

# Crockham Hill C.E. Primary School

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## Parent Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all have a lovely half term break. Our enrichment day for the first day back after half term is called 'Going Places - Crockham Hill's Adventure to Antarctica'.

### Acorns



Acorns thoroughly enjoyed our toy workshop this term, exploring and investigating a range of old toys. We took part in an archaeological dig, searching for toys and we even became toy makers! We had so much fun and learnt so much about toys of the past.

### Bluebells

This week Bluebells have been reading the story 'Stanley's Stick'. They went out into the beautiful woodlands area to find their own perfect stick and then used their imaginations to turn it into something amazing! We had a plethora of magic wands, flags, stick families, and musical instruments. Then, the children used these ideas to complete some fantastic writing.

### Conkers



Conkers have had a fantastic start to the school year. We have all really enjoyed our work based on the school book; 'The Lost Words'. We were very keen to participate in the Crockham Hill Village Show competition. So, the children sculpted insects - using tissue paper, wire and iridescent paper. The children planned their work using pen and pastels. We are all eagerly awaiting the competition results! 'The Lost Words' also provided children with the ideal opportunity to produce their own 'shape' poems based on an animal of their choice.

### Dandelions

Dandelion Class really enjoyed the activities we did related to the whole school book - 'The Lost Words'. They particularly enjoyed sculpting minibeasts out of wire. The children began by creating continuous line drawings in their sketchpads. This gave them an idea of how it would be to sculpt with a continuous piece of wire. They then chose their favourite sketch to try and sculpt using wire and adding tissue paper for colour. The children were very creative with their ideas!

## Elders



On Tuesday, Year 6 visited Tunbridge Wells Mosque as part of their RE learning for this term. The Imam and Muslim community members at the mosque made us all feel very welcome on arrival. We were invited to sit in the main prayer hall and the Imam talked to us about the five pillars of Islam. The children were all so engaged and able to share some of their existing knowledge with the Imam. He was really impressed by them and thought they asked some really interesting and thoughtful questions. After our talk, the Imam kindly showed us around the other parts of the mosque including a study space, where the children were able to look at copies of the Qur'an and their classroom spaces, where the Imam taught the children some basic Arabic sounds. The children were incredibly respectful and well-mannered throughout. They represented themselves and our school so well and we are feeling so inspired to study Islamic faith and culture further in class and deepen our understanding.

## News, Updates and Reminders

### Tanzania & School Council

Next term, School Council will be beginning to fundraise to provide portable solar lights for the children in Mkwala school to help allow them to complete homework in the evenings. Many of their homes don't have electricity, which makes evening activities such as homework, difficult.

### Governors

Thank you to Noel Saunders for joining our Governing Body as a parent governor. Thank you also to Barbara Mitchell and James Fisher for attending our Parent meetings and taking on the bell ringing role!

### Nurture group

We are very excited to let you know about a new Nurture Group that has been started at lunchtime. This gives the children a quieter place to relax. Children are nominated by their class teacher and they can then decide whether they would like to attend. If you feel your child would benefit from this please ask their class teacher to consider them.

### New Staff

I would like to welcome Mrs Polkinghorne, who is currently working in Bluebells, and Mr Sumner, who is working in Dandelions, to our Crockham Hill team.

## Westerham Town Council



Well done to our Eco-committee competition winners, who were able to start making their design a reality this week. The children had to design a mini-garden to be placed under the school sign. We can't wait to see what the finished garden will look like.

### Uniform

Please ensure children are always wearing appropriate uniform, including their shoes (no flashing lights or brightly coloured astros). Long hair (below shoulder length) should always be tied back as this is a health and safety risk. There should also be no nail varnish or make-up worn in school.

### Reminders About Attendance

New statutory guidance from The Department for Education 'Working together to improve school attendance' came into effect from 18 August 2024. Within the guidance, there is a requirement for schools to inform the local authority when a pupil is absent from school due to illness for 15 days or more (consecutively or cumulatively throughout an academic year) or is due to be absent for 15 days due to illness. The guidance also states, 'all schools are required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons.' In addition, Headteachers should not authorise any absence of a planned nature in term time. Planned absence includes all holidays and parents will be liable to fines if they choose to ignore this advice.

**We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the school gate is open between 8:30 and 8:45am. Registration then takes place between 8:45 and 8:55am. A child who arrives after the register has closed (after 8:55am), will be marked as absent for the morning session.**

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Higgs