

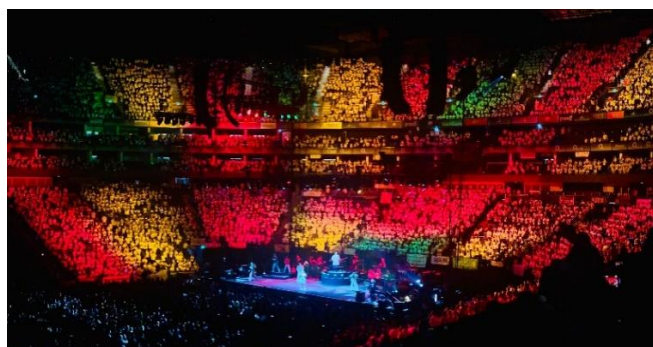


Cranford Park C of E Primary School NEWSLETTER

No. 39: February 2025

let
your
light
shine

What a couple of weeks we have had! One of the best moments was our choir attending the Young Voices concert at the O2 arena in London. My thanks to Mrs Wilcox, Miss Lucas and Miss Howard for all their hard work with the many rehearsals, organising the event and for giving up their evening to accompany the children. Without the goodwill of our team, none of these things would be able to happen! I am told the children were absolute stars, impeccably behaved (unlike some other schools!) and that they all had a wonderful time. We will definitely aim to make this an annual event for our older choir members, so do encourage your children to join the choir if they fancy performing at the O2!



UPDATE TO FRIDAY MUFTI DAY

As you may know, we encourage our children to be 'courageous advocates' by championing causes close to their hearts. Lottie and Bella have planned an assembly and an event to support the RSPCA. They are going to get in on the PTA 'bottles' mufti day on Friday 14th

February. We are still happy to have donations of bottles from parents as well for the PTA but are asking the **children** to bring a **coin of their own** for the RSPCA. This can be *any* amount but should be their **own** money



and not given by parents. If children do not have money we would ask that they earn some



by doing jobs for you around the house. This teaches our children to values of responsibility and charity. Thank you!

Sustainability

CAR ENGINES RUNNING CAUSE AIR POLLUTION

An appeal to please turn off car engines when you are stopping and waiting around the school. Leaving your engine running causes pollution in the school air, breathed in by all of our children. Please park and turn the engines off if you are hanging around for a while! Thank you for your support in our bid to try and further reduce our carbon footprint!



BOOK WEEK



You should have received a separate letter detailing all of our plans for book week! If you haven't had it, please get in touch!

Compassion

Courage

Creativity

Happy Chinese New Year



done to them all! They were all fantastic! 😊

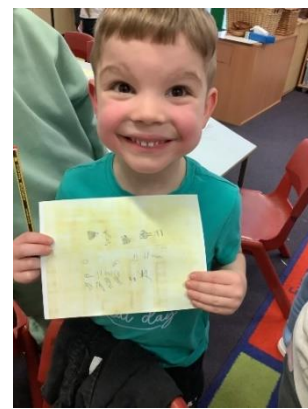


The school enjoyed learning all about Chinese New Year from our Reception class in their first ever class assembly, where they truly let their lights shine. The class have been learning all about the traditions and celebrations and why these are important. They enjoyed role-playing animals in the Chinese Zodiac as well as practising other skills to create crafts such as a snake, it being the year of the snake 🐍. Well

University Spotlight



The faculty of historical art have learnt about how papyrus was made and how to write Egyptian hieroglyphs!



They have also focused on Roman Mosaics.



The children learnt lots of fun facts, such as that lots of Roman Mosaics are at least 2000 years old and were often a sign of someone's wealth and status. The children then had a go colouring their own Roman Mosaic vase.



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Creativity

University Spotlight



In the faculty of Musical Theatre, children worked in small groups to choreograph a dance to 'The Greatest Showman'. They enjoyed watching each other's dances and picking up ideas! It is so lovely to see the leadership skills in our older children.



In the Faculty of Animation, the children were experimenting with stop animation on Purple Mash using pictures of themselves. They were trying to create a series of pictures with slight changes to appear as simple animation. It was a lot of fun. Next they used their own storyboard plans to make a simple animation for their final presentation.



