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## Croft Newsletter - January 2023

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Croft Church of England  
Primary School

# Welcome Message

We can't believe we have come to the end of week four already!

It has been a very busy start to the term. Alongside, getting to know children, staff and families, during the past four weeks we have been working quickly to try to address some of the concerns raised on the Parent Survey that was completed in December. Some of the areas we have been working on are:

***Support for pupils with SEND*** - We have been redeveloping the cabin in the playground to provide sessions for children who have some difficulties with social communication and managing big feelings. Children will be learning key skills in a safe and nurturing environment which they will then be able to apply and practise within the classroom. We have been accessing the support from the Educational Psychology Service and Oakfield School to School Support and have been working to develop the support given to children with SEND. Mrs Thompson and Mrs Hunter have been meeting with parents, discussing concerns and provision and looking at ways to support children with SEND further.

***My child does well at this school*** and ***there is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school*** – We have introduced a new curriculum for foundation subjects such as Art, DT, Geography, History etc with exercise books for the different areas so that children can see their learning and progress in the subject clearly. We have completed individual reading assessments to ensure children are reading an appropriately pitched book and have revised timetables to ensure ample time for all aspects of the curriculum to be covered.

***The school makes sure pupils are well behaved***- Since returning, we have ensured that the behaviour policy is followed consistently across school, ensuring children are clear about expectations and celebrating the positive behaviours that are seen around school. We have many children who are already reaching awards of receiving 50 Dojo points, which is amazing! We have also introduced phase leader weekly reviews of class behaviour, helping us to identify any patterns or repeated behaviours. We have been on duty at break and lunchtimes, monitoring behaviour and supporting lunchtime staff. We will be continuing with this over the term.

# Welcome message

## Important notices

Some staff have noticed that some children are bringing cans or bottles of energy drink into school. Please can we request that energy drinks do not to come into school, whether they are being drank in school or passed onto a friend.

Next week sees the start of our open afternoons when we will be welcoming you into school to share in your child's learning.

These will be held on the following dates:

- Ruby class – Monday 30th January
- Emerald class – Tuesday 31st January
- Diamond and Topaz class – Thursday 2nd February
- Amethyst class – Friday 3rd February

We hope you are able to join us!

## *Parents' Evenings 8th and 9th February*

Thank you for all the returned slips for parents' evenings. Hopefully, you will have received a message with your date and time slot. If you have not yet sent your slip in please return it to school as soon as possible

We hope you all have a lovely weekend and we will see you on Monday 😊





# Little Sparkles

## Our learning this week...

The children have been playing number games and learning how to represent numbers in different ways. They have also had the opportunity to develop their fine-motor skills and manual dexterity.



## Our learning this week...

This week Ruby class have been celebrating Chinese New Year. We have learned the story of the Animal Race and practiced picking up noodles using chopsticks. We made paper lanterns, started a Chinese dance and had a go at painting some Chinese symbols.

# Ruby



# Emerald

## Our learning this week...

This week Emerald class have been continuing to learn about London as part of their Geography lessons. They have learned about the different tourist attractions in London and talked about all the features of a city. The children also completed a big write about Marley's trip to London.





# Diamond

## Our learning this week...

We are so proud of all the children in Diamond, how they have adjusted to having different staff teaching them this week.

Fill out the gaps using the words below:

Earth's crust is broken up into pieces called plates. These plates are constantly moving. Millions of years ago there was only one continent but the plates have moved to create the continents we know today. They cause volcanoes to erupt, mountains and valleys to form and also earthquakes.

earthquakes	mountains	continent
volcanoes	crust	plates
tectonic	moving	valleys

The Ring of Fire

- Use a highlighter to draw on the 'ring of fire'.
- Label three volcanoes.
- Would you like to live near this area? Explain your answer.

We have carried on their topic learning about tectonic plates and the Ring of Fire.

We have also been learning about creativity and the Creation Story.



## Our learning this week...

We have been making information texts in English which we even linked to our Science. In Maths we have been working on our problem-solving skills.

In RE we have been learning about how Jewish boys and girls become adults in their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We used our knowledge of information texts to create information posters about the celebrations.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

LO: To identify features of an information text.

Checklist

- Title ✓
- Para paragraphs ✓
- facts ✓
- subheading ✓
- diagrams ✓
- punctuation ✓
- picture ✓

**Toodisom**

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Bar's

Bat's

Bar's can wait till 12 and go to a very special party. Same as the Bar Mitzvah but they eat after school.

Bat's can wait till 12 and go to a very special party. Same as the Bar Mitzvah but they eat after school.

