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 #6

Friday 20th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well done to our Crane children for representing our school at the Priory Hub Football tournament yesterday. We were very proud of the children's behaviour, team spirit and the way they encouraged one another throughout. Thank you to our PFA for providing the scarves and all the adults who joined to cheer the children on!

Thank you for the Christmas hamper donations that have started to arrive in school! Mrs Kellaway is collecting these in the school office until Friday 27th November. Fledglings and Wrens are providing Christmas cakes, biscuits and sweets, Robins are providing Christmas baubles and Crane Christmas drinks. Our PFA have secured some wonderful prizes to win. Raffle tickets were sent home this week please enquire at the office if you would like more. Many thanks.

Benefice Christmas Card Competition
Well done to Clelia, Fleur and Hettie for their stunning Christmas artwork which will be featured in the Benefice Christmas card that will be delivered to hundreds of homes in our community. Well done children!

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

Fundraising
Together we raised £69 for Children in Need. Thank you so much for your generous donations! The Royal British Legion have also thanked us for supporting their poppy appeal this year



Remembrance Day
We have been learning about Remembrance and reflecting on the importance of remembering all those who have served, those who are serving and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Mrs Phillips and the school councillors visited the memorial in Cranborne to pay their respects beautifully representing our school. It was lovely to see so many children wearing their beavers, cubs, rainbows and brownie uniforms with pride on the day.

Could you be our next Parent Governor?

Help our children and school community flourish

We are looking for a parent or carer to join our Academy Standards and Ethos Committee (ASEC) as a Parent Governor. This rewarding role is an opportunity to bring a parent's perspective to key discussions, contribute to the school community and help every child flourish.

This is a rewarding opportunity to make a positive contribution to your school community, bring a parent's perspective to key discussions and help us ensure that all our children have the opportunity to flourish. Our Christian vision and values are at the heart of our schools, and governors play an important role in supporting their Christian character and the spiritual flourishing of every child and adult.

You do not need experience in education or governance. What matters is that you are interested in the school, willing to learn and ask constructive questions, and able to commit the time needed to participate actively in the role. Training, guidance and support will be provided.

What does a Parent Governor do? Our ASEC is the school's local governance committee. Members work together to provide support, strategic oversight, assurance and give constructive challenge to school leaders. Monitoring areas including educational performance, safeguarding, SEND and inclusion, attendance and behaviour, and the school's Christian vision and ethos.
The ASEC meets **six times during the school year**, and governors are expected to attend regularly and take an active part in the work of the committee. The role also involves spending some time in school to undertake visits, usually meeting with relevant members of staff to develop their understanding of an aspect of the school's work and provide assurance to the ASEC.

To be effective, ASECs are required to engage with **Academy Improvement Monitoring (AIM) visits**, led by DSAT's Regional Directors of Education and usually held termly and Flourishing School reviews, led by DSAT's Flourishing leaders, usually half a day per school year. Please note these occur during the working day.

These opportunities help ASEC members gain first-hand understanding of the school's progress and priorities and enable them to ask informed questions and provide effective support and challenge.

What is different about being a Parent Governor? Parent Governors bring a valuable perspective because of their experience of the school as a parent. They help governors consider how decisions, policies and school life may be experienced by children and families.
A Parent Governor does not represent individual parents or deal with concerns about individual children. Like every governor, they work as part of the ASEC and consider what is in the best interests of all pupils.

Why become a Parent Governor? Being an ASEC member gives you the opportunity to make a difference to your school and its children while developing your own knowledge and skills in areas such as strategic thinking, decision-making, questioning, teamwork and leadership. We are interested in the perspective and experience you can bring. You will be joining a supportive governance community across our Trust.

Interested?
If you would like to find out more, we would be very happy to arrange an informal conversation about the role and the commitment involved with the ASEC Chair or local governance professional.

Please contact **Liam Searle** at **lsearle@dsat.org.uk**

If you wish to put yourself forward for election, you will be asked to submit a candidate statement. Your statement will be published for parent/carer voters as part of the election process. The governance professional will provide a template for your statement.

If there is a single parent governor vacancy and only one interested individual, no election will be necessary. You will then be asked to complete an application, and you will be submitted for DBS and Section 128 checks.

Parent Governor Role Description

(Academy Standards and Ethos Committee - ASEC)
Reports to: ASEC Chair
Accountable to: DSAT Board of Trustees
Supported by: The Clerk and DSAT Services Team, including the Head of Governance

Purpose of the Role
To bring a parent's perspective to the governance of the academy, contributing to the Trust's vision, ethos, and strategic objectives. Parent Governors are expected to act in the best interests of all pupils and the academy community, not as representatives of individual families or children.

Key Responsibilities
- **Strategic Oversight:** Use your experience as a parent to support the ASEC's remit, particularly in monitoring educational performance, safeguarding, and pupil wellbeing.
- **Governance Participation:** Attend all scheduled ASEC meetings and participate in collaborative professional learning (CPL) events.
- **Link Roles:** Serve as a Link Governor for areas such as safeguarding, SEND, health and safety, or disadvantaged pupils, in line with the Governor Visit Policy.
- **Panel Service:** Participate in ad hoc governor panels as required.
- **Confidentiality & Conduct:** Maintain confidentiality, adhere to the Nolan Principles, and comply with all Trust policies and protocols.

