



Newsletter

Friday 23 May 2025

Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards

Crown Wood Primary School has been awarded the Silver Award in the 'School of the Year' category at the 2025 Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards, held on Friday 25th April. The award recognises the school's, unwavering commitment to improvement and its dedication to creating a nurturing, inclusive environment for all pupils. Judges said, "Crown Wood Primary School has been recognised for its steadfast commitment to improvement. The staff go above and beyond to create a caring and engaging environment for all students, including those with special educational needs and disabilities. Their dedication extends beyond education, offering exceptional support to families going through challenging times. Crown Wood's drive for excellence makes it a truly outstanding school."



The award includes a £500 prize, which will be used to upgrade the North playground and create a mindfulness and well-being trail to enhance the purpose of daily walks for pupils. Grant Strudley, Headteacher, Caroline Winchcombe, SENDCO, and Sophie Leadbeater, Assistant Headteacher attended the event to represent the school and celebrate its success.



"The award is a wonderful reflection of the school's reputation," said Mr Strudley. "And it's down to all that the team does each and every day. Well done, team Crown Wood!"

PINS Project Feedback

We are proud to be part of the PINS pilot in Bracknell Forest, which is seeking to improve the experience of our neurodiverse pupils.



At the last session we gave feedback on the work we've done in response to parent suggestions. This included using visual timetables to prepare and support children when they go on school trips and an audit of information going out to parents to ensure it isn't overwhelming. The parents who attended the meeting were positive about the updates and their experience of SEND at Crown Wood.

Year 6 Celebrate the End of SATs



It has been a busy half-term for the children in Year 6! With SATs looming, everyone was working hard and during the week of the assessments, the children put in all their effort – we could not have been prouder of them. On Friday, we all enjoyed a Pizza Party - a very well-earned reward for the hard work and determination they had shown throughout the year. The pizza (which was delicious) was followed by ice lollies and dancing on the field. The sun was shining, and a wonderful day was enjoyed by all!

Year 3 Visit Didcot Railway Centre

On Wednesday 7 May, year 4 went to Didcot Railway Centre to learn about the history of trains as part of our 'All Aboard' wider curriculum topic. We took part in six different activities throughout the day including a ride on a steam train. We also learnt about Isambard Kingdom Brunel through role play and by using Lego as well as how train



signals changed over time. We loved our trip, it was incredibly exciting to see the Flying Scotsman and we all had a super time.

By Jessica H and Iris

Year 3 & 4 Poetry

On Monday 12th May, Year 3 and Year 4 children entered a poetry competition linked to our recent poetry workshop and ongoing Oracy work. Year 3 performed a poem by Judith Nicholl called 'Bluebottle', thinking about tone, pace and presentation. In addition to this, Year 4 also composed their own poems to perform! All the judges involved were very impressed in their presentational talk.



You can read the poem 'Bluebottle' here:

<https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/poem/bluebottle/>

Year 5 Science



Year 5 have really been enjoying their Bake It! topic in the Wider Curriculum. In Science, we've been learning about states of matter and irreversible / reversible changes. We've carried out experiments to do with the production of carbon dioxide by yeast (looking at a fair test) and the separation of flour and salt from water - getting the salt back out of solution was a real 'wow' moment! Next, we are going to make our own bread using different raising agents.

In 5JM, children have been celebrating their home cultures by bringing bread from their heritage - we've tasted Romanian placinta, Hong Kong egg puffs and Polish chalka. Mrs Moynihan would like to thank all the parents who have given up their time to make the delicious breads!



Reception News

We started this half term with a visit from Tremayne Distribution who brought in a range of their vehicles for the children to explore and ask questions about.



The tyres on some of the vehicles were bigger than some of the children! We have been Historians looking at old cars and planes and how they have changed over time. We then looked at designing our own cars and writing about its features. We have made buses and trains out of junk modelling and drawn different modes of transport using shapes. We have been scientists experimenting with items that sink and float in water. We have all loved the sunny weather and have enjoyed being outside especially in the water tray and mud kitchen.



News from the Allotment

You may have seen a change in the allotment beds... Thanks to the hard work of our caretakers, all four beds have been cleared and weeded and are now being planted. One bed contains potatoes which were left to chit in year 5 as part of their Roots, Shoots and Fruits learning. Another bed has runner beans, the third has spinach and the fourth has courgettes. Other vegetables will be sown throughout the summer term.



12 keen gardening club children will be planting, weeding and watering every Monday. Going forward, we are going to try planting autumn and winter vegetables this year, which we have not done before. This will start us on our journey towards the RHS Silver Award.

