



# Critchill School Newsletter

## December 2023



## Head Teacher News



### Autumn Term 2

We have had a very busy term at Critchill and students are making good progress against their PLIMs. You should all have received a copy of these and will begin to see Evidence for Learning becoming active



and evidence uploaded by teaching teams. If you need a reminder about how to access this please get in touch. We value sharing these learning experiences with you and would welcome your comments and uploads of activities you do at home.

This term we have welcomed visitors such as Carymoor recycling, PCSO's, Mojo Moves and Santa to school to visit students.

More recently we have begun Christmas celebrations and students are enjoying the festivities. Thank you for everyone who took part in our Christmas Hamper afternoon, this was a great success and raised valuable funds for the school, as well as providing real opportunities for our young people through catering, enterprise and being part of social events.

We are in the midst of cough and cold season and have seen a rise in absences. Please do ensure your child is in school by 9am and if they are absent you call the school office daily and keep us informed. We want to encourage all students and families where possible to make doctors' appointments outside of school time, however recognise that sometimes these fall in school times. We have a duty to report absence and encourage you to contact us if we can support your child into school.

I hope everyone has a safe, enjoyable Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Merry Christmas!

## School Dates

18th December – Inset day

**15th December – End of Term 2**

2nd January – Inset day

**3rd January – Start of Term 3**

29th January – PLIM Evening

7th February - Critchill Code Day

**9th February – End of Term 3**

**19th February – Start of Term 4**

7th March – World book day

17th March – Red nose day

**28th March – End of Term 4**

**15th April – Start of Term 5**

25th April - Critchill Code Day

20th May – PLIM Evening

**24th May – End of Term 5**

**3rd June – Start of Term 6**

28th June – Sports day

12th July – Reserved Sports day

**19th July – End of Term 6**

**Next term some classes will be teaching Relationships, Sex and Health education to our students during PSHE lessons. If you have any questions about this please do contact your class teacher in the first instance. There is some information on our website too.**

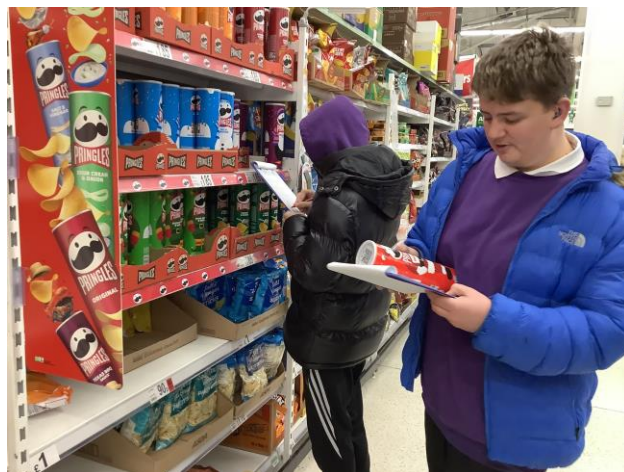
## School News





This term Owls, Starlings and Finches class have been reading the book *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*. We all went through the magical wardrobe and visited Narnia, meeting the White Witch and exploring what the wintry world was like! We have looked at what life was like during World War Two for the four children including being evacuated and having food rationed as well as what sort of games they might have played. We have also made up our own magical world.















Hawks have been continuing their work in the community at Rangers. We have also developed our Preparation for Adulthood skills during community visits and applied maths skills at the supermarket. Some of our learners have explored number in the environment.







Thank you to everyone who donated to 'Children in Need', we raised £75. It was lovely to see so many of the children and staff in their 'Spotacular' outfits!!















The children and staff had a visit from Father Christmas, with lots of giggles, smiles and dancing. We would like to say a very big thank you to the Lions Club of Frome for making this happen.





On Friday 8th December we had an enrichment day to learn about the country of Iceland. We explored the climate, culture and traditions and children had the opportunity to experience immersive rooms for :

Blue Lagoon

Northern Lights

Volcano Fagardalsfjall

## Critchill School Council

Critchill Council is up and running! Nineteen children expressed an interest. Six names were selected and have been put forward as the first representatives. Congratulations to Romera, Fae, Bentley, Archie, James and Jack. These pupils will be representing their peers until February half term. Six new pupils will then be put forward

They have already been working hard at making suggestions on how to improve school. A suggestion box is being placed in the reception area. This is for pupils to post any suggestions, concerns or questions.

Social stories about School Council and the Suggestion Box have been shared by classes so all children know they are valued and their contributions will be shared

We now have a Critchill Council Display Board and an agenda and minutes are shared each week.

On Friday 1st December, council members enjoyed working together to decorate the Christmas tree, which has pride of place in the hall.

A huge Thank You to Mole Valley Farmers for donating us the Christmas Tree.







