



YEAR GROUP CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2025

NURSERY

The children have had a great time at nursery this term. Autumn is such a lovely season for children to explore, with crisp leaves, muddy puddles, and plenty of fresh air. The nursery children went on a nature walk where they collected many leaves and sticks to create their own Autumn leaf wands.

For World Nursery Rhyme Week, the nursery children took part in a wonderful range of rhyme-inspired activities and lively music sessions. The children continued to sing our selection of core nursery rhymes, singing along to many favorites.

As part of our bonfire night celebrations, the nursery children created their very own pretend sparklers as well as making firework patterns using chunky chalks. They also learnt about light and dark.



NURSERY

For Remembrance day, our nursery children honoured and reflected on the brave individuals who cared for and protected others in the past. The children painted paper plates and created a big collage reflecting the poppy. The children engaged in role play activities that encouraged kindness and helping others.

To finish off the term, the nursery children presented their Christmas performance to their parents which they have been working very hard on. This was then concluded with a Christmas party.

We are sad to say goodbye to your children and will miss them, but we know they are ready for the next part of their journey.



RECEPTION

The Reception children have been learning the Christmas story as part of their literacy lessons. They have enjoyed making story maps, retelling the story with stick puppets and writing descriptions for some toys that Santa may be delivering this year. The children also got to visit the local church, St Andrews, where they impressed Reverend Hayley with their knowledge of the Christmas story. She explained how Christmas in the church starts on the first Sunday of advent and every Sunday until Christmas, a candle is lit. The children helped her to retell the story with a knitted nativity set, building up the empty stable, creating a final scene. The children asked why there was no Baby Jesus and learned that he is not placed in the manger until just past Midnight on Christmas Eve, ready for the Christmas Day celebrations to begin.



RECEPTION



Wow, what an end to an amazing term in Reception! The children settled in so well back in September, with the staff being impressed by their confidence, eagerness to learn and excitement to be challenged.

Well, they did not disappoint when they were given the challenge to put on a Christmas Nativity performance. Not just once, but for three separate audiences, with over 100 people at each. The little superstars learnt their lines, practised their songs and actions, decorated the scenery and above all looked cute in their costumes. They enjoyed it so much that they asked to do it again!

We finished the term with a party to celebrate 'Magnificent me'. Our main message being that we are all special in different ways.

YEAR 1

The children have had a great first term in Year 1. They have carried out lots of learning and activities around the book 'It's a No Money Day'. Our Year 1 children took part in a thoughtful and meaningful visit to the local food bank as part of their learning around the story. The visit helped the children understand the themes of kindness, community support, and the importance of helping others by kindly donating food. During the trip, staff at the food bank explained how donations are collected, sorted, and shared with families who may need extra support. The children were able to see the different types of food and household items that are provided, and they asked insightful questions about how the food bank works and why it is important. Back at school, the children reflected on the story and their visit. The experience has helped them develop a deeper understanding of how communities look after one another.



YEAR 1

Year 1 have enjoyed learning about animals, their needs and habitats. As part of our animal topic, the children celebrated with a 'Jungle Party'. To make the day even more enjoyable, pupils came dressed as their favourite jungle animals. During the celebration, the Year 1 area was transformed into a lively jungle environment, giving the children the chance to explore what they have learned in a fun and engaging way. Activities included animal-themed games, habitat explorations and a short parade where pupils shared their costumes with their friends. We had an opportunity to walk around the school acting out 'We are going on a Lion Hunt' story that the children have been learning about in English. The children also used their mathematical knowledge and skills to go on a Safari counting hunt where they needed to find the hidden animals around the school and count the total amount of animals they found. Overall, the children had a fantastic day filled with imagination, learning and lots of jungle fun!



YEAR 2

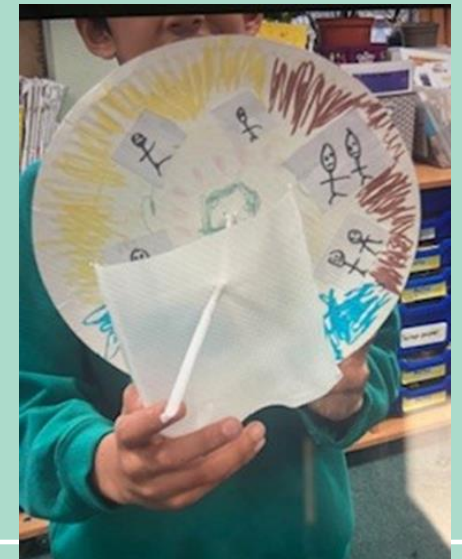
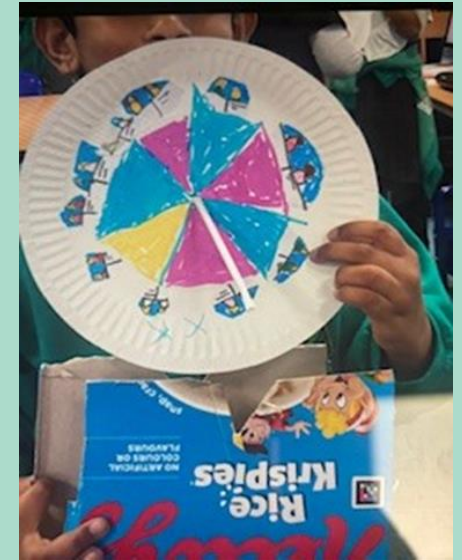
- The children learnt about the meaning of the **Christingle**, exploring its symbolism: the orange representing the world, the candle as the light of Christ, the red ribbon as God's love, and the sweets as the fruits of creation.
- With teamwork, they carefully decorated their oranges, adding sweets and ribbons while proudly placing candles on top.
- The activity blended learning with creativity, helping the children understand deeper spiritual ideas in a fun, hands-on way.
- By the end of the session, they not only gained knowledge from the RE lesson but also created something meaningful to take home and share with their family.



