



## February 2022

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we move swiftly towards half term, the first thing that I must do is to congratulate all of the pupils who have continued to work hard in all areas of the curriculum and cope exceptionally well with the changes and alterations that we have faced as a school.

It has again been an extremely challenging half term for us in school given the levels of staff absence that we have experienced, however ensuring that young people at Critchill have a personalised and exciting curriculum which prepares them for their next steps has still been a priority for all of us.

We are thrilled to share with you that we are one of only 14 schools in the South West of England that has achieved 100% against all Gatsby Benchmarks. This demonstrates the quality of our careers programme across the school.

#### **The eight Gatsby benchmarks of Good Career Guidance are:**

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance

We are also pleased to share that pupils in Wrens class have been enjoying their new outdoor learning equipment, even when the weather has been less than favourable and several new lunchtimes have begun including drama & music and a sports team.

We wish all of our families a restful break and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 28th February.



## School News..

### Dates for your diary!

#### 2021/2022

18th February 2022 - End of Term 3

28nd February 2022 - Start of Term 4

4th March 2022 - World Book Day (TBC)

18<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - Comic Relief

**3rd April - Friends of Critchill Easter Workshop**

8th April 2022 - End of Term 4

**25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Inset Day**

26<sup>th</sup> April 2022- Start of Term 5

26th April 2022 - SRE and Safeguarding

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022- Bank Holiday

16th May 2022 - PLIM Evening

27th May 2022 - End of Term 5

6th June 2022 - Start of Term 6

**12th June - School Fete / Fun day**

**4th July - Inset Day**

8<sup>th</sup> July 2022- Sports Day

12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 - Annual report evening

15<sup>th</sup> July 2022- Reserved Sports Day

21st July 2022 - End of Term 6

### **New Starters - Welcome to...**

**Ella Gaston - Parent and Family Support Advisor**

**Kirsty Bache - Teaching Assistant**

**Grace Rawlins - Teaching Assistant**

**Chantelle Swift - Apprentice Teaching Assistant**

**Jasmin Knight - Teaching Assistant**

**Kerry-Louise Parker - Apprentice Teaching Assistant**

**Liz Buxton - Teaching Assistant**

### **Leavers**

**Yazmin Witcombe**

**Lorna Willcox**

**Di Rutt**

**Trish Flanagan**

## HAWKS / P16

Nikki Blackwell from the Apprenticeship and Skills Development team continues to run her workshops. This term Nikki led a workshop with the students in Hawks and Post16 to understand what makes a good first impression when attending an interview.

Katie Harris from Katie's Kitchen came into school and spoke to students about setting up a business, marketing a business, understanding how a commercial kitchen works and some of the ingredients she uses including a mix of world herbs and spices this links in with Hawks class CEAIG theme, connections around the world.

Ella Garston, our PFSA, supported an activity on Enterprise, thinking about preparing stock and how to present stock for sale at the Bold and Brave pop up shop in Taunton. The plan for next term is to make macramé plant holders to sell in the shop.

Hawks and Post 16 enjoyed welcoming Emily back to Critchill School to hear about what Emily has been doing since she left Critchill in July 2021. Emily has started a Supported Internship with The Shaw Trust at The Palmer Garden Centre in Trowbridge. The students enjoyed catching up with Emily and learning about the training programme Emily is following.

## FINCHES

The Mini Police continue to work with Oakfield and our Frome PCSO's Gary Maule and Ben Pile. As part of the community project Mini Police, Oakfield and The Frome Town Rangers carried out a litter pick and tree planting at Egford Park. Thanks to Post 16 for helping with the tree planting.

We continue to build on relationships with local employers and secure both work placements and employer engagement opportunities. If you are able to help at all then please contact Sally Smiles, Careers/Working Futures Lead.



## School News..

**Kelly's Donkeys** - Children from our lower Nest have had the opportunity to attend Kelly Donkeys. They have enjoyed riding and participating in jobs such as grooming and making up the donkey feed. They particularly love feeding them. It's lovely to see all the students having lots of fun and learning new skills.



