

CROWSTOG NEWS

FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2024

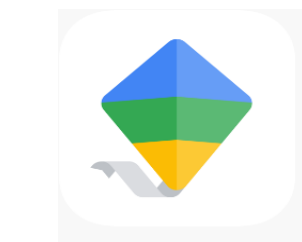


A message from Mrs Lewis:

Many thanks to the parents who were able to join us last week for the parent welcome event. At the meeting we shared information about our areas of focus this upcoming year. These include developing our reading curriculum and fostering a love of reading in all children and further developing parent and school partnership.

A focus of our discussions was around online safety. Last year we hosted a parent online safety workshop with the support of the Local Authority Computing Curriculum Expert Advisor. We are hoping to be able to host a similar event later this year. We also developed an Online Safety section on our school website to signpost useful information which you can find here: <https://crowcombe-stogumber.secure-primariesite.net/online-safety/>

Online safety is a key part of our curriculum and all children have explicit online safety lessons within their computing and PSHRE curriculum throughout the year, as well as through half-termly assemblies. Technology is ever evolving and although there are many benefits to the digital world, we must be cautious and ensure we are educating our children in how to engage with technology safely. At the parent welcome event we did discuss parental controls and ensuring that parent carers are able to monitor what their child can access, prohibit their child from accessing unsuitable apps and sites and supporting healthy habits by setting screen time limits. One parent has kindly shared with me the apps they use on their phone to support them with ensuring parental controls are effective. These apps can be installed on the parent phone and can support with parental controls on a range of devices including tablets, laptops, phones and gaming consoles. Another parent has kindly shared a link to this website: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/> which supports parents working together and building conversations around children and smartphones.



Family Link App

This half-term we are focussing on the school value

of: *Courage*



The School Council would once again like to raise awareness of **World Mental Health Day next Thursday 10th October** by joining 'Hello Yellow' celebrations. They are asking pupils and staff to wear something yellow to school for the day and bring a donation for Young Minds

Come together in yellow.

10 October 2024

Every year, thousands of schools, companies and communities come together to make World Mental Health Day that little bit brighter by wearing something yellow and donating to YoungMinds.

Right now, the world is a really tough place for children and young people to grow up in. We want young people to know that they don't have to go through this alone. Things can get better.

This World Mental Health Day, wear yellow with thousands of others across the UK and raise money to show young people that they're not alone with their mental health.

ATTENDANCE

Crowcombe = 96.83%

Stogumber = 98.69 %

Email: Crowcombe: CrowcombeOffice@crowstog.co.uk Stogumber: StogumberOffice@crowstog.co.uk

Together, let us Love, Encourage, Achieve and Flourish

(Hebrews 10 24-25)

Generosity, Optimism, Determination, Curiosity and Courage

DIARY DATES

- 7 October - Harvest Festival Service, 9.15am Crowcombe Church
- (CANCELLED—Whole school photo (taken at Crowcombe))
- Kingfishers swimming, pm
- 8 October - Parents Evening Consultations, Crowcombe, for all year groups
- 10 October - World Mental Health Day : wear something yellow (donation required)
- Parents Evening Consultations, Crowcombe, for all year groups
- 11 October - Woodpeckers (Yr 3 & 4) Forest School day
- 14 October - Kingfishers swimming, pm
- Yr5/6 Cross-Country, King's College, pm
- 15 October - Whole School Learning Outside the Classroom at Matthew's Copse
- 17 October - Yr2 Multi-sports Festival, Kingsmead, am
- 18 October - Woodpeckers (Yr 3 & 4) Forest School day
- 21 October - Kingfishers swimming, pm
- Yr5/6 Invasion Games, pm
- 23 October - Yr 3/4 Cross-Country, Danesfield, pm
- 24 October - Woodpeckers (Yr 3 & 4) visit East Quay (tbc)
- 25 October - Kingfishers Forest School day
- w/c 28 October - HALF-TERM**
- 4 November - INSET DAY**
- 5 November - Back to School
- 7 November - Yr 5/6 Sportshall Athletics, am
- 8 November - Family Service, 9.15am at Stogumber Church, followed by
- Parents Forum in the church—all are welcome to stay and chat
- 11 November - 10.45am, all children to take part in villages Remembrance Service
- 20 November - Maths Workshop for KS1 parents, time tbc
- 22 November - Flu vaccinations both schools
- Yr 2 Forest School
- 28 November - Maths Workshop for Reception parents, time tbc
- 10 December - KS2 Christmas Concert, Crowcombe Hall, late afternoon, time tbc**
- 16 & 17 December - Stogumber Nativity to parents, afternoons, time tbc**

OWLS:



We have been very busy over the last few weeks in Reception.

