



Cromwell Academy
Parkway, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 6JA
01480 437830



SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Dear Families

I cannot believe I am saying this: Welcome to the final newsletter of the school year!... And what a year!... Again!

This term has seen the return of some of our much-loved school events and activities and it has been marvellous to witness the joy that has been shared through these. We have enjoyed welcoming parents back into school and the children have been particularly enthused by the wonderful school trips, visits and visitors we have finally been able to arrange.

After the last-minute, curve-ball cancellation of our Year 6 residential trip, we managed to pack them all off for a couple of nights to Caldecotte Xperience and were delighted to be able to give our children this final opportunity before they leave us, despite the setbacks. We came together with the help of parents to transport the children on this trip and they had the most wonderful time! Thank you to all staff, parents and children for your help in making this happen.

We were inspired by a visit from James Ketchell, who gave a talk and some workshops to children on his adventures. He linked his experiences to our school values of readiness, resilience, reflection, relationships and responsibility; showing our children that they can do anything they put their minds to.

As well as our outdoor learning and local visits, other trips this term have sent classes off to the seaside, the Holocaust Museum, Duxford, a Mosque, a safari park and even on the local bus to hold a wedding at the Church! We are hopeful that this is a sign of things to come and normality finally resuming.

Our Summer "Musical Showcase" was an absolute joy! It was wonderful to be able to prepare and share this with you. I know the children really enjoyed working on this production and having the opportunity to perform once again.

I have read each and every child's school report and it was a pleasure to hear how well they are all doing in their learning and development. The children at Cromwell are a credit to us all and we are very proud of all they have achieved and worked through. Our school results from the recent Key Stage 2 SATs have really impressed us. The children have done exceptionally well and managed to achieve well above national averages across the board! A real testament to all their hard work and resilience.

I would like to thank all the staff for another highly successful year- we do have the most dedicated and motivated team at Cromwell and this transpires in happy, motivated and successful children.

Thank you as always, to you, the families of our children, who continue to work with us positively and supportively to ensure we are all doing the best for the children at Cromwell.

And now a message for our leavers: Year 6- as your final days at Cromwell come to an end, we want to let you know that you have everything you need to move on and be amazing. It has been a pleasure to watch you grow and flourish and you are now ready to make your next step. We all have faith in each and every one of you that you can make it a good one! Good luck, keep safe and most of all; BE YOU!

Mrs Blyth will be leaving us at the start of the new school year to have her baby. We wish her and her family all the very best with their new arrival and look forward to lots of snuggles when she visits us next term.

Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Mrs Hannah Connor-James
Headteacher



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MUSIC AT CROMWELL

As the academic year comes to a close, we finish with a grand musical flourish, the *Musical Showcase*. From orphans (Annie!) and workhouses (Oliver!), to school rooms (Matilda), to the Grand Stage (The Greatest Showman).

The music in school has infiltrated every area of life and the children and staff are living and breathing the songs, harmonies and lyrics of the numerous different productions; it truly shows the talent and adaptability of the children.

It has not been quiet in KS1 either with the children developing their understanding of pitch and melody; how music is put together (Year 1) and how to play the recorder (Year 2) preparing to perform to an audience. From singing to woodwind to the ukulele; the music of the school this year has covered everything, so much so we have even had members of Year 5 and 6 visiting Hinchinbrooke on Monday evenings to take part in the Transitional Choir.

We were delighted to welcome students from year 12 at Hinchinbrooke, who visited our school and gave an incredible performance. They performed and demonstrated a range of instruments; saxophone, clarinet, flute, drums, piano and voice! They interacted brilliantly with the children- getting the whole school participating by singing in a beautifully harmonised round! The students were an exceptional example of the opportunities our children will go on to have, and our hope is that our love of music at Cromwell will give them the best platform for this.



Huge thanks to Kate from the music department and her Year 12 students.

This has been, the Greatest Show.



Ukulele/Guitar Lessons

Mr Randall has spaces available for guitar and ukulele lessons at the school starting in September. If you would like more information, please contact Mr Randall at simonl.randall@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.



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Cromwell Sports News



It has been a busy sporting term during the Summer Term. It began all the way back in April when Cromwell's Netball Team qualified for the county finals. They won their pool and then sadly lost in the final. Once they arrived at the county finals, they showed great determination, respect and resilience and were a wonderful example of the Cromwell Way.

May was a busy month for sports in Year 3 and Year 4. First, teams of 4 children attended an orienteering competition in which they followed a trail and solved clues around Hinchingsbrooke School and house. The children really enjoyed the opportunity to show off all their knowledge and orienteering skills.

