



# Crowdys Hill School

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## HEAD TEACHERS COMMENT

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

We've had a great term. The children have managed to get out and about to the cinema, and other local activities.

The Christmas Bazaar was the usual success, we raised £884.00, huge thank you to everyone who sent in donations or turned up on the evening. The money goes to Friends of Crowdys Hill charity, where the money is spent on things for the children, such as extra curricular trips, end of year events, and specific items out of the remit of the school curriculum funds.

The choir went to Swindon council offices, no not to petition for more spaces, but to bring them some Christmas joy by singing carols for them. We also sent them some lovely artwork from the children to put in their offices.

We've had a very successful careers week, with activities and lessons focused on the children's aspirations and career opportunities. We also had an antibullying week, which is a national event, where the children took part in lessons aimed at raising awareness and teaching them how to respond to bullying. This is ongoing throughout the year but benefitted from a focus at the start of the school year to support new pupils.

Some year 7 pupils went to a sports event at Eldene Primary School, one of our Compass collaboration group schools, to take part in fun sports events. A few year 11 pupils went with them to support the adults, and they were complimented by all for their professionalism.

The Sixth Formers went to Bath markets to have a look at the great stalls and take a ride on the train to get there. The lucky devils are also having their Christmas party at the Supermarine Club in Stanton. This is a lovely venue that we were lucky to get so close to Christmas.

By the time of print we should have had the primary Christmas show, Carols by Candlelight event, and a Santa Run.

All of this fun is well deserved, as the pupils have worked very hard this term, and have succeeded in achieving in all areas of the curriculum. The new year 7 pupils in particular, have settled in so quickly I keep forgetting they are year 7!

I look forward to a new year, and will take this opportunity to thank all parents for supporting us, and most of all for sending your child to our fabulous school.

Have a great Christmas break,

Mrs Higham

Dates for Diary	
21/12/23	Term 2 ends
08/01/24	Term 3 starts Year 8 to start swimming for terms 3 & 4
01/02/24	Key Stage 3 & 4—My Future Event @ Swindon College—details to follow
06/02/24	Year 10 Parents Evening—details to follow
09/02/24	Term 3 ends
19/02/24	Term 4 starts



## STARS

### Mrs Fallon

Star class have settled into their new class really well, and we have been very busy learning and exploring. In PSHE we have really enjoyed developing our self-care skills and using dolls to practice washing, dressing and cleaning teeth. We were also superstars at trying new healthy foods during PSHE week, even some radish!

In English we have been sharing stories as a class, and have developed skills to attend the sessions alongside our peers. We all really enjoyed 'We're going on a bear hunt' sensory story, and loved splashing in the 'river'! Star class have been brilliant at attending box sessions; we really love the bubbles.



## 8M

### Mrs Mason

We have had a busy term in 8M. We all enjoyed taking part in the activities during healthy lifestyles week. It was good to get active and work on our fitness. We also had a great time going to the cinema to see Lyle, Lyle Crocodile which was a fun film. For our enterprise challenge we have made lucky dip boxes for baubles to be hidden in. Hopefully they sell well! We have been finding out about World War 2 and life afterwards. We made pictures of the Blitz in London. We are looking forward to a rest over Christmas!



## 9B

### Miss Bartlett

9B have had a busy time during terms 1 and 2 this academic year. Every Monday morning, they have gone swimming and are all improving their swimming skills. They have learnt how swimming and exercise makes the heart stronger and they had the opportunity to see and hold a real heart! In maths, 9B have covered topics such as place value, telling the time and counting coins. As a class, they have enjoyed listening to the book 'Mr Majeika' and all the things class 3 get up to and have daydreamed about what it would be like to have a wizard as a teacher!

## GROUP A

### Miss Heath

Group A in Sixth Form have been having fun, exploring different places in the local area. Each week, we use public buses to visit shops, cafes and parks for our Community Days. The students have been practicing their communication skills in a variety of contexts. They have been building their confidence speaking to the bus drivers, shop assistants and café staff. They particularly enjoy shopping in town and the Outlet Village. Staff have been impressed by the way they handle money and interact safely with members of the public. Looking at all the Christmas decorations has put us in the festive mood!



## 9S

### Miss Fay

Music in years 7 and 8 has been filled with colour as the students have been learning skills on playing the boomwhackers, expanding their repertoire, enhancing their ensemble skills and even using Music technology to compose their own melodies.

Music in year 9 has consisted of learning all about riffs which are repeated patterns in Music. The students have worked in pairs to compose a riff along with chords playing them on the piano, enhancing not only their timing skills, but teamworking skills too. Independently, the students have now begun gaining skills in Music technology by using an app called Garageband to record their riffs and put a backing track onto their music too!

9S have had another great term. They have gained more confidence in their swimming, studied people's lives in English, learnt all about shapes in Maths, enjoyed whole year classes in PE with the rest of their year group, to name but a few things. Well done 9S, keep up the hard work!

## GALAXY

### Mrs Pleasant

Galaxy class have had an amazing first 2 terms at school. They have all settled in really well.

Some of our favourite activities have been meeting the Guinea pigs, learning about brushing teeth, exploring bubbles in the sensory room and decorating biscuits.





## SUNSHINE

### Miss Griffin

We have had an excellent first term in Sunshine class! We have worked hard to settle into our new class and make lot of new friends. In project, we have enjoyed learning about our bodies and how to keep them healthy. We have especially loved playing with the babies and learning what they need to stay healthy, like food, appropriate clothing and lots of sleep! We can't wait to see what fun we'll have next term!



