

Crockham Hill C.E. Primary School

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Crockham Hill
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16th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Acorns



Acorns Class brought festive joy to the school hall with their delightful Nativity performance on Tuesday 9th December. The children sang beautifully, delivered their lines with confidence, and brought the Christmas story to life with charm and enthusiasm.

Their joy and excitement were truly infectious, creating a magical start to the festive season for all who attended.

A huge well done to all the children in Acorns Class for their

brilliant performance – you really brought the magic of Christmas to our school!

Bluebells

This term, we have been reading a very exciting book called Orion and the Dark. The story sparked lots of discussion in our classroom about fears, bravery, and imagination, and it inspired us to have a go at creating our own acrostic poems. To begin, we carefully chose a meaningful word from the story to write down the side of their page. We then used dictionaries and thesauruses, to find interesting and powerful words that began with each letter. Our finished poems were thoughtful, descriptive, and beautifully unique!



Conkers



The year 3 children from our class recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to Sevenoaks School for a Gamelan workshop, where the children were introduced to this traditional set of instruments from Java. Made from bronze and beautifully carved wood, the Gamelan includes a range of percussion instruments such as gongs and metallophones. The children learned that, as a mark of respect, you must always walk

around the instruments rather than over them. The children had the opportunity to play the instruments themselves and even worked together to create their own group composition. They were respectful throughout and were fascinated by the unique sounds of the Gamelan. Meanwhile, back at school, our year 4 children explored digital music-making by composing their own pieces, and in our remaining lessons we learned to play the glockenspiel and practised our Christmas carols.

Dandelions

As we wrap up another exciting term, we are delighted to share some of the fantastic learning experiences the children have enjoyed, including our much-anticipated trip to the Science Museum.

The highlight was our class adventure into London, beginning with a train ride and a journey on the Underground - an exciting experience for many and a great opportunity to explore maps, routes, and public transport.



At the Science Museum, the children explored hands-on exhibits that sparked curiosity and encouraged questions about how the world works. A standout moment was the 3D film in the IMAX theatre, where the children were captivated by a journey through space. This immersive experience brought our science lessons to life, particularly our studies on the Solar System, gravity, and the vastness of space.

Elders



It's been a busy couple of weeks for Year 6. We have been working on our pizza project, designing and making our own pizzas. Everyone had great fun making them and they smelt and tasted delicious! We have also been on a fieldwork trip to Edenbridge, where we surveyed members of the public to try and answer our big question, 'Does Edenbridge meet the needs of the local population?' We also visited the care home, where we sang Christmas carols to the residents. It was so lovely to see them enjoy our performance: smiling, singing along with us and tapping their feet.

Staffing – Carole Feakes

We would like to inform you that Mrs Feakes will be retiring on 27th February. She has been an integral part of our school community, and her dedication and support have been deeply appreciated by staff, families, and especially by myself over the past few years. Mrs Feakes contributes so much, both in visible ways and behind the scenes, and we will greatly miss the support and care she shows to us all.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank her for her many years of service and to wish her all the very best in her retirement.

Attendance - Expectations

A few days off for illness or medical appointments are understandable, but increasing unauthorised absences can affect attendance and progress.

Our current whole school attendance is 94.3%, which is lower than we would like, so it's important we all work together to improve this.

- 95%+ – Excellent! Your child has the best chance of success.
- 90–95% – At risk of becoming persistently absent; we are monitoring closely.
- Below 90% – Persistently absent; monitored carefully by school staff and, if needed, our KCC attendance officer.

Thank you for supporting your child's attendance and helping them make the most of their time at school.

Online Safety Reminder

We kindly ask all parents and carers to avoid asking other children for their gaming or online account details. If you need to connect or share games, please contact the child's own parents or carers directly. This helps us keep all children safe online and ensures clear communication between families. Thank you for your support in keeping our community safe and respectful.

A Message from Rosie – Our School Wellbeing Dog!

Hello everyone, it's Rosie the Wellbeing Dog! 🐕

I just wanted to pop my paws on the keyboard and wish you all a very merry Christmas!

I have loved seeing your smiley faces this term, getting gentle strokes, and wagging my tail at you all (I've done a LOT of wagging!). You have all been so kind and calm around me—thank you!

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas holiday full of fun, cosy cuddles, and maybe a few tasty treats (I'm hoping for a special dog biscuit or two! 🍪).

Have a lovely break, stay safe, and I can't wait to see you again in the New Year for more tail-wags and friendly visits.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Love,

Rosie 🐾

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

- School uniform should be worn smartly and in full every day
- Please ensure children have the correct footwear
- Jumpers/cardigans should be clearly named
- Long hair should be tied back
- PE kits must be worn on the correct days
- All clothing and equipment should be **labelled to avoid lost items**

Last Year's Year 6 Leavers' Present



You may have noticed a new bench in the playground. Thank you to the 2025 year 6 leavers for their generous gift of a new composite friendship bench. This is a great new addition to the playground and already being well used by the children.

Community - Message from Mkwala School regarding the Solar Lights

"Greetings of the day, our dear friends at Crockham Hill. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for enabling us to have lighting for studying at night.

Yesterday, the results for the Standard Seven exams were released – and we are thrilled to share that 61 out of 64 children performed exceptionally well and will be progressing to secondary school."

School Fair – Thank You!

A huge thank you to all our families for your generous donations and fantastic support at this year's School Fair. We were delighted to see so many of you there helping, joining in and creating such a wonderful community atmosphere. Your contributions, whether through donating items, giving time, or simply coming along, made a real difference, and we are very grateful. We are thrilled to share that the fair raised £2,708.46, which will go towards enriching the outdoor environment for our children. Thank you for helping make the event such a success!

Sporting Events & Trips – This Term's Highlights

This term has been filled with exciting sporting events and memorable learning experiences. Our football and tag rugby teams represented the school brilliantly, showing teamwork and determination at every match. Children also took part in a friendly chess competition, developing strategy, focus and confidence. Beyond sport, pupils enjoyed a rich cultural experience with a Gamelan music workshop and were inspired by hands-on exploration during our visit to the Science Museum. Classes also travelled to Edenbridge for a local fieldwork study, building understanding of geography and our community. To end the term with kindness and connection, our choir sang for residents at Edenbridge Manor Care Home, sharing festive cheer and brightening everyone's day.

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

Mrs Higgs