

# Crockham Hill C.E. Primary School

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9th February 2024

## Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy Spring term we have had! I know it seems like a distant memory now, but I would firstly like to thank you all for your extremely kind Christmas gifts, both from myself and all the staff members.

### Acorns



Acorn class has been taken over by dinosaurs this term! We have fully immersed ourselves in becoming palaeontologists, with the woodlands being a great place for us to go fossil hunting. Looking at dinosaurs has enabled us to cover many aspects of the EYFS and Year 1 curriculum, ranging from making wanted posters; learning about Mary Anning; designing and creating CCTV cameras to capture the dinosaurs; writing labels; joining in with dinosaur movement songs and most importantly creating a buzz for the children to come into school.

### Bluebells

Our topic in Bluebells this term has been to learn all about dinosaurs and a lady called Mary Anning, who discovered many, many fossils. We have been very creative this term, making dinosaurs from junk modelling and fossils from salt dough. We have discussed how fossils inform us about what dinosaurs looked like when they lived millions of years ago.



### Conkers



This term in Conkers we have started our swimming lessons! We are all very excited about this and it has been extremely fun going to the swimming pool every week. Swimming is such an important skill for us to learn, it could even help us save a life. We look forward to continuing to go swimming after the half term!

### Dandelions

In History Dandelions have been studying The Shang Dynasty. We learnt that The Shang dynasty is the earliest dynasty of traditional Chinese history, firmly supported by archaeological evidence. Excavation at the last Shang capital Yinxu, near modern-day Anyang, uncovered eleven major royal tombs and the foundations of palaces and ritual sites, containing weapons of war and remains from both animal and human sacrifices. Tens of thousands of bronze, jade, stone, bone, and ceramic artefacts have been found. We discussed the significance and purpose of a range of Shang artefacts and how these artefacts were discovered by archaeologists. The children then had the opportunity to be archaeologists themselves. They created an

archaeological site for a partner and buried artefacts for them to find. Their partner then marked out and excavated the site. They recorded where they found the artefacts on a grid, then analysed and wrote a description of each. Partners then swapped roles. Much fun was had by all!



### **Elders**



For PE this term, Elders have been working with Mr Taylor on netball skills. They have been learning to play high five netball and have been practising a variety of skills including dynamic passing and receiving the ball, tactical communication and shooting. The progress they have made from lesson one to now is amazing (despite the freezing temperatures outside on the court!). Well done Elders!

### **News, Updates and Reminders**

#### **Young Voices**

On Wednesday 31st January 2024, a group of 29 children from Years 4-6 travelled to the O2 in London by coach, to join 9,000 other children from schools all across the South. We had spent months attending Young Voices Choir rehearsals, learning the same songs as all the others that came. We rehearsed for 3 hours and then performed to thousands of families and friends. We had an incredible view of the stage and enjoyed all the acts as well as being the 'stars' of the show.



Thank you to everyone who came to watch. We had a brilliant time.

#### **Eco-Council trip to Chartwell**

On Tuesday 9th January, our eco-council were invited to Chartwell to help with the planning of their annual 'Spring Trail'. The team at Chartwell wanted to gather ideas from local children about what they liked (or did not like!) about trails so they could put together the best spring trail ever this year for their visitors.

They started off with a tour of the gardens to see where the trail would start and end and were then taken to a meeting room to give feedback on previous trails and activities and also come up with their own ideas. The children from our eco-council were brilliant. They had such good ideas and interacted with the staff at Chartwell with enthusiasm and excellent manners.

The spring trail will be up and running at Chartwell over the Easter holidays, so make sure you visit and see the results of eco-council's hard work and fabulous ideas!



## **Whole school art project – celebrating our uniqueness and differences**

This term, all of the children in school are involved in an art project which celebrates each person's uniqueness and all of our wonderful differences.

Children have taken part in art workshops with local artists, Andrea Coltman, exploring the work of Henri Matisse and his use of colour and simple shapes. They have also been experimenting with fabric art, trialling a range of different materials and methods. This week, each child will complete their 'final piece' – a bunting flag, with an image and colours which represents them and their uniqueness.



These will all be displayed together in a wonderful exhibition which takes place on Wednesday 7th February and will be open to all parents to view when they come in for parent consultations that afternoon/evening.

We can't wait to show you what the children have created!

## **Charity**

Number Day - Well done and thank you to everyone who supported our Number Day last week, you raised £153.20 for the NCPCC!

Braiswick Photography - You raised £52.50 for Cancer Research by purchasing school photographs last term, thank you.

## **Sporting News**

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February, all children throughout the school will be taking part in our sponsored Circuit Challenge event. All money raised will go towards the regeneration of our school playground.

## **School Uniform**

Please remember that children must wear a shirt and tie to school as part of their winter uniform.

## **Forest School**

Bluebells class will be taking part in forest school next term on Wednesdays (starting on 21<sup>st</sup> February).

## **Tanzania**

Mpwapwa diocese is the large area in Tanzania connected with Rochester diocese. Many villages, parishes and schools in our area have connections with villages and schools in Mpwapwa area. Kongwa is the town within Mpwapwa area connected to us, where St Philip's Theological College is situated, as well as St Michaels church. Mkwala Primary School is in a village on the outskirts of Kongwa. This is the school that we at Crockham Hill support and have communication with.

## Key Dates Spring 2

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Start of Term 4</b> MC Grammar Day!
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Year 6 – WWII Day
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	5pm – <b>Parent workshop</b> – Safer Internet
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Sponsored Circuit Challenge
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	2pm – Parent council Meeting
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Year R – Hearing and vision tests 3:15pm – Year 5 Hindleap warren and 11+ meeting
Week beginning Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	MANGOs Gift Shop (Mums, Aunties, Nans, Grandmas, Others)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day 5pm – Story time (all children invited)
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Afternoon in School
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	8pm – PTA AGM (venue to be decided)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Bluebells Class Assembly – 2:40pm
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	School outdoor area help day (volunteers welcome!)
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>5pm - Year 5 Parent meeting</b> (Hindleap Warren and 11+ information)
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Class Photos
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>5pm - Year 6 Parent meeting</b> (Cumulus & SATs)
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	March Mad Hair Day
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Easter Church Service – 2pm</b> <b>End of Term 4</b>

## Summer 1

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Start of term 5 (summer Uniform – optional)</b>
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	1pm – Somerhill Maths Challenge – 4 x Year 4
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	1pm – Somerhill Maths Challenge 4 x Year 5
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Own Clothes Day for May Fair donations.
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Own Clothes Day
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Mayfair
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs Week
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> May	Hindleap Warren – Year 5 Residential
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Census Day
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>th</sup> May	Bikeability (Year 6)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Reculver Trip – Year 3 & Year 4

Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Break the Rules Day (donations please)</b> – change of date <b>End of Term 5</b>
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## Summer 2

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	<b>Start of Term 6</b>
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Fathers' days gift/bag hand in at drop off KS1 & KS2 Sports Day
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	FUDGE Gift Shop Open (Fathers, Uncles, Dads, Grandads, Everyone else)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Back-up Sports Day
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 School Journey Cumulus Tented Village
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Acorn's Parent Assembly – 2:40pm
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 District Sports (provisional date)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6/KS2 production <b>(TBC)</b>
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Prize Giving <b>(TBC)</b>
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Leavers Church Service – 2pm</b> <b>End of Term 6</b>
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	<b>INSET DAY</b>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	<b>INSET DAY</b>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Higgs