Region

**3 States of Matter**

What are the three states of matter?

solid

liquid

gas

What are the three states of matter?

solid

liquid

gas

What are the three states of matter?

solid

liquid

gas

What are the three states of matter?

solid

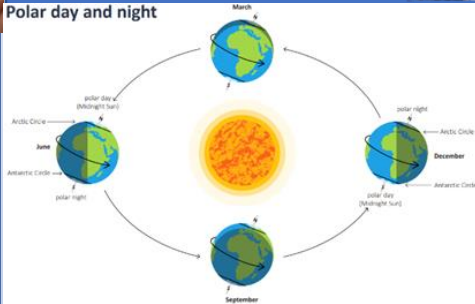
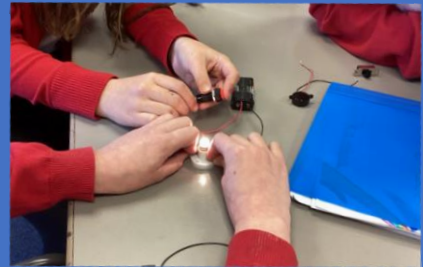
liquid

gas

# Topaz

## Our learning this week...

Science – exploring circuit components



Geography – polar day and night

Maths – Representing ratios

8 children can be in a class.

3:2

If 11 children were in a class how many would be in the class?

Answer: 11 children in a class would be 11 x 3 = 33 children in a class.

## LO: to use suspense writing features.

Jack and James were in the Antarctic. It was cold and gloomy. They were pulling their bags up a snow dune. Suddenly Jack's foot slipped and he tumbled down the icy hill and landed with a thud. The pirates sailed the night on their boat. He roared continuously. Sparrow landed on his bed dreaming happily about home. All of a sudden their boat came to a stop. What did they hit? Jack climbed the shaking ladder. Holding his breath he couldn't look down. He came to a stop. It became impossible to stand in the middle of the ladder like a statue. Jack walked on and on. He went the got hungrier and hungrier. Until he was about slumping down into a well. He started to rain into the blue snow. His body was tired, his fingers were like butter. Jack was jumping out of there. He could be survive.

Literacy – suspense writing





# St Michael and All Angels

- **Saturday lunches-** are on the first Saturday of the month starting on Feb 4th, 12 - 1.30pm, everyone is welcome. There is a different menu each month, IE, soup, jacket potatoes, shepherds pie, quiche, plus a drink and dessert.
- **Church services-** 1st Sunday in the month joint service 10am, see church gate / website for details, 2nd, 3rd , 4th Sunday 11.15 am at Croft church. (5th Sunday joint service).



Many of you will remember Mr Whittaker, the school premises officer. From listening to and reading some of your stories, he had a huge presence around school and the community and a friendly, caring and fun manner towards the children, staff and families at Croft CE Primary School.

Members of the school community are fundraising to replace the memorial bench that was originally bought in his memory. The hope is that a specially made bench can be made to stay in the school grounds so his memory can live on.

If you are able to, and would like to donate, please follow the link below.

Thank you for your kind support.

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hayley-coombes?utm\\_term=9E9y4qmK3](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hayley-coombes?utm_term=9E9y4qmK3)





# Diary Dates

- **January**
- 30th – Ruby Class Open afternoon
- 31st – Emerald Class Open afternoon
- **February**
- 2nd – Diamond & Topaz Open afternoon
- 3rd – Amethyst Open afternoon
- 8th – Library Van Visit
- 8th & 9th - Parents Evenings (letter to follow next week)
- 20th – 24th - Half Term
- **March**
- 2nd – World Book Day
- 10th – 19th – British Science Week
- **April**
- 3rd – 14th - Easter Holidays
- **May**
- 1st – Bank Holiday (school and pre-school closed)
- 8th – Bank Holiday (school and pre-school closed)
- 29th – 2nd June – Half Term



# SEND snapshot - useful links for parents and families

There are a number of local services and helplines to support children and families with SEND. The Information and support directory on the county council website contains a wealth of organisations and groups with a useful filtering search to locate specific groups for support.

[Information and support directory | Leicestershire County Council](#)

In addition, you can receive information about clubs and support available through the charity, Menphys. They have regular activities to support children and their families. These can be accessed by completing an easy self-referral form on their website.

[Menphys | Charity for disabled children](#)

If you would like any additional support or advice, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either Mrs Hunter or Mrs Thompson.

**If you have any concerns for your child, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact a member of the senior leadership team through the school office.**



# NEW YEAR GOALS HEALTH & WELL-BEING

South Leicestershire School Sports Partnership Newsletter



January 13

## WHY SET A NEW YEAR GOAL?

New year goals can help keep children and young people focused and motivated throughout the year.

Sit down with your child and look at setting out 1 or more new year's goals this January.