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In the Faculty of paper craft, they have been following instructions to make various origami creations! Above you can see them with their dogs and corner bookmarks. The children enjoyed adding their own decorative touches to the dogs! Below, their creations of a 2 piece origami of a flower head and a stem that attached together creating a tulip that stands! Most impressive! 🌷





Last week we celebrated Children’s mental Health Week at Cranford Park exploring the theme ‘Know Yourself, Grow Yourself’ in partnership with Here4You, supported by The Walt Disney Company and the *Inside Out 2* characters. Here are some follow up tips for families!

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

<p>1 Encourage journaling Just like Riley, encourage your older children and young people to express their emotions and thoughts through journaling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what is going on.</p>	<p>4 Practice mindfulness Try mindful activities, and quiet family time, to enjoy being in the present moment. This can help children and young people be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique.</p>
<p>2 Make space for reflection When children and young people reflect on their different emotions, it can help them better understand themselves and what they need. Go for a walk, drive, or try some mindful colouring or baking together.</p>	<p>5 Communicate Feedback is crucial for helping us see our blind spots and gain greater insight. Children and young people are no different. Creating safe and supportive ways to share your own experience with your child can help them understand themselves and their impact on the world around them.</p>

If you're a parent or teacher, you'll find loads of useful advice to help you support the brilliant young people in your lives - from FAQs to downloadable packs. ☺ [Here4You.co.uk](https://www.here4you.co.uk)

Having issues removing a dummy? Here are some reasons why you should persevere and a link to some ideas to help you!

Dangers of Dummies

Dummies can cause issues for children including:

- **Dental problems:** Long-term use can cause teeth to grow in incorrectly, which can lead to an overbite, cross bite, or open bite. They can also cause tooth decay.
- **Middle ear infections:** Dummies can increase the risk of ear infections.
- **Speech delays:** Dummies can interfere with the development of the muscles used for speech and can make it harder for children to learn to use sounds at the front of their mouth.
- **Dependency:** Children can become dependent on dummies, making it difficult to break the habit.
- **Middle-of-the-night crying:** If a child uses a dummy to sleep, they might cry when the dummy falls out.
- **Hearing issues:** Prolonged use can lead to hearing issues.

The NHS recommends stopping dummies between six and 12 months old. For more information and ideas go to: https://www.wchc.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/GetRidofthatDummy_V2.pdf

Free courses and resources on emotional wellbeing

You may not know that our school is in a pre-paid area for the emotional health resources hub, www.inourplace.co.uk ('The Solihull Approach'). This means **you** can access a range of **free online support** to better understand children’s emotional health, brain development and wellbeing. There are courses available from bump to 19+ years, and include:

- Understanding your child (0-19 years)
- Understanding your child with additional needs (0-19 years)
- Understanding your child’s feelings
- Understanding your child’s mental health and wellbeing
- Understanding your relationships
- Understanding the impact of the pandemic on your child/teenager

All courses can be translated using Google Translate and some professional translations are available, including Arabic, Urdu, Bulgarian, simplified Chinese, Spanish, Welsh, Polish and Somali.

All the information needed to sign up for these free courses can be found at: [The Solihull Approach | Health and social care](https://www.solihullapproach.org.uk/health-and-social-care) | [Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk). [Solihull January parent wellbeing newsletter](#)

I am delighted to say that we have been offered a funded trial of the ‘My Happy Mind’ programme. This fits perfectly with our beliefs about the importance of growth mindset and good mental health and is full of songs games and interactive learning experiences which children will really enjoy. They will be finding out about their brain and learning how to self-regulate, build self-esteem and be proud of who they are at the core – not their outcomes. They will be celebrating their character strengths – kindness, curiosity, courage - instead of their ability, which fits perfectly with our ethos here at Cranford Park. Children will develop ‘an attitude of gratitude’ and will learn the critical importance of being able to notice the things and people around them they have to be grateful for. They will learn to relate, developing active listening and understanding other perspectives to strengthen relationships. They will learn to engage, tapping in to the resilience they already have and learning to persevere even when times get tough. We have heard some great things about the programme and look forward to trying it out! A free parent app accompanies the programme and we will send further details soon!

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Letting their Light Shine!



I am so proud of Hannah who has made the amazing decision to gift her beautiful hair to raise funds for charity. She has



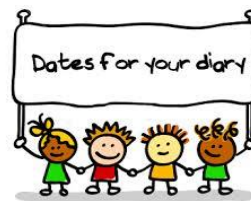
already smashed her initial fundraising target and is now hoping to raise £1,400 to make two wigs. To support Hannah, use the link and QR code to her JustGiving page, provided here:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/hannah-martin-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

We will report again soon!



