm.** Our children in Crane class will be leading this special time of worship with readings, carols and prayers, alongside Reverend Angus Mayhew and with the support of Cathy and Phillip Murray.

This evening is open to all and it would be lovely to welcome all our Cranborne First School families to this occasion. Crane class will need to arrive by 5.45 pm on the evening and will need to wear their school uniform. Thank you!

**Last Day of Term**

As Friday 18th December is the last day of term the children are invited to come to school dressed in their own clothes. We're looking forward to seeing lots of festive Christmas jumpers on that day, but please ensure your child is warm enough, has a coat and wearing clothes and footwear that are suitable for running and playing in.

**Christmas Cards and the Christmas Post Box**

Our Christmas Post Box will be in operation again this year for children who would like to send individual cards to their friends, however you may also want to consider alternative options for sending Christmas greetings this year. I know that many of our children are passionate about reducing waste and caring for our environment so you may want to consider your child writing one card for their class that can be displayed rather than sending individual cards. In addition, you may decide to donate the money you would have spent on individual Christmas cards to a charity that is special to your family. It would be lovely if your child could talk about their chosen charity with their class. Whatever you decide, thank you for considering these ideas with your children.

**Learning Conversations**

**Fledglings & Wrens**

This week we have been learning all about Bonfire Night! We have been learning all about the history of why we celebrate Bonfire Night and we have been so impressed with the children's inquisitive questions and their interest, not only in the story, but also in the period of time when the Gunpowder Plot took place. I think we may have some budding Historians on our hands! Can your Wrenbird tell you about key parts of the plot? Can they tell you about what life was like then? ('What no phones?!!' was the biggest shock this week!). Can they remember some of the key names, words and phrases that we have learnt this week? (Guy Fawkes, gunpowder, cellar, King James, Houses of Parliament)

The Wrens and Fledglings also learnt about how to keep safe around bonfires, fireworks, and sparklers – either at home or when watching a public display. Can they share any top tips?!
If you and your family are enjoying fireworks this weekend – we hope you all have a lovely (and safe) time! I'm sure the children will keep you most informed on all aspects!

*Miss Hudson and Rufus*

**Robins**

Welcome back to our Robins! We have been very busy testing our learned knowledge with some quizzes this week in both Maths and English. We have been so proud of the way they have handled this week with maturity and perseverance.

We have had time to start our new D&T topic which is hand puppets and we have looked at a variety of different puppets, enjoying an impromptu puppet show with our class puppet 'Donald'. Over the next few weeks the children will learn how to carefully design, thread, sew and decorate their own hand puppets.

We have some really fantastic readers in Robin class and we are looking forward to rewarding those children who have gained 9 stickers on their reading bookmarks with a lovely new book. Thank you for all your support with reading with your child to try and achieve this.
*Mrs Phillips and Mrs Cleeve*

**Cranes**
Crane class have had a great first week back at school, exploring lots of new learning. We have really persevered with our assessment booklets this week, making our teachers very proud. We have also started to explore a new book for Guided Reading, immersing ourselves in the story of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', working as a team to make predictions; as well as discussing how the characters might be feeling during key moments. We have really enjoyed engaging in our class discussion for this- using our 'agree/disagree, challenge and 'build-on' actions to explain our thinking.

The children have been investigating Light in Science, considering whether or not we can see shiny objects without a light source. We considered whether various sources of light are artificial or not.

We have also been busy rehearsing for our special Samba performance- our audience will be in for a treat! Perhaps you could quiz your child at home, asking them the names of each of the Samba instruments we have been learning to play.

Next week: We will have P.E. on Monday, as well as an active session with sports leaders from Cranborne Middle School on Tuesday. Please ensure your child is wearing sports kit on both days. Thank you for your ongoing support!
*Miss Clarke*

Just a reminder Crane class would love their families to attend their Samba performance in school in a few weeks' time. Pete Whitmarsh is working with your children each week and building to a performance on Wednesday 2nd December from 2 pm. We hope you will join us.
Wishing you a lovely weekend (with maybe bonfire related activities!) with your families.
With kind regards,
*Mrs Faithfull*

| Cranborne CE First School & Nursery – Autumn Term 2026 | |
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| Tuesday 10th November | Year 8 CMS Sports Leaders leading a Multi-Sports lesson with Crane class in school – please could Crane children wear P.E. kit today (and on Monday as usual!) |
| Wednesday 11th November | Poppies are available for a donation before and after school from the school office. Children who are members of rainbows, squirrels, brownies, beavers and cubs are invited to wear their scouting uniforms to school today to represent their associations on Remembrance Day if they would like to. |
| 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 for the House of Opportunity Charity |
| Tuesday 1st December | Christmas Post Box opens |
| Wednesday 2nd December 2.10 – 2.30 pm | Crane Samba Performance for Parents in the hall |
| Friday 4th December | PFA Bag2School collection at 9 am |
| Friday 4th December | Cranborne Middle School Christmas Choir performing at Cranborne First School |
| 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 alongside school uniform to bring some Christmas cheer! |
| Thursday 10th December | NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe Assembly for all classes |
| Monday 14th December 2 pm | Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity in the school hall (door opens at 1.45 pm) |

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| Tuesday 15th December | 9 am | Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity in the school hall (door opens at 8.45 am) |
| 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 (Crane class to arrive by 5.45 and to wear school uniform) |
| Friday 18th December | | Last Day of Term – finish at usual time of 3 pm<br>Children invited to wear Christmas party clothes<br>Christmas Lunch |
| **21st December – 1st January** | | **Christmas Holiday** |
| **Monday 4th January** | | **INSET Day – school closed to children** |
| Tuesday 5th January | | Children return to school |