

Crowdys Hill School

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HEAD TEACHERS COMMENT

Dear Parents/Carers

What a whirlwind year.

The children and young people here have continued to wow us with their learning. We have really focused on phonics this year, and the results have been seen across the school, with children's reading abilities improving above our average. Another area of focus for us was collaboration. We wanted to be part of the wider community, more so than we are already. Mr Vickery, our careers lead, has done a fantastic job of organising business events, careers weeks, getting more local businesses on board with us, and opening up a wider range of employment opportunities for our youngsters. If any parents out there can offer our pupils work experiences or employment after Sixth Form please contact Mr Vickery. We have also joined the **Compass collaboration group**, which is a group of schools in Swindon who share training opportunities, knowledge and expertise, events, and peer reviewing processes. We are continuing with this next year.

In terms of trips, pupils have visited Pencelli for residentials, along with Stoke Mandeville sports event, Legge House residential for primary, and various other outings. The Duke of Edinburgh participants have successfully achieved bronze and silver awards. There was some disruption from the teacher strikes, but they can catch up next year. Our music festival was also cancelled but again we shall try to run it next year.

We said goodbye to six year 11 pupils who are moving on to college courses, and twenty Sixth Form pupils moving into work or college, with a few going to Horizons specialist college. At the time of writing we are still waiting to have confirmation of the college site for use by our Sixth Formers. All being agreed, this is an exciting venture for us, as many of our youngsters go on to college courses.

Huge thanks to the staff here who work tirelessly to ensure that your children get a great education and all of the opportunities that mainstream children have, and more!

Next year the focus will be on communication skills, developing the college site (assuming it can go ahead), and reading.

Have a lovely summer holiday.

Mrs Higham

Dates for Diary	
21 July	Term 6 ends 3.15pm
24 July	School Closed—Staff Training Day
25 July	School Closed—Staff Training Day
1 September	School Closed—Staff Training Day
4 September	Term 1 starts for all at 9.00am
27 September	School Photographer in school to take individual portraits



10E

Mrs Dundas

This year, 10E have had an incredibly busy year.

We started off with weekly trips out orienteering for PE, this involved using our map reading skills to follow routes around Coate Water - not just around the lake, but into nearby tracks and fields. Everyone was able to read maps and follow markers to find specific points along the routes. We have had trips out to the cinema, local shops, for road safety and for a meal out at The Kembrey to work on the social skills needed to order food and eat out in public.

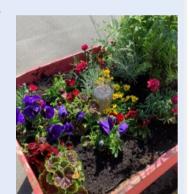
Over the festive period, 10E worked together to create a stall of goodies to sell, we had a chocolate fountain, and made marsh mellow and strawberry kebabs to go with it. We also sold Christmas decorations. We made a lot of money for charity.

We have had a STEM challenge and a construction afternoon, where the students were challenged to build lighthouses and towers. They worked well together in teams and applied their combined knowledge to make fabulous creations. For Careers week, we made a class presentation - Green Bottles, Green Environment' and sustainable recycled products out of plastic bottles. We presented our ideas to a panel of experts.

Academically, the students have worked hard to improve their functional Maths and English skills. Four of our 10E boys have gained qualifications in English, achieving their Level 1 Functional English qualifications in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. Well done to Kieran and Mason, and two of our other boys.

In Science, we have conducted investigations, collected results and drawn conclusions about the world around us. We have planted our summer garden in our trug, which is beginning to look beautiful now that summer is here.

We are all looking forward to the challenges and opportunities of being in Y11 in September.



10B

Miss Bartlett

10B have had another good year of learning as individuals and as a group. At the start of the year in English we were looking at features of newspapers and we have also learnt about writing a diary and we were all really interested in Anne Frank's story. 10B have also learnt about a range of topics in Maths such as calculating area and algebra. We have taken part in badminton lessons, selling muffins during careers week and lots of trips into the local community. Another successful year! Well done 10B!





YEAR 7

Swimming

This term year 7 have been going swimming at the Cricklade Leisure Centre. They have been making amazing progress and are all getting super confident in the water. Last week was 'Water Safety' week and all the children practised swimming with bottles and were given advice on what to do if they felt unsafe.

Well Done Year 7, I look forward to taking you swimming again next year.

COOKERY

Mrs Lancashire

The final term has been a very busy time for all the pupils in cookery. Our Year 11s have completed their BTEC Level 1 Home Cooking course. Everyone has worked incredibly hard over the academic year cooking a range of recipes and completing written work to further support their qualification. They have all been a pleasure to teach and I wish them all the best as they enter the next stage of their education.

