



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



# July 2023 NEWSLETTER



Dear Families

It is with great disbelief that I find myself writing my final message of the school year!

This term always goes particularly fast, owing to the great many events, activities and opportunities that take place.

**It has been a joy to see all the children's hard work brought together in the Enterprise event, the KS2 Musical Showcase, Parent Open Afternoon, Year 6 Leavers events and the end of year celebration assembly.** All of these have been a huge success and a privilege to be able to share with you.

**With the limitations that exist within our Parents' Association, our Enterprise event continues to be the most successful event for fundraising at this time;** giving the children their very own profit to consider. This event raised over £1000, with huge thanks for all your support and contributions. News will follow on how the children choose to improve our school as a result.

**I have had some interest from parents who wish to work with us as part of a revived Parents' Association (Cromwell Academy Friends– CAF),** and I look forward to seeing how this develops into the new academic year. Look out for the early communications from this group who are currently arranging a Uniform shop.

We would also like to hear from anybody who may be interested in representing parents as part of our Governing Body. Do get in touch with the school office to see how you can get involved in the wider aspects of the school.

**I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for the relentless commitment to our school, our parents and guardians who continue to support our work through positive partnerships and, of course our (your) wonderful children for making it all worthwhile.**

A final word to our leavers– year 6—who we are extremely proud of. Your journey with us has not been without **it's disruption and challenges in recent years, and yet you have emerged at the end full of resilience,** responsibility, respect and readiness for the next big step. You have the tools now to be anything you want to be— **use them wisely. Dream.... Believe.... and you can Achieve. You are all superstars!**

Wishing all our families a safe and enjoyable summer.

*Mrs Hannah Connor-James*

Headteacher



# 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.*

Each week pupils have been celebrating good attendance in school by being awarded a trophy during assembly. It is getting very exciting to find out which class have won and the children are very proud of themselves.

Whole school attendance for the whole year is presently: 94.5%.

This half term our classes average attendance is:

|                             | Class             | Average Attendance |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1st Place                   | Year 5            | 98.14%             |
| Joint 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place | Year 4 and Year 6 | 97.66%             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place       | Year 2            | 96.27%             |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Place       | Year R            | 93.97%             |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Place       | Year 3            | 93.27%             |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Place       | Year 1            | 92.34%             |

## **Something to celebrate!**

Our school has promoted attendance and celebrated the achievements made by our pupils.

Worryingly, at the start of the year approximately 20% of our pupils were 'Persistent absentees' which meant they had 90% or below school attendance. This was above the national average for PA and a concern. Thanks to all the hard work by parents and pupils, we have reduced this to 14.1% of pupils being considered 'Persistent Absentees'.

## **Why does this matter?**

Being persistently absent (which the DFE defines as attendance 90% or below) and missing school can have negative impacts on pupils' outcomes including educational attainment, wellbeing and wider attainment.

Let's keep it up and we will be able to be sure that 'Everyday counts' for your child next year.

If you wish to discuss your child's attendance or enquire about how we can support you, please contact the school office to speak with a member of our Attendance Team.





## The last 'Music News' of the Year!



The passion and enthusiasm from all of the children (and staff!) has been fantastic as always and this has been shown in the amazing performances across the year, from so many different year groups and children. From Carol Services to Competitions, Festivals to Concerts we have performed it all. Just some of the highlights this year include: the Year 6's taking part in Young Voices in Birmingham, the Choir competing (and taking 3<sup>rd</sup>) at the Bedfordshire Music Festival and Year 3 and 4 Singing at the turning on of the Christmas lights.

Inside the classrooms, we have enjoyed Year 4 singing and playing *I'm a believer* on Ukuleles, as well as the Year 3's singing and playing *Mamma Mia* on the Recorders and Year 6 composing using a full stave. It has been a roller coaster of experiences and emotions.

