

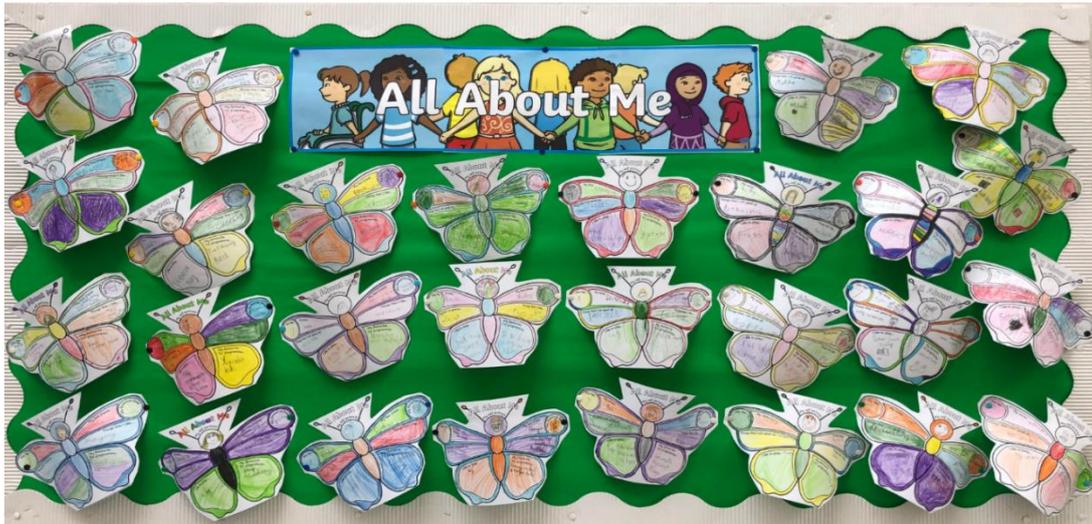


September 2022

A new school year!

It is great to see all our children back at school together. We welcome our new year 3 children and their families to our school community and welcome back our pupils who have moved up to the next year group. You may also see some new faces around school as we welcome some new members of staff. Despite the occasional rainy start, the children have made a good start lining up in the mornings and have been settling in well to their new classes. We have lots to look forward to this term including some residential and day trips, historical workshops and an author visit. We will keep you updated with some of the children's learning in our newsletters.

Sadly, our year begins with the sad news of the death of Her Majesty, The Queen. Our children have been offered opportunities to discuss and reflect on this significant event in class with their teachers. We are also mindful of the impact this period of mourning can have on families who have suffered their own bereavement, so our response will be sensitive and respectful. Like other schools across the city, we will be **closed on Monday 19th September** and look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday 20th September.



Year 3

Our new year 3 children have had a super start to life at Craneswater! We have been getting to know the superhero and villain characters from the book *Supertato*. The children have enjoyed identifying the plot and creating their own *Supertato* inspired characters and stories. It has been lovely getting to know each other better and having the opportunity to share our interests with our new class mates and teachers. We have also been demonstrating how we can be ready, respectful and safe, earning lots of well-deserved learning points and muscle brain certificates. Great start year 3!

Author visit Steve Tasane - Thursday 29th September

We will be visited by children's author and performance poet Steve Tasane this term. Steve's book *Child I* was shortlisted for the Portsmouth Year 5 Book Award in 2019, and tells the stories of undocumented children in refugee camps. We look forward to welcoming him and hope the children will find his visit inspiring.

Message from Portsmouth City Council

The city council has asked us to pass on the following information:

Following the passing of our late Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II, the council has arranged for a Memorial Service to be held in the Guildhall Square on Sunday 18th September at 12:00 noon. This will be an opportunity for the local community to come together in expressing our affection and gratitude as we mourn the death of our late Sovereign.



