



February issue 2 2021

Return to school

We are very excited to be welcoming all our pupils back to school from Monday 8th March. For those who have been learning at home, it will be a great chance to get back to school and see all their classmates. For those who have been attending in critical worker bubbles, it will be great to get back to seeing all their friends too. The teachers have been very impressed by all the remote learning work but are very much looking forward to having their usual class back together again.

We will be sending out letters shortly detailing the procedures we will be following in school and reminding everyone of the drop off and pick up plans. We look forward to seeing everyone again very soon!

PE kits

We will be continuing to ask pupils to come to school dressed in their PE kits when they have PE or games scheduled. Currently the days are as follows:

Year 3 - Monday & Wednesday

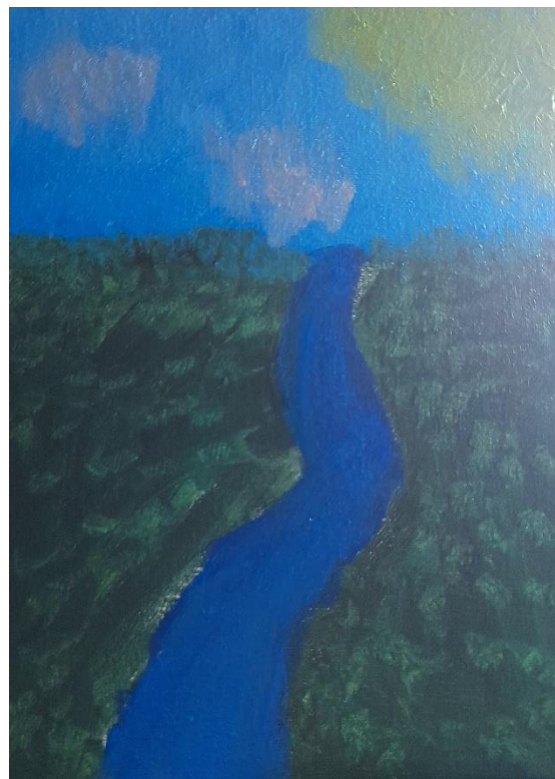
Year 4 - Tuesday & Friday

Year 5 - Monday & Friday

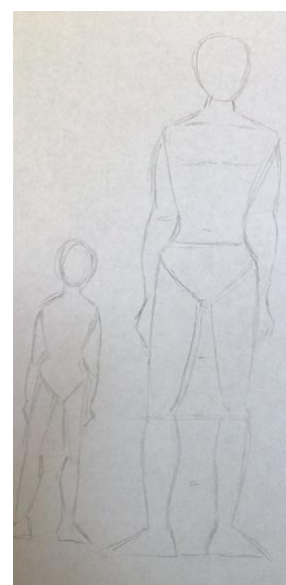
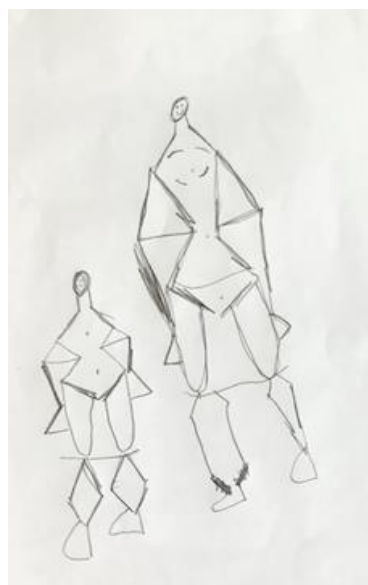
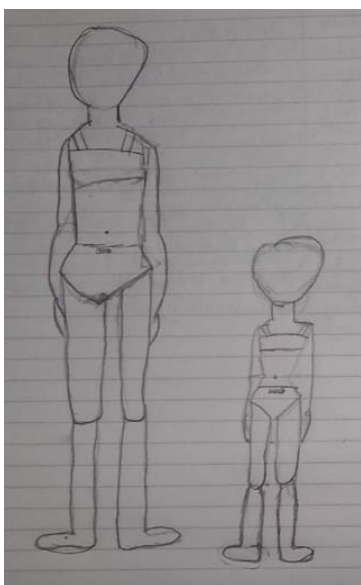
Year 6 - Tuesday & Thursday

Reminder- cancelled INSET

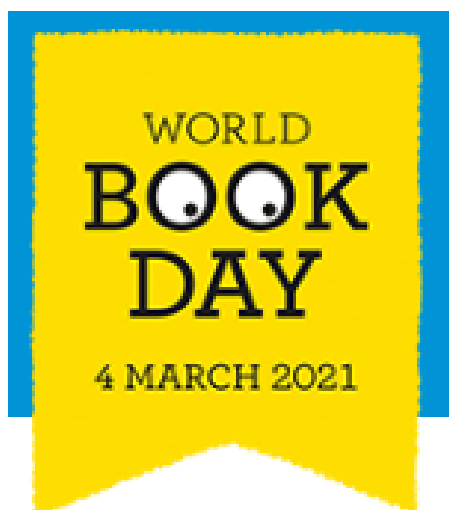
A reminder that we have cancelled our INSET day planned for **Friday 19th March**. All children will have returned to school by then and we would prefer them to have time to settle back in. We will be rescheduling our INSET days in the summer term and will keep you informed of new dates.



