



Newsletter

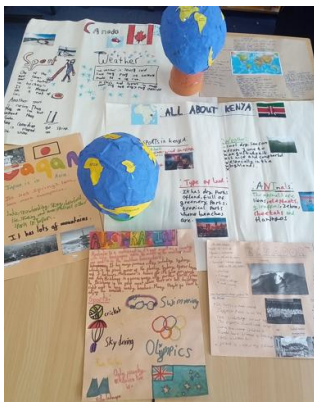
Wednesday 23 July 2025

Staffing Update

We say a very fond farewell to **Mrs Sheilagh Watson**, who is retiring after a long a career in education. She tells me that her intention is to visit every county in England during her retirement! I know you will join me in thanking her for her service and wishing her all the best in her adventures. We also say goodbye to **Miss Alex Harris** and **Miss Huda Zain al Abdin** who are going on to new roles, **Miss Alex Stocker**, who is relocating and to **Mr Will Halley**, who will be training to be a teacher. **Miss Sabah Butt** will be leaving her Teaching Assistant post at the end of the year but will be remaining at Crown Wood as a trainee teacher. We wish them the best of luck. We are pleased to welcome **Miss Niamh Farrell** and **Miss Lily-Rose Bennett** as teachers and **Mrs Jade Peppiatt** as a Teaching Assistant. They will make great additions to the team, and I know you will give them a very warm welcome.



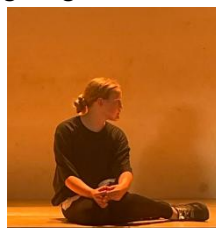
Year 4



As part of our 'Time and Place, Earth and Space' Wider Curriculum Topic, Year 4 have been learning about the geographical features of different countries around the world and how the temperature, terrain and seasons can affect the different sports that can be played. We also learnt about time zones, and used maps to help us understand the lines of latitude and longitude. As part of our entry point, we all got very messy making papier mâché globes, but we had a lot of fun doing so!

Year 6

Year 6 dazzled audiences this week with their spectacular performance of Cinderella and Rockerfella. From crafting imaginative props to mastering catchy songs and confidently delivering their lines, every child played a part in bringing the production to life. Some pupils even took charge behind the scenes, operating lighting and sound with impressive professionalism. Performing to both their peers and proud families, Year 6 truly shone on stage, leaving everyone with smiles and a standing ovation to remember.



Core 10 & Instructional Coaching

During the year, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) has been considering how we can further improve the quality of teaching at Crown Wood and ensure learning is disruption free. As part of this work, **Mr Strudley**, **Mrs Soane** and **Miss Leadbeatter** have had the opportunity to visit and learn from 'outstanding' schools in Plymouth and Croydon. The outcome of this work has been the strengthening of our professional development offer and the introduction, from September, of instructional coaching. This will start with teachers and then be deployed to all classroom staff over the next 12-18 months. This work will be led by **Miss Leadbeatter** and **Mrs Soane** in their role as Assistant Headteachers. We will be working with a company called



CORE 10



BUILD RELATIONSHIPS Why: Builds a sense of belonging and trust. How: Greet children warmly at the door; show an interest in them.	KNEE-TO-KNEE Why: Ensures purposeful learning discussions and signals their value. How: Children face their partner and sit 'knee-to-knee'. They use class oracy rules to guide their talk.
STAR Why: Learning time is maximised. How: Sit up, Track, Answer questions in full sentences, Respect others.	LIVE MODELLING Why: Provides a clear roadmap for learning. How: Model 'live' using a flipchart, interactive board or visualiser. Use metacognitive talk.
POSITIVE FRAMING Why: Establish and maintain high expectations. How: Use praise and positive reinforcement. Narrate the desired behaviour.	SMALL STEPS Why: Guides children to independently work on a task; reduces cognitive load. How: I do, we do, you do.
SIGNAL-PAUSE-INSIST Why: Ensure calm, slick transitions. How: Palm out (stop), "3-2-1", pause, "thank you", ready to learn.	ASK QUESTIONS Why: Achieve a high ratio of participation and thinking. How: 'Think, pair, share'; 'pose-pause-pounce-bounce'; cold calling; process questions; use mini-whiteboards to check.
QUIET & LISTENING Why: Respect the learning of others. How: Quiet, orderly classrooms and corridors; silence when others are talking.	ADAPTIVE TEACHING Why: Children receive tailored support to achieve high expectations. How: Plan for potential barriers to learning and make 'in the moment' adaptations based on formative assessment.