We finish the year, however, with a true show case and a bang; the musical showcase that we are [at the time of writing] mid dress/final rehearsals. This KS2 event has been the focus of work for the past few weeks, and, if you are lucky enough to see the performance you will be treated to some of the biggest hits from Aladdin (Yr 6) Abba (Yr 5) The Lion King (Yr 4) and Matilda (Yr 3). The performances are superb and will send a shiver down your spine and they should only get better now time marches towards to the final performance.



We look forward to coming back in September, well rested and ready to do it all again, bigger and better. Thank you, for all of your support this academic year.





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After our initial cancellation due to the weather, the classes in school created their own sports throughout the final week of term. The children who were racing showed tireless enthusiasm and plenty of enjoyment throughout! The supporting crowd created lots of noise and showed plenty of passion for their house teams. This created a wonderful atmosphere and the children really did show their best—Mr Sykes



### ROOTS BOOTS AND BUGS



Roots, Boots & Bugs have had a fantastic summer term! We've really enjoyed the hot weather and so have the flowers which have bloomed beautifully under the care of the children. Hot afternoons have meant we have been spending some time relaxing in the shade designing our dream gardens and making windchimes. I hope they continue to enjoy some time outside over the summer! - Mrs Plum





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## Learning Lens...

### Reception

In Reception, the children have been learning how to write a story. They have learnt to retell lots of traditional tales and used these familiar stories to write their own versions. They have faced lots of new school experiences this term and we are incredibly proud of how they have embraced each new learning experience and challenge. They presented their year of learning to the whole school and parents in the Reception class assembly. They also went on their first ever school trip to the zoo, which was a wonderful experience.



We have also been completing wild challenges as part of our outdoor learning sessions. The challenges included making nature paint brushes, grass trumpets, and nature jewellery. Huge thank you to Nanny Lisa and Nanny Francis for all their help and support with our outdoor learning sessions.





## Learning Lens...

### Year 1

*We have achieved so much amazing learning this year, and I am so proud of all the children in Year One. The best part of this term has been our long-awaited trip to Warwick Castle and what an amazing day we had! We saw the 'Zog Show' LIVE curled up on colourful beanbags in the sun. We watched the 'War of the Roses' and saw real life jousting, with horses charging and knights battling to win the crown. We saw the amazing Falconer's Quest, with birds of prey flying over our heads and watched the Trebuchet launch to defend the castle! We finished off the day exploring the castle and having our photos taken with Princesses! Not to mention a run around in the rain in the great Zog playground. It was amazing to see the children having such a wonderful time!*



*Unfortunately, due to the very unpredictable, but lovely British weather, we had to cancel sports day this year. However, Year 1 had the brilliant idea of hosting our own indoor Mini Olympic Sports Day in the classroom! We planned our games (Balancing on 1 leg, Musical Statues, Balancing Book Race, Throwing Beanbags and a hilarious Bum Shuffling Race) and set up the classroom accordingly. Despite the rain we had a wonderful time – why don't you have a look!*





## Learning Lens...

### Year 2

Year 2 have had a very busy half term! In Geography, we've been creating posters after researching a part of Spain. We've also written poems, created bar and tally charts and learnt all about fossils. We had transition afternoon where we spent time in our new classroom, creating work for a display and we also watched the KS2 Production. Finally, we had an amazing school trip to Warwick Castle. We learnt loads, saw lots of amazing things and made some fantastic memories.



### Year 3

Year 3 have had an amazing year and I am so sad we are coming to an end. This term we have enthusiastically performed in the musical showcase and created pneumatic monster boxes. They enjoyed decorating these and having a go at creating a force to open their mouths.





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## Learning Lens...

### Year 4

Year 4 have had an incredibly busy summer term! From trips to the woods, to designing pavilions and acing the Multiplication Tables Check they have tried their best and put all of their enthusiasm into everything.

They have developed so well in their Maths and have worked hard on learning how to use coordinates and graphs as well as rounding and estimating money. They also continued to work hard to perfect their times tables and it really paid off with their excellent results from the MTC.