A mixed team of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children attended the inaugural Ten Pin Bowling Event at Eat N Bowl in St Neots. 80 children from 10 primary schools travelled to the event, where all 16 lanes were booked with teams of 4-6 children aiming to gain the highest average score for their school! Cromwell finished 3rd in what was an extremely competitive field.



A team of 10 Year 3 and Year 4 children attended a Tri-Golf competition in which they had the opportunity to rotate around a variety of golf related activities and challenges. With fantastic weather and the opportunity for parents and siblings to attend, it made for a wonderful event.

The final event in May was a Tennis festival in which a team from Years 3 and 4 represented Cromwell. The event was hosted by St Neots Tennis Club and aimed to target children new to the game of tennis. The event gave the children the opportunity to rotate around 8 different activity stations, with fun games such as: coconut shy, target tennis, bounce about and fast forehands.

As June came around, the focus shifted to Year 5 and Year 6. The First event was the QuadKids Athletics event in which 4 boys and 4 girls compete in 4 disciplines: a long distance (600m) run, 75m sprint, a vortex throw and a standing long jump. All competitors' scores are amalgamated, resulting in a team score.

The next event was the NFL Flag Football Competition in which the 'Cromwell Giants' competed. The competition followed a round robin format, allowing the schools to play every other school; followed by the top 4 placed schools progressing through to semi-finals; finishing with a final. The round robin matches were extremely close, with Cromwell showcasing their knowledge and understanding of the game. As the event progressed the children become more confident with the rules and further excelled.



We are so proud that our school always comes TOP in representing Cromwell Academy with respect and dignity!



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Sports Day 2022

It was wonderful to welcome back parents to Cromwell Academy's Sports Day 2022. It was a great event in which the children were able to compete in sprint races, ice cream races, relay races, long jump, shot put and even wet sponge throwing. A wonderful time was had by all and it provided lots of healthy competition and superb sportsmanship. A special thanks to the Hinchingsbrooke Sports Council (including 2 ex-pupils) for their support in running this amazing event. They were fabulous.

Once all of the points had been counted it was an extremely close result, with the winner of the Cromwell Academy Sports Trophy being Neptune!





Learning Lens...

Reception

In Reception, we have been completing wild challenges as part of our outdoor learning sessions. The challenges included making magic wands from grass, grass trumpets, and nature crown. We also had a trip to the country park to see the bees where the beekeepers were able to show the children the inside of the hives. We found out why the bees are so important to growing fruits and vegetables. We also learnt that bees communicate with each other by doing a wiggle dance.



In Topic we have been learning about the Royal family. We had been watching different royal weddings to develop children's knowledge of the members of the Royal family. We explored different weddings as part of our RE lessons and to further children's understanding of a Christian wedding we had our own 'mock' wedding. The class travelled on the local bus into Huntingdon where they had a full wedding at All Saints church.

Year 1



During our Summer term Year One have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians. We have explored many parts of their lives and cultures and learnt lots of interesting facts, like; did you know it took the Egyptians 17 years to build just one pyramid?! And did you know the Egyptians would mummify their dead by removing their organs and putting them in Canopic Jars?! We had a go at making our own Canopic Jars using playdough and clay - but we left out the organs! We have been building bridges over the River Nile, dressing up like Pharohs, rescuing mummies trapped in sand, writing secret codes in hieroglyphics and building our own pyramids.

We also had our very own Egyptians Banquet - We all made headdresses and became Kings and Queens for the afternoon and feasted on foods that the REAL Egyptians would have eaten. Some of us were very brave and we tried figs, dates, hummus and pita, plums, peas and honey. We had lots of fun being Kings and Queens for the afternoon and were very full after our feast!



Year 1 and 2 trip to the seaside

We had a brilliant trip to the beach with Year 1 and 2 and, for some, it was their first time! We paddled in the sea, made sandcastles and found shells, seaweed and caves.





Learning Lens...

Year 2



Wow what a busy last term in Year 2 we have had! We have learnt all about Europe and found out about different countries within it using atlases and google earth. In RE we learnt about different places of worship and have been lucky enough to visit a church and a mosque to see their features. As well as these we have planted our plants in the wildlife haven and watched our beans create new beans.



Year 3

This half term, our topic has been Australia. During this topic, we have been learning about the culture and Geography of Australia and comparing it to our lives in the UK. We have been reading a variety of different texts including aboriginal folk tales and non-chronological reports. We even retold an aboriginal folk tale using role play.