## Working Futures

We have had a busy term with students in Post 16 starting a series of work placements in the Frome area. All our students are supported by our job coach, George Dobson. George who has been working across the school for the past two years and has been a welcome addition to the Working Futures Team.

Bramblings and Nuthatches theme for this term has been 'Going Green'. As part of this theme they have worked with the PCSO's on a litter pick and welcomed Gary from Careymoor environmental Trust.

Hawks Class also enjoyed meeting Gary from Careymoor to learn about working in the recycling and waste management industry.

In November we hosted the Somerset Supported employment Parent/Carer Forum, it was a very informative morning with a lot of conversation and debate about supported employment in the County. Watch this space for more exciting opportunities in the Frome area.

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





## Friends of Critchill School

We are pleased to introduce 3 new parents to Friends of Critchill. During the FOC meeting that took place on Wednesday 6th December the following members were voted in - Jess who will take on the role of Chair, Emily who will take on the role as Treasurer and Chrissy who will take on the role as Secretary. They would love more parents to be involved, they have set up an email - [friendsofcritchill@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcritchill@gmail.com) If you would like more information please pop them an email

A huge thankyou to Claire and Kirsty who have stepped down from Treasurer and Secretary, who for the past 3 years have been at the fore front of fundraising and have given a lot of their own time to support Friends of Critchill, I know they will continue to offer support along with their knowledge. I am also stepping down as Chair and know I am leaving it in very good hands. I hope you all support Friends of Critchill going forward as much as you supported us - Hazel

As per previous communications we have been fundraising to buy the school a people carrier. The school has been lucky enough to have been donated one so this means we are able to support the school in other ways. The school are looking to add shelter to the playground so it will be more accessible all year round for outdoor leaning. We have happily donated a substantial amount towards this. Thank you to everyone who has attended an event, donated or gave up their time to help, we really appreciate it.



## Family activities during December Half Term



The poster is for 'Family Holiday Activities' at Wells Cathedral. It features a red background with white snowflakes and the Wells Cathedral logo. The main title is 'Family Holiday Activities' in large white letters, with the tagline 'EXPLORE • CREATE • DISCOVER' below it. A green banner at the top says 'Book online at wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays'. The poster lists three activities for December 2023: 'A Host of Angels' on Monday 18 December, 'Colourful Candlelight' on Tuesday 19 December, and 'Festive Foliage' on Wednesday 20 December. Each activity includes a description and a small image. At the bottom, there is a QR code and booking information.

**WELLS CATHEDRAL**

# Family Holiday Activities

EXPLORE • CREATE • DISCOVER

Book online at [wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays](https://wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays)

## Christmas Crafts

December 2023

Get the holidays off to a festive start with these creative workshops for children:

**A Host of Angels** Monday 18 December  
Make an adorable angel decoration to hang on your Christmas tree.

**Colourful Candlelight** Tuesday 19 December  
Transform a jam jar into a beautiful candle holder, inspired by the Cathedral's stained glass.

**Festive Foliage** Wednesday 20 December  
Use natural materials to make a festive centrepiece to adorn your table this Christmas.

**Scan to book:**  
Or drop in on the day (subject to availability)  
£2.15 per child / £1.10 if eligible for free school meals; accompanying adults FREE  
Please note: children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and only assistance dogs are allowed at our Family Holiday Activities

**Book** online at [wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays](https://wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays) or drop in on the day (subject to availability). Sessions at 10am, 11:15am and 2pm. £2.15 per child / £1.10 if eligible for free school meals. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



# FAMILY HOLIDAY



Christmas 2023

Activities in Frome for families in need of support.

Monday 18th December	1pm to 4pm	Festive crafts and sparkles, magic and balloons, presents from Santa!	The Key Centre, Feltham Lane, Frome BA11 5AJ
Tuesday 19th December	10am to 1pm	Festive crafts and sparkles, magical entertainment, presents from Santa!	St Catharine's Hall, 4 Park Road, Frome BA11 1EU
Wednesday 20th December	1pm to 4pm	Festive crafts and sparkles, magic and balloons, presents from Santa!	Cricket Club, Rodden Road, Frome BA11 2AH

Suggested donation of £2 per child

\*Free Fair Frome hot buffet party food served one hour before the end of each session!

BOOKING ESSENTIAL - contact [rebeccaharrison@purpleelephant.org.uk](mailto:rebeccaharrison@purpleelephant.org.uk)  
bookings must be received by 4th December

Adults to accompany and remain responsible for their children at all times.  
Family support workers available at all sessions.  
[www.PurpleElephant.org.uk](http://www.PurpleElephant.org.uk)








We're running 3 Christmas activities for families who need support over the holidays - see the Purple Elephant poster for more details. These sessions are open to families who live in Frome or the surrounding villages, or anywhere in Somerset if they have additional needs.