We have begun looking at a new book called 'Pumpkin Soup'. We have been discussing the roles of the different characters and thinking about the season that it is set in which is Autumn.

We walked down to Stogumber Church to look for signs that it is Autumn now.

We have been exploring mark making in art and have been practicing drawing ovals in preparation to make our newspaper faces.

In PE we have been playing team games and looking at different ways we can move.

We have been thinking about our families and where we live. This Friday we will be continuing our learning about this by exploring our local community with Mr Wedderkopp.



WRENS & ROBINS:

What an amazing start to life in KS1!

In English, we have been enjoying lots of rich conversation whilst reading our core text, *The Pet Potato*. The children have loved exploring the characters, their feelings and making predictions on how they will respond at different points in the story. We have enjoyed role-play and lots of partner talk, which has culminated in a final verbal and written retell of the story. Next week we move onto a new core text, *Pig the Pug*.

In Geography we have enjoyed our LOTC days, getting to know the features of our local area by using aerial maps to guide our way. We are excellent map readers!

We have also enjoyed some lovely Collective Worship based on our focus value on Courage. The children were particularly inspired by a visit from Mrs Hicks, who told us all about the SpaceX rescue mission to the International Space Station.

A lovely start with lots more learning to come!



WOODPECKERS:

We are having a wonderful time in Woodpeckers!

We have been learning outside the classroom – we went on a great walk around Crowcombe village where the children were in charge of map reading!

We have been reading 'Varmints' which has led us to find out facts and information about plants and make notes. We have then written our own instructions on how to plant seeds – and followed them to the letter to plant sunflowers and wall flowers!

In maths we have been learning the place value of numbers to 1000 and used lots of manipulatives to help us!



KINGFISHERS:



Members of Kingfisher Class enjoyed participating in a tag-rugby tournament this week.

Following a number of PE lessons with Mr Wageman where the children had learnt the basics of the game, the small group got to show their prowess in games against other schools.

They were thrilled to win their first game and continued this good form when drawing the second. The only game they lost was by a single try and this was against very skilful opposition.

The team demonstrated many of the techniques they had been learning in class lessons, and impressed the many supporters who were watching. Many thanks to all parents for their help with transport and support.

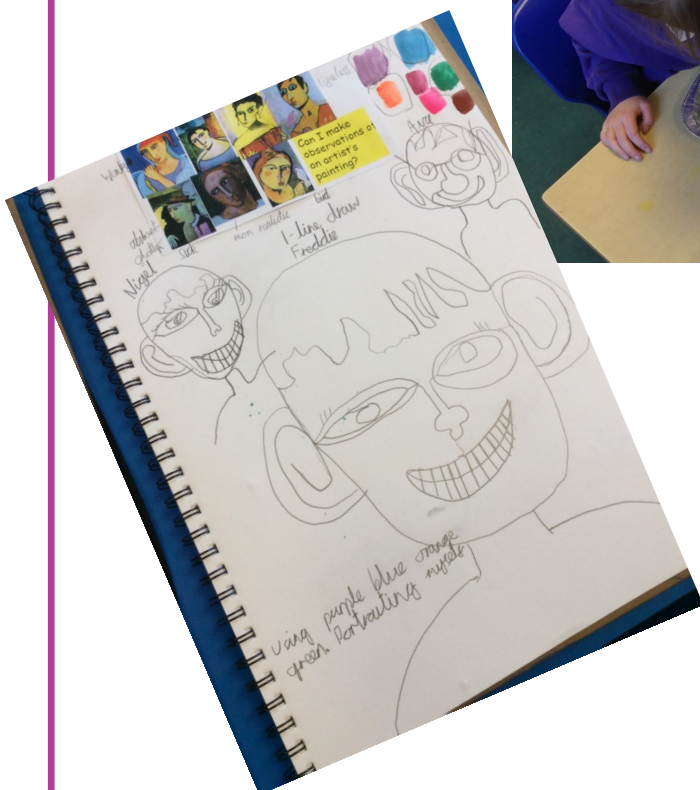


ART:

Most of the classes in ART have been exploring portraits. Reception children explored being caveman, using charcoal and this week they have been creating their newspaper heads. They have used simple mark making, painting and collage skills. In Robins, their charcoal skills have been used to create a portrait of Paul Picasso. Last week we saw cubist style portraits using collage being created. This week they have started their collaborative Big Draw of a person.

