



### Whole school diary:

#### January

6<sup>th</sup> – Children return to school

10<sup>th</sup> – Year 2 African Dance Workshop

13<sup>th</sup> – Year 3 Southampton Art Gallery Workshops & Year 1 Grandparents Afternoon

16<sup>th</sup> – CENSUS Day

16<sup>th</sup> – Aspens Special Menu

17<sup>th</sup> – Year 1 Milestones Museum Trip

20<sup>th</sup> – Year R Sublime Science Visit

23<sup>rd</sup> – Year R Stay & Play 2.30pm

29<sup>th</sup> – Aspens Lunar New Year Menu

#### February

3<sup>rd</sup> – Reading Café – Discovery House

4<sup>th</sup> – Reading Café – Voyager House

5<sup>th</sup> – Reading Café – Apollo House

6<sup>th</sup> – Reading House – Phoenix House

11<sup>th</sup> – Safer Internet Day

12<sup>th</sup> – Parents Evening

13<sup>th</sup> – Parents Evening

17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> – Half Term

All dates are on the website under the calendar.

### *A message from Mr Wartnaby:*

Happy new year to everyone! The children have returned really calm and purposeful, the teachers and other adults also seem energised from the break!

Over this year, we are starting to transform the Year R area in front of the hall. You will notice some new equipment has been built and a significant amount of money will continue to be spent. A huge plea from me is can we make sure that children are not playing with this at pick up time- the wooden structures are not resourced and finished and we would like the Year R cohort to get the most out of these structures when the time is right. Miss Davis is working with the Early Years advisory team to rejuvenate our outdoor play and I look forward to sharing the finished results with you.

Keep an eye out for a new Parent Forum date coming soon. I am keen to discuss homework and school trips. We are currently receiving very few payments for trips and are struggling to keep this provision going. I have some ideas of how to get the cost lower and I am open to ideas. We have a staff meeting planned next month where we will discuss this with staff. Coach costs are extortionate in today's climate and hopefully with some creativity and collaboration we can continue to give our pupils fantastic experiences out of school.

### *Our star value performers!*



A huge well done to Aaron in year 4, who has shown the values of belong and love by using his own money to buy donations for Eastleigh Basics Bank. The idea came from Aaron and it is lovely to see him thinking about others at Christmas time. We are very proud of you Aaron.

Another huge well done to Elliott in Year 4, Mr Wartnaby received a lovely email from a parent, telling him about how kind Elliott has been to younger pupils at after school club. Elliott has also shown the value of belong and is a great role model for our school.

### *Current Vacancies:*

[Vacancies | The Crescent Primary School](#)



## Year R news:

During December we were busy making decorations, cards and calendars for Christmas. The children enjoyed playing in Christmas themed role play areas such as a post office and Christmas house. We applied our phonics to write cards and talked about how we celebrate Christmas at home. In Year R we found out about celebrating birth and why it is important for Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This linked to our Nativity which the children performed with great confidence. They then put on their own versions of the Nativity on our outside stage. Lastly the children were able to experience Christmas lunch and designed their own Christmas jumpers. It was a busy but fun time!



## Year 1 news:

At the end of last term, Year 1 learnt all about candles and how they are important in different religions. They made their own candles and wrote down how they can be used. They also learnt all about advent and how it is celebrated by Christians. In art, the children enjoyed making their own wrapping paper, inspired by William Morris, and wrapped the Christmas decorations they had made to give to someone at home as gift. Since returning to school, the children have started their new RE unit, looking at change. They talked about how different things change around them and decided what they would like to change about themselves, the school and the world. Pizza for lunch every day was a very popular opinion!



## Year 2 news:

At the end of last term, the children in year 2 completed their design and technology unit all about healthy food. They designed, made, tasted and evaluated their own vegetable kebab.



Our final English unit of the term ended with the children writing to King Charles to tell him about all the things in London that he could do on his day off. We sent these in the post and are keeping our fingers crossed for a reply! On to the new term, and we have started with a bang! The children are very excited about our Africa Day and learning an African dance. They have also got started on learning about money in Maths.

**Year 3 news:** Year 3 enjoyed designing, creating and evaluating their money containers last term. They learnt how to sew (with lots of help!) and then sewed their own money containers. Some of the children even managed to sew on a button to fasten them!



The children have settled back into the routine of learning! In maths, they have been learning how to multiply by 10, including two- and three-digit numbers. They used partitioning and open arrays to solve these. In English, they have started to read 'Krinklekrax'. The children had use text clues to create a picture of the main character 'Ruskin'. Year 3 have started to look at the works of Picasso in preparation for their art workshop with Southampton Art Gallery next week. The children looked at what they liked or disliked about Picasso's works. In science, Year 3 have been investigating different surfaces and the friction. They will be moving onto learning about magnets and forces as well. The children have learning about the different layers that make up planet Earth and they will be looking at how earthquakes occur linked to these layers.

