



YEAR GROUP CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

RECEPTION

The Reception children were extremely excited when the duck eggs arrived and after just 2 hours wanted to know why the ducklings had not hatched. After lots of discussion, a crack appeared, along with a duckling's bill appearing out of the crack every minute creating a hole.

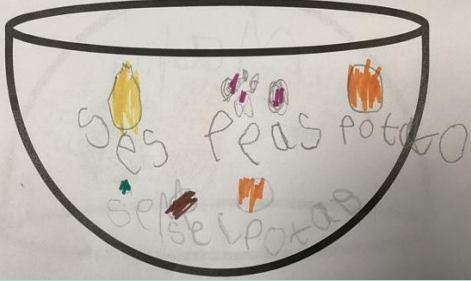
The children refused to play in the garden and patiently sat waiting for the first duckling to arrive into the world. The following day all the ducklings had hatched and the excitement began. The children stroked the ducklings, read to them, and watched and giggled as they swam and splashed the children.

This experience has been unforgettable for the children and staff, with the children learning all about the life cycle and having memories to last a life-time.



RECEPTION

We're designing a soup - the best you've ever tasted! Design your own soup recipe by drawing the fruits and vegetables you would like to use in the bowl below.



During design and technology lessons we started to look at food and nutrition. First, they listened to a story about soup and discussed different vegetables that they could include in their soup. They then designed their own soup by drawing the vegetables they wanted to use and labelled them. Before the children started to use the potato peelers and knives, they practised cutting playdough to ensure that they were keeping themselves and their friends safe.

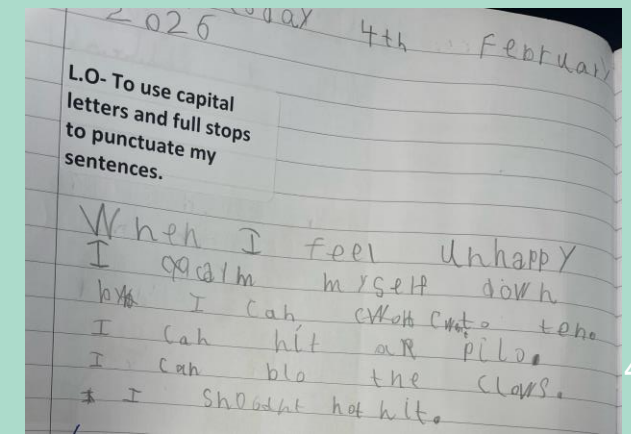
Then the exciting part started with using the potato peelers to peel potatoes, swede and carrots for the soup. After the vegetables were cooked they mixed them with tomatoes, peas and cream and used a hand blender creating a creamy vegetable soup. Some of the children enjoyed eating the soup, others were not so keen! The children then looked at different soup packaging and designed their own.

The children learnt so much during this process and now know how the different vegetables are grown and that they do not just come from Tesco.

YEAR 1

This term, our Year 1 children have been exploring different emotions and learning positive ways to manage their feelings, especially when they feel angry or frustrated. A key part of this learning has been through the story *Ravi's Roar*. Through discussion and reflection, the children were able to recognise how Ravi was feeling and think about times when they may have felt the same. We focused on understanding it is important to find safe and helpful ways to calm ourselves down and manage our feelings. The children shared ideas such as taking deep breaths, counting to ten, talking to a friend or adult, and taking some quiet time to calm down. To support their learning, the children took part in role-play activities, practicing how to respond in tricky situations. They also created drawings and wrote simple sentences about what they can do when they feel a “roar” building inside them. It has been wonderful to see the children developing their emotional awareness and learning how to manage big feelings in a positive way. The children have participated in group discussions and storytelling sessions, helping them build confidence in sharing their ideas and talking about how they feel. We are so proud of how the children embraced the theme and supported one another in learning about their emotions.

Children also linked their knowledge of colour to their Art lessons. They explored different techniques such as cutting, shaping, layering, and joining materials to create a strong 3D structure. The finished trees were full of colour, texture, and creativity, each one uniquely reflecting the child's ideas. They enjoyed using different materials to mould, build, and create their own artistic pieces. From twisting and bending to stacking and balancing, they developed important skills while letting their imaginations run free.



YEAR 1

This term, the Year 1 children recently took part in a joyful and meaningful celebration all about recognising and expressing emotions. The classroom was transformed into a vibrant rainbow as the children came dressed in different colours to represent a range of feelings.