Year 5 have been learning about rivers in geography and exploring the different features. They then went on to explore river landscapes as a creative task. This was created by Lilianna in 5B. Mrs Barnard was really impressed with her use of paint to create texture. Great work Lilianna!



Year 5 have also been exploring proportions and creating human figures using different techniques. The above examples were created by Caitlin, Leon G, Leon K and Lucy in 5B. Excellent art work!



World Book Day 2021

World Book Day 2021 will be slightly different this year as we will be celebrating virtually. Across the school, all children will be participating in a variety of activities to celebrate reading and develop a love of books. For our remote learners, teachers will be setting a range of book related activities for children to enjoy.

World Book Day tokens

We usually give out World Book Day tokens at the school book fair, but this will not be possible this year. In order to ensure all our children receive a book token, we will be handing out paper copies in school from March 8 but would also direct you to go to the following website where you can download a book token. https://www.worldbookday.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/booktoken_PrimaryUK.pdf

The book tokens can be exchanged for a £1 book or can be put towards the cost of another full price book. The tokens are valid until Sunday 28th March in participating bookshops and supermarkets. A full list of £1 can be viewed at <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

Craneswater Read Aloud

Following the success of the Million Word Reading Challenge we have launched the Craneswater Read Aloud. To celebrate and share everyone's favourite books, teachers and teaching assistants will be recording themselves reading a chapter or extract of their favourite book for the children to listen to on World Book Day. We would then like the children to use the voice note feature on purple mash to record their own book extract for us to hear. They can explain why they chose the book and what makes it their favourite. We look forward to hearing from lots of you!

Virtual Author Visit

Every year we invite an author into school to share their work and experiences with the children. This year we are having to do things differently and will be hosting a virtual author visit. Sarah Oliver is a Sunday Times best-selling author of over 20 books for children. She has written a variety of books including non-fiction books on famous people such as Taylor Swift, Lionel Messi and Justin Bieber. On World Book Day, she will be joining us to take part in a range of activities to inspire some of our children to develop their own writing skills.



Bournville Book Fest

During World Book Day week, from 1st March to 5th March, the virtual Bournville Book Festival will be running. Each day at 9am, a new video by some of Britain's best authors and artists will be uploaded. These will include poetry with Michael Rosen and Benjamin Zephaniah and stories with Cressida Cowell and Serena Patel amongst others.

All the videos will have an interactive element and will be around 30 minutes long making them perfect for those working remotely or working in school. No login is required and they are accessible to all, with a range of activities including draw along sessions and a poetry masterclass.

Have a look at <https://bournvillebookfest.com/schools> to find out more. There is a parent pack which you can download or just join in with a pen and paper.

School Library Service – e-book library

We had great news from the School Library Service last month as Craneswater came second in the e-book library school of the month table! First place went to Ark Ayrton Primary Academy and we shared 2nd place with Trafalgar school. Well done to all our e-book readers!

The e-book library is a fantastic resource for all our learners. If you haven't had a look yet, go to <https://portsmouth.eplatform.co/> and click sign in in the top right-hand corner. Log in details will have been sent from teachers but please contact us if you need a reminder.

Children can browse the collection and choose a book to borrow. The collection includes fiction, non-fiction and audio books. Have a look over half term and maybe borrow a story to listen to or try something from an author you haven't encountered before.

Reminder for comments

Relationships and Sex Education Consultation

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education following nationwide consultation. These changes came into effect from September 2020 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements.

This means that we have been reviewing our RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils. Part of this review includes a consultation period with parents and carers.

Information about RSE at Craneswater and the proposed changes can be found on our website at <https://www.craneswater.portsmouth.sch.uk/relationships-and-sex-education>

If you would like to submit any comments for consideration as part of this review, please email them to admin@craneswater.portsmouth.sch.uk for the attention of Ms C Lawrence, PSHE Coordinator, by Thursday 1st April 2021.

Year 6 have been exploring how writers create suspense. They have analysed the work of other authors and tried to use the skills to create their own piece of writing. Miya 6B has tried to keep the reader in suspense with her piece below. Well done Miya!

As his parents footsteps faded down the long corridor, he waited for the mundane sound of his bedroom lights going off. He settled down to sleep as the familiar sound of his clock ticked beside him. The hushed chirp of crickets echoed around the room and the curtain ruffled as the wind gently blew through the window.

Suddenly, the child opened his eyes and stared around the room. Then, he quickly glanced over at his wardrobe door which he thought moved. What was that creak? Maybe he was just imagining it, but he was sure he wasn't. He hid under his covers in fright. Was there something in his wardrobe? Scared, he looked back at the door and in his fright, he saw a hand! Now he was really getting scared. He wanted to run to his parents and tell them what he had seen, but they wouldn't believe him. Plus, he was too tired to get out of bed. So, he decided to go to sleep and think about good things.

After a while, a large shadow came out of the child's wardrobe and loomed over the sleeping boy. Then, it slid over him. Strange sinister eyes appeared underneath the boy's bed. As the innocent boy woke up, a dark shape rose up from beneath the child. The boy froze in fear. He screamed as he stared in disbelief.

Then, there was silence.

He was definitely not dreaming...

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