Steplab to support us and training will take place during the first part of the Autumn term for the coaches and wider staff.

Secondly, we have identified 10 'core' areas from the Trust's Teaching & Learning Principles which we will ensure (a) are consistently implemented across the school and (b) staff are coached to be highly effective in delivering them. Training will be given to all staff, starting with the September INSET, and the 'Core 10' will be the focus for the instructional coaching above too.

Athletics Shield & House Cup

On Thursday 17 July, we held our annual Sports Day. It was fantastic to see so many parents, carers and other family members with us to cheer them on. We issued around 1,200 wristbands for the event, which is a fantastic show of support! The children participated fantastically and showed great sportsmanship – and **'Dared to DREAM'** - in all activities.

A massive thank you to everyone who made this year's sports day a success and those who came to support (despite the rain in the afternoon!). We especially thank Mr Tillman, Miss Lewis, Mrs Johnson and all those who volunteered to serve refreshments.

Oak House were the eventual winners of the Athletics Shield in a close competition. In the end they won by just 18 points, beating Beech into second place! Elm and Ash finished tied on 522 points each. You can see Mr Strudley's message here: <https://youtu.be/ZggXvVTki2c>.

Congratulations are also due to **Oak House**, who have won the 2025 House Cup, which is competed for throughout the year, by 322 points.

OAK: 15,055
ASH: 14,696
ELM: 14,349
BEECH: 14,733

The children earn 'house points' through academic and sporting house matches and for demonstrating the school's values, good learning behaviours and acts of kindness. Well done to every child who earned a house point this year!

Finally, we would like to thank our Year 6 House Captains and Year 5 Vice-Captains. They have worked hard throughout the year. The vice-captains take on the captaincy in September and new vice-captains will then be elected.

Reception

This half term, our topic has been all about Minibeasts with a fully immersive Minibeast Café in our role play area, wacky and webby creative activities and challenging minibeast themed fine motor activities. We all enjoyed our trip to Studley Grange where the children had the opportunity to ask lots of curious questions about the minibeasts on show and even got to hold some. We also learnt a lot about the



butterflies and the different species of butterflies and moths that they look after there. We also enjoyed seeing and holding some of the small animals, particularly the baby goats and big fluffy rabbits. In cooking enrichment, we have made a variety of minibeast inspired treats, including cheese and tomato snail pinwheels, spider cakes and bee biscuits. As we came to the end of the topic, we celebrated with our Ugly Bug ball where we all dressed up as our favourite bugs and finished a fantastic year in Reception with our graduation ceremony, as the children progress up to Key Stage 1.



Interim Results 2024-25

We are very pleased with the children's attitude to learning during the year. They have worked hard and made good progress. Our key results are shown below. Please note these are interim and will be finalised in the Autumn Term.

Reception	Expected+
Communication & Language	96%
Personal, Social & Emotional	97%
Physical Development	98%
Number	91%
Numerical Patterns	91%
Word Reading	87%
Comprehension	93%
Writing	82%
Good Level of Development (GLD)	82%

Phonics Check	Pass
End of Year 1	91%
End of Year 2	92%

Multiplication Tables Check	25/25	Average
End of Year 4	38%	20.6

Year 2	Expected+	Above
Reading	74%	28%
Writing	64%	7%
Mathematics	77%	20%
RWM Combined	59%	5%

Year 6	Expected+	Above
Reading	74%	38%
Writing	76%	8%
Mathematics	72%	24%
RWM Combined	61%	8%

Overall, we are pleased with our results which are in-line with or above national averages in most areas. Reception and Phonics continue to be strong and are in the top 10% for EYFS and 20% for phonics nationally.

We are now in the process of reviewing our performance and School Improvement Plan (SIP) and this will inform our objectives and priorities for 2025-26.

Year 5

Year 5 have really been enjoying their recent 'Art in the Environment' topic. We have drawn our own window art, inspired by the work of Friedensreich Hundertwasser, have designed movie posters for our favourite class novels and we have also planned murals. We have enjoyed working in pen, pencil, oil pastel, watercolour and collage. In addition, all 3 classes have enjoyed reading our latest class novel - Tyger by SF Said.