Year 8 pupils have spent time improving their core skills and have cooked a wide variety of dishes including mozzarella and mince pasta bake, rocky road, apple pie and chocolate chip muffins.

The pupils in year 9 have progressed, cooking more complex recipes. They explored different cooking methods and spent lots of time focusing on weighing and measuring.

In Year 10 all the groups have cooked a variety of foods to further their skills ready for Year 11. So they have spent time preparing ingredients using a wider range of equipment to further develop their independence.

There has also been a hygiene focus each term to help ensure everyone knows the importance of clearing away properly and they have this as a life skill going forward.



I-ZONE

We have opened the i-Zone this year. Pupils have been invited in small groups to informally chat about different topics. Things like friendships, online safety and keeping healthy. They have shared ideas with friends and enjoyed chatting informally whilst learning or trying something new. The i-Zone has also been used for the KS4 debating club. The pupils have followed their agenda of topics to discuss and held debates led by Kieran, the debating club chairperson. Pupils have brilliantly communicated their ideas, listened to opposing ideas and offered response respectfully. It has been great to watch these pupils maturely tackle some tricky issues. They have brought some great ideas that we hope to implement into school next year, watch this space!



ASTEROIDS

Miss Griffin

Asteroids class have worked so hard this year. We have studied an array of interesting topics, including plants, minibeasts, superheroes and electricity. We loved experiencing new and different things, including an amazing trip to the history museum in Oxford. We had the best day out! We have celebrated lots of different festivals and explored the world through reading, writing, and tasting! For the summer term, we learned all about where our food comes from, and even grew our own vegetables in the school garden. We loved looking after our seeds and documenting their growth, but not as much as we enjoyed eating them when they were finally ready! Well done to all in Asteroids class, you have been incredible!





10H

Mrs Howell

At the end of Term 5 students were challenged to complete an Enterprise

task. The aim of the task was to work together as a class to develop an idea for a product or service which benefited the environment. We built two bug houses in the school garden which had already started to attract mini beasts by the time the judges of the competition came to look at it! I am very happy to say that we achieved third place and now have the opportunity to share our ideas and expertise with the rest of the school so that more classes can build their own bug houses.

Where ever possible we do practical learning; we have experimented with making solutions in Science, building light houses for a Science and Technology project and made 3D models of DNA and chromosomes when learning about evolution and inheritance. Practise is going well for Sports Day in our PE lessons and students have improved week on week on their times and distances in the running events, jumps and throws.

Finally, I would like to end by congratulating every single member of 10H for their amazing progress in reading. They have recently been tested by our Literacy Lead and have all done extremely well. Well done for all your perseverance as reading is not always your first love. (It will be soon I hope, I'm still working on it!) You are equipping yourself with a vital life skill.

11C

Mrs Curtis
Tony would like to say thank you for being at Crowdys Hill School.

Hayden would like to say thank you for being in our classroom and a big thank you to all our teachers and TA's for being so helpful. He enjoyed the laughs we had in our tutor group.

Max liked being in the classroom and reading the books and, of course, going on the computer at 3 o'clock precisely!

Emily enjoyed taking part in the final of Crowdys Got Talent, performing her Mario dance.

Sara enjoyed being in Year 11.

Mrs Amawi 8A have had a fantastic year and enjoyed a range of topics. For projects, we have learned about famous explorers, the Victorians and the Anglo-Saxons. The pupils have worked hard in ICT and created some amazing fact files. We enjoyed a trip to the Milestones Museum during term 4, where the students were able to see how people lived in the past. For Geography, the topic was 'Our World' and the students were able to identify many countries on a map and name all continents of the world. During term 5, the class visited the Stone Circle in Avebury and enjoyed walking around and visiting the local area.

For English, the students have read various fiction books and were able to discuss the chapters as a class. Throughout the year, the class have worked incredibly hard with their writing and have shown lots of creativity! For PE, 8A have demonstrated skills in dribbling, shooting, throwing and catching. The students particularly enjoyed dance during term 2, where they explored a range of dance moves, and performed in groups in front of their peers. Well done 8A, you have been outstanding and hope you have a lovely summer.