YEAR 2

Year 2's Fairground Fun

This term, the Year 2 children have been busy designing and building their very own fairground wheels! Using everyday materials such as paper plates, straws, and cereal boxes They explored how structures are made and how wheels can turn. The classroom was full of creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork as the children experimented with different ways to make their wheels spin. It was wonderful to see their excitement as simple materials transformed into imaginative fairground rides.



YEAR 3

Year 3 have been to the Natural History Museum in South Kensington to view the ancient fossils, prehistoric ammonites and the renowned Ichthyosaurus discovered by Mary Anning. They worked like a palaeontologist and took part in a fossil hunt workshop to unveil a dinosaur skull. Pupils also experienced the Rock Room where they entered the core of the Earth and experienced a simulation of an earthquake. The best part was the giant T-REX. ROAR!



We performed a play to our parents all about the Life of Mary Anning. Look at us in our wonderful costumes. Did you know the tongue twister 'seashells on the seashore,' was in honour of her? The teachers and parents were very proud.

Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime visited us to begin the festive Season. Some of our teachers took part as well. We enjoyed singing along and loved the water spraying on us!



We have been inspired by the famous artist Jean-Michel Basquiat for Black History Month. He is famous for his CROWN motif. He would crown and honour many black artists, musicians and public figures that were not always given recognition.



Year 3 Design and Technology

We have been busy bees, stitching some felt cushions. We thought about how to make a soft 'Zones of Regulation' cushion.

We learnt all these skills;

- Threading a needle
- Knotting a thread
- Running stitch
- Cross Stitch
- Applique
- Hemming
- Designing a template

The best was embellishing with buttons!



Our teachers asked us to continue our designing at home using recycled fabrics like an old t-shirt. Please help us to do this.



In Art we learnt drawing skills including creating light and dark tones. We were inspired by the artist **Yellena James** and her work with nature to create our own watercolour paintings.

'Lest We Forget'
In R.E we worked collaboratively and created a class Remembrance day Reef.





YEAR 4

It has been an exciting Autumn Term in Year 4. You should be very proud of your children, they have navigated a new classroom, a new teacher and risen to the challenge of now being part of the top floor of Cranbrook Primary School.

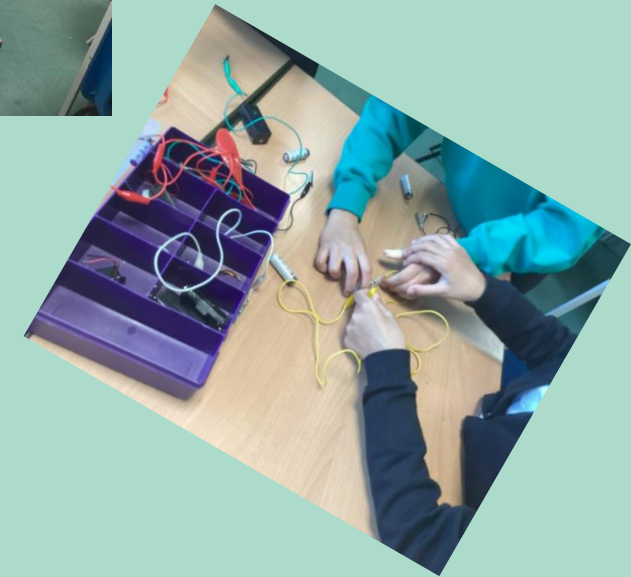
The children have been developing their communication skills, their listening skills and their resilience to complete a task throughout this term. This included a Science visit to Centre of The Cell in Whitechapel. As part of learning about the Digestive System, we became the Digestive System and followed the journey of food. The children really engaged with this topic and enjoyed the learning immensely. Well done Year 4 !

YEAR 4

As reading is our focus here at CPS this year, we have been looking at and appreciating our new books that we have found in our book areas. Learning to read with and listen to our partners equally – following the text is especially useful when it comes to our writing. Please continue reading with your child at home!

During Design and Technology and Science lesson we have been lighting up Year4 with our Electrical Circuits, making our own torches and developing the switch and design of our choice.

