



# Crown Wood Newsletter

As we come to the close of the academic year, I wanted to thank you all for being so welcoming over the past 6 months. Joining Crown Wood Primary has been the best decision I've made! To that end, I wanted to share more about me as we move into the 2026 -2027 academic year so that you have a better idea about who I am but, more importantly, my vision for moving the school forward.

My name is Kathryn Ralley (although, I prefer Kath). I previously worked in two Gloucester schools who became part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust. During that time, I was the Assistant Headteacher of Waterwells Primary Academy. My role then changed to work and support with the Primary School Improvement Team for maths where I visited several of the schools across GLT to guide the leaders of maths. I believe in a teaching for mastery approach which led me to become a Primary Mastery Maths Specialist supporting schools across Gloucestershire and Worcestershire. This is something I am hoping to continue with Crown Wood with the local maths hub. I am passionate about learning, and I am always trying to improve my own knowledge around teaching and learning so that we provide the best opportunities for our children. I am an accredited professional development lead and school development lead which allows me to map out strategically for the team. I am proud to develop a curriculum that ensures children recognise themselves in the subjects we teach.

Over the coming year, you will notice a shift in our curriculum to support our children to know more and remember more. Each year group will share with you the focus at the start of each term.

A little bit about me:

I am married to Tim and have two children: Hayley and Jamie. I served in the British Army (Royal Corp of Signals) for 8 years when I left school. This is where I meet Tim who served for 24 years. I am proud of my military roots, and my son now serves in the RAF as an aircraft technician on chinooks. I have been fortunate to live in many places around the world: mostly Germany. My home is currently in Gloucester, and I commute to Bracknell each week. Our plan is to move to Bracknell as soon as we can; I am sure you can appreciate that selling a house is never straight forward! I am a keen runner, although admittedly this has dropped a little since moving to Bracknell.

I look forward to seeing more of you as we come to the end of the year and begin our journey in September together. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Ralley





# Staffing Update

As we approach the end of another fantastic term, we find ourselves preparing to say goodbye to some of our wonderful staff members, while also looking forward to welcoming new faces to our school family.

These transitions are a natural part of a school's journey, but it is always bittersweet to say goodbye to educators who have given so much to our children.

## Saying a Fond Farewell

We want to extend our deepest gratitude and warmest wishes to the staff members who will be leaving us this term:

**Miss Leadbeatter:** As our fantastic Assistant Head, Miss Leadbeatter has been an absolute pillar of our school community. Her leadership, dedication, and care have left an indelible mark on both our students and staff. We cannot thank her enough for everything she has done, and we wish her the absolute best in her next chapter.

**Mrs Soane:** We say a fond goodbye to Mrs Soane as she moves on to exciting new ventures. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to our pupils.

**Mrs Bosch & Mrs Jasper:** Both are moving on to take up exciting new opportunities at new schools. We are incredibly grateful for the energy and passion they have brought to their classrooms, and we know their new schools are very lucky to have them.

**Mr Tillman:** Mr Tillman is embarking on a new career path outside of teaching. We thank him for his dedication to our school and wish him every success in his exciting new professional journey.

**Mrs Brown:** Mrs Brown is leaving us to focus on looking after her child. We wish her and her family the very best during this incredibly special time.

**Miss Freeman and Miss Wilkins:** They are both taking on new roles in a different nursery setting. We wish them luck.

**Miss Henden and Miss Cox:** Miss Henden and Miss Cox are leaving to spend more time with their families.

**Mr Pemberton:** Mr Pemberton is leaving us to train to become a teacher.

Please join us in thanking all of these staff members for their hard work, care, and dedication to our children. They will be greatly missed, and they leave with our very best wishes for the future.

## A Warm Welcome to Our New Staff

Looking ahead, we are absolutely thrilled to welcome a wonderful cohort of talented new staff members to our team. We know you will join us in making them feel incredibly welcome when they join us:

**Miss Wellburn:** Yew Class Teacher

**Miss Smith:** Aspen Class Teacher

**Mrs Barham:** Cedar Class Teacher

**Miss Harris, Miss Harvey, Miss Wood, Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Raja** are joining us as TAs across the school.

We are excited about the fresh energy, ideas, and expertise they will bring to our classrooms, and we look forward to introducing them to you and the children in the new term!



## Nursery

What a fantastic final summer term we have had in Nursery!

