



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



# OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



*Dear Families*

It is a pleasure to be writing to you at the end of the first half term of this academic year with news of all the wonderful things that have been happening at Cromwell Academy.

As always, the children continue to make us proud in how well they have settled into their new classes, embraced the learning and contributed to the many events and activities that have taken place. The children here are so well behaved and respectful, with visitors regularly commenting on the calm and purposeful atmosphere around the school. With this important aspect of school well under our belts, we are looking ahead at how we can take The Cromwell Way to the next level going into next half term.

We are very grateful to see the return of a fully functioning CAF (Cromwell Academy Friends) Parents' Association this year. Ideas and events are already in full swing, and I would like to thank Lucy and all the supporting parents for their efforts towards fundraising for the school. We are currently in the process of receiving quotes for some exciting new projects which we hope CAF will be able to support- if the price is right! We will share these ideas with parents as soon as we are confident it can be achieved.

In addition, we have been involved in some further fundraising in support of charities that are close to our hearts:

Events have taken place in support of the Little Princess Trust; a superb charity that provides real hair wigs for children and young people who are suffering with hair loss.

We were also blown away by the generosity of our school community towards the harvest donations. These have been passed on to the Godmanchester Food Bank who are extremely grateful and equally overwhelmed by your kindness. We do use Godmanchester Food Bank to support families within our own school community. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are struggling at any time and we would be very happy to help you.

It was a pleasure to see so many of you during the Meet and Greet sessions as well as the return of our face-to-face parent consultation meetings for those families who prefer to attend in person. We hope to continue to offer these types of events moving forward to further support our partnership working.

Many thanks to parents who took a few moments to respond to our survey at the end of last term. We have spent some time reviewing your feedback and consulting on any changes that could be made moving forward as a result. Overall, we were delighted with the feedback and we are keen to address any highlighted areas where we may be able to improve things. Full details of the parent survey results can be found within this newsletter.

Have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to the excitement and festivities ahead of us on the other side!

Best Wishes,

*Mrs Hannah Connor-James*  
*Headteacher*



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# Spotlight on Attendance

*Each newsletter we will report on a different aspect of school attendance and how we can support you in making 'everyday count' for your child.*



	Class	Average Attendance
1st	Year 5	98.8%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 6	98.5%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 3	98.2%
4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4	97%
5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1	96.9%
6 <sup>th</sup>	Reception	96.6%
7th	Year 2	96.1%

*All of our classes are above target so a huge well done to everybody.*



## Punctuality

The school gates are opened at 8.40am. This allows ten minutes for pupils to walk through the gate and go into the classroom. Learning begins as soon as your child comes in. They could be asked to practise handwriting, spellings, complete quizzes or reading whilst they wait until the register is called.

At 8.50am classroom doors are closed and registers are taken. If your child arrives later than this, they enter the school through the main office and are registered there.

For many pupils, arriving late to school is not the ideal start to the day. It can mean they have missed instructions or have not had the chance to settle into class before the more academic lessons begin.

Occasionally the disrupted start may lead to disengagement for the rest of the day.

Poor punctuality can be caused by all sorts of reasons but often it is down to a lack of organisation the night before. It is considered unauthorised absence from 9.10am and regular unauthorised absence may prompt a meeting to discuss how we can support your family.

### Top Tips:

**Lay out all clothes the night before – avoid last minute looking for the missing shoe.**

**Put all books bags/ school bags by the front door the night before**

**Set off a little earlier to avoid parking difficulties.**



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### HARVEST FESTIVAL 2023

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October our usual music assembly took on a Harvest Festival theme. This year we decided to support Godmanchester Foodbank by donating all the food items we received to them. The foodbank relies on goodwill and support from the public with over 90% of the donations coming in from local people, so ultimately these donations are vital for them to support people referred to them in offering a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food.



A massive thank you to all our parents/carers who made donations; we had a huge response which will enable us to send a large donation of food items to the foodbank which they will be extremely thankful for.



For more information on Trussell Trust please visit their website  
[www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank](http://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank)

## Pupil Premium



## Pupil Premium Cup of Tea Afternoon

Thanks to all who attended the Pupil Premium afternoon to learn more about how we spend the funding.

We had the opportunity to discuss how to register for free school meals and pick up a free pair of Startrite shoes.