## 11H

### Mrs Howell

This term 11H enjoyed an Autumn walk. In PSHE, we have been learning about how to look after our bodies, both mentally and physically, and have thought about activities which make us feel calm and happy. We took the opportunity to get some fresh air one Autumn afternoon and had a long walk around the field.'



## PLANETS

### Mrs Shama

Planets have been working really hard on learning their class routine and joining in with activities through the day. We have read and explored many books such as The Very Hungry Caterpillar through a sensory story. Pupils have tried to recognise their name and match the letters as well as mark making and drawing.

In Maths, we have explored numbers, named and ordered them. We have matched shapes and found them in our environment. We have built towers and counted the blocks. We have used Numicon to support number recognition and counting.

Planets love their cooking sessions and try to get involved with all parts from the mixing to the eating. We also like sensory play and exploring different textures such as cornflakes or bath foam. Playdough is a firm favourite for our class, they have learnt to use the different tools and key vocab is supported by our ALD boards.

What a fantastic term for Planets.



## SIXTH FORM

### Mrs Baptise

#### Construction carousel

Every Friday throughout the year at New College North Star campus 5 students are attending a taster carousel at the construction department.

They are learning the different aspects of bricklaying, plastering and carpentry. All 5 students are enjoying the sessions and learning useful skills which they can use in the future.



#### Wiltshire Schools Panathlon

On Tuesday 21 November 2023, 16 athletes from Crowdys Hill Sixth Form travelled to Marlborough college to take part in the Wiltshire Schools Panathlon. They made up two teams and participated alongside 8 other schools from the local area. All of our students represented the school brilliantly with excellent sportsmanship, clear team camaraderie and a healthy amount of competitive spirit.

Every student took part in several events including table cricket, adaptations of target games such as skittles, new age curling and boccia and some basketball shooting that certain members of our teams excelled at, with some not dropping a point.

The four staff members who accompanied the students were very proud of their performances and faultless behaviour. All competitors received a silver medal, a t-shirt and enjoyed a great morning of sporting activity.

We are very much looking forward to attending the event next year and possibly 'borrowing' some of the great ideas for future sports events within the school.





## GRAFFITI

### Mrs New

As part of our wellbeing lessons we have been lucky enough to have a Graffiti artist join some of our lessons to help and inspire our students. Here is just a sample of some of their work. The students took great care and delight in these lessons and as a result some are now going to be taking part in making a large piece of artwork for the Sixth form college wall.



## BATH CHRISTMAS MARKET

### Mr Ballard

Our sixth form students bravely boarded the train and headed off to enjoy this year's Bath Christmas Market. A walk through a winter wonderland while soaking up the festive atmosphere in the historic city was a delight for all.

Bath Christmas Market spans the picturesque Bath City Centre. With chalets nestled amongst iconic monuments and hot roasted nuts on every corner. Students were able to browse the stalls, treating themselves and those at home with gifts galore, as well as enjoying the tasty delights offered by the wide variety of food stalls - alas, mulled wine was not an option; all the while being serenaded with music from local entertainers under the glow of sparkling Christmas lights.

## TREASURE ISLAND

### Mrs McKnight

#### Sixth Form Trip to Treasure Island

Arrrr, what a wonderful morning we had, being transported to Treasure Island and a world of pirates.

Our day started with an unusually straightforward journey to Cirencester (unless you count the last-minute reshuffle by hero Mrs Sturla, when we found out one of our minibuses was out of action). As usual our resilient students and staff rose to the occasion and found solutions without fuss. We arrived at Barn Theatre and settled into our seats – the show was sensational. The actors were not just a triple threat but a quadruple threat. They acted, sang, danced and played multiple musical instruments to tell the tale of Treasure Island and Long John Silver. Accents ranged from gentrified Lords to classic pirates. The design team did a fantastic job immersing us in different worlds as the story unfolded and made us jump with the thunderous lightning effect.

Overall, a great time had by all.

## 9B

### Mrs Lancashire

It has been a busy time in cooking so far, this academic year. The Year 7s have started their cooking journey. Initially, with cold cooking, making sandwiches and hot drinks. They have all made such good progress that they are now using the ovens and hobs making some wonderful food. They have this term already made Chocolate Energy Bars, Tiffin, Pizza Tarts and Ham, Corn Savoury crustless quiche. I am very proud of all the progress they have made and I hope the food has been enjoyed at home. The Year 11 are taking their BTEC Home Cooking Course, this is well underway with lots of skills covered by cooking more complex recipes such as White chocolate cheesecake, Red velvet cupcakes and Spaghetti bolognese. They have also completed written work to complement their practical lesson and support their learning.

In the coming weeks all pupils will be making some Christmas goodies for you to enjoy – Chocolate Log, Mince Pies and Christmas Shortbread.



## NOTICES

#### Reach More Parents

Please sign up to the Reach More Parents app (also known as Weduc) via the links you have been sent to your email address – check your junk or spam folder if you cannot find it. All our messaging home will be via this app from 1 January 2024 so it is very important that you sign up. We will only use the text and email messaging service in an emergency after this date. Reminders will be sent out again before the end of term.

#### Music

Parents/carers do you happen to have any musical keyboards that aren't being used anymore? We would very much appreciate any donations for our music classroom.

## CAREERS WEEK

### Mr Vickery

We are extremely excited to announce that the final count of funds raised during Careers Week and WinterFest is £317.43. We are very proud of everyone's effort, commitment and motivation throughout the week.

Congratulations also go to our winning classes – 7L and 11E and to the stand-out individuals—Lelu, Skye, Ted and Shubb.

Let's all look forward to Aspirations Day on 9 February 2024 and also Careers Week/Enterprise Challenge 13-17 May 2024.

### Safeguarding

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

07955 772121