## Careers Week

Monday 7th March - 11th March. To mark the beginning of careers week students and staff are invited to dress up as their 'dream job' on Monday 7th March. Throughout the week we have a variety of different activities and lessons planned to inspire and engage our students in the world of work.

We are always looking for employer engagement activities, if you are your employer would be interested in supporting our Working Futures programme then we would love to hear from you.

**MOJO MOVES** visited the school again last week. The children had a great time participating in a physical activity. They are looking forward to her returning to the school next Month.



## School News..

### Meet the new Parent Family Support Advisor - Ella Gaston

As a new member of staff, I am very excited to have been given the opportunity to work with Critchill students and their families. My role in the school is to make sure you feel supported within the school community. I am happy to help you with any concerns or worries you may have surrounding your child's wellbeing and education. I am also here, as someone to talk to should you need it.

#### Support for students includes:

Promoting positive behaviour and positive attitudes to learning

Promoting good punctuality and attendance

Promoting confidence, self-esteem & wellbeing

#### Support for families includes:

Advice and support around preparing for adulthood

Providing information and signposting to other services in the local area

Assistance in completing paperwork and forms (eg. Transition placements, housing, special educational needs and benefits)

Attendance at school and other agency meetings

Liaising with external services such as Social Care and housing

Access to workshops and training



I am based at school during term time every Monday and Friday from 8am until 2.40pm and every Tuesday 10.30am until 5.10pm.

Please email: [egaston@critchillschool.com](mailto:egaston@critchillschool.com) or call the office on 01373 464148 to make an appointment.



## RECYCLING

We are now part of the Astra Recycling scheme. We have a brand new recycling bin at the front of the school by the path. Collections will take place every 2 weeks, please feel free to donate any of the below at your convenience, we welcome donations from the whole community.

All monies raised will go to Friends of Critchill School.

We accept the following wearable items:

- All men's, ladies and children's clothing including School Uniform
- Paired Shoes
- Handbags, bags, ties and belts
- Bed clothes, towels, soft toys

## Friends of Critchill

### DATES

**Sunday 3rd April - Children's Easter Workshop** - Tickets available from the schools office.

**Sunday 12th June** - School fun day / Fete



Thank you to everyone who donated.

We raised an incredible £232.

## Other Information

**Frome Children's Festival** - a fun free day of activities, will be happening this year on Sunday 21st August. It will be taking place inside The Cheese and Grain, outside in the car park, along the river, in the woods, on the Pump Track and in Welshmill Park. Have a look at the website for photos and videos of previous festivals, [www.purpleelephant.org.uk](http://www.purpleelephant.org.uk). We would like to make the event even more accessible and inclusive offering a range of activities that are suitable for all children and young people. If you have any suggestions or ideas as a parent or young person please email [lenkagrimes@purpleelephant.org.uk](mailto:lenkagrimes@purpleelephant.org.uk).

**Merlin Theatre** - There are two shows for young children coming up at The Merlin Theatre in February.

**Club Origami** - (by Little Big Dance) - an interactive dance show for approx. under age 5, which invites audiences to imagine, explore and play together. It is headed up by Japanese dance artist, Takeshi Matsumoton, a qualified dance movement psychotherapist who has worked with children with autism and learning disabilities as well as with families who survived nuclear disaster in Japan and for stateless refugee children in Thailand. On Tuesday 22nd February at 11am & 2.30pm, followed by a stay-and-play session.

**I Spy With My Little Eye** - The People's Theatre Company brings interactive children's musical, I Spy With My Little Eye. Based on a brand new picture book by 'How The Koala Learnt To Hug' author, Steven Lee, this fun show invites everyone to a birthday party with Molly and Bingo the puppy. With a treasure hunt, games and sing-along songs, youngsters may like to wear their party clothes for sweet surprises, laughter and photos after the show. 2.30pm on Sun 27 February.

Details are shown on the website at [www.merlintheatre.co.uk](http://www.merlintheatre.co.uk)