MOONLIGHT

Mrs New

Over the course of the year we have investigated the world through a number of topics using a sensory approach. We began the year with the topic Muck, Mess and Mixtures. We examined changes to materials and observed the changes that occurred during cooking sessions. We have enjoyed finding out about a range of plants and animals. In our topic on animals the children examined habitats and what living things need in order to survive. They looked after the animals on the farm, taking part in grooming them or feeding them as part of the timetable curriculum. In our artwork the children used a range of techniques and media to create pictures, sculptures and collages. The children enjoyed planting seeds and watching our beans grow from a seed to a fully developed plant and recorded this in a photographic diary. Once the seedlings were large enough, we planted them in our outdoor garden area. In our science we have been examining the weather and created our own rain gauges, as well as identifying which weather is best for growing plants.

The children have also enjoyed athletics and the outdoor gym, as well as cooking a variety of sweet and savoury dishes. Each week the children have enjoyed music lessons with Mr Marvell. Everyone particularly enjoyed Science week when each child made a boat and then tested it's ability to float and carry a cargo.

















10C

Miss Clayton

10C have been busy this year in and out of school. They continue to be curious about the world around them and have very much enjoyed exploring different places including farms, museums, pizza kitchens and cinemas (a class favourite). They have consistently impressed me with their growing maturity and communication skills. Keep up the good work!



SIXTH FORM

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

This year sixth formers have continued to follow the Duke of Edinburgh award programme with excellent results. More than 30 students managed to spend their lessons learning a new skill, taking part in regular physical exercise and volunteering weekly to complete the first three categories of their Bronze award. The final obstacle they all had to overcome was the expedition. The manner in which so many of the students rose to the challenge was beyond all expectations and despite the unseasonably warm weather they walked for miles, put up their own tents, cooked their own meals and the majority of them also braved the dark and camped overnight.

All of the staff were so proud to see our highest number of young people ever achieve the award and we hope they will continue to adventure and use the crucial life skills they learnt along the way.

We are also extremely proud of our amazing six students who completed all sections of their silver award, including their practice expedition, but were unable to do their final expedition due to strike action. They worked so hard and showed such increasing independence that we are really hoping to support them to complete the award in the near future.

A massive congratulations to them all!!





8G

Mrs Gillmore

We have had a year of growth and maturity. What a bunch! The kindest most caring group of students who think nothing of helping each other.

We have learnt lots in our lessons, which we enjoy, we always have fun in some way or another. We have learnt about Romans, Saxons, and lots of other people along the way. Our experience in class of a Victorian school was a real highlight. We have tried and succeeded in Martial Arts, softball and goodness did we all try hard to achieve with our swimming!

I have enjoyed teaching you this year and look forward to seeing what next year brings. Have a fantastic summer break, enjoy and I will see you all refreshed in September.

Thanks for everything! Mrs Gillmore

STOKE MANDEVILLE STADIUM

Miss Townsend

This term, 5 students from Crowdys Hill were given the opportunity to go to the Wheel Power national junior games residential at Stoke Mandeville stadium. They took part in a variety of sports including, archery, rifles, cycling, indoor slalom, tennis and many more. The students showed determination, and resilience as they tackled each challenge and new sports. Towards the end of the week, they were given challenge cards to complete where they had to see if they can improve on their best score. In the evenings the students took part in a variety of competitions from dance, boccia, wheelchair football and cricket before finishing the week with a disco and presentation evening. All of the children won a medal for completing their challenge cards and Ted was 1 of 4 people to get a special award for the most progress, outstanding effort, and personality. The students were superstars all week and no challenge fazed them, I am sure that everyone would agree that we had a lot of fun and are already looking forward to next year!













11B

Mrs Baker

We have had a busy final term in 11B in preparation for transitions into either 6th Form or college. Just before we said goodbye to two of our tutees who have left us to go onto college, we managed to visit Cadbury's World Birmingham in June. It was a brilliant day from start to finish. We visited the factory which gave an insight into the history of Cadbury's Chocolate, manufacturing chocolate, a hands on activity of using chocolate for decorating / art work, tasting chocolate and riding the Cadabra Ride exploring Chocolate through the ages. Lunch time involved eating our packed lunches in the play park area and having a game of tag on the play equipment. After lunch we went into the cinema for the 4D Chocolate adventure. There was just enough time to visit the gift shop for more chocolate before heading home with our free gifts of even more chocolate!!! 11B were impeccable! They were polite, well-mannered and very mature with their behaviour. A delightful group to take out and a credit to Crowdys Hill School!



PLANETS

Mrs Pleasant

Planet class have had lots of fun this term exploring the outside area. They have been splashing in the water tray and exploring objects that sink, they have also been working on scooping sand to build sandcastles. All children have enjoyed exploring the tunnel, bridge and steps. We have also been looking at the changes in Seasons and types of weather.





