



Cranford Park C of E Primary School NEWSLETTER

let
your
light
shine

No. 58: January 2026



It is lovely to see some of the spring flowers blooming on site now and it reminds us that the more pleasant warmer days are ahead. In the meantime, please do keep your little ones wrapped up warm

with a coat in school every day, as we do still spend part of every day outside.

The local headteachers continue to make progress with a joint 'smartphone free schools' policy following our consultation and I will let you have this as soon as it is received. In the meantime, the government are also pushing on with their own 'smartphone free childhood' campaign, as are other world leaders, in recognition of the damage the internet is doing to our children. Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education, has written to schools reminding us of the impact technology can have on children's learning, behaviour and wellbeing and making clear the Government's intention to ensure schools are *completely phone free environments*. She tells us that the Government will shortly launch a consultation on children's wider use of technology as part of a national conversation.



This powerful advertising campaign, which is definitely *for viewing by adults*, gives us a flavour of what children are exposed to via their smartphones:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_xwJ5u9I8o



In the faculty of art and design, children have been learning to draw a step by step drawing of Sonic the Hedgehog!



Compassion

Courage

Creativity

Thank You!



Our sincere thanks to Mr Howes for giving up his time and cutting back a tree for us free of charge...we are very grateful as it means that the money we would have had to spend on the tree cutting can now be spent on the children. Thank you! 😊



Anxiety Toolkit - Anna Freud Organisation

We all get anxious, no matter the age. Anxiety is simply the brain's response to new situations and constitutes its preparations to deal with the unknown. That is not a pleasant feeling, blood rushes to the arms and legs, the heart quickens and the brain can feel constrained and dazzled.

Without support to help them understand and manage these feelings, children may find it harder to recognise what is happening or to manage anxiety's effects in the moment. It is, though, vital that children learn to handle anxiety and even use it positively to propel them forward in complex environments.

The Anna Freud Organisation has recently published resources aimed at secondary teachers tackling this topic in the classroom. While not suitable for us to use, I thought they may be of use to parents, particularly those struggling with anxiety in their older children.

You can find the toolkit here:

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/lets-talk-about-anxiety-animation-and-teacher-toolkit/>

Letting their Light Shine!



Our congratulations to Amelia and Ava, who took their Freestyle dance exams before Christmas and Amelia also took a Musical Theatre exam. Both girls were amazing with Amelia achieving Honors in Freestyle Dance and Highly

Commended in Musical Theatre and Ava achieving Highly Commended in Freestyle Dance. We're all very proud of them! 😊

Teaching a child to shut down their emotions does not make them calm. It makes them numb. Calmness is a skill that develops after a child has learned to feel their emotions, not ignore them.

Inspired by Eli Harwood



Compassion

We don't need to get rid of anxiety. What we need is to practice noticing the sensations in the body, naming the feelings under the anxiety, and nurturing our capacity to still do brave, challenging things even when we feel anxious.

Inspired by Lelia Schott



Courage

Creativity



Support with Holiday Activities and Food

Children in Reception to Year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM) can enjoy a variety of fun activities and healthy meals for free during the half-term break, courtesy of Hampshire County Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.

Funded by the Department for Education, the programme enables local authorities to offer healthy food and enriching holiday activities to children who would normally receive benefit-related FSM during term time. A limited number of discretionary places are also available for other vulnerable families.

For the upcoming February half term delivery, there are over 80 sites across Hampshire. These venues including schools, childcare providers, community groups, and sports organisations, all delivering a variety of activities.

Hampshire are now inviting eligible families to book their free place at their half term holiday clubs. Further information about available schemes and booking instructions can be found on our Family Information and Services Hub (FISH), using the link below:

[Holiday Activities and Food Programme \(HAF\) | Hampshire CTSH](https://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/holidayactivities)

Right are the flyers listing the HAF schemes running in Hart. The HAF team can be contacted with any queries by emailing connect4communities@hants.gov.uk

Funded by
UK Government

Free holiday activities and meals for eligible children this February half-term!

Children in Reception to Year 11 receiving benefits-related free school meals can enjoy a variety of fun activities and healthy meals for free during the half-term break through the Hampshire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme!

Scan the QR code below or visit the Family Information and Services Hub to check if you're eligible, find local HAF schemes, and book your child(ren)'s place.



<https://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/holidayactivities>



HART HALF-TERM HAF SCHEMES



ACE Kids

Velmead Junior School
(GU52 7LG)

Westfields Infant School
(GU46 6NN)

Active Me 360

Mayhill Junior School
(RG29 1NB)



Core Kids Club

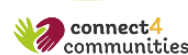
Elvetham Heath Primary School
(GU51 1DP)

KOOSA Kids

Court Moor School
(GU52 7RY)



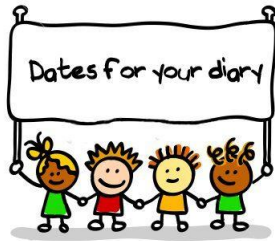
Visit the FISH website to find and book schemes in your area:
<https://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/holidayactivities>