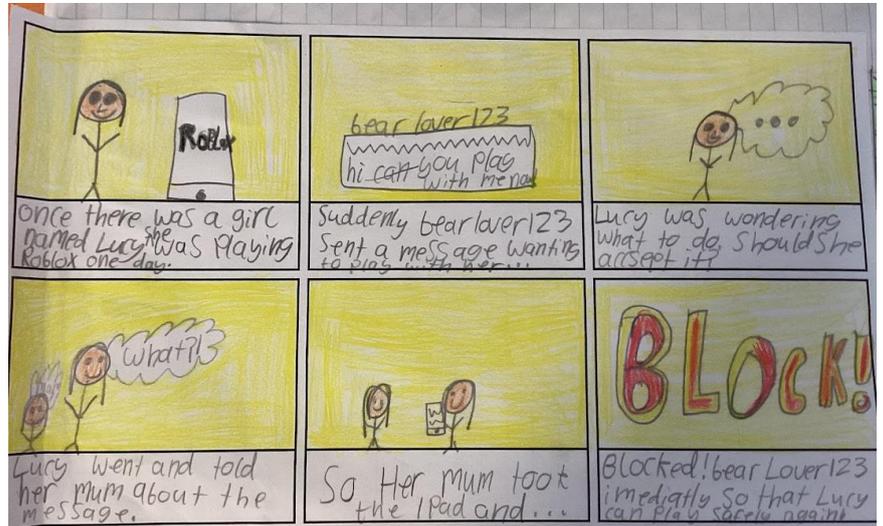


SMART rules

Across the school in Computing and PSHE, we have been revisiting our SMART rules to ensure the children are all using the software respectfully and safely. If you would like to know more about how to support your child online, please look at the computing page on our school website where you can learn more about being SMART.

Year 5 Computing

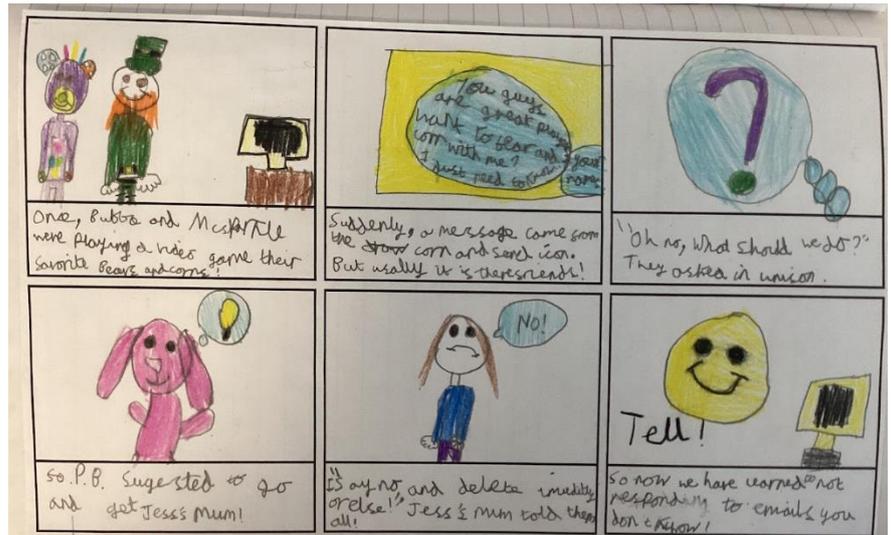
In year 5, children have been creating comics to apply their understanding of the SMART rules. They have all created a comic to give advice on what to do in situations which might occur online. Mia and Jessica (5B) created these ones.



Getting to school

It is great to see so many children walking, scooting and cycling to school. Children are welcome to store their scooters in the rack in the middle playground or by the steps to the field. There is a bike store in the car park. We would recommend using a lock as we cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage.

Please can we remind everyone to get off their bikes or scooters when on the playground and push them to the storage areas.



Entering school buildings

Please may we remind all parents and carers to enter through reception if they have an enquiry or need to collect their child early.

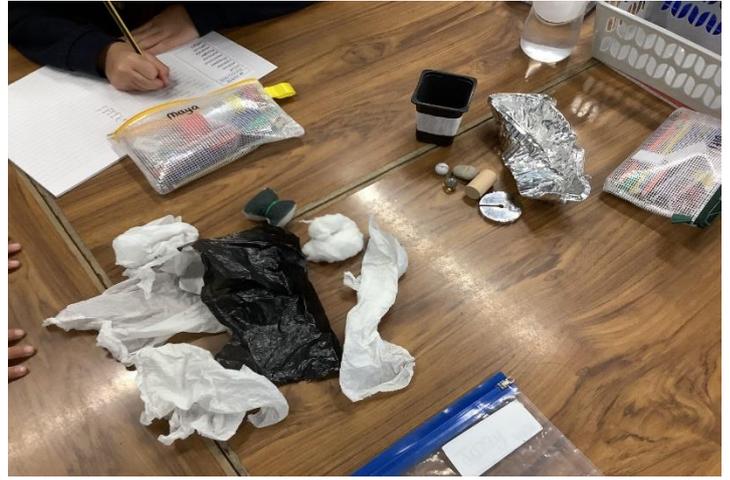
At no time should any adult, apart from school staff, enter any of the school buildings other than through main reception. This is both for safeguarding and fire safety reasons.

If you need to speak to a teacher briefly you can catch them on the playground, or if a longer conversation is required, you can make an appointment through the school office or by emailing info@craneswater.portsmouth.sch.uk

Year 4 science

During their first weeks, year 4 classes have been exploring different materials as part of their science topic on States of Matter.

Working in groups, they have been revising what they know about different materials using scientific vocabulary such as soft, hard, flexible, waterproof and absorbent. They then sorted the materials into groups according to their properties. Over the coming weeks they will begin to explore the solids, liquids and gases.



