

# Crockham Hill C.E. Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of Autumn 1, it's been fantastic to see how well our children have settled into the new school year. They've approached learning, play, and school life with curiosity, enthusiasm, and resilience.

This term has been full of memorable moments, from classroom achievements to sports, creative projects, and seasonal celebrations. We're incredibly proud of the children for their hard work, positivity, and for supporting each other so well.

We hope you enjoy reading about the highlights of this term and seeing all that our pupils have achieved.

## **Acorns and Bluebells**

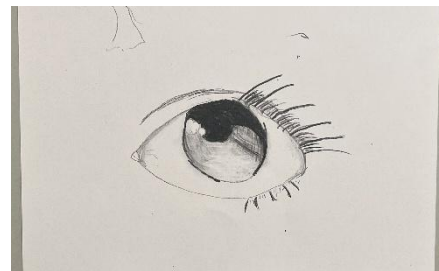


This term, Bluebells and Acorns classes had an exciting trip to the beautiful Leeds Castle. The children were amazed by the castle's grand appearance and enjoyed exploring its impressive grounds. During their visit, they took time to draw the outside of the castle, capturing its towers, walls, and gardens with lots of creativity and detail. They also enjoyed identifying the different features of the castle,

bringing their learning to life in a fun and memorable way. Another highlight of the day was seeing the spectacular birds of prey. The children were fascinated by the majestic owls, hawks, and eagles. It was a fantastic day filled with discovery, adventure, and fun - a trip the children will remember for a long time!

## **Conkers**

In Conkers Class we spent the first two weeks of term exploring the protected characteristic of racism through the beautiful book 'Eyes That Speak to the Stars' by Joanna Ho. The children discussed the importance of celebrating differences, standing up against unkindness and showing respect for everyone. In English, they wrote vivid setting descriptions of the night sky and persuasive letters about why kindness and acceptance of others matter. In Art, they created detailed pencil sketches of human eyes and used watercolours to capture the different colours of a night sky. This learning helped the children to reflect on identity, empathy and respect (two of our school values), while also producing thoughtful writing and creative artwork.



## **Dandelions**

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 10am, 60 children from Dandelions and Conkers boarded the coach - destination: Chiddingstone Castle. We arrived and were given a brief history and tour of the grounds. We were then divided into four groups. One group had a tour of the castle, one group learnt about Egyptian life, a third group completed some Egyptian activities and the final group went to the Egyptian maze garden. We all rotated around spending 30 minutes at each station. Following this, we ate our packed lunch in the (semi) sunshine



and played with our friends on the lawn. We then packed up and came back to school. A big thank you to Mrs Gibson for organising the trip and the parent helpers for coming along.

### **Elders**

Elder class visited Tunbridge Wells Mosque this week. The Imam was so impressed with how much the children had already learned about Islam in their RE lessons at school. They asked so many amazing questions, which really demonstrated their interest and curiosity to learn more about Islam and Muslim culture. We were so proud of the children and how they represented our school and its values. Well done Elder class!



### **Staffing**

We're delighted to have Mr Rowland as part of our team this year. He joined us in September and has already made a fantastic start, leading Maths and PE across the school. His enthusiasm, energy, and commitment are already making a positive impact on both pupils and staff, and we're excited to see this continue throughout the year.

### **Online Safety – A Key Message for Parents**

Please continue talking to your child about staying safe online — remind them not to share personal details, to use strong passwords, and to tell an adult if something worries them. Keeping children safe online is a team effort between home and school. For tips and guidance, visit Thinkuknow (<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>) or NSPCC Online Safety (<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>).

### **Wellbeing – Introducing Stepping Stones**

We're really excited to introduce Stepping Stones — our newly named intervention and wellbeing room. This is a calm, nurturing space designed to support children's emotional wellbeing and help them feel ready to learn.

In Stepping Stones, children can listen to calming music and take part in a range of activities that help them self-regulate and refocus before returning to class. The space is also used for small group and individual intervention sessions, supporting both learning and emotional development.

Alongside this, we now have a dedicated sensory space for any child who may feel overwhelmed and needs a few quiet moments to feel calm and comfortable before continuing with their day.

Our aim is to ensure every child has the time and support they need to thrive — both emotionally and academically.

### **A Message from Rosie – Our School Wellbeing Dog!**

Hello everyone!

I just wanted to say a big thank you to all the children and grown-ups for making me feel so welcome at school. I absolutely love spending time with you all — seeing your smiling faces, joining you on the playground, and getting lots of gentle strokes (my favourite!).

Lunchtimes are always such fun, and I really appreciate how kind everyone has been - especially when you remember to listen to the adults if there are a few too many of you around me. It helps me to stay calm and happy.

After a busy lunchtime full of excitement and cuddles, I usually have a nice nap to recharge before the afternoon - even wellbeing dogs need their rest!

Thank you again for being such wonderful friends. I can't wait for more tail wags and adventures with you all!

Love,  
Rosie 🐾

## Community



### **Mkwala School – Solar Lights**

We are excited to share that small solar lights have arrived at Mkwala School and are already being put to good use!

### **Letter Exchange with Queen Esther School**

Last year's Year 5s sent letters to Queen Esther School, and their responses have now arrived. These will be shared with Year 6 next term.

We look forward to sharing more updates and celebrating the continued achievements of our schools in the coming term!

Mrs Higgs