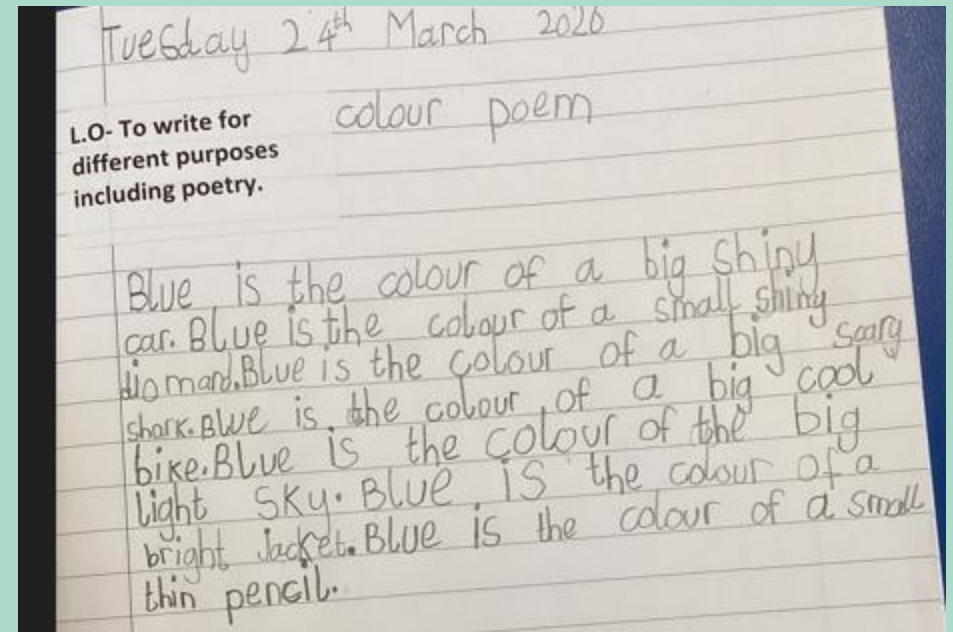
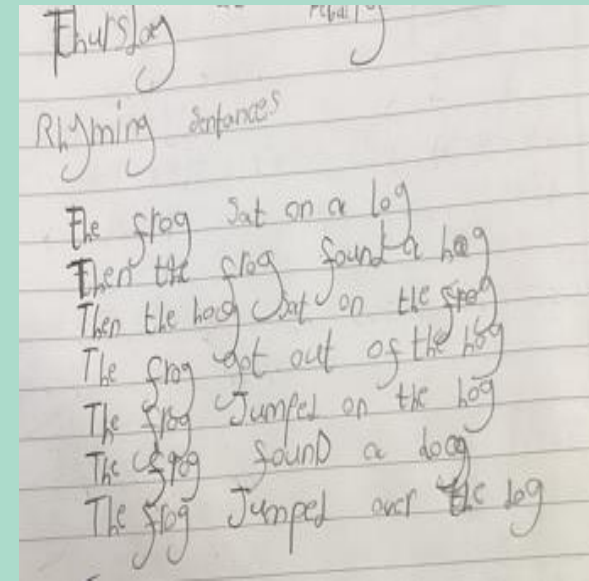
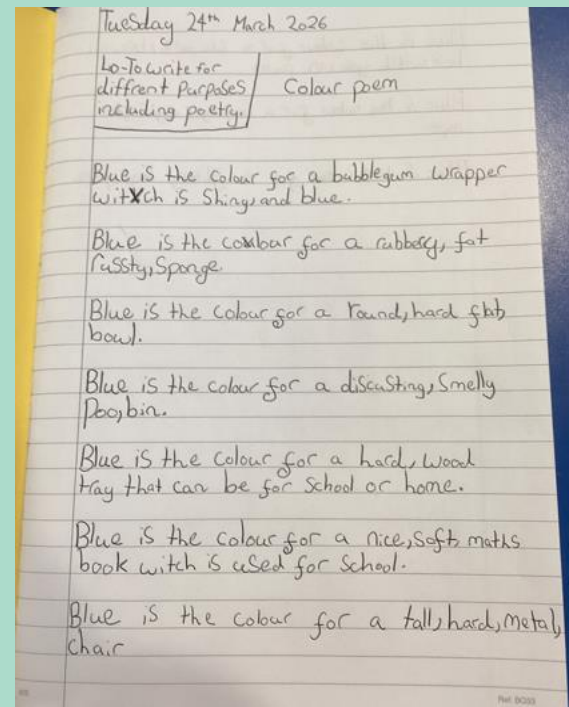
Throughout the day, the children explored their emotions through a variety of fun and engaging activities. One of the highlights was an exciting obstacle course, where children worked together, cheered each other on, and explored how we can overcome feelings of worry and being scared with courage and having a go.

