

Croft Newsletter – September 2025

We hope you've had a restful and enjoyable summer break. As we begin the new school year, we are excited to welcome everyone back and look forward to the months ahead.

We'd also like to take a moment to introduce some new members of our staff:

Mrs Walters, who will be teaching in Year 6
Miss Abbott, joining us in Year 5
Mrs Marriott, continuing with Wednesdays in Ruby class
Mrs Smith, teaching Fridays in Emerald class
Mr Bedford, our new Sports Coach

We are glad to have them on board and are sure they'll settle in well as part of our school community.

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to a positive and productive Term.

Miss Clarke and Miss Down



Class updates



PRE-SCHOOL

We have had a wonderful start to the year seeing a few of our youngest children's smiling faces. We have enjoyed playing with our friends and joining in with PE!

RECEPTION

Ruby class have made an incredible start to the school year this week. They have sat beautifully in assemblies, completed so many amazing jobs, settled into our classrooms playing with the new role play and activities. We have had great fun in our first PE lesson and we can't wait to learn more!

YEAR 1/2

📖 Adventure is in the air in Diamond class as we dive into our magical journey with "Grandad's Island"! 🌴 The stories have sparked so much curiosity and imagination - you should see those bright eyes during story time!

🏃 Our PE sessions got extra exciting this week as we bounced, jumped, and moved like different animals 🐯 connecting perfectly with our fascinating science exploration of humans and animals 🔬

The energy and enthusiasm in class is absolutely contagious! ✨ Can't wait to see what discoveries next week brings! 🌟

YEAR 3/4

What a fantastic first week Emerald Class have had!

It has been wonderful to watch children settling into their new year groups and beginning this year with such positivity. They all are shining examples of the Croft Way!

Our PE day is a Wednesday; this is a double lesson after lunch. Please send your child to school in their kit.

Mrs Kendrick

YEAR 5

We have had a super first week back. All the children have been engaged and willing to take on the new roles and responsibilities that come with being in Year 5. I'm so proud at how mature their attitudes have been towards all lessons. Well done Topaz team - let's keep this up.

Our PE day is a Friday; this is a double lesson after lunch. Please send your child to school in their kit.

Miss Abbott

YEAR 6

Year 6 have had a great start to the year, showing maturity and determination. They have settled into their new routines and contribute well to lessons. They are particularly enjoying our English unit on Arthur and the Golden Rope.

Our PE day is a Tuesday; this is a double lesson after lunch. Please send your child to school in their kit.

Mrs Walters

Subject Spotlight

We Love Reading at Croft

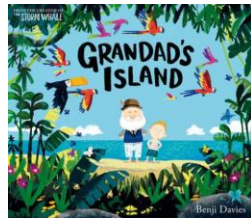
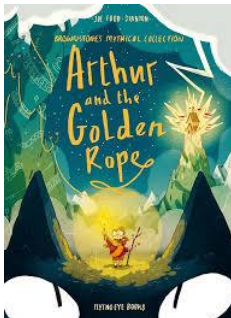
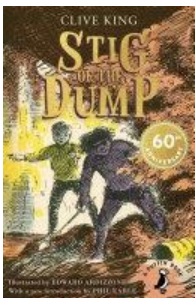
Quality texts are at the heart of reading in our curriculum. We encourage the love of reading and the sharing of stories both at home and in school.

All children will bring home a reading book, assessed within their zone of development, and sometimes a book of their own choice. They also have the option to choose a book from the library van that attends our school monthly.

Please make sure they have their 'reading book' and reading record every day at school. We encourage you to share this book with them as often as possible.

Mrs Allen & Mrs Kendrick (Reading Leads)

Class Books this half term



Embrace Spotlight



This academic year we are welcoming a new Trust Leader to Embrace - Paula Jones who joins us from 1st September.

Paula is currently Director of Quality & Standards at The Heath Family Trust. She brings extensive experience and a proven track record in educational leadership, and has many years of experience supporting school improvement and development, having previously worked as a Regional Director within a large multi academy trust.



We look forward to Paula joining the Embrace team and taking us on the next part of our journey.

Attendance

Class Attendance this week

Well done to Ruby, Diamond and Amethyst for 100% in this first week back!

Attendance matters..... Missing school means missing out!

Changes in the attendance guidance from the DfE, which come into place at the start of the 2022/2023 academic year, mean that leave requested for holiday will not be approved.

Having a **'good'** attendance record in an academic year at Croft C.E. Primary School means being present for at least 95% of the time. (190-180 days)

➡ There are 190 days in a school year.... That leaves 175 non term days for appointments, holidays and celebrations.

➡ Did you know a 2 week holiday in term time means the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.7%!

100% attendance 95% attendance 90% attendance 85% attendance 80% attendance 75% attendance

Best chances of success

Poor attendance less chance of success

Very poor attendance serious impact on education and reduced life chances

Diary Dates



September Sunday 7 th – Wednesday 10 th	Year 6 Residential Trip
September Thursday 11 th	Phonics Open Morning (parents in Ruby 2 and Diamond)
September Friday 19 th am	EYFS Open Morning
September Tuesday 23 rd	Brockington Open Morning for Year 6 pupils
September Wednesday 24 th	Brockington Open Evening for Year 6 pupils
October Monday 6 th	Harvest Visit to Church
October Wed 1 st - Wed 8 th	Book Fayre
October Friday 17 th	'Wear Red for Racism' day
October Friday 17 th	Fundraisers Doughnut Treat
October Monday 20 th to Friday 24 th	Half Term
October Friday 31 st	Individual Pupil Photographs
November Monday 10 th pm	EYFS Open Afternoon
November Monday 11 th	Anti Bullying Week
November Friday 14 th	Children in Need Day
November Thursday 28th	Trust INSET Day – School Closed
November Saturday 29 th	Christmas Fair
December Monday 1 st	Christingle
December Thursday 4 th	Parents Evening
December Wednesday 10 th	Christmas Service at Church
December Thursday 11 th	Christmas Disco
December Friday 12 th	Fundraisers Doughnut Treat
December Monday 15 th	Nativity Ruby
December Tuesday 16 th	Diamond Xmas Performance
December Friday 19 th	Christmas Holidays
January Wed 7 th pm	Pantomime Performance (in school)

Safeguarding

Children are using smart devices from a much younger age than ever before. It's why it's essential we talk to our children about how to use them safely. There are so many positive benefits to the new technology at our disposal these days - however there are plenty of downsides too. As a parent, it's important you understand these risks and how you can take steps to protect your family against them.