During this term, we also worked hard to prepare for our class assembly. It was so much fun being able to share some of our favourite learning with our family. We managed to learn our lines, songs and actions so that we could perform with a smile.

We also enjoyed rehearsing our songs for the production. We enjoyed getting dressed up and performing our songs from Oliver! to all our family and friends. Here is a picture of us in our costumes before one of our performances





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Learning Lens...

Year 4

This term Year 4 have taken full advantage of the improved weather and got outside at every opportunity. We were very excited to receive a video message from the author of The Land of Roar series encouraging us to write our own fantasy stories. To really get a feel for the magical setting, we took a walk down to Hinchingsbrooke country park to create our own fantasy maps- we also got out in the sunshine to roleplay parts of the story to improve our dialogue writing. In science we have enjoyed learning about a range of scientists and testing their theories; a particular favourite was throwing parachuted toys from the top of the castle! Our final topic this term has been Rivers and we kicked it off with a trip down to Brampton Mill. We were very lucky with the weather and were able to see a wide range of wildlife (and wave at some boats). Finally, the Year 4 children did themselves incredibly proud in the Musical Extravaganza proving that even a lovely, polite class can turn into a horde of revolting children with a bit of practice!



Year 5

We have been busy in class learning about Asia and specifically Japan. The physical and human Geography of the area is fascinating especially when comparing it to our country. As scientists this half term we have been asking questions about air resistance and exploring how a change in an objects shape can affect the behaviour of air particles. We then linked this to water resistance.

In P.E we have been improving our ball handling skills through netball and have developed our team skills though good communication on the court.

Our R.E has been very special, as members of our class have shared their beliefs and how having a faith for them has positively impacted their lives.

We also had the opportunity to visit Duxford to remind ourselves of our WW1 learning.





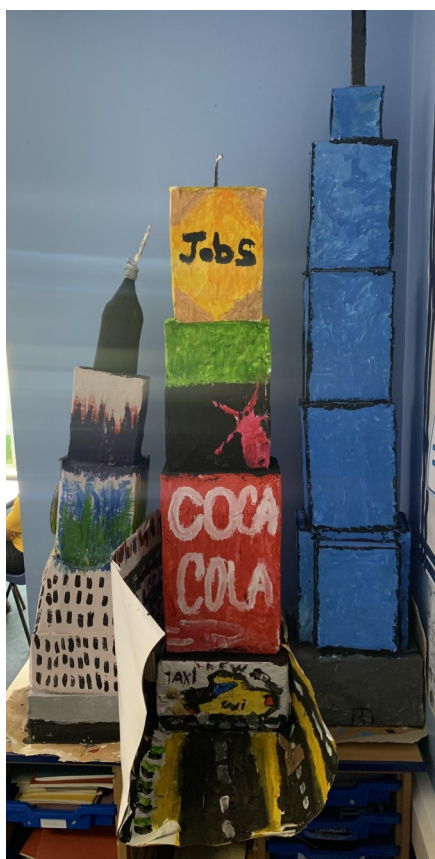
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Learning Lens...

Year 6

It has been an exciting final term for Year 6 at Cromwell Academy. We have been learning about North and South America and have created climate graphs, used maps, and identified both physical and human geography. We have also created models of different landmarks in New York City including the One World Trade Center and the Empire State Building. In Art, we created our own Banksy-inspired artwork as well as an imitation of his artwork. We investigated the 9/11 attacks and the causes of these attacks and the impacts that we still feel today. In Science, we investigated circuits and created our own circuits as well as drawing these circuits accurately. As part of Science week, we also created our own bridges using paper and tape. As part of the Musical Showcase, we performed songs from the Greatest Showman including: "The Greatest Show", "This is Me", "The Other Side" and "A Million Dreams". We also had a wonderful time at our residential during which we paddle boarded, rock climbed and canoed amongst other activities. The children also performed admirably in their SATs tests and the whole school was very proud of each and every one of them.





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Governor News

Finally, it seems as though we are starting to return to some kind of normality. Cromwell Academy's staff have worked tirelessly to help our children catch up after the disruption of the last few years, and the most recent data suggest that their efforts have paid off. In the lower years of the school, the focus has been on re-teaching the children how to learn, and early signs are that this is indeed the quickest way of getting them to where they need to be.

Performances and singing are back, which do wonders for the children's self-confidence, co-operation, presentation abilities and powers of expression, skills that they will need wherever life takes them. The school's focus on creativity has been one of the things that makes me proudest of Cromwell Academy.