There will be another opportunity to meet in the Spring term! **So watch this space.**



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**The BEAST and the BETHANY**

Welcome award-winning author  
**Jack Meggitt-Phillips**  
to celebrate his book **On Monday 6 November**  
**The Beast and the Bethany: Child of the Beast**

'A funny and (bone) cracking good read'  
Michelle Harrison, author of  
*A Pinch of Magic*

Event followed by book sale and signing.



**On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
**4 – 5:30 pm**  
**Recommended for age 7+**  
**Huntingdon Methodist Church**  
**FREE admission or £7 including new book**

**Tickets: from the Bookshop or**  
**[www.ticketsource.co.uk/nichecomicsbookshop](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/nichecomicsbookshop)**



We are very excited to announce that we have the author Jack Meggitt- Phillips coming to school on the 6<sup>th</sup> November to complete a workshop with our children. He has written some amazing books for a series called 'The Beast and the Bethany'. If you would like your child to get a signed copy of his book and to meet him. Please pre order a copy of the book here:

<https://nichecomicsbooks.co.uk/product/the-beast-and-the-bethany-book-1-by-jack-meggitt-phillips>

**In the notes ask for your book to be delivered to Cromwell Academy.**





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## MUSIC AT CROMWELL



Music has had a strong start to the year. There are many performances set in the diary for us in the not too distance future. Christmas performances are on the horizon and the children are working hard to get ready for their parts. Year 3 have been stunning the school with their recorder playing, and Year 4s have been developing their understanding of Ukulele chords. Years 1 and 2 have been focusing hard on their singing, and the quality is fantastic – do ask your child to sing to you; at home, in the car, wherever you'd like! Year 5 have started their compositions on full staves – one of the most difficult projects we work on in school. Year 6 are, of course, working hard to get ready for Young Voices, along with 6000 other children. We perform in Birmingham in January and have a huge and wide collection of songs to learn from Disney's Moana to Spirituals. It really is all hands-on deck – or as Moana would say "Away, away, we set a course to find a brand new island everywhere we roam!"



Our Kids club have been very busy creating pictures to enter Perfect Pets 2023,  
Here are a few of our amazing entries



If you have any indoor/outdoor toys, colouring books games or puzzles that you no longer require/need please can we have these at kids club for our children to enjoy.

Many Thanks.



## Learning Lens...

### Reception



In Reception class, we have been getting to know each other through our topic 'All about me'. Over the summer the children had made special boxes filled with items that are special to them or represent the things they enjoy doing outside of school. We have also been learning songs about our bodies, drawing self-portraits and making new friends. There is now a wonderful display of all the children's self-portraits in our classroom.

In the wildlife haven, we have been busy creating a minibeast area and caring for the birds by making bird feeders. We have also made kites, lots of mud pies and enjoyed relaxing in the hammock.



This term we have been incredibly lucky to have received a donation of £100 which has enabled us to replace and replenish some of our resources. New trucks, a hammock and books are just a few items we managed to buy with this generous donation.

### Year 1

Year One have had a wonderful start to the year! From taking care of the school environment during outdoor learning, to creating shapes in PE and sculpting using clay to create dragon eyes! It has been a busy and creative half term. We particularly enjoyed learning about the story of George and the Dragon and finding that a giant had visited our classroom, causing all kinds of chaos!





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## Learning Lens...

### Year 2

What an amazing start to our year in Year 2! We have learnt so many things and have shown brilliant determination to make our handwriting better. We have started to learn about the Tudors and went on a trip to Buckden Towers to learn about how the Tudors lived and Henry VIII's wife Catherine of Aragon. We have learnt different painting techniques and used these to create paintings of Hinchbrook park in the style of Kurt Jackson. I can't wait for the rest of the year to come!



### Year 3

We have been working very hard this half term, developing our independence in all curriculum areas. So far, we have successfully completed a retelling of a Roman myth, carried out 2 science investigations and improved both our confidence and skills with swimming. We've also been thoroughly enjoying our Art and Dance lessons as shown in the photos below. In Maths, we've been learning how to use number lines to add and subtract and have even been checking our own work using concrete equipment such as Base 10 and 100 squares. Finally, in Guided Reading, we have been learning lots of new vocabulary in our class texts, as well as developing both our retrieval and inference skills.







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## Learning Lens...

### Year 4

Wow, what a fantastic first half-term we have had in Year 4! The children have settled in brilliantly and we have been busy writing our own stories based on the book *Leon and the Place Between*, creating art in the style of Vincent Van Gogh and looking at numbers up to 10,000. As well as this, we have been learning about animals and their habitats in Science and considered the effect of both natural disasters and human impact. With that in mind we decided to write a persuasive letter to the shops to ask them to reduce the amount of single use plastics in their stores.