In our topic on 'Animals,' we loved learning all about our favourite pets and discovering how to feed, groom, and look after them. We also became mini-scientists exploring the world of "minibeasts." The absolute highlight was hosting our very own tiny guests—watching our caterpillars grow, form their chrysalises, and finally emerge as beautiful butterflies before we released them!

Our topic, 'People Who Help Us,' took us on an exciting adventure learning all about different kinds of heroes—both real-life and supernatural. We were absolutely thrilled to receive a visit from the Police, but the excitement didn't stop there! We also had a surprise visit from Spiderman, who swung by to help us safely deal with some spiders we found in the outside area. Even Batman dropped in for some play time but managed to lose his cape, leading our brave Nursery agents on a thrilling clue-hunt to help him find it!

Alongside all of this heroic excitement, the children have been preparing for their next big step. They were all absolutely superb during their transition sessions into Reception, returning to Nursery bursting with enthusiasm and sharing so many wonderful, exciting stories about their new classrooms. We are incredibly proud of how much they have grown and cannot wait to see them shine next year!







## Reception's Big Adventure to Studley Grange!

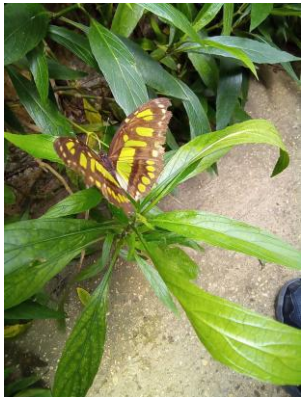
Our Reception adventurers swapped their classroom for an exciting expedition to Studley Grange. Armed with boundless curiosity, our mini explorers set out to discover the wonderful world of animals.

The excitement reached a fever pitch in the tropical warmth of the Butterfly House. The children watched in absolute awe as giant, brightly coloured butterflies fluttered overhead. Several children had close encounters with these beautiful creatures, sparking wonderful conversations about how they use their wings for camouflage, their magical transformation from a tiny caterpillar to a chrysalis, and why they love sweet, sugary fruit nectar.

The safari didn't stop with insects! The children were delighted to see friendly goats roaming around the grounds and were mesmerized by the magnificent peacocks showing off their vibrant feathers. We also visited the lively meerkats, watching them stand on their hind legs to keep lookout as well as watching feeding time with the otters.

By getting up close with nature, the children developed deep empathy and a hands-on understanding of the natural world. We are incredibly proud of how beautifully behaved all the children were—they represented our school magnificently!

A massive **thank you** to our wonderful parent volunteers who helped keep our little explorers safe. We couldn't do it without you! The Reception team.





## Year 1

Year one made some airplanes as part of their IPC topic “time travellers”. They learnt all about airplanes through the ages from The Wright brother’s bi-plane to Concorde. They then made their own planes which they wanted to share with you.







## Year 2

Year 2 have been learning all about key moments in time such as the moon landing, Ancient Egypt and the Wright Brothers. We learned about the life of Queen Elizabeth II and looked at monuments in Italy. We used our knowledge of these to design and create our own monuments to remember Queen Elizabeth II.





## Year 3



### Year 3 Travels Back in Time to the Stone Age!

This half term, our intrepid Year 3 explorers traded their modern classrooms for the magnificent fields of Butser Ancient Farm in Hampshire. As part of their wider history curriculum study of the Stone Age, the children took a giant leap back in time—thousands of years, in fact—to discover what life was really like for Britain’s earliest humans. It was a day packed with hands-on learning, teamwork, and a whole lot of ancient fun!

#### Hands-On History in Action

Rather than just reading about the past in books, Year 3 got their hands dirty—literally! The day was packed with interactive workshops led by the brilliant educators at Butser.

Some of the highlight activities included:

**Building Wattle Fences:** The children put their strength and coordination to the test by weaving flexible hazel branches in and out of upright posts. This is the exact technique Stone Age people used to build their homes!

**Chalk Carving:** Using authentic flint tools, the pupils carefully carved their own intricate designs into blocks of local chalk, creating beautiful keepsakes to take home.

**Gathering in the Roundhouse:** Sitting around a crackling, real wood fire inside a reconstructed prehistoric roundhouse, Year 3 listened to stories of ancient life, smelling the smoke and feeling the atmosphere of a prehistoric home.

**The Great Archaeological Dig:** Armed with trowels and brushes, our young archaeologists carefully excavated mock dig sites. They uncovered hidden clues from the past, including animal bones, ancient pottery fragments, and oyster shells, learning how historians piece together stories from what is left behind.