Allotment

You may have seen the vegetable beds as you come onto the site across the field. We have had successful crops of potatoes, rainbow chard (a first for the Crown Wood allotment) and spinach this year.

In addition, following a failure in recent years, we have finally managed to grow both yellow and green courgettes successfully. The children have had an opportunity to try the vegetables as part of the lunch offering. We are hoping for our first ever crop of runner beans and then we will be trying to grow some winter vegetables. Unfortunately, our cabbage seedlings suffered in the hot weather, but we will try again! The children from the gardening club have really enjoyed watering, digging, sowing, weeding and harvesting vegetables, as well as doing gardening jobs in the Forest.



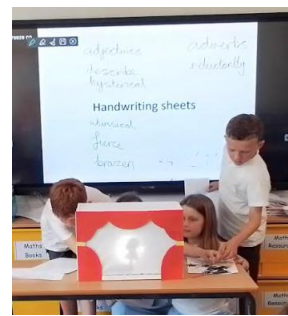
Year 1

Year One had a fabulous day exploring the Look Out, with the weather adding to the fun on the way home! Everyone had soggy socks! We investigated the Sound and Light room, learned about minibeasts during a workshop and bug hunt, and had great fun in the Water and Construction areas. We put the human body back together and saw a giant millipede too. Lots of pupils want to return soon; we learned a great deal and there was so much to do!



Year 3

Recently, Year 3 has been designing some amazing shadow puppets! They have listened to myths from various cultures and acted these out to see how certain characters move and behave. With this knowledge, we investigated the style of these puppets and realised what stories we would want to tell. Using their sketches these were transformed into brilliant puppets.



Attendance 2024-25

Our overall attendance for the 2024-25 academic year was 95.7%, which is an improvement on last year and better than the national average. However, this still means that, on average, children miss school 8 days a year. Persistent Absence (PA) – when a child’s attendance is lower than 90% - is 9.6%, which is also better than last year. However, that still means around 60 children are missing 19-20 days of school a year. It is good to be on an upward trend, but our attendance continues to be lower than it was pre-pandemic.



Year 2

Year 2 have had an exceptionally busy year this year with inhouse visitors as well as an unforgettable trip to The Look Out Science Centre. The Roots to Food team got the children



dressed up as little Chefs to cook their own chicken noodle dish, which they then got to enjoy with their teammates. We researched the styles of many artists in our Wider Curriculum topics such as Freda Kahlo, Monet, Van Gogh and Picasso, and then created our own artwork using different media. For World Book Day we dressed up as characters from our favourite books with teachers joining in too as very happy / unhappy crayons from ‘The Crayons that Quit’ to tie in with our writing journey. We had a visit from a local beekeeper which then led to the children creating their own habitats. It has been an amazing year enjoyed by all and we can’t wait to see what Year 3 holds.



GLT Awards

We are delighted that **Mrs Caroline Winchcombe** and **Mr Barrie West** were honoured at the inaugural GLT Awards in Reading. The awards were held to celebrate the work of over 3,700 Trust employees. Mrs Winchcombe won in the Collaboration category for the work she’s done to foster partnerships with external organisations like MHST and PINS, between schools and with parents, while Mr West won in the Colleague’s Choice category for his dedication to ensuring our school is always at its best, his kindness and ‘can do’ attitude. We are very proud of them both - they have certainly demonstrated our school values and **‘Dared to Dream’!**



We are also proud of our choir who performed at the awards ceremony.



International Oratory Festival

This year, we've been concentrating on expanding our oracy provision across Key Stage 2, ensuring that every child can perform in some capacity each year. Through this, we're helping pupils develop vital speaking and listening skills that will support them throughout their education and beyond. One exciting highlight has been our participation in the Noisy Classrooms International Oratory Festival 2025. Run by a respected oracy expert and author, this global competition drew entries from across the world, including Hong Kong, Korea, and Poland.



