



February 2021



Delicious learning!

Year 4 have been doing some scrumptious work learning all about the process of chocolate making. Both in school and remote learners developed their writing skills by explaining the process from the harvesting of the cocoa pods to the wrapping of the bars. Looks delicious!

Half Term

As we come to the end of a very unusual half term, we would like to congratulate our pupils, both in school and at home, on their efforts and resilience. Lots of excellent work has been completed by children learning remotely, and in class, and we have included some more great examples for you to see.

For many parents and carers, this half term will have been challenging, supporting children with remote learning or carrying out roles as critical workers. We hope everyone will be able to have a break over half term and thank you for your efforts so far.

Over half term, we encourage everyone to continue to follow the current guidelines so that we can get back to normal as soon as possible. We look forward to having all children back in school when we can and we will communicate any updates on this as soon as we have them.

More than a million!

Mr Salmond would like to congratulate all our learners who joined in with Reading Plus activities and helped push the number of words read to over a million in the last week of January. What's even better is that they have kept it up with over a million words read in the first week of February too! This means that since the start of January the school has read over 5,372,991 words! We have over 400 children using Reading Plus regularly with an average number of words read of 13,234! per child

Not only are our learners reading lots, but with comprehension scores of nearly 90%, we can see that they have a good understanding of what they are reading. We now have more pupils regularly using Reading Plus than ever before which is great news for our pupils' literacy skills.

Well done Craneswater!



Year 3 have been learning about the Stone Age in history. They have been finding out how we know about prehistoric Britain and what life was like in the Neolithic period. They have been comparing life as a hunter gatherer with that of a farmer and finding out about cave art. Ollie (3D) created this fantastic cave painting complete with hunters. Great job Ollie!



Cancelled INSET

We had an INSET day planned on **Friday 19th March** but have decided to postpone it. It is possible all children may have returned to school by then and we would prefer them to have time to settle back to school. We will be rescheduling our INSET days in the summer term and will keep you informed of new dates.

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 9th February all learners took part in Safer Internet Day exploring the theme of *'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world.'* Pupils were involved in a variety of activities to help them develop better awareness of the reliability of the online world. They explored advertising, the use of avatars and what to trust online. Safer Internet Day is one part of our computing curriculum which is designed to ensure children are equipped with all the necessary knowledge and skills to enjoy accessing the internet whilst keeping themselves safe.

Please remember you can access lots of helpful resources to support safer internet use through our website – click on the Childnet International symbol.