In KS2, Kingfisher class have been finding out about a famous portrait artist, Freda Kahlo as well as fine tuning their facial feature drawing. This week we are beginning to explore a local artist's work, Megan Players, and see how this style can influence their own work.

In contrast, Woodpecker class, as well as developing their drawing technique, have looked at Greek art in particular frescoes. They have used powder paints and plenty of water to create a fresco style painting both on cartridge paper and plaster of Paris.



MUSIC:

We had a fantastic performance at Crowcombe this week for the '3 minutes of fame' slot in our Sing and praise assembly. Ara and Indi played Twinkle Twinkle on their violins accompanied by the vocals of Martha. What a talented trio!

Our Musician of the month this October is Tracy Chapman. Do take a look at the home information sheet and have a listen at home.

Here is a sneaky peak at some of the other musicians we will be exploring in the next few months:

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Ludwig Van Beethoven

Nasrat Fateh Ali Khan

Freddie Mercury

Kraftwerk

Gamelan gong kebyar





HOME INFORMATION



October's Musician of the Month

Tracy
Chapman



About: Tracy Chapman (born in Cleveland, U.S.A. on March 30, 1964) is an American singer-songwriter. Chapman is best known for her hit singles "Fast Car" and "Give Me One Reason". She is politically and socially active and is very passionate about supporting human rights. She has also been involved with Cleveland's elementary schools, producing an educational music video, highlighting achievements in African-American history.

Genres: Folk, Blues, Rock, Pop & Soul

Active from: 1986 - Present

Origin: Cleveland, U.S.A.

Books to read...

If you like Tracy Chapman, try...



- Natalie Merchant
- Eva Cassidy
- Bob Dylan

PTA:

Hello everyone!

We had a PTA meeting this week and it was great to see some new faces come along to help shape plans for activities we're hoping to run this year and support that we'll be providing to the school.

One of the things that we agreed was to fund a wooden shelter in Stogumber playground which will be used as an outdoor classroom as well as a great play space for the children. This adds to similar projects that we've funded in Crowcombe.

In addition, we agreed to provide a budget of £300 to each school year to be used for enrichment activities over the academic year – this can help provide resources for outside visitors to come in or to pay for school trips, so watch this space...

All of this of course requires us to continue to fundraise, and we discussed a number of events that will be great fun. The first of these is a Christmas Fete which we hope to run this year however **your help is needed to make it happen**. If you, or a group of friends are interested in being involved in running the Christmas Fete then please get in touch – your help is needed to make this happen! You can email us at pta-crumbs@gmail.com

And finally... are you a member of our School Lottery? For just £1 a week you are in with a chance of winning our **guaranteed** weekly school prize, plus a chance of winning the £25,000 national jackpot plus other special prizes. It's really simple and takes just 2 minutes to join – just head over to www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play and search 'Crowcombe and Stogumber'. And did I mention **it's only £4 a month!** It really does make a big difference and so please click on the link now and sign up.

Thank you

Paul Kenny

Chair



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30%
DISCOUNT!**

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Exmoor Dark Skies Festival 2024

Friday 18 October to Sunday 3 November

DARK SKIES CHILDRENS' WRITING COMPETITION 2024

with prizes sponsored by  **CELESTRON** and **dryrobe**[®]

We are looking for children to take inspiration from the Exmoor Dark Skies and incredible landscape to write an exciting and engaging story.

Age categories:

11 and under maximum 500 words, 1st Prize Celestron Telescope

Age 12-16 maximum 1000 words, 1st Prize Dryrobe



Scan the QR code for full full entry details, or click on **Story-writing competition** on our main Festival page: www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesfestival

Your stories can be submitted by email or hard copy to: Dark Skies Writing Competition Exmoor House, Dulverton TA22 9HL Or email jcolman@exmoor-nationalpark.org.uk

Closing date for applications is Friday 1st November 2024. Entries will be judged by local authors and book shop owner and the winners will be notified and announced by Friday 16th November. Please ensure you include your name, address, age, phone number and email address.

Planetarium Sessions



**Minehead Eye,
Minehead, TA24 5BJ**

Saturday 26 October

Sessions all day from 9.30am

The **SPACE ODYSSEY** mobile planetarium offers a 360° immersive experience for all ages.

Adults £7, Children £5.

Book a session in one of the Country's largest mobile planetariums where you will be immersed under spectacular night skies with experienced science teacher and presenter

Simon Ould from Space Odyssey.

A memorable experience for all ages and a must for anyone who's never had a go.

To avoid disappointment, booking is highly recommended



Booking at www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/darkskiesevents