### Year 5

This has been a busy half term in Year 5. The children have settled well to the new opportunities and challenges in their learning. For some, they have experienced walking home from school for the first time and taken on responsible ownership and use of a mobile phone!

In English based on our class text *Street Child*, we have written newspaper reports from the point of view of a reporter using reported speech and a witness using direct speech. Whereas in Maths, the composition of tenths, hundredths and thousandths has posed questions in how these numbers and equations can be represented.

Living things and their habitats, in Science, enabled us to explore and dissect a plant. We showed this as an exploded view and the children used real life scientific techniques to achieve this.

We have been working too on developing a growth mindset and critical thinking skills, the children have greatly enjoyed accessing the Impossible Corner.







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## Learning Lens...

### Year 6

It has been a wonderful start to the year in Year 6. We have enjoyed reading *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold, joining the author for the Finding Bear official school's launch. In addition to this, we have used both *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry and *The Island* by Armin Greder as inspiration for our writing. We have explored structures of problems in Maths, used Banksy as our inspiration for Art and explored different biomes in Geography. We have begun getting ourselves ready for Young Voices by starting our rehearsals in both singing and dancing. It has been an extremely exciting term.





### July 2023 Parent Survey Results

100% of parents would recommend our school to other parents. (Compared to 84% in the National Ofsted Parent View Survey)

100% of parents agree that their child is safe in school. (Compared to 90% in the National Ofsted Parent View Survey)

95% of parents agree that the school promotes good behaviour. (Compared to 83% in the National Ofsted Parent View Survey)

89% of parents who have a child with SEND agree that their child is well supported (8 out of 9 responses). (This is compared to 67% in the National Ofsted Parent View Survey) This is an area we plan to address through improved networking with parents and further survey opportunities.

89% of parents agree that bullying is not an issue in school. (Compared to 65% in the National Ofsted Parent View Survey). This is an area we will be covering during our upcoming Anti-Bullying Week.

95% of parents agree that the school makes them aware of what their child is learning. (Compared to 80% in the National Ofsted Parent View Survey)

Thankfully, many parents have not needed to raise any concerns. We are pleased that those who have needed to raise a concern feel they have been dealt with in the majority of cases. 84% of the parents who have worked with us on a concern feel it was dealt with appropriately. (This is compared to 74% in the National Ofsted Parent View Survey) In an anonymous survey it is difficult to identify these concerns and we would therefore encourage any parents who feel they have an unresolved or ongoing concern to make contact with us so that we can help you feel differently. We encourage parents to work with us in partnership on any concerns and our Senior Leadership team is here to support in any matters that cannot be easily resolved by the class teacher. We value the positive working relationship we have with the large majority of parents and endeavour to ensure all our families feel well supported at all times. When there are disagreements, we hope that we can work together respectfully and diligently to move forward.

91% of parents who feel they know the school's expectations agree that the school has high expectations of their child. (Compared to 82% in the National Ofsted Parent View Survey) 15% felt they didn't know so we aim to work on communicating our expectations more clearly.

98% feel strongly that the school lets them know how their child is doing at school. (Compared to 83% in the National Ofsted Parent View Survey)

98% agree that their child does well at our school. (Compared to 87% in the National Ofsted Parent View Survey)

100% of parents responded positively about the wide-ranging curriculum offer. (Compared to 91% in the National Ofsted Parent View Survey)

98% feel that their child can take part in wider opportunities and experiences. (Compared to 90% in the National Ofsted Parent View Survey)

97% agree that the school supports their child's wider personal development. (Compared to 78% in the National Ofsted Parent View Survey)

We have spent time reviewing the individual comments that were made, which has helped us to understand better where you feel we may need to make changes or improvements. As a result, we are looking into how we can make PE days more consistent whilst not compromising access to swimming and specialist teaching coaches. We are also fine-tuning the use of social media and Arbor to ensure communication is helpful and accessible to as many parents as possible.

*Huge thanks for your positive and constructive feedback. It is very much appreciated and welcomed. Of course, you do not need to wait for a survey to share your views- please do not hesitate to contact us at any time if you wish to share any comments; we welcome the opportunity to work constructively with you in the best interests of our children. We equally appreciate the many parents who chose to write positive comments- it is always nice to be able to pass these comments on and share your appreciation for the efforts of our staff.*



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Hello, my name is Lucy and I have recently become a Trustee of Cromwell Academy Friends (CAF).