Ensure ideas are realistic and

appropriate for their age and stage of development. For younger children maybe create a sticker chart or use a calendar so your child can keep track of their progress. Twinkl have free printable goal sheets [here](#)



## RESOLUTION IDEAS

- **Keep tidy** For children this is an important habit to develop, by keeping their room tidy they will learn valuable skills about organisation which they will keep into adulthood. They need to learn to be proud of their own space and to look after it.
- **Nutrition** A Healthy, balanced diet is essential to maintaining good health. Ask your child to try and aim for 5 portions of fruit and veg each day. Why not aim to try 1 new fruit or vegetable each month. Find out more at [Change4Life here](#)
- **Limit my screen time** Time spent on electronic devices is having a huge impact on the physical and mental health of young people. Children age 6 and under should have no more 1 hour of screen time day. Agree a daily screen time limit for your child in 2023. Better yet, why not dedicate a screen free day each week and get "**unplugged!**"

Check out 7 Tricks to reduce your child's screen time on [YouTube](#)

**Ref:** FirstCry Parenting





- **Try something NEW for 2023!** Ask your child if there's a new sport or physical activity they would like to try and get them enrolled. Sports clubs are a great opportunity for children to meet new friends, boost their self esteem and develop their leadership and teamwork skills. Check out our Club Directory for local clubs in your area over on our **Parent Portal!**



- **Power of sleep** Aim for a minimum of 8 hours sleep per night. Sleep is very important for your child's physical and mental well-being. Click [here](#) for the NHS guide to healthy sleep for children.

- **Helping with chores** Getting some extra help around the house is always welcomed, but it can also teach children a valuable lesson; both in tidying up but also in helping others. It is important for children to understand what their parents/guardian do and be appreciative of it.

Ref: [www.roomtogrow.co.uk](http://www.roomtogrow.co.uk)

- **Keep Active** It is recommended that children and young people should aim for an average of at least 60 active minutes per day across the week. Why not sit down with your child and put together a weekly physical activity timetable. Get creative with some of the activities they could do each week. For example a family walk, an online dance class, a trip to the park. Maybe walking, scooting or cycling to school. Check out our Stay Active for Less page [here](#) for ideas!



*We've got a host of fun, physical activity games and activities for you to try at home over on our **YouTube Channel**, click [here](#) to check them out!*



@Islssp



@learningsouthleicestershiressp



Let's Get Social!

@southleicestershiressp







# Leicestershire Libraries Newsletter



February 2023

## Space Hoppers Story Weaving Workshops



**Curve Creative Practitioners at Curve, Chandni Mistry and Tamika Gore will lead you on a story weaving journey through space.**

£3 per child, suitable for ages 4—11 years. Free for accompanying adults. All booking will be through [EventBrite](#) and the tickets will go on sale at 4pm on Monday 23rd January. Keep an eye on our Facebook Page for details.

During February Half- Term we will be shooting into space with some splendid space themed events!

Monday 20th February	10.30am	Hinckley Library
Tuesday 21st February	2.30pm	Oadby Library
Wednesday 22nd February	10.30am	Broughton Astley Library
Wednesday 22nd February	2.30pm	Wigston Library

Curve Creative Practitioners at Curve, Chandni Mistry and Tamika Gore will come into the libraries and work with families to create their own out of this world adventures! Join us for an hour of space hopping fun as we travel the solar system and find stories on every planet in this interactive theatre workshop where families tell the stories of our solar system.

## World Book Day

**Thursday 2nd March is  
World Book Day 2023!**

Encouraging reading for pleasure and the opportunity for every child to have a book token. Find out more at <https://www.worldbookday.com/> There are online activities, resources, stickers and book recommendations. We would love you to share what you are doing on World Book Day. Just follow Leicestershire Libraries on social media and use the tags #worldbookday #leicestershirelibraries







## Safer Internet Day Tuesday 7th February

For Safer Internet Day the NSPCC have put together a pack of resources to help families to keep children safer online.

You can find the resources on the NSPCC website here:  
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

## International Women's Day

There are some amazing female writers from Cressida Cowell, Jaqueline Wilson, Rachel Bright and Skye McKenna to name a few as well as amazing female characters to inspire us all.

Take a look at some of the new titles we have in Leicestershire libraries and browse the [library catalogue](#) for more great titles!



## Getting ready for School

You can use Leicestershire library services and pick up a library card for your child as part of getting ready for school! With lots of books for every type of reader you can share stories, learn something new and join in some of the events and activities at your local library. Find out where your local library is and more about joining the library [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/libraries). For more information about getting ready for school in Leicestershire take a look at the webpage [https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/early-years-and-childcare/school-readiness)