This brilliant trip has brought our history topic to life in the best possible way. Back at school, the children used their first-hand experiences to write fantastic descriptive recounts and created their own tourist information signs to inform future visitors to the site.



## Year 4

This half term was a busy one for Year 4. For our Stone Age topic, the children learned all about early humans and how they lived. This included a wonderful day at Butser Farm, trying their hand at cave painting, and even making their own hummus!

In English, Year 4 put their persuasive writing skills to the test by writing balanced arguments to decide which season is best: summer or winter? To help them get into character, the children experienced the best of both worlds: an epic "snowball" fight in the playground followed by cosy hot chocolate, and cool, refreshing ice pops enjoyed out on the field. Armed with these experiences, they wrote some incredibly thoughtful arguments. Be sure to ask your child which season they championed!







## Year 5



This term, the children in Year 5 have been enjoying their Art topic on Henry Moore. The children have learned about his life and his art. They have produced wax and watercolour paintings in the style of Moore's wartime art; they have made abstract sculptures from card and they have designed their own 'reclining figure' sculpture which will be modelled from clay.

Sadly, our trips to the sculpture trail in South Hill Park had to be cancelled due to the heat, but the children did some extra art activities in class to make up for this.

In English, the children have been writing persuasive letters to their teachers, explaining how hard they have worked this year, showing the school values. They each made the argument that their greatest achievement of the year deserved a treat. The teachers were impressed by their final pieces of writing (especially the improvements in handwriting) and were happy to hand out ice lollies to all of the children.





## Year 5 Taskmaster Maths

This week, year 5 has been consolidating their maths learning by taking part in a series of Taskmaster challenges set by the Taskmasters themselves. The tasks have used a wide variety of maths skills, team work, creativity and problem solving. One that we all enjoyed was making a model of Tiny (the tortoise, who makes mistakes we learn from) using materials and resources available in the classroom which had to weigh 223g. The photo shows the various models created by the children in 5AL, including one which weighed in closest at 225g. It was a fun way to end our year of maths.





## Year 6

What a wonderful way for our Year 6 children to celebrate the end of their primary school journey! Despite the exceptionally hot weather, they gave a truly outstanding performance of *Defrosted*, entertaining audiences with their confidence, enthusiasm and talent. From the singing and acting to the humour and teamwork, every child played their part in making the production a huge success. We are immensely proud of their resilience, commitment and the way they embraced every moment on stage. It was a fitting celebration of all they have achieved during their time at our school, and a performance that will be remembered for years to come. Well done, Year 6 – you were simply brilliant!







## Forest School

We have seen some record-breaking temperatures during the summer term but those who have been coming to Forest School have welcomed the extra shade provided by our lovely pine trees. Otherwise, it has been business as usual and the children have been as busy as ever, learning how to use tools that they may not have tried before and creating some inspired bits of artwork, such as our bottle-top bee or fox (still a work-in-progress). Learning how to make fires remains a favourite activity and some are becoming expert enough to pass on their skills to their friends. Given the recent heatwave, learning about fire safety has been more important than ever. As the end of term approached, we held our first VIP forest sessions too (some children made their own VIP badges from some old logs). From all of us in the Forest School team, we wish everyone a tree-mendous holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone again in September. From Mr B, Mrs Heathcote and Mrs Mackey.





# Sports Day



We held our annual exhilarating sports day on 29th June with 3 different sessions for Reception, KS1 and KS2! A massive well done to all children for battling the heat and working hard for your teams! Every child dared to dream and showed brilliant resilience and sportsmanship. Thank you to the sports and house captains for their help throughout the day and a big shout out to the Brakenhale Sports Leaders too!

A special well done to our winners of the day Elm house! Thank you to all staff involved in the smooth running of the day. A great day was had by all and we can't wait for next year already!







# Sporting News

## Year 6 Athletics

Our Year 6 athletics team proudly represented our school at the Bracknell Athletics Competition. The day was full of exciting running, jumping and throwing events, with every member of the team giving their best effort.

Throughout the competition, everyone showed determination, teamwork and great sportsmanship. The relay races were particularly exciting, with our team working together brilliantly to gain valuable points by finishing first in the relay final.

After an excellent performance across all the events, we were delighted to finish in 2nd place overall. This was a fantastic achievement and a reward for all the hard work and practice the team had put in.