## Who is CAF?

We are a registered Charity made up of parents at the school who are dedicated to raising money for our school.

A big thank you to Natalie who has offered to be our new Treasurer.

In the past CAF have been extremely successful in fundraising, buying equipment and planning lots of fantastic events for our children. However, over the past few years events and funds have been very limited due to a limited number of volunteers.

I hope you will all join me in thanking Keith, Zoe and Jasmine, Emily, Jodie, Kat and anyone else that helped for all your support over the years.

We are hoping to bring back all the wonderful social events for not just our children but also for parents as well so that we can raise funds for our school.

I have spoken with Mrs Connor-James and Miss Harrison who had kindly offered to be our go to member of staff in school.

We are planning on contributing to various exciting new projects of which further details will be available as soon as we have them, so that you can see exactly what we are raising our funds for to benefit all our children.

## CAF SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our brand new CAF school uniform shop will be up and running by half term. In the mean time if you need any items of school uniform, please just ask in the school office and they will contact me to arrange this for you.

## Halloween

We are looking forward to our first big event. Our Halloween  Disco, on Monday 30th October.

There will be lots of Halloween gifts and snacks to purchase at the disco, price lists will be sent out via email so please look out for these.

We have been incredibly lucky to receive such generous community donations from Tesco and Revival Tattoo Collective of decorations for the hall and sweets which will be available to purchase at the disco

If you haven't already done so please purchase your ticket in advance via the Arbor app so that we can plan for numbers. Tickets are only £2.50 per child and do remember **all money raised will be going straight back into our school.**

There will be a music suggestion box in school this week so that children can make their requests for music.

We are always looking for volunteers and help at upcoming events please let myself or the office know, if you are available, even if it's just for a short time, it is very much appreciated and helps us to keep running events.

Please like our Facebook page : Cromwell Academy Friends ([20+](#)) [Cromwell Academy Friends | Facebook](#) where we will be uploading all our further events and information.





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# Governor News

It was a real pleasure to come into the Academy on the afternoon of the Curriculum Information evening recently and meet lots of parents. Myself and Jacqui Harris really enjoyed talking to you all and finding out about how your children have settled into school this year. I am sure you will agree as you moved around school, the corridor and classroom displays are looking lovely and are a real testament to all the hard work that Mrs Connor-James and her team put into making learning as fun and engaging as it possibly can be.

Whilst in school I talked to many parents about the opportunity of becoming a Parent Governor for school. We are still recruiting for Parent Governors to support us on the Local Governing Body at this time and if you are interested in the role then please do email me directly on [rbierton@cra.acesmat.uk](mailto:rbierton@cra.acesmat.uk)

The Governing Body play a critical role in supporting the staff in the school and it would be really good to have more parent representation on this. If you would like to find out more information then please do make contact and I can arrange this. I hope you will consider supporting your child's school in this way.

Rebecca Bierton  
Chair of Governors



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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

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

PLEASE REMOVE EARRINGS ON PE DAYS **BEFORE** COMING TO SCHOOL

**Please remember to update any changes to telephone/mobile numbers, addresses and any medical information via Arbor.**

*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.*

We ask that children who walk themselves to school do not arrive before 8:40 am as there will be nobody available to supervise you child.

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



Monday 30th October

Thursday 2nd November

Thursday 9th November

Friday 10th November

Monday 13th November— Friday 17th November

Wednesday 22nd November

Monday 4th December

Wednesday 6th December

Monday 11th December—Thursday 14th December

Thursday 14th December

Monday 18th December

Tuesday 19th December

Wednesday 20th December

School Opens

CAF Halloween Parties

New Reception 2024 Open Day 10am

New Reception 2024 Open Day 1.30pm  
and 5pm

SEND Coffee Morning 9-9.45am

Anti-Bulling Week

Reception Vision Screening

**TRAINING DAY school closed**

YR4 Trip—Museum of Zoology

Enterprise Week

Enterprise Fair

KS1 Dress Rehearsal

KS1 Performance 2.00pm

KS1 Performance 9.30am and 2.00pm

Autumn Term Closes

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

## Coffee Morning

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 9am – 9.45am**

A chance to meet the SENDCo, ask questions, share your thoughts through a survey and meet other parents of children with SEND at our school.

Drinks and cake provided!