I've been a Governor of the school since 2014, and Chair of Governors since 2016. I feel the time has come to let others take a turn, so at our first meeting in the new academic year I'll be stepping down as a Governor. We have had a momentous eight years, with the appointment of a new headteacher, the formation of the ACES Multi-Academy Trust, and the journey with OFSTED from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Good' across the board. I'm confident that under the school's current leadership we are well on the way towards 'Outstanding'. I'm proud to have played a part in every one of the changes that have affected Cromwell Academy. Being a Governor has been an honour and (mostly) a pleasure; I'd recommend it to anyone as a really rewarding way to give something back to our community.

My time with the school started while my daughter was in Reception; she has recently chosen her GCSEs. Over that time I've enjoyed getting to know the staff and many of you, our parents and carers. But most of all it has been a thrill to see hundreds of children grow up to be kind, confident, caring individuals, who are a credit to their parents and to the community.

Thank you for the support you have given to the school over the years. I'll continue to follow Cromwell Academy's exciting journey once I've returned to civilian life!

Richard Laing
Chair of Governors, Cromwell Academy
July 2022



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School Uniform Reminder

We continue to pay particular attention to setting and maintaining the high standards that we are proud of at Cromwell Academy- this includes high standards of presentation in both uniform and work. As normality resumes, we wish to take this opportunity to reinforce the uniform expectations and expect that, as much as possible, these high expectations will be back in place following this period of difficulty.



Children are expected to be suitably dressed for the variety of indoor and outdoor activities in school.

Our school uniform is outlined below:

Black sweatshirt/cardigan

White polo shirt

Grey or black trousers or skirt

Sensible black shoes (**no trainers please**)

Plain black or grey tights / Black, grey or white socks

Optional Summer Variations

Grey or black shorts

Blue gingham dress

Only **small stud earrings** are allowed to be worn in school. **Please remove earrings on PE days before school.** **Children will not be allowed to participate in PE if they cannot remove their own earrings.** If you plan to have your child's ears pierced, we strongly urge you to arrange this for the start of the 6-week summer holiday so that this does not impact on participation in PE.

We encourage all of our students to take pride in their uniform and to have a high standard of personal appearance. We also encourage them to take responsibility for their own appearance. They should always help to create a positive first impression of the school both within and outside the school. We believe that our uniform is smart and practical to wear and we will always endeavour to provide the best value for money.

All hair that is below shoulder length or that covers the eyes should be tied back during the school day.

Extreme hairstyles and/or accessories are not permitted in school. Please avoid elaborate hair accessories that may distract pupils during their learning.

Your support as parents /carers is critical in enabling us to uphold the policy consistently and effectively to ensure the highest of standards.



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Important Reminders

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT FROM SEPTEMBER 2022 THE COST OF A SCHOOL MEAL WILL BE £2.41. PLEASE NOTE THAT RECEPTION TO YEAR 2 WILL STILL RECEIVE UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS. CHILDREN ALREADY ON FREE SCHOOL MEALS WILL BE UNAFFECTED

If you plan to have your child's ears pierced– we urge you to take the opportunity as early as possible at the start of the summer break. This will ensure minimal disruption to participation in PE.

Only **small stud earrings** are allowed to be worn in school.

PLEASE REMOVE EARRINGS ON PE DAYS BEFORE COMING TO SCHOOL

Please remember to let the office know any updates or changes to telephone/mobile numbers, addresses and any medical information.

We open our school gates in the morning at 8.40.

*Please remember that **doors open at 8.40 and close promptly at 8.50**. Once classroom doors have been closed, you will not be permitted onto site and will be directed to the office entrance. This is to ensure all children are registered correctly for school meals and safeguarding purposes.*

For reasons of safety and courtesy, a further polite request for parents not to park in any of the hospital car parks, in front of residents driveways, on the double yellow lines or in congested areas around the school entrances.

PLEASE do not allow your child to cycle or scoot on the school playground at school drop off/pick up time. Our school children know this rule and we would like parents' support in encouraging younger siblings to do the same.

Children must not play on the school play equipment before or after school– this is due to insurance reasons and we ask parents to support us in this.

HUGE THANKS!



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Upcoming Events and Dates



Thursday 1st September

Training Day

Friday 2nd September

Training Day

Monday 5th September

Autumn Term Opens

ALL CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL

Monday 24th October -

HALF TERM

Friday 28th October

Monday 31st October

ALL CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL

Monday 5th December

Training Day

Wednesday 21st December

Autumn Term Closes