

# Crockham Hill C.E. Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As Spring 1 draws to a close, we would like to thank everyone for their hard work and support this half term. We hope you enjoy reading about some of the highlights from recent weeks.

## Acorns & Bluebells

Acorns and Bluebells classes were very excited to welcome a planetarium into school. The children took part in a special space-themed session where they stepped inside an inflatable planetarium and travelled to the moon! This immersive experience brought our learning to life and gave the children the chance to explore space in a fun and engaging way! After the planetarium, the children enjoyed a workshop in the classroom with Scientist Sophie, who taught them all about moon craters and how they are formed. It was a fantastic and memorable day of learning for everyone involved!



## Conkers



This term, children explored the theme of *tapestry*, linking their artwork to the Bayeux Tapestry and our history topic on the Anglo-Saxons. Pupils began by sketching and painting landscapes on paper before transferring their designs onto calico. They then stitched into the calico to add texture and detail, developing their textile skills. Recycled dust sheets were used for this project, encouraging sustainable working practices. We are hoping to exhibit work from Years 3, 4 and

5 later this year and look forward to sharing the finished pieces with you. Throughout the project, children learned about storytelling through images and how textiles have been used historically to record events. They showed great creativity, perseverance and pride in their finished work.

## Conkers & Dandelions

Year 3, 4 and 5 children created their own 'tokens', inspired by those used at the Foundling Hospital, drawing carefully on calico using coloured pencils. They explored how tokens were once used to help match children to their mothers. The children showed great thoughtfulness and creativity in their designs. These will be displayed at Quebec House, Westerham, from April.



## Dandelions



In Dandelion Class, we've had a very busy and exciting few weeks of learning! In Science, we have been exploring life cycles, discovering how plants, animals and humans grow and change. In RE, we have been learning about Sikhism, finding out about key beliefs and traditions. Our History lessons have taken us back in time to learn all about the Anglo-Saxons, and we've been especially busy preparing for our class assembly, where we'll be sharing everything we've learned about this fascinating period. In PE, we've been very lucky to go swimming every Monday, and on Tuesdays we enjoy working with a specialist dance teacher, building our confidence, coordination and creativity.

## **Elders**



Elders have been really busy so far this term! We have 'travelled' to the Amazon River Basin to learn all about one of the most biodiverse places on earth. The children have written fabulous non-chronological reports all about the physical and human geography of the region. We have been reading Katherine Rundell's book 'The Explorer', exploring diary writing in character and writing rainforest setting description. In DT, we have been designing and making small scale shelters, using frame structures. The children have really enjoyed the process of planning and preparing their materials, using tools including hacksaws, bench hooks, hammers, nails and glue guns.

## **Staffing**

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Rebecca Shelley to our school office team. We look forward to working with her and having her as part of our school community.

At the same time, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Feakes, who will be retiring on Friday 27th February. We are extremely grateful for her many years of dedication and support and hope we can persuade her to come back to visit us in the future!

## **Attendance**

Our current whole school attendance is 94.9%. Well done to the classes with the highest attendance this term!

Elders: 91.46%

Dandelions: 95.67%

Conkers: 96.73%

Bluebells: 94.4%

Acorns: 96.85%

Thank you to all families for supporting regular attendance – every day counts!

## **Online Safety**

Thank You – Online Safety Workshops

A big thank you to all the parents who attended our Online Safety parent workshops. For those who were unable to join, you can view the LGfL parent presentation [here](#).

Please find attached an adaptable copy of the Family Agreement discussed in the workshop. Families can use and tailor this agreement to support safe and responsible use of smart devices at home.

## **Golden Time**

Gold Time is Back! ✨

We are pleased to reintroduce Gold Time, a special privilege that children can earn through positive behaviour and completing their homework.

Please note: if a child does not complete their homework or their behaviour in class falls below expectations, they may not earn the full Gold Time and could be asked to complete work instead. This approach helps encourage responsibility, effort, and good conduct across the school.

## **School Uniform Reminders - <https://www.crockhamhill.kent.sch.uk/parents/uniform-information>**

- A reminder that PE trainers should be predominantly white and suitable for sports (not fashion trainers or those with flashing lights).
- Earrings should be kept to small studs only, in line with our school uniform policy. Thank you for helping us keep our pupils safe and ready for learning!

## **Sporting Events & Trips - School Highlights**

### Young Voices

Well done to our choir who took part in Young Voices, joining thousands of pupils in a mass choir performance. Their hard work in rehearsals and confidence on stage created an unforgettable musical experience for everyone involved!

### Planetarium Visit

Our pupils enjoyed a fascinating Planetarium visit, exploring stars, planets and the wonders of space as part of their learning — a truly out-of-this-world experience!

### Infant Agility

Congratulations to our Infants who took part in the Infant Agility event. They demonstrated great enthusiasm, teamwork and physical skills throughout the activities.

### Football Success

Our football teams have shown excellent teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship in recent matches and competitions — well done to all those who represented the school!

## **Vision and Values**

This term, it's wonderful to see our pupils living out our values of respect, resilience, aspiration, and empathy. Our vision, inspired by the Parable of the Sower, reminds us that children flourish when nurtured with care and opportunity. Thank you to all parents for supporting our shared mission to help every child grow and thrive.

## **Leading Lights**

At the end of the Autumn term, our pupils led a thoughtful and engaging assembly exploring the importance of light in different religions. They shared how light is used as a symbol of hope, guidance and goodness across a range of faiths, before linking this to how Christians celebrate Christmas as a time when light came into the world. The assembly was a meaningful reflection on shared values and a wonderful way to conclude the term.

## **Eco Committee - Well done Eco Council!**

Our Eco Committee has raised an impressive **£142** to support recycling initiatives in school. Thanks to their efforts, a **TerraCycle** has now been ordered and is ready to use in the school hall. This is a fantastic achievement that will help us all make a positive impact on the environment!

## **School Council**

The School Council have been busy improving wet play provision. They gathered ideas from their classes and, as a result, each class will now have a wet play box filled with games and activities to encourage teamwork, creativity, and fun.

Looking ahead, the Council are planning a "Craze of the Week" to introduce new games at lunchtime and keep playtimes exciting. Well done to all members for their enthusiasm and commitment to making playtimes even better!

Thank you for reading our Spring 1 newsletter. We're proud of our pupils' achievements so far and look forward to another term of learning, growth, and fun. Thank you for your continued support in helping every child thrive!

Mrs Higgs