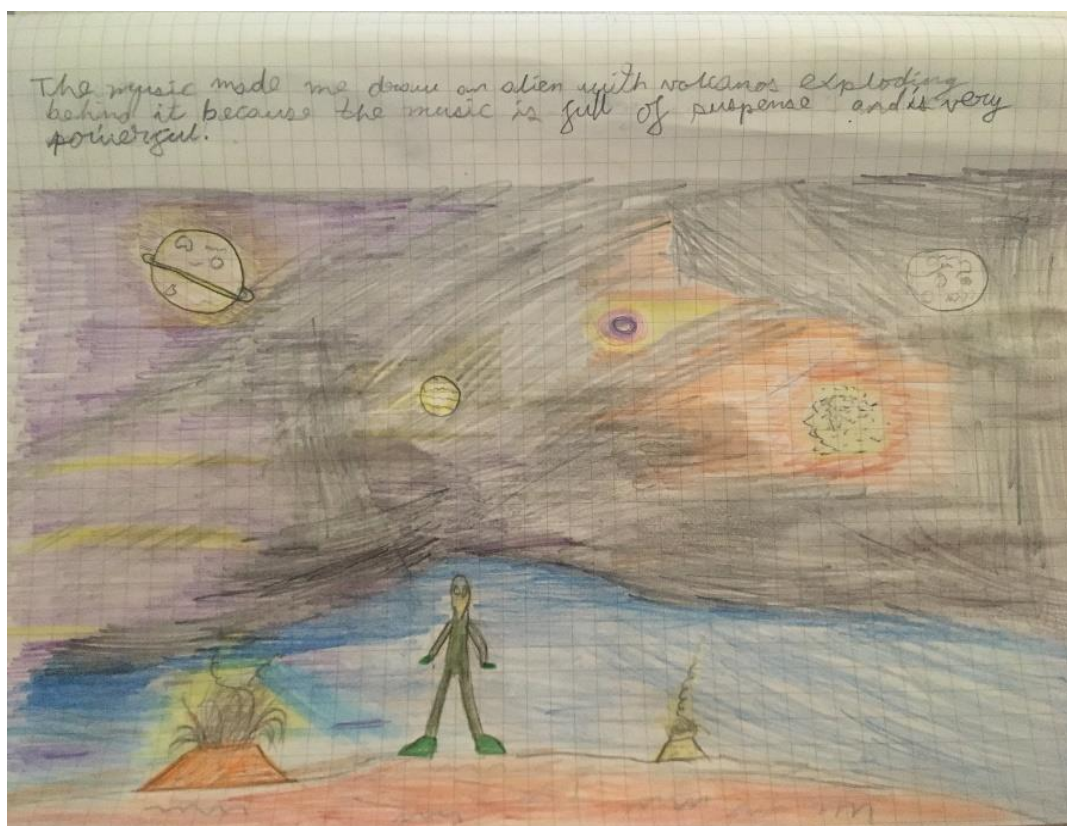
Purple Mash display boards

Just as we would usually display children's work in school, we have created virtual display boards on Purple Mash. These can be accessed through the green *Sharing* tab on the top left of the Purple Mash screen. Lots of children's work is already on display and can be seen by the rest of their class. Have a look at some of the great work!

Supporting reading at home

Please have a look at the 7 top tips to support reading at home on the last page of the newsletter. It highlights the value of reading all different types of materials for children and includes useful suggestions to support your child.

Year 5 have been exploring the music of Gustav Holst this half term and focussed on a piece called Mars. They considered the pitch, volume and tempo of the piece and tried to reflect the feeling it created through drawing. Leon (5B) created this fantastic artwork and explained how the music made him feel: *"The music made me draw an alien with volcanos exploding behind it because the music is full of suspense and is very powerful."* Have a listen to the piece of music performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra and see if you agree. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXOanvv4plU>



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.

Remote learning – Information for Parents

Our remote learning platform has been working well and we have been able to address any queries from families. If you would like a more in-depth rationale for our remote learning provision, please go to our website home page and click on *Craneswater Junior School Remote Education Provision: Information for parents*.



July

Mon anniversaire est le dix juillet.
J'ai neuf ans.

Year 4 have been practising how to describe birthdays in French. Kleidi (4BW) wrote several sentences in French describing the age and birthday of each character. Do you know how old this chap is? Très bien Kleidi!

Kids email safety



- Treat email people as strangers.
- Never email pictures of yourself to online people.
- Do not give out your email address to people you do not know.
- Do not share usernames or passwords.
- Do not be attracted by clickbait in your emails.
- Do not be fooled by cheap or free items.
- Always check with your parents if you are worried or scared about a spam email.

Year 6 have been exploring what to do if you receive a suspicious looking email and how to stay safe. Kyle (6DS) sent in this advice which includes lots of sensible tips. Great work Kyle!

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.

7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

- 1** Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

- 2** Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

- 3** Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

- 4** Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

- 5** Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

- 6** Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

- 7** Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Education Endowment Foundation (2018)
Preparing for Literacy: Improving Communication, Language and Literacy in the Early Years. Education Endowment Foundation: London.
Available online: eef.org.uk/eef-projects/preparing-for-literacy

Education Endowment Foundation (2019).
Improving Literacy in Secondary Schools. Education Endowment Foundation: London.
Available online: eef.org.uk/eef-projects/improving-literacy-in-secondary-schools

Breadmore, H.L., Vardy, E.J., Cunningham, A.J., Kwok, R.K.W., & Carroll, J.M. (2019).
Literacy Development: Evidence Review. Education Endowment Foundation: London.
Available online: educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Literacy_Development_Evidence_Review.pdf



Education
Endowment
Foundation



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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