Creativity has been in full swing as the children have designed and made their very own colour monster t-shirts, they carefully chose colours to match emotions and proudly wore their creations. In addition, the classroom buzzed with arts and crafts activities.



YEAR 2

This term, the children have been diving into the wonderful world of poetry. After exploring a range of different poetic styles, including rhyming poems, colour poems, sense poems, and free-verse poems. They set out to create their own original pieces. They experimented with vivid vocabulary, and descriptive language, discovering how they can express ideas in unique and creative ways. The children showcased imagination, confidence in their poetry writing this term. It has been a joyful celebration of language, and the children were proud to share their work with one another, inspiring plenty of smiles and praise for each other.



YEAR 2

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, the children took part in an exciting hands-on science activity inspired by the story of the day. Using colourful playdough, they carefully shaped their own volcanoes, adding details and textures to make each one unique.

Once the models were ready, the real fun began. The children gathered around to watch their volcanoes “erupt” using a simple but dramatic mixture of washing-up liquid and bicarbonate of soda. Their faces lit up as the foamy lava bubbled over the top, turning the playground into a mini science lab.

It was a brilliant blend of creativity, storytelling, and science, giving the children a memorable experience that sparked curiosity and excitement.



YEAR 3

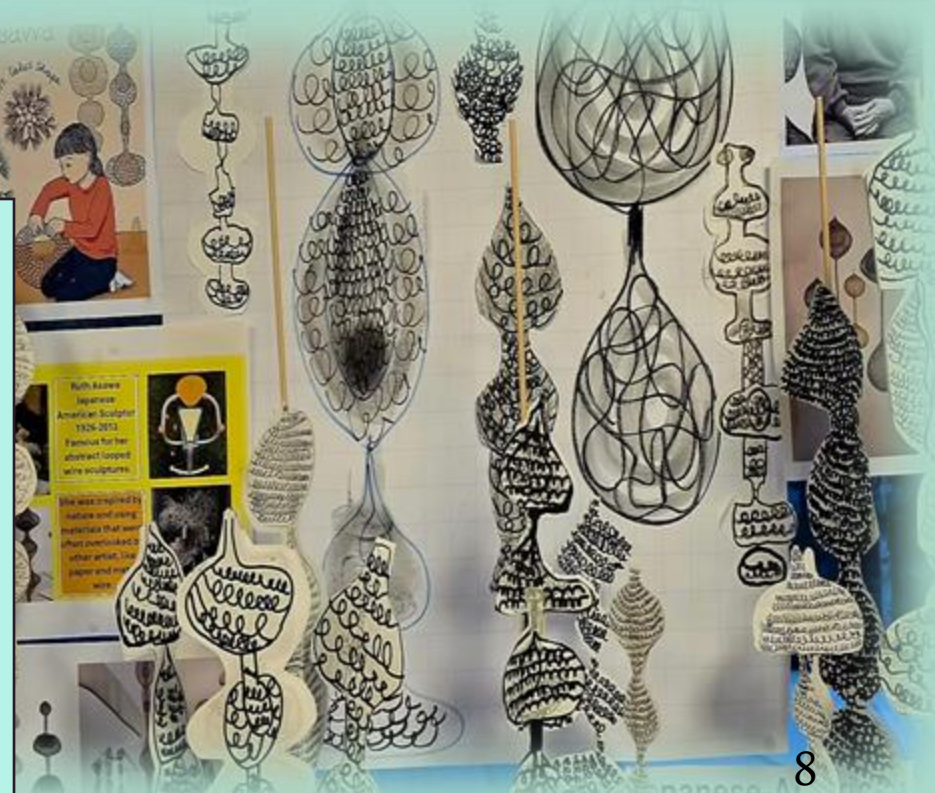
Year 3 children experienced a thrilling Scouts Day based on the English core book called, **'Adventures of Bear Grylls.'** Pupils learnt many skills like rope tying, building shelters, bug hunting and filtering water. The children wrote formal letters to the head teacher requesting more exciting outdoor learning.



We were lucky to learn about habitats, and diets of different animals with **Safari Pete.** Look at us stroking the animals and watching the snake swallow a frozen mouse whole! So **BRAVE!**



In Art pupils created intricate patterned sculptures using inspiration from the female **Japanese-American sculptor Ruth Asawa.** Their work was made into a beautiful collaborative installation.



YEAR 3

Children in year 3 participated in the **WINTER ARTS** festival to create a 3D, multimedia canvas art called

**‘All eyes on Space,
One Foot of Earth’**

Some children also participated in the Dance section and were awarded a **GOLD MEDAL!** Their work was creative, technical and original. Well-done Cranbrook pupils and staff for all your hard work, and fantastic costumes.



