



Newsletter

Friday 14 February 2025

Staffing Update

At the end of the half term, we say goodbye to several members of staff who are going on to new adventures. Leaving us are **Mrs Hannah Maw, Mrs Hayley Moulds and Mrs Amy-Ruth Kane**. I know you will join me in thanking them for their contribution to Crown Wood and to wish them all the best in what comes next.

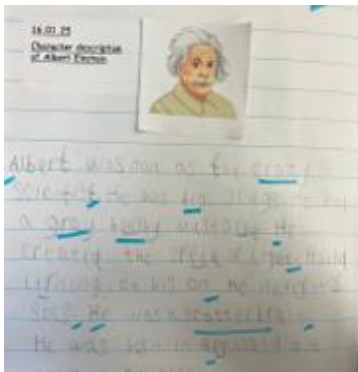


Mrs Laurie da Silva has returned from maternity leave and will be teaching in the Nursery and we are recruiting for the other posts.

As you will be aware, **Mrs Thomas** has undergone another operation and will be out of school recovering for most of March. In addition, **Mrs Brown** is due to go on maternity leave around Easter. We are in the process of recruiting a teacher to cover Mrs Brown's absence during the Summer Term and we expect to be able to inform parents of the arrangements shortly after the half term.

Year 1 Writing

Year 1 have been learning about Albert Einstein. They have absolutely loved researching him and writing character descriptions about him in English. We also made our own mini 'Einstein' models.



2DT in the Forest

2DT have been thoroughly enjoying their Forest school sessions with Mr B where they have been exploring and taking part in a variety of activities. The children have been enhancing their outdoor skills in using flint and steel, clay sculpting and working as a team.



Year 5 Cicero Cup First Time Success

On the 5th of February 2025, 12 lucky Year 5 pupils at Crown Wood Primary School were chosen to enter The Cicero Cup



(The national Primary schools debating championships for Years 4-6). Two days before, we planned our prompted debates as a team of six. The next day, the six children who were doing the prompted debates were all working hard to perfect their speeches. Then it was the day the children had all been waiting for, THE DEBATE... It was on a zoom call!

Crown Wood put two teams forward, a red team and a blue team. The three children from the red team debated the motion "To shut down zoos" and the blue team debated the motion "not letting cars in city centres". Then we had a snack break before planning the impromptu debate (not known before hand). The red team debated the motion "everyone should have pets" and the blue team debated the motion "under 12 years old should have phones". We all felt nervous at first but then when we got the debate over with, we felt very happy and we all wanted to do it again.

After that, the children were fascinated on the feedback and Crown Wood Red came 3rd and narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-finals. We learnt so much, it was a great experience and we hope that in the future we have amazing oracy skills for whenever we need to use them.

Tara, Callie, Sienna

Year 1 Art

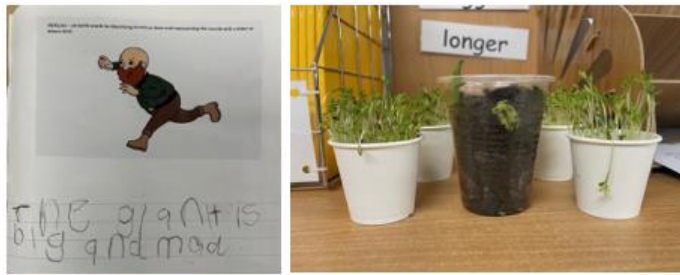
As part of our IPC unit on 'People of the Past' we have learned about comparing and contrasting the work of



famous artists and how to paint a scene in the style of a famous artist. As part of this we researched artists from the past. We looked at Lowry and created a landscape of the school in the style of Lowry.

Reception

This half term in Reception we have delved into the wonderful world of Fairy Tales! We had a surprise visit from Cinderella who told us her story, sang some songs with us and answered our questions. Next, was Jack and the Beanstalk. We grew some cress and beans, thinking about what they would need to grow. We did some writing



describing the giant and retelling the story. For Chinese New Year we listened to the story and had fun working out what year we were born in. We have tasted some yummy Chinese food and created some snakes and lanterns. Finally, we went to Aladdin's cave of wonders! Comparing two different stories and using our imaginations to create our very own cave sharing ideas and working collaboratively in small groups.

Year 4

As part of our PSHE Jigsaw topic on Dreams and Goals, Year



4 children had to work in teams to create an entry for a 'Funniest Potato Person Competition'.

The children really enjoyed designing and creating their characters, thinking about its name and any special skill their potato person might have. Teamwork and cooperation were key in order for the groups to succeed and they had a great time being very creative as well.

Forest School Update

The Council and Trust are currently working to incorporate the additional piece of woodland into the school's lease. This also needs to be agreed by the



Education and Schools Funding Agency (ESFA), but should be a formality. We are hoping that the

legal work will be concluded around Easter at the latest and we will be able to start work to ensure the woodland is safe for the children to use, including erecting a new boundary fence. Either way, it is unlikely we will have use the of woodland until Autumn 2025.

A Message from our Chair of Governors

With great pleasure and a sense of duty, I introduce myself as the Chair of Governors for Crown Wood and Sandy Lane Primary Schools.



As the Chair of Governors, my role is to ensure that our schools strive for the highest standards in education, welfare, and development for all our students. With the dedicated team of governors, I am committed to supporting the Headteacher and all the staff in creating a nurturing and stimulating environment that fosters academic achievement, personal growth, and social responsibility.

Our schools are built on strong values, community involvement, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. We are proud of the diverse, inclusive, and welcoming atmosphere that defines our school community. Communication between the school and parents is a cornerstone of our success. Working together can provide the best possible educational experience for your children. I encourage you to engage with the school, participate in events, and share your thoughts and suggestions.

