



Newsletter

Friday 13th February 2026

Staffing Update

As we approach the end of a busy term, I wanted to start by thanking you all for your welcome. It is a genuine privilege to introduce myself as the Interim Headteacher and to join such a vibrant, ambitious school community. My primary goal is to ensure that every child who walks through our doors feels safe, inspired, and empowered to reach their full potential. At Crown Wood, we aren't just focused on academic excellence; we ensure we Dare to Dream so that we foster the kindness, resilience and curiosity they need to thrive in an ever-changing world. We say farewell to Mr West as he embarks on a new adventure and we wish Mrs Wild the best of luck as she leaves to begin her maternity leave. Have a safe half term!



Year 2

In Year 2 we have been focusing on instruction writing about how to make a silly sandwich. The children used this as a retrieval task to showcase their prior knowledge and we built on this to write instructions for how to make a treasure map. This is linked to our Wider Curriculum topic 'Treasure Island' where the children have been looking at the history of pirates and the similarities and differences between our country and our contrasting country, Jamaica. The children then used their knowledge of the climate, flag and culture to design a new outfit for someone in Jamaica and wrote reasons for their choices.



Year 6



Year 6 had an unforgettable week on their residential trip to RYG in Wales, taking on mountain climbing, Via Ferrata, mine exploration, gorge walking, canoeing and even a sunny beach day. Throughout the adventure, the children strengthened their independence, resilience and teamwork, returning with new

skills and plenty of stories to share. The children who stayed behind enjoyed Science workshops, cooking and a trip to the Look Out.



Sporting Events

A team of 14 Year 5 & 6 children took part in an indoor athletics competition, competing against 30 other schools from across the region. The young athletes showed great determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the event, taking part in a range of running, jumping, and throwing events. Their hard work and commitment paid off as they achieved an impressive 6th place overall. Finishing in the top ten against strong competition was a fantastic result and a credit to the children's effort, enthusiasm, and support for one another.



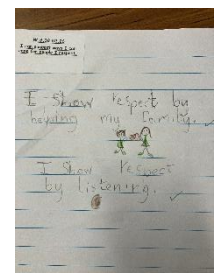
Year 4

As part of our Hopes and Dreams unit in PSHE, the children designed and created 'Potato People'. The task involved using a variety of materials to create a person that represented themselves. This task allowed the children to spend time sharing ideas with their peers and designing and creating their own potato person. They were able to apply skills of resilience and determination when things did not go to plan, showed how to work safely with a variety of materials and demonstrated courtesy and mutual respect to others when sharing compliments about the final potato people. The children showed lots of consideration when sharing feedback and they had lots of fun too!



Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about Muslims and the importance of showing respect for different beliefs and traditions. The children have enjoyed exploring how Muslims live, celebrate, and pray, and they have shown great curiosity, kindness, and understanding throughout their learning.



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 a class bean thinking about what they would need to grow. We completed some writing describing the giant and retelling the story. 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. Finally, 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.



Forest

It has been a wet, soggy and muddy start to Term 2 but that has not dampened the spirits of the children who have been attending Forest School (although the same cannot be said for some of their socks). Consequently, we have been spending lots of time learning how to stay warm, including how to use flint and steel tools to make fire and some shelter/den-building too. As part of the Big Garden Bird Watch, we kept track of the variety and number of birds that have visited us. Otherwise, it was business as usual with lots of arts and crafts inspired by what we find around us in the forest.



Nursery

Nursery classroom has been transformed into a land of "Once Upon a Time." We have been learning how to re-tell traditional tales using a variety of props and pictures. A highlight was creating our giant story map for *The Three Little Pigs*. This helped the children visualize the journey from the straw house to the brick house! We also spent time "stepping into the shoes" of different characters, discussing their choices and why the Big Bad Wolf might have been so grumpy. The children really enjoyed making Little Pig faces on rice crackers. They carefully placed different ingredients to make the features of a face. In maths, we read the story *Mouse Shapes*. Inspired by the book, the children used their imaginations to create their own shape mice. For our celebration topic, the children have loved learning about the traditions of Chinese New Year. The classroom was a sea of red and gold as we tasted noodles, performed a Dragon Dance and made our very own lanterns.



Winter Olympics

The kitchen team put on a special menu for the Winter Olympics. The team made ski slopes, the Olympic torch and put on a fabulous spread.



Year 3

In Year 3, children have been looking at 'Island Life'. The classes have studied different artists and recreated the art inspired by their favourite.



REMINDER

Please remember that **Monday 23rd February is an INSET DAY**. We welcome children back to school on Tuesday 24th February.



Year 5 Cicero Cup

This term, year 5 have all participated in two debating workshops allowing the children to build on their oracy skills at holding more formal debates with a chairperson, a timekeeper and some rules. Following on from these workshops, a debating team was chosen to participate in the Cicero Cup, a national debating competition for primary schools.

On Friday 23rd January, we welcomed the debating team from Yateley Manor School. Two debates were



held that the children had had a chance to pre-prepare for, followed by two debates that were given to the teams on the day. The year 5 team conducted themselves well throughout all four debates and enjoyed the challenge. They did not allow themselves to be intimidated by a team of slightly older children who had had more experience at debating. Unfortunately, we did not get selected to move through to the next stage of the competition, but our congratulations go to Sienna who



was awarded the certificate for being the best debater chosen by the judge. We look forward to putting our newfound debating skills

into practice in the classroom and wish Yateley Manor well in the next round of the cup.

Dates for Your Diary:

16-20 FEB 26	February half-term break
23 FEB 26	INSET Day (School Closed)
24 FEB 26	School re-opens
24 FEB 26	Year R Living Eggs
03-05 MAR 26	NCMP Screening (Year R)
05 MAR 26	SEND Coffee & Catch-up (9.00am)
05 MAR 26	World Book Day
16 MAR 26	Governing Body Meeting (5.30pm)
17 MAR 26	St. Patrick's Day*
17 MAR 26	Alpaca visits (am only)
18 MAR 26	Alpaca visits (am only)
18 MAR 26	Parent Consultations (Face to Face)
19 MAR 26	Parent Consultations (Virtual)
20 MAR 26	Red Nose Day
27 MAR 26	Last Day of Spring Term (3.15pm)
13 APR 26	School Re-opens for Summer 1
23 APR 26	St. George's Day*
4 MAY 26	Bank Holiday
11 MAY 26	KS2 SATs Week
18 MAY 26	Yr 2 trip to Wisley
19 MAY 26	Yr 1 trip to Wisley
20 MAY 26	Yr 6 leavers and class photos
22 MAY 26	Inset Day
25-29 MAY 26	May half-term break
1 JUNE 26	School re-opens

*Cub, Brownie etc uniforms may be worn.

We use Bromcom / MCAS as our primary means of communicating with parents. We will also post news on our website, Instagram & Facebook pages.



Dare to DREAM

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