Bringing the Parent Perspective
Parent Governors offer a valuable viewpoint grounded in the lived experience of families within the academy. While not representing individual parents or advocating for their own children, they:
- Help ensure that decisions reflect the needs and concerns of the wider parent body.
- Provide insight into how policies and practices are experienced by pupils and families.
- Support the Trust's commitment to inclusive, transparent, and community-focused governance.



Outalimits Family Christmas Party

Enjoy the school discos? Then why not bring the family along to the Outalimits Family Christmas Party in December at the Verwood Memorial Hall. Tickets are available via Outalimits Facebook page or via buytickets.at/outalimitsdiscos

Crane Class Samba Performance for Parents 2.10-2.30 pm Wednesday 2nd December

Door opens at 2 pm on the 2nd when Crane class will entertain the whole school with a Samba performance to mark the end of their ten-week teaching programme. Parents and carers are very welcome, we hope you can join us.

The Circle Lunch Club

Crane class have been invited to perform at the Cranborne Garden Centre at The Circle Lunch Club's Christmas meal on **Tuesday 8th of December**. Please could Crane class wear school uniform but also 'accessorise' with something Christmassy on the day (Santa hats, deely boppers, Christmas hair accessories, tinsel..!). Thank you!

Learning Conversations

Fledglings & Wrens

Over the last two weeks in our little unit of Wrens and Fledglings we have been learning all about Diwali! We have learnt all about this special festival of light and how important it is to remember that light will always triumph over darkness. We have decorated our Imagination Station with lights and diya candles, dressing up in flower garlands and saris! We even became movers and shakers and learnt how to do some moves to Bhangra music! We really enjoyed making a special Diwali card for Vik and Hitesh and the rest of the Patel family at Cranborne Stores. Our little crew all came out to deliver the card to the shop too! The children did a marvellous job, they dressed up in colourful garlands, some held little candles too (battery operated ones) and we were so pleased to be able to wish Hitesh a Happy Diwali in person and give him our card for the family. We are so grateful to have such a lovely family run our local store.

We also have family members in School that celebrated Diwali too, which is suuuuuuuper special. We hope that everybody in our community had a wonderful time, Happy Diwali from all of us – ***Maa Lakshmi na ashirvad sada tamara ghar par rahe. Shubh Deepavali!***

Miss Hudson and Rufus

Robins
Robins had a super week as we took part in Remembrance Day discussions and tracked Owain towards the end of his Children in Need cycle challenge. We were excited to watch his bike move along the Google map route and we took time to learn some important geography along the way.

Ask your child if they can name the 4 countries in Great Britain.

Robins are also enjoying our English Unit reading – 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark' and we are using different conjunctions to join descriptive sentences together about his thoughts and actions in the dark.

Ask what they can remember about the story so far

In maths we are partitioning numbers into tens and ones and exploring 1 more and 1 less of a given 2-digit number.

You could ask your child;

To identify how many tens and ones in different 2-digit numbers

What is 1 more/less than …?

All Robins now have access and logins to Spelling Shed and Purple Mash. The logons are stuck into the inside of their Reading Record. Both of these apps will support your child with spelling, computing and general learning.

www.spellingshed.com www.2simple.com/purple-mash

Mrs Phillips and Mrs Cleeve

Cranes
Crane class have been working brilliantly to participate in team games during our P.E. lessons. Our sports leaders have been teaching us some new games, which have been enjoyed by all!
We are proud of our football team, who represented Cranborne during our first sports tournament of this academic year - we were grateful to have support from Mr Read, who offered some of his fantastic coaching skills! We are excited for further opportunities this year.

Our Samba lessons have continued, and we can't believe we are only two weeks away from our special performance. Stay tuned!

We have been conducting further research on the Romans, for our non-chronological reports. The children engaged so well during this topic in History, that we decided to use ideas in our writing lessons too.

This week, we have continued to enjoy our class guided reading book, 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,' making predications and adding to our character webs as we discover more about the characters.

At home, you could ask your child what they know about Volcanoes so far. You could also discuss what they predict will happen next in our Guided Reading book.

Thank you for your continued support!
Miss Clarke





We already have a beautiful collection of Christmas Boxes ready to be collected by The House of Opportunity and we still have another few days if you wanted to contribute too. Our gifts will be collected on Thursday 26th November. Thank you so much for your generosity!

This Sunday we will again be hosting Breakfast Church in our school hall between 9-10 am. Please join us for a special time of prayer and worship with members of our community (and of course a delicious breakfast).

With kind regards,
Mrs Faithfull

Cranborne CE First School & Nursery – Autumn Term 2026	
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
Friday 4th December	Closing date for Parent Governor Applications
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 Circle Lunch 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
Monday 14th December 2 pm	Fledgling, Wren and Robin Nativity in the school hall (door opens at 1.45 pm)
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 Robins
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 arrive by 5.45 in school uniform
Friday 18th December	Last Day of Term – finish at usual time of 3 pm 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