STARS

Miss Sudra

Stars have had a fantastic year and have made us all proud with their progress. We have learnt to share and work together. Through the different projects in the year, we have covered a range of class reading books and worked on our Maths skills.

Stars have had weekly lessons of cooking, PE, music and helping out on the farm. They have particularly enjoyed food tasting as part of cooking.

They have also learnt how to be healthy and to brush their teeth whilst singing the brushing teeth song.

What a fantastic year from Stars!





7C

Mr Carr

It has been a fantastic year for the students in 7C. We are so proud of everything they have achieved. They have developed good friendships with their peers and strong working relationships with the staff. They thoroughly enjoyed their cooking lessons; we have made different types of cakes and healthy alternatives. In science we have conducted a variety of experiments and learnt to make predictions. In English we have had the pleasure of meeting and asking questions to two local authors. They were both very impressed with our students and their creative work. We have participated in many competitions this year including house tournaments such as the fun run and rounders. We have also had third place success in Crowdys got talent with Lelu and his rendition of "Never going to give you up". All of the students have grown in confidence and made progress academically and socially. Bring on next year as 8C!





SUNSHINE

Mrs Dodson

What a fabulous year Sunshine Class have had! The children have really enjoyed being in their new larger classroom in the secondary building. The extra space has enabled the children to enjoy more sensory play; water, fake snow, foam, sand and paint etc.. We've had some energetic movement breaks and lots of THRIVE activities including parachute games and chasing bubbles around the classroom.

The children have enjoyed many stories, clear favourites have been; Itchy Bear and We're Going on a Bear Hunt. The children retell the stories using pictures, film, puppets and story trays. They especially like to stand in front of the mirror to make facial expressions as they retell the story using the picture book.

The children have loved planting and watching seeds grow. They are currently waiting in anticipation for their sunflowers to bloom!







ROCKETS

Mrs Kendall

Rockets have had a fantastic term with some wonderful experiences including a trip to Oxford museum where the children explored many artifacts ranging from real life mini beasts to dinosaur skeletons - with everything in between. The whole class really enjoyed it and were wonderfully behaved too.

The year 6's in Rockets went on their residential trip and had the most amazing time. It was the first time many children had been away, and they all coped so well. It was a new adventure for all with lots of activities. As well as this, the year 6's have had a lovely meal out to celebrate year 6, and the class did a fabulous job in the summer show case.

The year 5's in Rockets have these experiences to look forward to next year and we wish our year 6's all the best as they continue their journey into year 7! Wishing all the children and their families a beautiful summer break and we look forward to seeing you all in September!



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Miss Townsend

7T have had a terrific first year at Crowdys Hill School, they have settled well, made lots of friends, experienced new opportunities and learnt a lot. Some of the experiences we have had this year include; meeting the local author Steve Antony (we have read a lot of his stories in English) competing in all the house competitions such as rounders matches, art competitions and poetry competitions.

We have completed lots of science experiments including testing static electricity, seeing the quickest way to melt ice and making our own volcanic eruptions! We have also been on a few trips this year, we have been to see the Demon dentist at the theatre, we watched sonic the hedgehog at the cinema, and we have been swimming.

Although we are excited for the summer, 7T are looking forward to another year filled with exciting learning and new opportunities.





SIXTH FORM

Nikki McKnight

It has been a very busy term for the Sixth Form.

We have completed three Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions, which saw our determined and resilient students walk, cook and camp. There wasn't much moaning, even when the weather tried to scupper our plans by either being too wet or too hot. There were lots of examples of great teamwork, helpfulness and camaraderie. Some stayed away from home for the first time; we were very proud of them all.

We had a great day out at Abbey Meadows in Abingdon, where we enjoyed a picnic, splashing in the waterpark and lots of social games. We also managed to fly a kite, catch the Frisbee and get some geese involved in our tennis games.

We have been busy with our travel training, visiting places far and wide. Getting the bus to the Outlet and TK Maxx, where the students selected suitable outfits and shoes for an interview. I have to say I was very impressed with their choices, even if some of them have some expensive taste. We also went out to the Gateway Centre; enjoying a lovely walk around the lake and café stop. We met so many helpful and patient bus drivers.

We have been swimming this term and the students impressed us all with their confidence in the water, as well as their quick changing. They seemed to quite enjoy getting the staff wet too!