Compassion

Courage

Creativity



New events or changes are given in bold

Tues 3rd Feb: PTA Meeting after school
 Wed 4th Feb: Parents' Consultation Evening
Thurs 5th Feb: Year R Castle Day
Thurs 5th Feb: Squash Workshops
 Thurs 5th Feb: Year 5 Cake Sale
 Fri 6th Feb: PTA Mufti Day for Easter Eggs
 Fri 6th Feb: Safer Internet Day
 Fri 6th Feb: Year 5 Class Assembly
Wed 11th Feb: Year 2 Road Safety Workshop
 Wed 11th Feb: Parents' Consultation Evening
 12th/13th Feb: Y5 Bikeability
 Thurs 12th Feb: Year 3 cake sale
 Fri 13th Feb: Year 3 Class Assembly
 Fri 13th Feb: Break up for half term holiday
 Mon 23rd Feb: Children return to school
 Mon 23rd Feb: Choir to Young Voices at the O2
 Wed 25th Feb: Wellington 'Escape Room' for Y5
 Wed 25th Feb: GRT Coffee Morning with EMTAS
Thurs 26th Feb: Y5/6 'Healthy Me' from Nursing team
 Thurs 26th Feb: Year 6 Cake Sale
 Fri 27th Feb: Year 6 Class Assembly
 w/b 2nd March: BOOK WEEK
 Tues 3rd March: Bounce for Books
 Wed 4th March: Wellington 'Escape Room' for Y5
 Thur 5th March: World Book Day – Dress up day
 Tues 10th Mar: PTA Mothers' Day Sale
 Tues 10th Mar: PTA Meeting after school
Wed 11th Mar: Possible Theatre Workshops – d.t.f.
 Thurs 12th Mar: Year 4 Cake Sale
 Friday 13th Mar: Year 4 Class Assembly
 w/b 16th March: STEM WEEK
Tues 17th Mar: Forensic Science Workshops
Wed 18th March: KS1 Indian Dance Workshops
Thurs 19th Mar: Virtual Reality workshops
Thurs 19th Mar: Y2 and Y4 'A Walk through Easter' at St Peter's Church
 Thurs 19th Mar: Y5 to Wellington Chemistry Spectacular
 Thurs 19th Mar: Year 1 Cake Sale
 Fri 20th March: Year 1 Class Assembly
 Fri 20th March: Y2 Nightwalk 6-8pm
 Fri 20th March: Comic Relief – details to follow
Mon 23rd March: iRock assembly – parents welcome
 Tues 24th March: 9.30am Whole School Easter Service at St Peter's Church
 Wed 25th March: Easter fun day with Easter tea P.T.A. tea and tombola
 Wed 25th March: PTA Mufti Day for bottles for May Fair
Thurs 26th Mar: Y5 trip to Winchester Science Centre
 Thurs 26th Mar: Year 2 Cake Sale
 Fri 27th March: Year 2 Class Assembly
 Fri 27th Mar: Break up for Easter 1.15pm
 Mon 13th April: Children return to school
 Tues 21st April: PTA Meeting after school
 Wed 22nd April: 3-4pm Yr 5 to Wellington for low ropes
 Fri 24th April: PTA 'Dare to be different' day
 Fri 24th April: Happy School Bags clothing collection
 Wed 29th April: 3-4pm Y5 to Wellington for paddling
 Mon 4th May: Lions May Fair, Yateley
 Thurs 7th May: Photographer – classes and leavers
 Fri 8th May: PTA Mufti Day for sweets
 Fri 8th May: PTA Popcorn Party

w/b 11th May: Y6 SATs testing week
 11th to 13th May: Y5 residential to Runways End
 Fri 15th May: Y3 Sleepover 6pm to 7.30am
 Tues 19th May: PTA Meeting after school
 Wed 20th May: Break up for half term 1.15pm
 21st & 22nd May: INSET DAYS
 Mon 1st June: INSET DAY
 Tues 2nd June: Children return to school
 Friday 5th June: Freezy Friday sale
 Tues 9th June: PTA Meeting after school
 9th/10th June: Y4 residential to Minstead
 Thurs 11th June: GRT coffee morning (EMTAS) – 8.30am
 Fri 12th June: Freezy Friday sale
 Tues 16th June: PTA Fathers' Day Sale
 Fri 19th June: Freezy Friday sale
 Wed 24th June: Y6 Leavers' Service Winchester Cathedral
 Fri 26th June: PTA Mufti day £1
 Fri 26th June: PTA Summer Fair after school
Tues 30th June: Inter-school athletics events, Aldershot
Wed 1st July: Yateley Secondary Induction Session
Thurs 2nd July: Yateley Secondary Induction Session
Thurs 2nd July: Whole school 'move up' day
 Friday 3rd July: Freezy Friday sale
 w/b 6th Jul: Y6 residential to Avon Tyrrell
 Friday 10th July: Freezy Friday sale
 Tues 14th July: PTA Meeting
 Friday 17th July: Freezy Friday sale
 Friday 17th July: PTA Mufti day for £1
 Fri 17th July: Y6 Leavers' Party
 Tues 21st July: PTA Colour Run event
Wed 22nd July: 9.30am Year 6 Leavers' Service at St Peter's Church
 Wed 22nd July: Break up for summer hols 1.15pm
New Academic Year
Thurs 24th Sept: Individual Photographs 2027
12th – 17th July: Y6 Residential to Avon Tyrrell
19th – 20th April: Y4 Residential Visit



FANCY BEING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

We are still seeking governors to join our school board. You don't need to know about education – in fact business skills (finance, HR, legal, etc.) are of more use to us! If you can spare a bit of time (four days and five evenings each year) and would like to know more, please do get in touch! Many employers will allow you time off for governance duties – why not check and see?



SCREEN TIME

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has published a new web page on screen time and online harms bringing together key resources to help inform conversations with families and guide practice. The resources include screen guidelines for children under five as well as guidance for parents on online harms. Click the link below to see the page:

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/screen-time-online-harms-resources-members>

Compassion

Courage

Creativity