



The Craylands School Newsletter

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Term 4 Week 1

Fri 27 Feb 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to term 4—we hope that you had an enjoyable half term break (if you were able to get a break).

Visitors

This week, we were visited by Ian Watts (Local Area Education Officer) and Beverley Fordham (KCC Councillor Cabinet Member Education and Skills). They spent some time discussing the strengths of the school and the many challenges that currently face education and are expected to come in the future based on recent government plans. They toured the school and were impressed with the behaviour of the children and how calm they were working. This matches what I have seen on other walks around the school in the morning this week—a positive start to the term and hopefully it will continue.

Craylearner Values

Thank you to all of those parents/carers who came along for the Cray-learning Values assembly this week, where, as always, Mr Hiscock misses the chance to see Lenny in action. A big well done to all the children who were identified as demonstrating the value of 'asking questions' last term. This term's value is 'Risk taking'. Children can demonstrate this through the following ways:

- answering questions in class when not sure of the answer
- having a go at a task when they are unsure of what to do
- trying new things

World Book Day

Bedtime Stories Event On Wednesday 4th March, children are invited to return to school from 5pm - 6pm to share stories and have hot chocolate and biscuits with their peers; booking needed on Gateway.

Wednesday 4th March—Author, Paul Coomey, will be visiting the school
Thursday 5th March—World Book Day—children can come in dressed as their favourite book character

Book Fair: This will take place in the Hall after school from Mon 2nd-Thurs 5th March.

Engagement Activities/Competitions

The first is a short story competition. The children are invited to write a short story, with a maximum of 250 words, on a theme/idea of their choice.

The second is an illustration competition. Children will come home with a piece of A4 paper containing the line, 'The pudding started to dance... and nobody knew why!'

Entries for both of these competitions need to be given in by Wednesday 4th March.

Important dates

2-5/	Book Fair after school
4/3	Wellbeing afternoon in school
5/3	World Book Day—children can dress up
16/3	Elmer reading morning 830-855
17/3	St Patrick's Day—children can wear club uniform
17/3	Funnybones reading morning 830-855
18/3	Gruffalo reading morning 830-855
19/3	Stickman reading morning 830-855
20/3	Dahl reading morning 830-855
23/3	Wilson reading morning 830-855
24/3	Walliams reading morning 830-855
25/3	Simon reading morning 830-855
26/3	Horowitz /Morpurgo reading morning 830-855
26/3	Parents/carers even-
27/3	Fine/Rauf reading morning 830-855
2/4	INSET day



Ramadan Mubarak to any of our Craylands Community that may be celebrating Ramadan currently.

Have a lovely weekend everyone—Mr Hiscock

Dates for your diary

	<u>TERM 4 DATES</u>
2-5/3/26	Book fair after school in the Hall
4/3	WELL BEING SESSION during the school day 2.15–3.15p.m.
5/3	World Book Day (children can dress up)
16/3	Elmer reading morning 8.30 -8.55- Mobile 1
17/3	St Patricks Day—children can wear club uniforms
17/3	Funnybones reading morning 8.30–8.55—mobile 1
18/3	Gruffalo reading morning 8.30–8.55—mobile 1
19/3	Stickman reading morning 8.30–8.55—mobile 1
20/3	Dahl reading morning 8.30–8.55—mobile 1
23/3	Wilson reading morning 8.30–8.55—mobile 1
24/3	Walliams reading morning 8.30–8.55—mobile 1
25/3	Simon reading morning 8.30–8.55—mobile 1
26/3	Horowitz /Morpurgo reading morning 8.30–8.55—mobile 1
26/3	Parents/Carers evening
27/3	Fine / Rauf reading morning 8.30–8.55—mobile 1
1/4	Last day for children
2/4	INSET DAY

	<u>TERM 5 DATES</u>
20/4	START OF TERM
23/4	St George's day—children can wear club uniforms
26/4	Year 4 residential leaves
29/4	Year 4 residential returns
6/5	WELL BEING SESSION during the school day 2.15–3.15p.m.
11/5–14/5	KS2 SATS
22/5	End of term

EYFS NEWS



We have had a lovely first week back; dry weather and some sunshine ignited the children's outdoor play, enabling them to enjoy water exploration and sharing books in the hut again. We look forward to a sustained warmer period to allow all the fabulous range of plants and seeds to flourish in our mini planting area. Thank you so much for sending these in.

