



# DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



Dear Families

It is hard to believe that another half term has passed since our last edition of the newsletter. Then when I think back over all of the things that have been achieved, it is no surprise that it has gone so quickly.

This half term has been crammed with highlights and it is a pleasure to be reflecting on some of these as we head into the Christmas break.

As always, we have continued our focus on creativity this term. Year 3 & 4 prepared for a musical performance in Huntingdon town for the Christmas Lights switch on event. They did an amazing job at representing our school and we were extremely proud of them. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 prepared and performed a wonderful Nativity, which told the story of Christmas through song. They showcased a range of skills used in their learning including Makaton signing, Spanish, drama, dance and reading. The performance was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our new corridor art exhibition display has developed this term and we are proud to demonstrate a range of wonderful pieces that have been produced throughout the school.

We were thrilled to see the unique collaboration between Hinchingbrooke School and Cromwell revived again this term. The whole school enjoyed a wonderful pantomime, produced and performed by the Year 12 drama students. The high-quality performance was enjoyed by all and created a valuable window into the future for some of our own aspiring performers. We expect this to be the return of a long-term partnership with the secondary school.

Hosted by Cromwell, Years 5 & 6 were privileged to be part of an amazing science taster evening delivered by the Year 12 Science Outreach Society. This collaboration between primary and secondary students really got the children thinking scientifically, exercised their curiosity and was an honour to be a part of.

Enterprise Week was another phenomenal success; once again each class exceeded themselves. The children were rewarded with a good level of custom at the Enterprise Fair, where they were able to see their hard work and creativity benefitting others. Thank you to all our families who supported this event. The children now have the exciting task of learning how much profit they made and, most importantly, deciding how they wish to spend it! We were delighted to have the support of Cromwell Academy Friends (CAF) again, who are working hard to raise funds towards a replacement for the large climbing equipment on the school field. We look forward to bringing you the details of this project once a decision has been made.

I hope you enjoy reading all of the featured articles in this edition of the newsletter.

Wishing all our families a safe and happy Christmas break and all good wishes for the New Year.

Mrs Hannah Connor-James  
Headteacher



# Spotlight on Attendance

In each newsletter we will report on a different aspect of school attendance and how we can support you in making 'every day count' for your child.



	Class	Average Attendance
1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 5	97.78
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 6	97.46
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 4	96.05
4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2	96.01
5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1	95.28
6 <sup>th</sup>	Reception	94.62
7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3	93.78

## When does absence become unauthorised?

Absence from school due to an illness is authorised. Schools understand that children can be poorly and it is best in most circumstances that they stay home to recover.

However, if this authorised absence starts to become a pattern and being unwell at home increases to the point where attendance drops to less than 95%, we will contact you and ask for medical evidence (doctor's note/ doctor' txt on phone/hospital appointments).

Providing medical evidence when your child is off school ensures the absence is authorised. This does 2 things: it shows the school that you are seeking advice on this repeated illness and it also means we continue authorising the absence. Without the evidence, the repeated absence will be unauthorised and may build to the point where we are concerned about the lost learning time. We will invite you to a meeting to explore supporting your child's attendance.

Our protocols around monitoring attendance are dictated by the government and we are expected to demonstrate that these have been followed.



# Focus On: Anti-Bullying

As you are aware from our previous communications, we used Anti-Bullying Week as an opportunity to revisit some of the learning, key messages and strategies around dealing with friendship friction and how to identify when this becomes bullying.

You will have received our leaflet outlining this work which can also be found [here](#)

Since the Coronavirus pandemic interrupted some of the crucial social interactions that young children depend upon in their early development, the impact of this has been evident in children's communication, language and social skills, as well as in their emotional resilience.

Whilst we are pleased that bullying is rare in our school - we have had no confirmed cases of bullying in the last 12 months - we are aware that friendship friction at this age is not. Learning to work positively together, how to play fairly and how to deal with disputes is an important part of learning and development. We are working hard to support children in developing good social awareness and the strategies needed for conflict resolution as part of our curriculum and restorative behaviour approach.

During Anti-Bullying Week we were pleased to see the children's understanding and awareness of what constitutes bullying improve and, most importantly, they understand what to do if they are a victim or witness to this type of behaviour. We will continue to revisit this important topic through our PSHE curriculum and regular assemblies, as well as through our behaviour policy which can be found [here](#).