1 PUT YOURSELF IN CONTROL
Make use of the parental control settings available to you. With most devices, you're able to change the settings to control the content your child has access to. This isn't difficult to do, as you'll often find guidance in the instructions that come with the device. By setting a private pin code on certain devices, you can make sure your child can only access it when you allow it.

2 PROTECTING ANDROID DEVICES
You can set up restricted users on Android tablets through a Google account. Open the settings menu (look for a cog icon) and select the 'Users' option. Here you can add a new restricted user. After setting up a password and username, select which applications you want to restrict access to. On an Android smartphone it's similar, but first select 'Parental Controls' in the play store.

3 PROTECTING APPLE DEVICES
For Apple devices, you can simply visit the preferences/settings menu and within 'General' there is an option for 'Restrictions'. Here you can turn off any applications or features on your child's device that you do not want them to have access to.

4 THINK ABOUT ALL YOUR SMART DEVICES
As well as tablets and smartphones, you should think about any device in your home connected to the internet: a games console, a media hub, or a personal computer. In each case you can usually find parental controls in the settings. Think carefully about how much access you want to allow your child, especially when it comes to accessing the internet.

5 MAKE SEARCHING MUCH SAFER
Most search engines, such as Google, Bing or Yahoo, have a 'safe search' setting. You should activate this. Otherwise, it's extremely easy for a seemingly harmless search on the internet to return unexpected and inappropriate results. Depending on the browser you're using, go to the settings and search for 'safe search'. Make sure you save the change as it defaults to each time you open the browser. This will seriously reduce the chance of your child being exposed to something they shouldn't be.

6 REGULARLY CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA SETTINGS
Before you allow your child to use social media, you should discuss the dangers with them. You should also make sure you're able to access their profile and privacy settings and check them regularly. The companies behind social media platforms often make privacy changes without making it very obvious to the user, such as Facebook's introduction of facial recognition software.

7 DON'T LET PEOPLE SEE WHERE YOU ARE
Location software sounds useful for seeing where your child is, but it also provides the opportunity for others to locate your child too. For safety, it's a good idea to disable location software on all devices or at least turn it off when it's not required. Also, be mindful of specific apps that record running routes or locations where your child might be playing a game. Talk to your child about why these can be dangerous and how to turn the setting on and off as required.

8 WATCH OUT FOR FAKE PROFILES
Sadly, social media presents an enormous opportunity for the likes of paedophiles to set up fake profiles and interact with children. Keep a track of the people your child interacts with on social media and if you do not recognise a user as a friend, consider blocking them.

9 KEEP A CHECK ON SCREEN TIME
Managing how much time we spend on screens is a new challenge for us all. It's critically important when it comes to children, especially younger children who are still developing. It's not just a case of setting arbitrary time limits. Guidelines published by The Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health suggests it's more important to consider the 'content and context' of what the screen is being used for. Still, it is helpful to put limits on devices using 'Guided Access' functions, which you can find in the settings of certain devices.

9 Top Tips To Get Smart About children's devices

NOS National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

Homework

Homework

At Croft, we focus on homework that supports learning of core numeracy and literacy skills. It is proven that homework has a positive impact on children's learning.

TTRS – 20 minutes a week for all children from Year 2 - 6

Spellings – 10 spellings sent home on Monday to be tested the following Monday for Year 2 – 6

Reading – daily, if possible, but at least 3 times a week and recorded in reading records for all children.

Children in Reception and Year 1 will bring home phonics related homework to support learning sounds and tricky words. This may be flashcards, spellings or fun activities.

Occasionally, extra support might be needed and sent home. The class teacher should send this with accompanying information so that you can help to support your child.

Wraparound and Clubs



Breakfast Club

We are now able to offer Breakfast Club provision from 8am each morning – this is £3 per session and can be booked through the school office.

Afterschool Clubs

We have an exciting array of afterschool clubs:

Monday – Cookery

Tuesday – Pottery

Wednesday- Art & Croft or Multi-sports

Thursday – Football or Lego

Friday – Youth Club

We can also offer short stay wraparound charged at £1 per 15mins

Please contact the school office for further information and to book places.

St Michaels and All Angels



Saturday Lunches

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
FROM 12:00 - 13:30


Join us at St Michael and All Angels Church,
Croft for a two course lunch with tea/coffee

SEPT
OCT
NOV
DEC

£5 per person
payable in cash on the day

First come, first served
Bring a friend and enjoy our beautiful church
and sociable atmosphere

*December details to follow as this will be a pre-book event



GUIDED BEER TASTING

Join us for a beer tasting experience hosted by a brewer with over two decades of experience in the industry.

During the evening you will be guided through a selection of beer styles.

There will also be plenty of time to learn about how beer is made at different scales of production, hear some anecdotes from the industry followed by a home brewer's Q&A session.

SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 19:00

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH, CROFT

TICKETS £15 PP
CONTACT CLAIRE ON 07423 041399
OR CROFTCHURCHSECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