Our pupils were challenged to write and perform their own original poems, each based on an animal of their choice. The creativity, effort, and enthusiasm they brought to the task was truly inspiring, as was the dedication shown by the staff supporting them. We're proud to announce that Crown Wood pupils won:

- 🥇 1 Gold Award
- 🥈 1 Silver Award
- 🥉 2 Bronze Awards

Pupil Survey Results



171 randomly selected children in Years 1 – 6, responded to the survey over a 2-week period. This represents 26% of the school population. 32.1% of the respondents were in Year 1 & 2, 33.4% were in Years 3 & 4 and 34.5% were in Year 5 & 6. There are some

very encouraging numbers in the survey, with improvements from 2024 in some areas, including:

- Teachers help me do my best (77.2%)
- The behaviour of other pupils at break and lunchtime is good (58.4%, up from last year)
- Bullying doesn't happen or it does, and we resolve it effectively (97.1%)
- I feel safe when I am in school (87.7%)
- I would recommend this school to a friend (81.9%)

There are also a few areas we need to keep an eye on:

- I enjoy school (64.3%, down from 2024)
- I enjoy learning at school (72.5%, but down from 2024)
- There is an adult I can talk to if something is worrying me (90.6%, but down from 2024)
- The behaviour of other pupils in my lessons is good (53.1%, down from 2024)
- The behaviour of other pupils around the school is good (58.5%, down from 2024)

The results of the survey and other 'pupil voice' activities have very much driven our decision making about introducing some of the 'Core 10' above.

You can see the full survey results [here](#).

Accessing the CAMHS Mental Health Support Team During the Summer

Please remember, if your child is experiencing mental health difficulties over the summer break, support is still available. Families can continue to access help through the CAMHS Getting Help Team, who are available throughout the holidays. For more information or to make a referral, please see below:

@ CAMHSGettingHelpEast@berkshire.nhs.uk

☎ 0300 247 3002 (Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm)

📍 CAMHS Getting Help East Service, Fir Tree House, Upton Hospital Albert Street, Slough, SL1 2BJ

If your child requires Urgent out of hours mental health support, please call our Urgent Helpline 0300 247 0000. This phone line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Your child should be taken to A&E (or call for an ambulance) if they require urgent medical attention that is life-threatening such as:

- Recent overdose (medication, harmful liquids etc)
- Significant cuts (deep cut(s) and/or bleeding profusely)
- Burns that are blistering/red
- Loss of consciousness

Please remember that 999 is for life-threatening medical emergencies only. This is when someone is seriously ill or injured and their life is at risk. Other sources of support available are ChildLine on 0800 1111, Samaritans on 116 123

Parent Survey Results



139 parents, representing 169 children, responded to the survey over a 21-day period. This represents 26% of the school population. This is a similar response rate to 2024.

There was a good spread of responses across the school with the highest percentage in Reception and Year 3 and the lowest in Year 5.

The responses were similar to last year and there has been an increase in a couple of places, which is pleasing. Overall, the results show most parents trust us, value what we do and think we are doing a good job. Thank you for your support! Some of the highlights were:

- My child typically feels happy and safe at school (91.1%)
- My child does well at this school (91.4%)
- My child is well taught at this school (91.4%)
- The school supports my child's wider personal development (88.2%)
- I receive useful information from the school about how well my child is doing (89.2%)
- This school makes me aware of what my child is learning (95.0%)
- This school is well led and managed (90.6%)
- I would recommend Crown Wood Primary School to another parent (90%)

However, we know there are areas that we can still do better in and appreciate the constructive comments that some parents made. These are all things we will actively look at during the next academic year.

You can see the full survey results [here](#).

Happy Holidays!

From all the staff, we wish you a very happy break. We hope you enjoy the rest, and all have lots of fun in the sunshine!



Children – please come back in September safe, well and ready to learn! We look forward to seeing you refreshed

and ready for an exciting Autumn term.

We start back on Tuesday 2 September 2025. School starts at 8.45am and we open the doors at 8.35am.

Keep an eye out for news and updates from CWP No-Reply (no-reply@crowwoodprimary.co.uk) and the school website and our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Dates for Your Diary:

01 SEP 25	INSET Day (School Closed)
02 SEP 25	School Re-opens
03-04 SEP 25	Parent Drop Ins (3.15 – 4.30pm)
w/b 08 SEP 25	Year 4 Residential Meeting (TBC)
19 SEP 25	Individual & Sibling Photos
29 SEP 25	Year 4 Residential
30 SEP 25	Year R Stay & Play
02 OCT 25	Year R Stay & Play
07-08 OCT 25	Mission Aviation Fellowship Visit
08 OCT 25	Flu Immunisations
10 OCT 25	Year 1 Harvest Festival Assembly
16 OCT 25	School Council Elections
17 OCT 25	Show Racism the Red Card
20 OCT 25	Half Term
03 NOV 25	School Re-opens for Autumn 2

**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