### *Year 4 news:*

Year 4 ended last term by creating their final weaving project! In Art, we studied the work of Annie Albers and had a go at creating their own 'God's eye' pattern from weaving. After this, we used wool and fabric to create our final masterpieces!



In English, we finished our study of the Thames and Tide Club by writing our very own diary entry about mud-larking! We have now started our new unit: Dare to Care – Pet Dragon. The children were very excited to look at a range of different dragons and design their own dragons with some exciting features. In maths, we are continuing with our topic of multiplication. We have started this term by looking at an informal written method for multiplication. We will shortly be moving to a formal written method.

The Friends of The Crescent would like send a massive thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas Market. Thank you to everyone and all of your efforts is decorating the school for the Market. It was a huge success and so much fun for the children.

A special shout out to Aaron Fraczek for winning the 'Guess the weight of the Christmas Cake'. Coming the closest at 2320g.

*Friends of The Crescent*



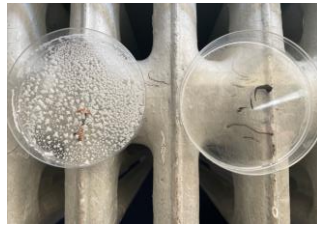
### *Governor spotlight- Parent Election*

Governors enjoyed attending the various Christmas events during December. Well done to everyone involved. A special thank you to the Friends of Crescent for a fantastic Christmas Fayre.

We would like to thank Alexei Western for his dedicated service as Parent Governor since 2022, who stepped down at the end of the last term. His commitment and contributions have been invaluable to our school community.

We are excited to announce that we will start the parent governor elections in the coming weeks. This is an excellent opportunity for you to get involved and make a difference in our school. More details will be shared soon.

**Year 5 news:** The children have made a great start to the new term and have bounded into school with plenty of enthusiasm! In science, they have been learning about changes in materials and the first lesson focused on evaporation. The children had the scenario that they were on a desert island and had 2 bottles of colourless liquid – one of them was pure water for drinking the other was salt water. The children enjoyed using their knowledge of evaporation to find which was the water suitable for drinking and were able to use their scientific vocabulary to explain their findings – solute and solvent.



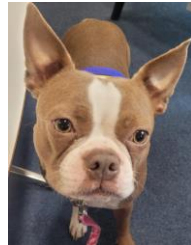
Equipment	Observation	Result
Beaker water salt heat source petri dish	1 solute stayed on the petri dish	On dish 1, the water evaporated and just left the solute (salt)
Beaker water salt heat source petri dish	2 no solute	On dish 2, the water evaporated and left nothing.

Number 2 is safer to drink because it's just water. You can separate salt and water using evaporation.

In English, we have started reading our new class book, 'Stormbreaker', which we are loving! The children have already written a short explanation about how to use infrared goggles, using technical vocabulary to enhance their writing. We are continuing our work on fractions in maths and have been learning about how to add mixed numbers with different denominators. They have also been using their fraction knowledge to complete problems.

### Year 6 news:

The children have returned to school with a fantastic attitude towards their learning. We are especially proud of their resilience in maths, tackling tricky problems with determination. In English, we've begun our new text driver, The Haunting of Aveline Jones. The children have enjoyed reading Chapters 1 and 2 and have written some great monologues from the perspective of the main character. This half term in Art, we'll be exploring the work of Beatrice Milhazes and creating our own pieces inspired by her unique style. To end the last half term, the children created observational drawings of Greek architecture, layered over vibrant, ink-painted backgrounds.



Year 6 welcomed Maggie the Boston Terrier this week. Maggie is a fully qualified Pets As Therapy dog, who works alongside her owner Mrs Clark. Maggie will be working with Year 6 to hear readers this term and loves working in schools with children. Maggie likes to lay down and listen to children reading!

### School Notice Board!

Our Family Links Parenting Puzzle Workshop begins on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Thank you to those who have signed up for the course, we look forward to the next 10 weeks of learning and growing together.

At The Crescent Primary school we are committed to developing the 'whole child'. This includes not only the academic side of school, but also the physical, social and emotional well-being of the child. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the emotional well-being of your child please do not hesitate to get in touch, we will be more than happy to help.

[Pastoral Support | The Crescent Primary School](#)

### Safeguarding spotlight- phones

This is a very useful link for parents who have given their children a phone or are thinking about it. It explains ways to navigate danger and use parental controls and understanding apps. There is also a useful section on how to be involved in their online lives.

[Keeping your child safe on their smartphone | Barnardo's](#)