Year 6 Science

Year 6 have started learning about electricity in our science lessons! We have had great fun exploring how to build complete circuits, make bulbs light up and turn on buzzers and motors. Soon we will be trying to build our own burglar alarms! Here is Ava (6B) working on her circuit.

Respiratory illnesses - Current Government Guidance

As we approach winter, the cases of respiratory infections will likely increase. As a school we will be following current government guidance as noted below:

Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting. Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.

It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.

If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.

Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19#Children>

Welcome new and returning staff

We are pleased to welcome back Mrs Neale who has returned from maternity leave and will be working in year 3. We have also been joined by a number of new staff in a range of roles. Mrs Ferguson, Mrs Courtney, Mrs Maidens, Ms Burton, Miss Holland, Mrs Leow, Mr Roberts and Mr Whiteaway have all joined the Craneswater Team and we look forward to working with them. We are sure you will join us in welcoming them to the school.

Attendance

We would like to remind parents how important it is to ensure your children are in school every day. Sometimes it is easy to forget how few absences it takes to build up to a serious problem. For example:

95% attendance is actually the equivalent of missing half a day every fortnight and 90% attendance half a day every week. To put this into context how many employers would be happy with this? Also if your child is missing half a day every week how much impact is that having on their learning?

Attendance below **90%** also classifies your child as a “persistent absentee” which means that he/she will be monitored by the local authority and you will receive letters from the school and may be asked to provide medical evidence. If absence persists this could lead to a fixed penalty notice and may raise safeguarding concerns.

If you are having difficulties please do get in touch with us. We may well be able to offer a range of ideas and support.

Holidays are **NOT** an entitlement. Term dates are published on the website and holidays should be planned accordingly. If there is an **exceptional** reason for a term time absence then an application may be made via the school office and this may be agreed. Please be aware that if absences are not agreed then they may well result in a fixed penalty notice.



There are 175 non-school days a year for holidays, days out, shopping trips and routine medical appointments				
190 school days in a year	10 days absence			
	180 days at school	19 days absence		
		171 days at school Local authority will be monitoring attendance	29 days absence= half a term missed	
			161 days at school	38 days absence
		152 days at school		
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%
Excellent	Fair	Worrying	Serious concern	
Best chance of success		Harder for your child to progress with their education		

PE days

Year 3 - Monday and Wednesday

Year 4 - Tuesday and Thursday

Year 5 - Monday and Friday

Year 6 - Tuesday and Thursday

These may change during the year

PE kit

Each year group has two days where children are expected to come to school dressed in their PE kit. This is to ensure maximum active learning time. Please ensure that your child is wearing school PE kit only which consists of:

Navy blue or black shorts or plain black or navy leggings/tracksuit bottoms

Plain yellow PE t-shirt

Navy school jumper

Hoodies of any colour are not permitted

Secondary school open evenings

If your child is currently in year 6, you will need to apply for a secondary school place for September 2023. Applications must be submitted by Monday 31 October 2022. Across the city, the secondary schools will be hosting open days and evenings on the following dates:

- Admiral Lord Nelson School: **Thursday 29 September 2022**
- Castle View Academy: **Tuesday 4 October 2022**
- Charter Academy: **Monday 26 September 2022**
- Mayfield School: **Wednesday 5 October 2022**
- Miltoncross Academy: **Thursday 6 October 2022**
- Priory School: **Thursday 22 September 2022**
- Springfield School: **Thursday 22 September 2022**
- St Edmund's Catholic School: **Saturday 1 October 2022**
- The Portsmouth Academy: **Tuesday 27 September 2022**
- Trafalgar School: **Thursday 13 October 2022**
- UTC Portsmouth: **Wednesday 28 September 2022**

Key dates		
Date	Time	Event
Monday 19 th September	All day	Public holiday
Tuesday 20 th September	PM	4BW to Cumberland House
	PM	4R start swimming
Wednesday 21 st September	PM	4N
Thursday 22 nd September	PM	4R
Friday 23 rd September	PM	4LW
Friday 23 rd September	AM	Pupil flu vaccine
Monday 26 th September	All week	Year 5 Stubbington residential
Friday 30 th September	All day	Year 5 Stubbington day trip
Tuesday 4 th October	After school	Parents' evening
Thursday 6 th October	After school	Parents' evening
Friday 21 st October	3pm	School closes for half term
Monday 31 st October	8:40	School opens for new half term
Monday 14 th – 16 th November	Mon-Wed	4LW 4N Beaulieu Residential
Monday 14 th November	All day	Year 4 trip to Manor Farm
Monday 21 st -23 rd November	Mon-Wed	4R 4BW Beaulieu Residential
Monday 21 st November	All day	Year 4 trip to Manor Farm
Friday 16 th December	3pm	School closes for Christmas Holidays



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