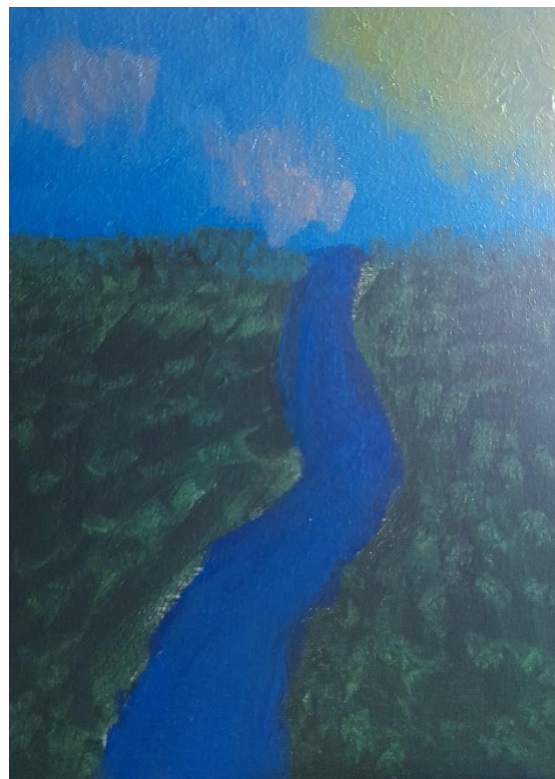
Year 4 - Tuesday & Friday

Year 5 - Monday & Friday

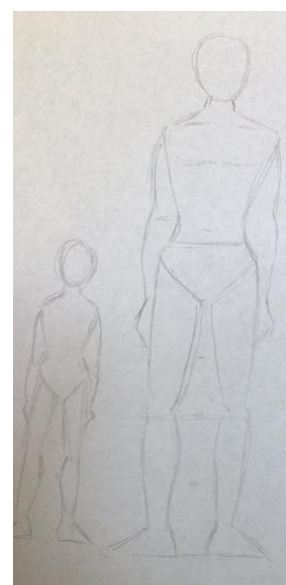
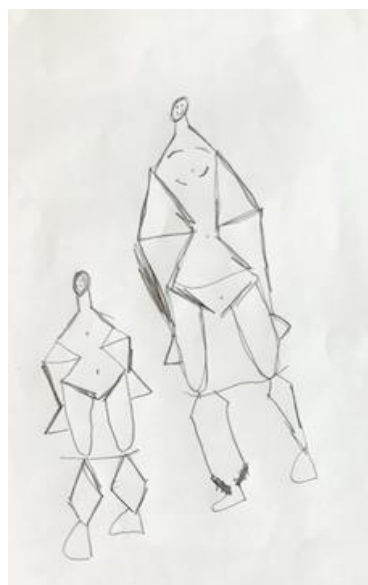
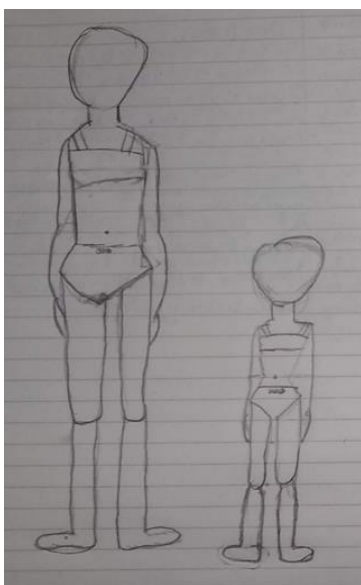
Year 6 - Tuesday & Thursday

Reminder- cancelled INSET

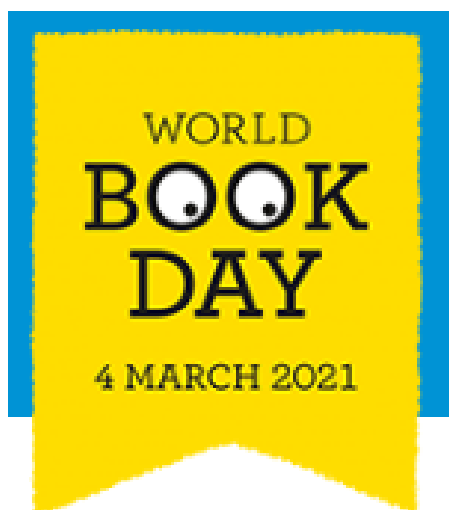
A reminder that we have cancelled our INSET day planned for **Friday 19th March**. All children will have returned to school by then and we would prefer them to have time to settle back in. We will be rescheduling our INSET days in the summer term and will keep you informed of new dates.



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.

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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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