Governors will be available at key school events, including parent evenings. Please feel free to reach out to me or any governing body member if you have any questions. We are here to listen and ensure your child's educational journey is as enriching and fulfilling as possible.

Having taken over as the chair for this academic year, it has been a pleasure to get to grips with my new role. I intend to ensure that at the end of each term, you receive from the Governors an end-of-term report on our progress and support for the schools.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in our schools. Together, we can achieve great things and help our children flourish.

The details of the current Governing Body can be found on the school website [here](#).

Warm regards,

Gerry Barber
Chair of Governors

Reindeer Run

We raised an incredible **£4,614.83** for Thames Hospice with our Reindeer Run in December.

Thames hospice

This is a fantastic effort from children, parents and staff and we thank everyone for their generosity in supporting this important charity. It was great to see the children participate with such enthusiasm too!

Year 6 – RYG



On Sunday 12 January, Year 6 set off on their residential to Rhos y Gwaliau. They took part in many exciting activities: Night walk, Rock climbing, Via ferrata, Mine exploration, Mountain climbing, Canoeing, Gorge walking, Zipline and an unaccompanied walk. Half of the people who went stayed in the centre and the other half stayed in the house. The centre consisted of several nice rooms where the people staying there would sleep and spend their free time. The children stayed in dormitories with bunk beds. In some dormitories, there were triple bunks. All of the students ate in the dining room in the main centre. They served meals like curry, roast dinner and bangers and mash. They would serve a soup before meals and a dessert afterward. There were lots of fun evening activities like the egg drop, movie night, the Lego challenge and the disco on the final night.

By Freya, Katherine and Aria

Rabbi Visit

As part of our Religious Education (RE) curriculum, we were delighted to welcome Rabbi Zvi to our school this week. The visit was a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about Jewish traditions and culture in an engaging and interactive way. Rabbi Zvi captivated the students with fascinating stories from Jewish history and teachings. The children were particularly enthusiastic about dressing up in traditional Jewish attire, including the kippa (a small cap) and the tallit (a prayer shawl). This hands-on experience allowed them to gain a deeper understanding of the significance of these garments in Jewish worship. The highlight of the visit was undoubtedly the blowing of the shofar, a ram's horn traditionally used in Jewish religious ceremonies. The children were thrilled by the powerful sound of the shofar and were eager to learn more about its role in Jewish rituals. Overall, the visit from Rabbi Zvi was a memorable and enriching experience for our students, enhancing their understanding of different cultures and religions.



Year 5 – Gurdwara Visit



On Tuesday 28 January, Year 5 travelled to the Gurdwara in Slough to study how Sikh people worship.

We were warmly welcomed by the

volunteers from the Gurdwara, who lead us through three lessons about Sikh's beliefs. We were offered Langar – a meal offered to anyone who attends the Gurdwara - and we sat together to eat. We all thoroughly enjoyed the day and thank the people at the Gurdwara for allowing us to visit.



Year 2 – Wider Curriculum

In Year 2 we have been studying 'People from the Past'.



One of the artists we looked into was Pablo Picasso and how he used cubism in his abstract art. We then created our own self-portraits in the style of Picasso - and what masterpieces we created!

In English we wrote a recount for a trip to the moon from our perspective as a tourist - hugging the story of 'Man on the Moon' by Simon Bartram. We used lots of commas in lists, expanded nouns and brave vocabulary choices to improve our writing. To celebrate our success, we created some artwork of a rocket heading for the moon!



Year 3

This term, Year 3 have been botanists and learning all about plants and how they grow. They have looked at plants that grow near where we live; how to grow healthy plants; plant life cycles and seed dispersal; different types of soil; the different parts of plants and their functions and the interdependence between plants and other living things. The children particularly enjoyed the practical work they did.



More Year 2 - Brickies

Last term in KS1 the IPC topic was 'Buildings'. The children learned all about the different structures we see in towns and cities around the world. To end the unit, Year 1 and 2 had an exit point with a 'Brickies' workshop where the children designed and made their own buildings out of Lego. The photo shows some of the Year 2 buildings that were designed and built.



Mental Health Week

Students had a lovely time celebrating Student Mental Health Week. Everyone had the opportunity to discuss coping strategies for managing various emotions in Talk Tuesday and enjoyed engaging activities from the Place2Be resources. Assemblies also helped students to recognise and express their feelings more effectively. A



particularly inspiring quote shared throughout the week reminded us all: **“Promise me you’ll always remember you’re braver than you believe and**

stronger than you seem and smarter than you think.” — **Christopher Robin.** This week served as a vital reminder of the importance of mental health and the support systems we build together within our school community.

Dates for Your Diary:

24 FEB 25	School re-opens
24 FEB 25	Year R Living Eggs
25-27 MAR 25	NCMP Screening (Year R)
05 MAR 25	SEND Coffee & Catch-up (9.00am)
06 MAR 25	World Book Day
07 MAR 25	PINS Engagement Meeting (8.45am)
10 MAR 25	Governing Body Meeting (5.30pm)
17-21 MAR 25	Neurodiversity Celebration Week
04 APR 25	Last Day of Spring Term (3.15pm)
21 APR 25	Easter Monday (Bank Holiday)
22 APR 25	School Re-opens for Summer 1
23 APR 25	St. George’s Day*
23 April 25	Parent Consultations (FtF)
24 April 25	Parent Consultations (Virtual)
05 May 25	Bank Holiday
12 May 25	KS2 SATs Week

**Cub, Brownie etc uniforms may be worn.*

We use MCAS as our primary means of communicating with parents. We also post news and photos on the school website.



Dare to DREAM

Determination – Responsibility – Everyone Together – Aspiration & Achievement – Mutual Respect