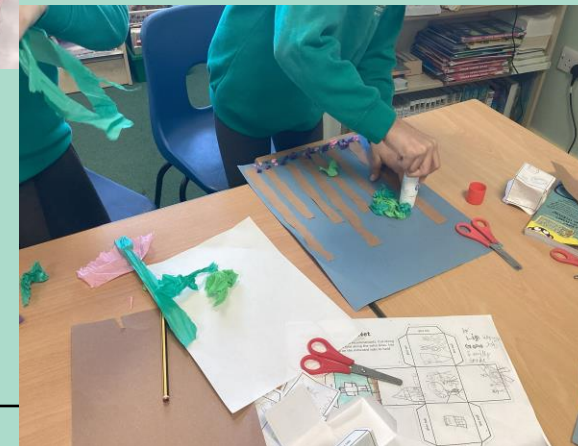
In **DT** we used digital media to create and design a wearable item of clothing to make children visible in the dark. Children designed a light up **Microbit** for hats, t-shirts, belts, bags and coats. Pupils continued to explore the **App** further by learning at home via the school website.



This term has been very busy in Year 4, from finding out how the Anglo Saxons helped our lives today to becoming States of Matter and performing an assembly to our parents in the main hall. We have expanded our knowledge further and we are developing into curious learners.

The Rainforest collages were the beginning of our writing topic for the Spring term and creating a non-fiction text class book, all about rainforests was our final task. Amazing year 4!

YEAR 4



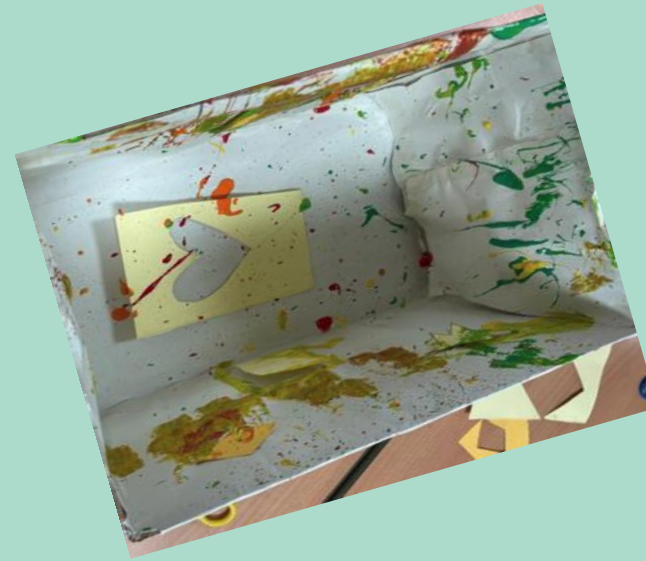
YEAR 4

We finished off the Spring Term with our 'Wise Up 'day over on the school field. Where we tested our teamwork and resilience to the max! Groups of 10 and a variety of team building tasks had us, working together and communicating to the max. From toxic popcorn to scoring a goal without looking – Kindness, Equality, Respect and Resilience in abundance! We all had a fantastic day – despite the chilly breeze!! Well done Year 4!



YEAR 5

This term, Year 5 have been using *Orphans of the Tide* to inspire their own adventure narratives. They've been developing their use of figurative language—crafting vivid similes, thoughtful metaphors, and lively personification to bring their ideas to life. It's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they experiment with language and create stories full of atmosphere and imagination.



In Art, Year 5 explored the work of Cai Guo-Qiang, an artist famous for his dramatic explosion art. Inspired by his techniques, the children created their own colourful “explosions” using vinegar paint and fizzy vitamin C tablets. The paint burst into the boxes we had prepared, creating vibrant backdrops for our Lego characters and their scenes. It was messy, exciting, and a brilliant way for the children to experiment with creative techniques.



YEAR 5

As part of our Earth and Space topic, we went on an exciting trip to the Science Museum in London. The children explored the Earth and Space galleries, discovering planets, rockets, satellites, and how scientists study our universe. We also visited the Wonderlab, where the children were able to get hands-on with interactive exhibits, including forces, light, electricity, and amazing scientific demonstrations. It was a fantastic day that brought our learning to life and sparked lots of curiosity.

In R.E, we were fortunate to welcome Helen from the Christian Education Project, who shared the Christian perspective on the story of creation. The children asked thoughtful, curious questions and explored a range of beliefs about how the world began. It was a valuable opportunity for them to reflect, compare different viewpoints, and deepen their understanding with respect and open-mindedness.