A huge congratulations to every athlete who took part.



## Year 6 Girls Cricket Tournament

Our Year 6 girls' cricket team represented the school brilliantly at their recent tournament, showing great teamwork, determination and resilience throughout the day.

The team had a mixed set of results in the group stage, drawing one match, losing one and winning two. Each game was closely contested, with the girls improving in confidence and skill as the tournament progressed.

After four competitive matches, the team finished joint third in their group. Unfortunately, this wasn't enough to secure a place in the semi-finals, but they can be incredibly proud of their performances and the positive attitude they showed from start to finish.

Well done to all of the girls for their excellent effort, sportsmanship and teamwork. You represented the school with pride and should be proud of everything you achieved.







# Sporting News

## Year 6 Boys Cricket Tournament

Our Year 6 boys' cricket team enjoyed an outstanding tournament, remaining unbeaten throughout the group stage with an impressive five wins from five matches.

The team's excellent batting, bowling and fielding saw them top their group and progress confidently to the semi-finals. Continuing their fantastic form, they produced another superb performance to secure victory and book their place in the final.

The final was a closely fought contest, with both teams playing some excellent cricket. Despite a determined effort, our boys narrowly missed out on the title, losing by just a few points.

Finishing as runners-up was a fantastic achievement, and the team's performances throughout the day earned them a place in the Berkshire Cricket Finals. We are incredibly proud of their teamwork, determination and sportsmanship, and wish them the very best of luck in the next stage of the competition.

Well done to all of the boys on an exceptional tournament!



## Year 4 Tennis

After finishing in 1st place in the Bracknell school tennis festival the year 4 tennis team were invited to the Berkshire Games, competing against five other schools from across the county.

Throughout the competition, the team demonstrated excellent tennis skills, determination and teamwork.

After an outstanding day of tennis, the team finished in **1st place**, becoming Berkshire Games champions. This was a brilliant achievement and a well-deserved reward for all of their hard work and commitment.

Congratulations to all of the players for representing the school so brilliantly.





## Fuelling Futures: Exciting Updates from the GLT Catering Team!



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of a fantastic academic year here at Crown Wood Primary School, we want to take a moment to say a huge thank you for your support. While we head into the holidays, we are already looking ahead to the new school year with some very exciting news from our kitchen! Starting this September, we will be launching a brand-new, 2-week rotating menu designed to give our pupils varied and highly nutritious options every single day.

### Freshly Cooked & Trust-Approved Standards

You may be aware that the Government has recently published their intention to review the School Food Standards. Here at Crown Wood, and across the Greenshaw Learning Trust, we fully support these positive changes.

To that end, we have re-designed our entire menu from scratch to fully align with the Department for Education's (DfE) latest guidance. Our wonderful kitchen team will continue to prepare and cook meals fresh on-site every day, ensuring your children get the fuel they need to thrive in the classroom and at play.

### What's on the Menu?

We have retained many of the most popular items on the menu and given them a healthy twist—retaining the quality your children love while boosting the nutritional value. We have also introduced a new menu format that is much clearer to read, providing consistency across all our trust schools.

Here is a taste of what you can expect from our new offerings:

- **Abundant Fruit & Vegetables:** Every meal will be packed with colourful, nutrient-dense veggies and fresh fruit options.
- **Red Tractor Assured Meats:** We care deeply about quality and traceability. All of our meat dishes will use Red Tractor certified meats, guaranteeing high standards of animal welfare and food safety.
- **Wholesome Carbs & Smart Swaps:** To keep energy levels steady throughout the day, we are incorporating wholemeal pasta and wholemeal bread. You will also notice we have made small changes that make a big difference, such as limiting certain items like cheese and switching to wholemeal soft sub rolls (similar to a Subway bread product) to boost fibre content.

### Important Updates & Next Steps

- **Free School Meals (FSM):** There have been some great changes to FSM entitlement recently. Please check your emails as this information has gone out a few times already. Use this link to apply <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-greenshawlearningtrust>
- **Menu Launch:** The full 2-week menu breakdown will soon be available on the school website

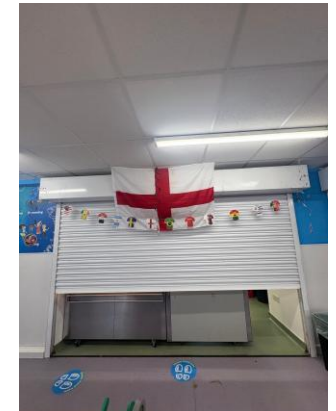
Thank you once again for a wonderful year. We wish you all a safe, happy, and deeply restful summer holiday, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to a healthy start in September!