In English we loved The Land of Roar and went on a trip to the woods to get our brains into a creative place for descriptive writing. The children enjoyed playing as The Lost Girls and Boys and imagining what life would be like in the Tangled Forest with dragons soaring overhead.

In DT they had a great time creating 3D structures of various sizes and shapes and in Science we developed our teamwork by building pendulums.

Lots of work has gone into the creation of the summer production and Year 4 approached it with their usual zeal. There are so many fantastic actors in the class that it was impossible to choose for the roles and we even had to have understudies! Their singing evokes feelings of joy and excitement and I hope they carry all of this zest into Year 5 with them after a lovely, relaxing summer break.





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## Learning Lens...

### Year 5

What a term this has been. We have been able to share with you our work through a class assembly and enjoyed preparing for the musical extravaganza – 'Mamma Mia'.

In Maths, we have covered shape and space and considered how angles are measured and drawn and we have also completed our assessments. Everyone tried their very best.

In English, we have completed Haikus and enjoyed reading mythical stories from Japan and Greece.

Our PE has seen us improve our cricket skills and we have enjoyed working in a team.

Year 5 have demonstrated all 5 aspects of the Cromwell Way during their Enterprise Week. They have exemplified being good role models in their work ethic and behaviour:

**Resilience** – At times, there were frustrations, but nobody gave up in the pursuit of completing their Squishmallow to a high standard.

**Responsibility** – They all took care with their risk assessments and use of the equipment, listening well at all times.

**Relationships** – The children worked collaboratively in the roles that we have practised throughout the year. They showed kindness and respect in building each other up though their difficulties and successes.

**Reflection and Readiness** – The children set themselves targets at the end of each day for improvements and modifications. We were impressed how the children came in ready the next morning to implement these and resourced their own independent learning.

As we reflect on the whole year, Mrs Eliff and Ms Parker wish to thank all pupils and parents of Year 5. Teaching the next generation is a team effort – we have felt very lucky to be part of your child's life and wish them all the best with the move up to year 6.





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## Learning Lens...

### Year 6

It has been an exciting and busy half term in Year 6. We have been on our residential to Milton Keynes where the children were able to participate in various outdoor and adventurous activities. We also performed our part of the Musical Showcase. As part of the children's preparation for Hinchingsbrooke School, we have completed a variety of transition activities to support them moving forward. We have also looked at Shapes in Maths and written stories in English. It has been such an exciting final term at Cromwell Academy!





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# Governor News



**Do you have a few hours a month to spare?**  
**Are you keen to help your local community?**  
**Have you ever considered becoming a School Governor?**

***Would you like to find out more?***

**Cromwell Academy are looking for people  
to support their Local Governing Body**



**If you are community minded, interested in supporting young people and enjoy asking questions and reviewing information to support progress - this could be the role for you!**

**To find out more please contact:  
[personnel@acesmat.uk](mailto:personnel@acesmat.uk)**

**We are looking to recruit Governors with a range of experiences. Your willingness to support our journey with your views and ideas are key to our success**



*Dream – Believe – Achieve*

[www.cromwellacademy.com](http://www.cromwellacademy.com)



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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

**IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL PLEASE RING THE SCHOOL OFFICE AND LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE ABSENCE LINE BY 8.50 AM AT THE LATEST. ABSENCE NEEDS TO BE REPORTED EVERY DAY**

**We open our school gates in the morning at 8.40am but it has been reported that some pupils are outside the gates as early as 8.00am. During this time, they are unsupervised and behaviour is becoming a concern. Please monitor how early your child is leaving the house to reduce the 'hanging about' near the road**

*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.*

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.**

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

|                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Friday 1st September    | TRAINING DAY                  |
| Monday 4th September    | TRAINING DAY                  |
| Tuesday 5th September   | All Children return to school |
| Monday 23rd October—    | Half Term                     |
| Friday 27th October     |                               |
| Monday 4th December     | TRAINING DAY                  |
| Wednesday 20th December | Autumn Term Closes            |

Further dates will be added to the website and sent out via our email calendar.