Year 1 Wider Curriculum



Year 1 have been learning all about habitats as part of their IPC topic 'Our Earth, Our Home'. We have learnt about living things and how plants, animals and people have a home or somewhere to live that we

call a habitat. During our topic we were lucky enough to have a visit from a local Beekeeper who taught us all about looking after bees. We then designed and made our own bee houses. We also had a visit from Tessa the pony. We learnt all about her habitat and what she needs to survive.



Nursery

This term Nursery have had their introduction to Forest School. They have loved exploring the Forest, playing in the Mud Kitchen and hunting for Bugs, amongst other things. They have had the opportunity to use clay to make crafts and have enjoyed searching for Mr B's 'Forest Friends' in the trees.



During our Animal Rescue topic we have been observing our own Caterpillars. They are

currently in their chrysalis' and the children are eagerly waiting for the Butterflies to emerge.

During our Farm week the children had the opportunity to meet Tess the Shetland Pony. We learnt that Tess is 1 Metre Tall and 11 years old. She loves running and eating grass for a treat.

This term we have also started Read Write Inc Phonics.

The children have been learning to read and write a different sound each week. They have been practising their oral blending and are becoming very good at using 'Fred Talk'.



North Playground to Get a Makeover

The North Playground is (weather permitting) being remarked over the half term. The new markings will include basketball, netball and football pitches for PE and break / lunch time activities and a new 'Mindfulness & Wellbeing Trail'.



The new trail will include 'movement break' style activities as well as opportunities for the children to stop and to be calm and 'in the moment'. The trail will be used during the day as well as at break and lunch times. We have used the £500 we won from the Pride of Bracknell Forest Awards, and we are grateful to Wellington College who have given us a grant towards this project also.

We will be looking to enhance the South Playground next year, including adding its own 'Mindfulness & Wellbeing Trail' with a link to the North Playground.

Forest School Update

We continue to wait for the lawyers at Bracknell Forest Council to draw up the lease for piece of woodland adjacent to our existing forest school. Once this has been done (hopefully in the next few weeks!) we are ready to start work to secure our new boundary and to make the area safe and ready for the children to use. However, due to environmental restrictions this work may not now happen until after the summer holidays. While it is incredibly frustrating for this still to be unresolved, we are now, at least, tantalisingly close to completion!



The dates for next year have been published on the school's website [here](#). Please note that we return on **Tuesday 2 September 2025** and that there will be a **2-week half term from Monday 20 October – Friday 31 October 2025** in the Autumn Term.

Term Dates for 2025-26

The dates for next year have been published on the school's website [here](#). Please note that we return on **Tuesday 2 September 2025** and that there will be a **2-week half term from Monday 20 October – Friday 31 October 2025** in the Autumn Term.

Last Day of Term

A reminder that we will finish at **1.00pm on Wednesday 23 July 2025**, the last day of the school year. School lunch will be available as usual.

Year 2 – Wider Curriculum

In Year 2, we have been looking at 'The Earth - Our Home Habitat' where we have spent a few weeks learning about a variety of habitats around the world. As one of our Design and Technology lessons we made our own habitats thinking carefully about what animals would live in their specific habitat. These children chose the rainforest as their habitat with the chosen animal of a monkey.



Weighted Lap Buddies

As we continue to improve our whole school approach to supporting pupils to be self-regulated learners we now have a pet shop full of weighted lap buddies. Weighted lap buddies support pupils by providing deep-pressure input, which can have a calming and regulating effect on sensory systems, leading to improved focus, attention, and reduced fidgeting. They also offer a sense of security and comfort, helping to manage anxiety and promote emotional well-being.



Dates for Your Diary:

23 MAY 25	Last day of Summer 1 (3.15pm)
02 JUN 25	School re-opens
03 JUN 25	Year 1 – Look Out Trip
06 JUN 25	Year 2 – Look Out Trip
09-13 JUN 25	Phonics Screening Check
09-10 JUN 25	Nursery Stay & Play (3.15pm)
10 JUN 25	Year 5 & 6 Athletics
17 JUN 25	Young Carers – Royal Ascot Trip
18-19 JUN 25	Year R – Studley Grange Trip
25 JUN 25	RYG 2026 Launch (9am & 2.15pm)
27 JUN 25	KS2 Junior Music Festival
30 JUN 25	Sports Day
02-03 JUL 25	Year 6 Transition
04 JUL 25	INSET Day (School Closed)
07-11 JUL 25	Transition Week
14-15 JUL 25	Year 6 Production (6pm)
16-17 JUL 25	Annual Reports Distributed
23 JUL 25	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (9.15am)
23 JUL 25	End of Term (1pm)
01 SEP 25	INSET Day (School Closed)
02 SEP 25	School re-opens (8.45am)

**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