Here is little Timothy letting his light shine too! He has worked hard to master riding a bike at 4 years old with great control and pedalling. He got his bigger bike at Christmas and is now riding confidently. Well done to him!



New and changed dates are given in bold

- Mon 10th Feb: Choir to Home Alone St Peter's
- Tues 11th Feb: Y5 Pop-Up Pizzeria (parent event)
- Wed 12th Feb: Parents' Evening – progress reviews
- Thurs 13th Feb: Parents' Evening – progress reviews
- Fri 14th Feb: Y6 Class Worship 8.50am - parents
- Fri 14th Feb: PAUSE DAY – Theme – Love
- Fri 14th Feb: PTA Mufti Day for bottles for May Fair
- Fri 14th Feb: Break up for half term
- Mon 24th Feb: Children return to school
- Fri 28th Feb: Y5 Class Worship 8.50am – parents
- Fri 28th Feb: Y5 Cake Sale after school
- w/b 3rd March: Book Week
- Tues 4th Mar: Bounce for Books sponsored event
- Thurs 6th Mar: World Book Day – Dress up day
- Fri 7th March: Year 1 Cake Sale after school
- w/b 10th Mar: STEM Week
- Wed 12th March: Y1 Y5 Fire Safety Workshops - cancelled
- Fri 14th March: Y4 Class Worship 8.50am – parents
- Fri 14th March: Y4 Cake Sale after school
- Wed 19th Mar: 8.30am GRT Meet Up – by invitation
- Thurs 20th Mar: Wellington Chemistry Event tbc
- Fri 21st March: PTA Mufti Day for Easter Eggs
- Fri 21st March: Y2 Nightwalk
- Mon 24th March: PTA Mothers' Day Shopping Event
- Tues 25th March: Y4 and Y6 History Workshops
- Thurs 27th Mar: A Walk through Easter Workshops
Y2 am and Y4 pm
- Fri 28th March: Y3 Class Worship 8.50am – parents
- Fri 28th March: Y2 and Y3 Cake Sale after school
- Wed 2nd April: MUFTI Day for bottles for summer fair
- Wed 2nd April: **EASTER FUN DAY** with Easter tea for parents
- Fri 4th April: 9.30am Easter Service at St Peter's
- Fri 4th April: Break up for Easter at 1.15pm
- Tues 22nd April: Children return to school
- Tues 22nd April: Y4 Residential Visit to Minstead
- Wed 23rd April: Y5 Swimming
- Wed 30th April: Y5 Swimming
- Fri 2nd May: Y4 Class Worship 8.50am - parents
- Wed 7th May: Y5 Swimming
- 12th – 14th May: Y5 Residential to Runways End
- Fri 16th May: YR Class Worship 8.50am – parents
- Sun 18th May: Fundraising Concert at St Peter's – all welcome to come along (choir singing)**
- Wed 21st May: Y5 Swimming
- Thurs 22nd May: MUFTI Day for sweets for summer fair
- Thurs 22nd May: School breaks up for half term 1.15pm
- Fri 23rd May: INSET DAY
- w/b 26th May: HALF TERM BREAK
- Mon 2nd June: INSET DAY
- Tues 3rd June: Children return to school
- Wed 4th June: Y5 Swimming
- Fri 6th June: Y5 Class Worship 8.50am - parents
- Fri 6th June: Y3 SLEEPOVER
- Wed 11th June: Y5 Swimming
- Fri 13th June: Y3 Class Worship 8.50am - parents
- Fri 20th June: Y6 Leavers' Service, Winchester
- Fri 27th June: Y2 Class Worship 8.50am - parents
- w/b 7th July: Y6 Residential Week
- Fri 11th July: Y1 Class Worship 8.50am – parents
- Mon 21st July: Sponsored Colour Run Day!
- Tues 22nd July: Y6 Leavers' Service - parents
- Tues 22nd July: Break up for summer hols 1.15pm

Attendance

Year R	91%
Year 1	92.7%
Year 2	87%
Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	90%
Year 5	92.6%
Year 6	96.2%

Well done to all those who achieved 100% attendance in January! Our class attendance is shown here. **Year 6** keep the trophy, but **Year 3** were a VERY close second! Let's see who can knock year 6 off the top of the chart!



I think it's necessary to let kids get bored once in a while – that's how they learn to be creative.

KIM RAVER

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