This term there is an increased focus on developing writing skills and being able to write simple captions and sentences using phonetically plausible spellings. The children have been writing captions like 'Jack took the hen' in their directed time. Please carry on supporting letter formation at home.

In number we have been discussing and identifying patterns in number - counting beyond 20 and developing our understanding of sequence.

Lastly, we are excited to be reintroducing 'Show and Tell' in class. A letter is in your child's book bag explaining this.

Thank you for remembering to send your child in wearing a P.E kit.



Lenny's Den News

Welcome back to another fun-filled term!

Our theme this term is 'Planting and Growing'

We are very excited to be exploring some fantastic stories, including Oliver's Vegetables by Vivian French, Oliver's Fruit Salad by Vivian French, The Enormous Turnip (traditional tale), and Sam Plants a Sunflower by Kate Petty.

Over the next few weeks, the children will be planting a variety of crops and learning how to nurture and care for them as they grow. This will help develop their understanding of how plants grow, what they need to survive, and the importance of looking after living things.

This week, the children have:

- Explored a range of vegetables
 - Chopped and prepared vegetables safely
 - Created vegetable pictures using carrots, broccoli, peppers, sweet potatoes and potatoes
 - Made a "Mr Potato Head"
 - Enjoyed a "plant explosion" activity
 - Sequenced one of our focus stories

We are looking forward to watching our plants — and the children — grow over the coming weeks!

Times Tables Rockstars



<i>Last weeks results...</i>	<i>This week's battles.....</i>
	<p data-bbox="916 528 1358 667"><i>Stickman vs Gruffalo</i></p> <p data-bbox="863 770 1406 824"><i>Dahl vs Wilson</i></p> <p data-bbox="911 943 1358 1066"><i>Walliams vs Simon</i></p> <p data-bbox="839 1184 1430 1238"><i>Horowitz vs Fine</i></p> <p data-bbox="815 1357 1453 1420"><i>Morprugo vs Rauf</i></p>

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please can you do your best to ensure that the children are playing on Numbots or Times Tables Rockstars for at least 15 MINUTES PER WEEK. This is not a huge amount of their time after school and we know that the more practise the children have with their times tables and number bonds, the easier other areas of maths becomes including calculations, fractions etc

We really do need your support in making sure that the children are extending thier learning at home.

Thank you in anticipation for your support with this.

Lenny's letter

Each week, this newsletter will celebrate all those at The Craylands School who received a Craylearner certificate, R.O.A.R. certificate, HERO bear and the winning team.

Our pupils really are champions at Craylands!



Hungry C Hudson Wilson Cody
Rainbow Fish Finlay Walliams Jaxon
Elmer Eddie Simon Riaan
Funnybones Ronnie Horowitz Bella
Lenny's Den Santi Fine Isla S
Gruffalo Odi Morpurgo James
Stickman Layla Rauf Emilija
Dahl Ennis

The R.O.A.R. certificates were issued to.....

Hungry C	Jamal	Wilson	Arthur
Rainbow Fish	Frankie	Walliams	Roselyn
Elmer	Liam	Simon	Gracie
Funnybones	Ollie	Fine	Mia-Rose
Gruffalo	Ronnie	Horowitz	James
Stickman	Lola	Morpurgo	George W
Dahl	Reggie	Rauf	Nathan



Achievements outside of school...

Daisy M in Funnybones Class had a gymnastics competition and wanted to share with school she got 1st place. She is very proud of herself - congratulations Daisy!