As part of our Geography topic *Why Do Oceans Matter?*, we learnt about the Great Barrier Reef and why it is such an important and fragile ecosystem. To understand how our actions can affect the oceans, we went on a field trip to Valentines Park to record the amount of litter in our local area. The children carefully collected data and discussed how rubbish on land can eventually reach rivers and oceans. This hands-on experience helped them see the real-world impact of pollution and the importance of protecting our planet.



YEAR 6

Gurdwara Visit

After studying 'What it means to be a Sikh' in the Autumn term, we started Spring 1 with a trip to the local Karamsar Gurdwara. The children were tested on their knowledge of Sikhism and were able to see important Sikh artefacts in person. They were also lucky to be invited to eat in the langar – enjoying a filling lunch of chips and beans!

Redbridge Museum Trip

We also visited the Redbridge Museum in the Spring term. In History children have been studying the impact of WW2 on Britain as a whole and the local area. The staff at the Redbridge Museum kindly ran a workshop for the children which gave them an opportunity to explore: the role of women during the war, rationing and the Blitz.

The Redbridge Museum is free to visit and is currently offering a special Exhibition about how Redbridge was affected by WW2. The exhibition is available until 30th of August so please check it out before it closes!

World Book Day 2026

On 9th March, Cranbrook celebrated World Book Day! This year's celebration also coincided with British Science week so Year 6 got 'Sciency' dressing up in a range of Sci-fi characters and famous scientists from history. Alaia from 6 Blue won an award for her costume of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde!

Antisemitism Workshop

Select children were invited to attend an antisemitism workshop during the Spring term. Cranbrook is proudly diverse and the workshop offered opportunities for our children to explore the origins of discrimination and what can be done to help stand against this! The children helped put together a piece of artwork which will hopefully be displayed in the school soon.

Basketball Competition at Gearies

The below children did Cranbrook proud by representing our school at a local basketball event.

Chidumedi Azubuiké (6R)

Fayzan Butt (6R)

Yaasir Ahmed (6G)

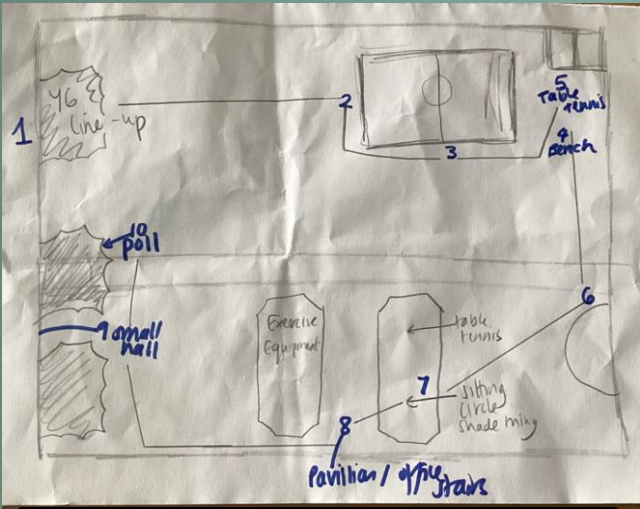
Deen Mulalic (6G)

Aiyal Haq (6Y)

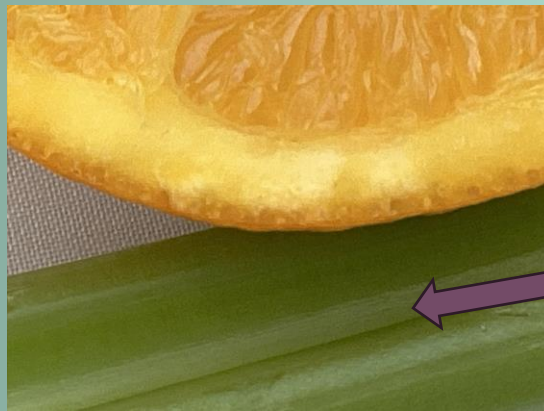
Abiha Ali (5R)

Although there were no medals on this occasion, they competed well and earned our school points for the overall 'Sports Network' league table.

YEAR 6



Map reading game in PE as part of our Outdoor and Adventure Unit.



In Art, the children have been exploring photography! Can you tell what has been photographed here?



Well done to all the Year 6 children who competed in, and won, the 2026 Winter Arts competition for the school. All the practise paid off!

- Aniela 6G
- Maya T 6G
- Emmanuella 6Y
- Alaia 6B
- Iyana 6B
- Farnaz 6B
- Amarachi 6R



Redbridge Museum



Karamsar Gurdwara