

Crockham Hill C.E. Primary School

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13th February 2025

Parent Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a bit of a wet and windy start to 2025 but that hasn't stopped us from doing some amazing learning. Everyone has started the year by diving straight into some fantastic topics and the children have been eager to share their work. From our first day back celebrating Epiphany to ending on Valentine's Day, it has been a fun-packed adventure of a first Spring term.

Acorns



We have had the most amazing start to the new year! This term we have become master explorers, ranging from exploring space, the North Pole, the jungle, the ocean and exploring minibeasts.

The Reception children have used these topics to create wonderful art pieces, to improve their amazing writing, to build on their imaginative roleplay and deepen their numerical

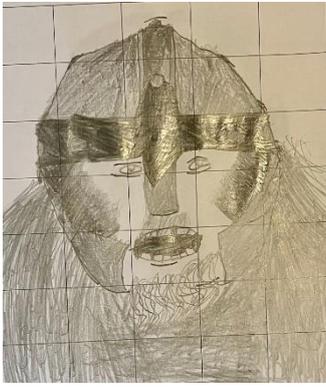
knowledge.

Year 1 have enjoyed learning about the famous explorers Ernest Shackleton, Christopher Columbus and Mae Jemison. They continue to amaze us with their writing skills, where we have concentrated on non-fiction writing this term.

Bluebells

This term Bluebells have been learning about Ernest Shackleton and his expedition on the Endurance. We have loved researching all of the amazing and interesting facts about him, for example: Ernest Shackleton had 69 sled dogs on board and a cat called Mrs Chippy! We have used all of our knowledge to write a newspaper article about the sinking of The Endurance. We included beautifully drawn pictures, lots of information, and a catchy headline to make it exciting for the reader!





Conkers

This term we have had a very informative term exploring the Viking civilisation through English, History and Art lessons. We have had some lively discussions about whether the Vikings were raiders, settlers or both. In Art lessons, we produced Viking portrait sketches leading to clay 'miniatures' - we hope the children's clothes survived the experience! Some of the children were inspired to sketch their own Vikings at home. We thoroughly enjoyed reading 'How to be a Viking' and wrote a diary entry from the protagonist's

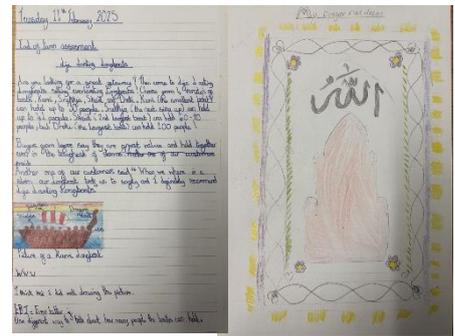
perspective. Having read the book, the children learnt an important life lesson about overcoming fears.

The children are enjoying our run on a Wednesday afternoon. We are gradually building up how far we run, working on pace and perseverance.

Dandelions

THE VIKINGS ARE COMING!!!!

Dandelions have been studying the Vikings in English, History and Art. Whether they are designing a helmet, learning about Greenland and Erik the Red or trying to sell a longboat, Dandelions have really put a lot of effort into their ideas and creative writing. We have also been going back to basics and getting our punctuation a little more accurate. Through persuasive writing, children have encouraged someone rich to buy a longboat or passage on one.



In RE we have been looking at Islam and the five pillars the Muslim faith as well as the importance of the prayer mat and the roll that it has. Dandelions have been making creative mat designs that incorporate Arabic writing.

Elders

In Design and Technology this term, Elder Class have been working on designing and making small scale shelters using frame structures. Firstly, we explored different structures using construction straws and learned about triangulation (the use of triangles to strengthen and solidify structures). For the past two weeks, we have been working on our final designs and next week they will be finished and evaluated against our design criteria.



News, Updates and Reminders

New Staff

We are looking forward to Mrs H Taylor starting with us after half term.

Residential Trips

In Year 5 and 6, children take part in a school residential trip which involves children staying over at the chosen location. At present, children in Year 5 spend three days and two nights at a place called Hindleap Warren, normally during the Spring Term, which is about 30 minutes away from our school. Our Year 6s spend Monday to Friday at Cumulus, a

place in Swanage and this normally takes place during the Summer Term. As these are residential trips, they do cost significantly more than the day trips. We wanted to make all parents aware of this to help with planning and also to let you know that financial support is available if needed. If your child is currently in Year 4 or 5, we will send out information as early as possible.

Child Survey

After half term, teachers will be completing a survey with your child/ren. As part of this, we would like your child to identify an 'appropriate or trusted' adult, someone they can go to to talk when needed. This can be more than one person and doesn't need to be someone that they work with now, it might be a previous teacher or TA or a member of the office staff. It would be extremely helpful if you could talk to your child about this over half term.

Class Curriculum Information

If you would like to know more about what your child is learning in school, please follow the link below which will take you to the class pages on our school website.

<https://www.crockhamhill.kent.sch.uk/class-pages/>

Safeguarding

We are pleased to let you know that we have implemented a new fob system on two of the internal doors in school, this has been put in place to keep your children safe. This was also discussed in our most recent Parent Council meeting.

Drive Safely

Please be mindful of children walking/crossing roads when picking up/dropping off at school and drive at a sensible speed. Thank you to all those parents that are already doing this.

Uniform

Most children are now coming into school looking extremely smart - thank you. Please continue to ensure that your children come to school wearing a shirt and tie. Please also ensure your child's hair is fully tied back if it is shoulder length or longer.

Please note: No light up shoes or trainers

Reminders About Attendance

Our current whole school attendance is 95.2%.

The class with the best attendance at the end of Spring 1 Term is Bluebells with 96.14% - well done Bluebells!

For full information please see our policy: [Attendance](#)

PTA Disco (see attached poster)

5.30-8pm - For all members of the family (Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult).

All funds raised will go towards the new play area.

Licensed bar and disco tunes.

PayPal the school for tickets.

£5 adult £2.50 child.

Have a lovely half term break. See you on the **Monday 24th February.**

Mrs Higgs