We have enjoyed some fantastic celebrations to say goodbye to our leavers; a leavers meal, a picnic at Lydiard as well as a Celebration Assembly. Needless to say, it got emotional.

We would like to wish all our leavers Good Luck for their future adventures. Can't wait to see what next year brings.



SECONDARY

Miss Smith

Pupils from years 7, 8, 9 and 11 have been working hard with Miss Smith to create murals around the school. The latest one is a large Henry Rousseau inspired piece. A special shout out needs to go to Emily in 11F for her incredible tiger and Steven also in 11F for all his help finishing and tidying the mural.







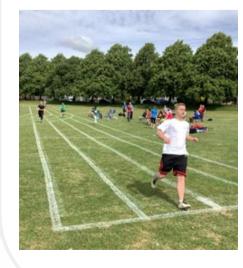
SIXTH FORM

Sports Day

The Sixth Form Sports Day took place on Monday 26 June with some brilliant performances from so many of the young people.

Students had the opportunity to take part in one field event such as long jump or various throws and one track event which included traditional events such as the 100m and less traditional events like the wheelchair slalom. The events were competitive with some outstanding effort and many strong records set for future athletes to aspire to.

All houses were represented in all events and despite excellent efforts from Stanton and Coate, Lydiard were the overall winners. Congratulations to all Lydiard athletes whose participation in the events contributed to Lydiard's success.







PENCELLI & TREWERN TRIPS

Mrs Tolley

Pencelli

In May, the Year 11s went to Plas Pencelli Outdoor Education Centre in Brecon, Wales for 6 days. We did canoeing, caving, climbing, gorge walking and mountain biking amongst other things. All the students gave a 100% trying all the activities. It was a challenging week and everyone was exhausted, but the achievements meant it was all worth it. For some it was a second trip and we were impressed at how they set themselves new targets and stretched themselves. Well done!

















Trewern

Earlier this month a group of Year 8 students travelled to Hay on Wye to Trewern, an outdoor activity centre. For some it was the first time away from home overnight. However they all handled it brilliantly. Activities included gorge walking, canoeing on the river Wye, bush craft with shelter making and orienteering. The behaviour, attitude and enthusiasm was fantastic. This trip is a good introduction to residentials and means that Plas Pencelli is not such a scary prospect. I am amazed every time at how some students develop some independence almost overnight. An excellent group and a pleasure to take away. Well done.





CROWDYS HILL SWINPUP

Mrs Mac

We would like to introduce you to 'Fergus the Fingerprint Dog'. We are very lucky to be part of Swindon's first ever Big Dog Art Trail. Over the summer holidays residents of Swindon can visit libraries, sports centres, country parks and community centres to look at creative sculptures that have been decorated by either schools or local artists. This is a fantastic way to get active, visit some interesting places in Swindon and spend time together. I believe the trail from start to finish is around 22 miles.

Fergus' journey started at the Wyvern Theatre where myself and Ms Topp visited to collect him.





He then spent the first week of his time hiding in various classrooms around the school. The pupils were given clues where to find him and, also as they could only see little bits of him, they also had to guess what he was.







Then came the fun bit the pupils were able meet Fergus and to start to decorate him. We decided on a design that represented our school and enabled every pupil from Primary through to 6th Form to be part of his creation. His background is the sky because we always ask our children to aspire to be their best and reach towards their goals. The fingerprints are therefore our children and staff doing just that. He is brightly coloured because we are a community of bright and interesting individuals that all go together to create our wonderful school.







Every pupil and every staff member then came to visit him in the art room and were able to choose the colour and where they wanted to place their fingerprint on the sculpture. The final thing needed before he was ready for his journey to the Big Dog Art Trail was several coats of varnish and to put on his dog collar.





Fergus will be able to be found at the Pinetrees Community Centre once the Big Dog Art Trail is live. He will be there for the whole of the summer holidays, returning back to us at the end of the trail to be displayed in our school.

Details for the app that you can download that means you are able to track your progress along the trail can be found below: https://www.bigdogarttrail.co.uk/app/

TERM DATES

Just a reminder that we are not following the Swindon Borough Council dates for the Christmas holiday and we will break up on the Thursday 21 December 2023 and we will be back in school on Monday 8 January 2024.

NOTICES

Please can parents and carers be considerate when parking at school for drop off and pick up times, be mindful not to block others in and avoid parking in front of the dropped kerbs.



Safeguarding

If you have any Safeguarding concerns/questions/queries during the holidays our Designated Safeguarding Lead can be contacted on:

07955 772121