Year 4 also designed remembrance posters to fit in with our remembrance reflection area, you may have seen them on our Social Media pages (follow us on Facebook and Instagram if you don't already!)



YEAR 5

What a busy, jam-packed term we've had in Year 5! Our students have truly outdone themselves.

We have continued to learn about Islam in R.E and had the exciting opportunity to visit Cambridge Mosque where we learnt about the key features alongside the unique eco element. We looked closely at the architecture of the building and use of calligraphy and geometric design. It was a fantastic day!

We have been putting our cooking skills to the test as part of our D.T lessons where we made a vegetarian Bolognese. We looked at different recipes and thought about adjustments and changes we could make to suite our tastebuds. The children took time to peel, grate, crush and chop the different vegetables, even the onions! The classroom smelt amazing and the bolognese tasted delicious!

We hope you enjoyed our cooking!



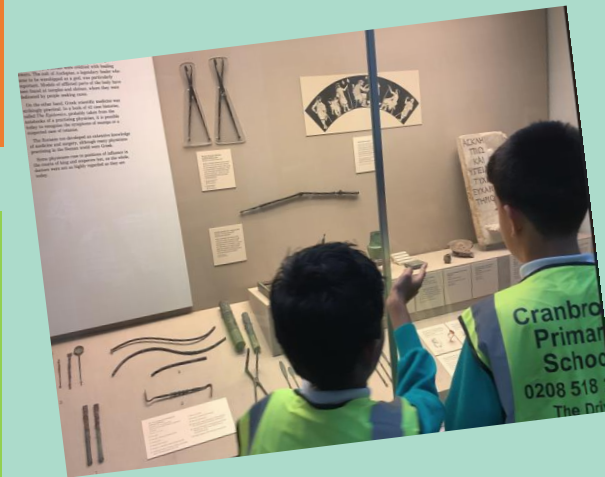
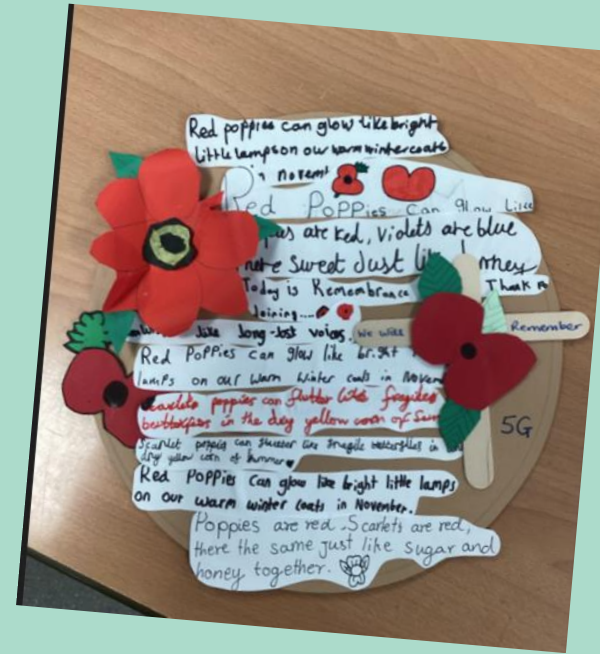
YEAR 5

As part of Our History topic we visited The British Museum to study more about the Vikings. Whilst we were there we took the time to discover the Ancient Greek Exhibition and the Islamic Civilisation. It was a great trip where we had the chance to observe many primary and secondary Historical artefacts.

During our Stunning start day we also looked in depth into Viking Life, what they ate, believed and how they lived.

We took part in a bread workshop exploring and tasting different types of bread and then had a chance to see how Viking bread is made and even tasted some!
Overall it was mixed reviews!

On Remembrance Day we spent time reflecting and learning about the soldiers who served during the war. We watched an online assembly which was presented by the Royal British Legion and made poppies and reefs to be laid in our school Remembrance Area.



What a term it has been!

All of our children have adapted well to being at the top of the school and have made an excellent start to the school year in what has been a busy Autumn term.

Although the end of year SATs are already on the minds of children and parents alike, we wanted to celebrate with you some of the more exciting things that we have done in school that you may have missed:

ART - Street Art

During Autumn 1, we studied street art and whether it was positive for the local environment. We also had a go at designing our own after looking at some pieces in the local area. Street Art – Graffiti or Art? You decide!

Remembrance Day

To honour fallen soldiers and victims of war around the world, Year 6 contributed to an emotional Cranbrook poppy display outside of the school pavilion. We also joined an online Remembrance Day workshop to pay our respects.

DT - Playgrounds

Playtime is often the children's favourite time of day, so our children were ecstatic to design and create their own playground apparatus during DT out of a range of recyclable materials.

Geography - Field Work

As the term drew to a close, we completed our local area enquiry about the effects that population has on traffic and litter. Children enjoyed venturing out of the classroom to ask local citizens their thoughts on pollution in the Gants Hill area.

YEAR 6