## Kitchen Team – Thank you



A massive shoutout and a huge thank you to our incredible kitchen team for knocking it out of the park with a World Cup themed menu! 🌍 🏆  
From the kick-off to the final whistle (a.k.a. dessert), the food was an absolute masterclass. You didn't just feed us; you gave us a full-on culinary world tour, and every single dish was top-tier.  
The creativity, hard work, and passion you pour into the kitchen every day is what makes this team so special. 🥇 🧑🍳 🧑🍳







## Bracknell Forest Summer Reading Challenge



We would like all the children to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge is a free holiday activity for children. It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's reading skills and confidence. The challenge runs every year throughout the summer holidays. All children aged 4 to 11 are welcome to take part. Children can read anything they like and collect free rewards for their reading.

There are 4 easy steps.

1. Sign up for your child's library card
2. Register at your local library
3. Make 3 visits to any Bracknell Forest Library
4. Borrow, read and enjoy 6 different books (3 per visit)

There is a prize for the top 3 schools who participate. Let's make Crown Wood Primary the top, super readers in Bracknell.





## School Project Work

While our classrooms will be empty of children over the holidays, school will be buzzing with activity! We have some incredibly exciting renovation and improvement projects underway to make our school an even brighter, safer, and better place for our children to learn and grow.

Here is a sneak peek at the wonderful transformations happening behind the gates over the holidays:



**Year R Garden Transformation:** Our youngest learners are getting the next stage in our outdoor space refurbishment project that will include a more open plan design to the construction and mud kitchen areas. We are able to do this following a successful grant application from Wellington College. We can't wait for you to see the next stage of the refurbishment that will be ready for lots of outdoor exploration and play in the new term.



**Year 1 & The Nest Refresh:** The Year 1 toilets are receiving a complete, top-to-bottom makeover! We are also replacing the main courtyard door and creating a brand-new doorway connecting The Nest directly to the courtyard to allow for a wonderful indoor-outdoor flow.



**Eco-Friendly Safety Upgrades (Year 1):** We are increasing the height of the front fence and gate just outside the 1CB - soon to be Maple classroom - to ensure our children are extra safe. Even better, we are doing our bit for the environment by recycling! We are thrilled to be reusing and repurposing the old fencing and gate that we saved when the perimeter fence was updated back in the February 1/2 term.



**Year 6 Fresh Look & New Fencing:** The entire Year 6 area is being completely redecorated and freshly painted! Additionally, we are replacing the old wooden perimeter fence with the high, secure, green mesh fence to match the rest of our new fencing that was completed in February 1/2 term.



**Powering Up for the Future!** You might see some digging over on the Year 6 playground—this is part of a major electrical upgrade with SSE. We are having a new power supply cable and upgraded electrical boards fitted, this very necessary upgrade increases our school's electrical capacity,

**Pardon our dust!** Because our school is going to be very busy with Beehive Holiday Club and various build teams and contractors, please take extra care if you are visiting or passing by the school grounds this summer.



## Accessing Mental Health Support 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 follow the link below:

[Gettinghelpteam](#)





## Dates for your diary

|               |                                       |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 01 Sept 26    | Inset Day (School closed)             |
| 02 Sept 26    | School Re-opens                       |
| 02-03 Sept 26 | Meet the teacher (3.15 – 3.45pm)      |
| 16 Sept 26    | Individual & Sibling Photos           |
| 28 Sept 26    | Flu Immunisations                     |
| 28 Sept 26    | Year 3 trip                           |
| 29 Sept 26    | Reception Stay & Play (3.30 – 4.00pm) |
| 01 Oct 26     | Reception Stay & Play (3.30 – 4.00pm) |
| 05-09 Oct 26  | Year 4 Residential trip               |
| 19 Oct 26     | Inset Day (School closed)             |
| 20-30 Oct 26  | Half term                             |
| 02 Nov 26     | Inset Day (School closed)             |
| 03 Nov 26     | School Re-opens                       |



# 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 Wednesday 2 September 2026. 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@crownwoodprimary.co.uk](mailto:no-reply@crownwoodprimary.co.uk)) and the school website, our Facebook and Instagram pages.