As part of this work, we have reviewed our Anti-Bullying policy and the updated version can be found [here](#)





## MUSIC AT CROMWELL



What an exciting time of the academic year it has been! With the school generally in the last few moments of the term and winding down, the music department has been gearing up for one of its most exciting times of the year. Every child in the school has been a part of the school's celebrations leading up to the end of term; from nativity performances, carol concerts and compositions of new carols. The work has been non-stop. This does not even include the hard work that year 6 has been doing, away from the sparkle of Christmas, learning 10 new songs, which include numerous medleys made up of different songs for Young Voices, which happens just after we come back in January.

In more detail this term we have seen Year 3 and 4 turning on the Christmas Lights in Huntingdon. They performed a range of Christmas songs, challenging themselves, not only with tricky songs but also with Makaton signing and tackling the chilly weather on the day! They came across as seasoned performers!



The School Choir have also been into the community, joining up with the other primary choirs in the ACES Trust, where they performed at the "Godmanchester Turning on of the Lights" and a public performance at "Carols and Barrels."

For the past few weeks, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have been preparing for their Nativity performance in the final few days of school. This was a mixture of new, commercial and traditional Christmas songs to tell the story of Christmas. It is good to be working on vocal skills from such a young age and we can already see the progress in music coming through as a result.





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## Sporting News

It has been an exciting half term for Cromwell Academy in sports. We participated in the Pokemon Cup and came in a very respectable 9<sup>th</sup> place. The children worked tremendously hard and improved throughout the competition.



In addition to this, our school participated in the HSSP Santa Dash and all children were given the opportunity to get their trainers and Santa hats on and have a run. It created such excitement and buzz around the whole of school.



## DRAMA CLUB

I would love to take this opportunity to say a massive well done and thank you!

Firstly, well done to the incredibly talented Drama Club who wrote, directed and performed the acrostic poem 'Christmas'. They have all worked really hard and they should be very proud of themselves! Secondly, thank you to all the amazing parents who continue to support us all and came to watch the performance.

I cannot wait for next term.

See you all in 2024!

Ms Anderson



## Learning Lens...

### Reception

In Reception we have been exploring the seasons and reflecting on our experiences at the different times of the year. We learnt a poem about the seasons which we can now perform with actions from memory. We have also been learning how to use different types of hammers including mallets and tack hammers. The children used the tack hammer to fill the pumpkin with golf tee's before using the mallets to crack it open. The children have used their new skills to make a Christmas tree decoration, which they sold at the Christmas fair.



### Year 1

What a half-term we have had in Year One! We have been concluding our learning about Castles and Dragons, staging our own battles, reenacting knocking down castles and creating our own versions of the Bayeux Tapestry. This was lots of fun, as I am sure you can imagine! In English, we created a fantasy story about a dragon, Edgar, who is always getting too excited and accidentally sets things on fire. The stories were very entertaining! In Art, we have been looking at Kandinsky and Concentric Circles – we experimented with a range of media such as oil pastels, chalk, and paint to create our own interpretation of Kandinsky's masterpiece. WE have learnt lots of new skills in PE, exploring a range of equipment in the hall and how we can manoeuvre around it safely using a range of different body parts. We've been climbing through hoops, sliding down benches and swinging upside down like monkeys. What fun!





## Learning Lens...

### Year 2

We have had a wonderfully creative half term. We started the term by identifying materials in science and ending with applying our knowledge of materials to making boats that float and are waterproof. In DT we designed and created these wonderful pouches, using our intricate sewing skills (running stitch) to join materials together. We have also enjoyed learning and singing a variety of Christmas songs in preparation for our performances.



### Year 3

We've had such a busy term in Year 3. Our topic has been the Romans and we've absolutely loved it. We've made shields and soldiers; acted out some Roman battle moves; learnt all about the Roman army and Boudicca; labelled the Roman empire on a map and even learnt and retold the story about how Rome was founded. On top of this, we've been working hard on our Maths skills as we're learning to read, write and partition numbers up to 1000. We are learning to write different genres in English including play scripts and diary entries. Science has taught us how to carry out different investigations involving light. In addition, we have challenged ourselves this term during our Swimming lessons.





## Learning Lens...

### Year 4

Wow! Another busy term in Year 4 - it's amazing how much we have managed to squeeze into the last 8 weeks.

We have done everything from building a model of the digestive system, adding and subtracting 4 digits, investigating teeth, considering the impact of the British Empire, thinking about keeping our minds healthy, swimming, dance, learning about places of Christian worship and so much more!

Not to mention we took part in anti-bullying week, created some incredible poppy crafts to commemorate Remembrance Day, performed fantastically at the Huntingdon Christmas light switch on and had an amazing trip to the Zoology Museum in Cambridge.

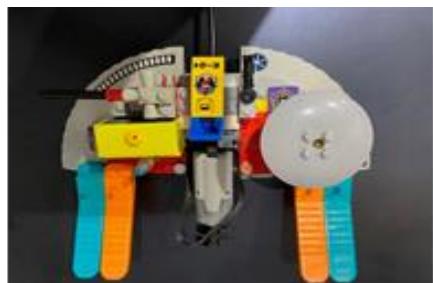
Well done to the children for all of their hard work- here's to a lovely, restful break before we're back in January to start it all again!



### Year 5

Year 5 have enjoyed learning about Victorians this term. They have all written narratives, biographies and poetry linked to the Victorian era and especially how children were treated. We have a trip planned to Hinchingbrooke Park in the New Year to study living things in their habitats, this links to our Science curriculum this term. We have been enjoying too lots of extra-curricular activities including the recent Science Workshop and Lego and Games Club.

We look forward to the spring term where we will be looking at fractions, decimals and percentages in Maths and exploring disaster stories in English.





## Learning Lens...

### Year 6

It has been a really exciting half term in Year 6. We have written some excellent pieces of writing using 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold. We even shared the work and got a response from Hannah Gold on Twitter! We enjoyed creating pop-up books in D & T which we shared with the children in Year 1. In History, we began our topic on World War Two and have been investigating how the war began and the Home Front. We also paid tribute to those who sacrificed themselves for our freedom as part of Armistice Day through our poppy-inspired stones.

It was really inspiring to have a Science evening with some of the Year 12 students from Hinchingbrooke and participate in some experiments. In preparation for Young Voices in January, we have been practicing our singing and dancing in Music and PE. We have also decorated stones as part of our enterprise project to celebrate Christmas as well as building our advertising campaign and organising our pricing.





# Governor News

It has been a real pleasure to be able to see what is happening at Cromwell by following the Academy on its X/Twitter feed. It looked like the children had a really fun time at the Santa Dash last week. It was also lovely to see Year 3 & 4 representing the Academy and performing at the Huntingdon Town Christmas Fair on 24<sup>th</sup> November.

The extended curriculum continues to be high priority for Mrs Connor-James and her team and it is wonderful to see this in action over the Christmas period.

As a Local Governing Body, we continue to be proud to volunteer and support Mrs Connor-James and her team in providing the best possible educational opportunities within and beyond the classroom for your children. We are still looking for Parent Governors to join our LGB to support the school and its whole community.

If you are interested in this opportunity and would be willing to give a few hours a term to support in this way then please do email me directly. My email address is

[rbierton@cra.acesmat.uk](mailto:rbierton@cra.acesmat.uk)

Best wishes for the Christmas season and wishing you and your families a healthy and happy 2024.

Rebecca Bierton

Chair of Governors





# Important Reminders

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

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

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.

**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 your 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 or use any of 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!



## Upcoming Events and Dates

Dates  
for your  
A red diary with a yellow spiral binding and the word 'DIARY' written on the cover.

Thursday 4th January 2024

Spring Term Opens

Wednesday 10th January 2023

Year 6 Young Voices

Monday 29th January—Friday 2nd February

Parent Consultations

Wednesday 14th February

Year 5 Swimming

Monday 19th—Friday 23rd February

HALF TERM



### DONATIONS OF LEGO

Our Lego Club are in desperate need of more Lego if you have any that you are happy to donate we would be extremely grateful

Thank you

Lego Club



The children have all been busy at Kids Club creating their Christmas calendars, they have enjoyed making them and they look amazing!

If any parent/carers have any unwanted games, stationary or indoor/outdoor play equipment we would be extremely grateful for any donations.

