



Critchill School Newsletter

October 2023



Head Teacher News



Autumn Term

Welcome back to all our families continuing to be a vital part of Critchill School and a welcome to our new families also.

It is a great privilege to be the new Head Teacher of Critchill School, as many of you will know I have been in both teaching and leadership roles for many years at Critchill School. To lead such a dedicated and successful group of staff is an honour and the students are always at the centre in all that we do. The profoundly personalised curriculum and provisions for all of our students continues to be our focus at Critchill School.

Students have settled well back into the routines of Critchill and this week myself and the Leadership Team have carried out a series of lesson observations, which is always a pleasure as we see how engaged our students are in their learning.

This term we have successfully begun a Supported Internship with The Shaw Trust at Palmer Garden Centre in Trowbridge. This means that two of our young people are working 4 days a week with 1 day a week continued education. This is an outstanding outcome for these young people.

I hope that you will join me in recognising the significance of our Ofsted report that was published in September. Although the inspectors did not identify any areas for improvement, we as a school will, as always, continue to work on school improvement priorities and ensure that the education that pupils receive at Critchill is profoundly personalised and outstanding.

Have an enjoyable half term break, and we will see you on Tuesday 31st October.

School Dates

20th October – End of Term 1

30th October – Inset day

31st October – Start of Term 2

2nd November - Critchill Code

17th November – Children in Need

21st November – School photographs

7th December – Christmas Jumper Day

13th December – Christmas Lunch

18th December – Inset day

19th December – End of Term 2

2nd January – Inset day

3rd January – Start of Term 3

5th January - Critchill Code

29th January – PLIM Evening

9th February – End of Term 3

19th February – Start of Term 4

20th February - Critchill Code

7th March – World book day

15th March – Red nose day

28th March – End of Term 4

15th April – Start of Term 5

17th April - Critchill Code

6th May – Bank Holiday

20th May – PLIM Evening

24th May – End of Term 5

3rd June – Start of Term 6

5th June - Critchill Code

28th June – Sports day

12th July – Reserved Sports day

19th July – End of Term 6

22nd July - Inset day

School News

Critchill School is looking for a community governor to join our governing body. As a governor you will be a volunteer who makes a vital contribution to the success of the school. Training and support will be provided in the role and there will be mandatory safeguarding training to undertake. Please note that all

governors will have an enhanced DBS check. If you have any questions about the role and would like further details please contact the school office.







Bramblings and Nuthatches Class enjoyed a treasure hunt at Forest School to kick start their Pirates Theme this term. The children enjoyed being outside, looking for x marks the spot and digging for treasure.







PIC•COLLAGE



PIC•COLLAGE



Finches class have been visiting a difference country each week this term to tie in with their 'People from around the world' theme. They have focused on the story Around the world in 80 days and explored where Phileas Fogg has travelled to develop their understanding of different foods, culture and music.





A huge thank you to Frome library who donated Bookstart packs from the Book Trust charity. Each pack contained two new books as well as finger puppets. The children are enjoying exploring the books.

Critchill School Illustrated Map

As part of our commitment to promoting pupil voice and inclusivity we commissioned local artist, Kate Lynch to paint an illustrated map of our school.

The map shows all the routes through the school, learning spaces, as well as the playground, gardens and over 150 figures.

The map will have many uses beyond functional navigation - it can also help with storytelling and communication, and will play an important role in safeguarding and promoting pupil welfare too. It has pride of place in the main corridor and is a beautiful artwork for everyone to enjoy.

Kate visited the school on numerous occasions, spending time getting to know our children and our school environment and involving them in the design process. The result is an exceptionally beautiful communication aid for all children and young people as well as staff and visitors.

"I was thrilled to be asked back to Frome to paint a colourful picture map of Critchill School, it has been a real privilege seeing all the many activities the children are involved in and I hope the picture will be enjoyed by pupils, teachers and visitors, and will be a useful resource for years to come." Kate Lynch

Coming Soon:

Look out for exciting news about the new Critchill School Council!



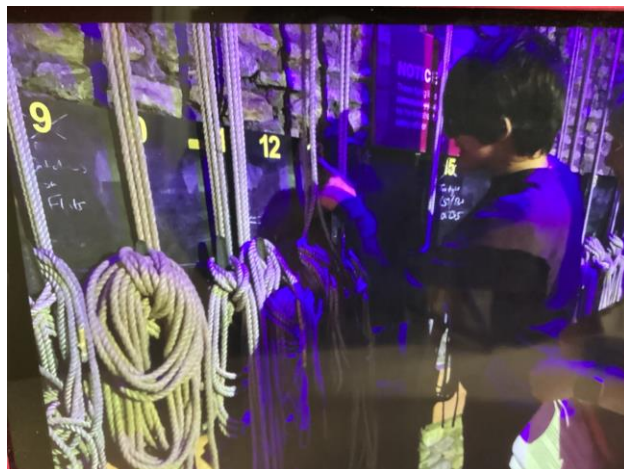
Working Futures

The catering van has made a welcome return. You can find our students working hard on a Wednesday at Frome Market and on a Friday at Boyles Cross. Please come and visit. You will receive a warm welcome and of course some delicious food!

Thank you to Humphrey Barnes and Richard Lines for a recent tour of Frome Memorial Theatre. Hawks Class visited the theatre as part of this term's curriculum theme Romeo and Juliet. It also gave the students the opportunity to understand about the different job roles available within the theatre. We had a backstage pass and looked behind the scenes of the theatre. Students learnt about the technical sides of putting on a show including the lighting and music.

We also visited the Careers Fair at Westlands Entertainment venue in Yeovil. Students met with employers, colleges and other local training providers. There were many interactive stands, including catering, sport and leisure and the construction industry.

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.







Somerset Parent/Carer Engagement Sessions

Come and find out how Supported Employment can be part of your young persons best adult life.

Do they want to go out to work, earn their own money, be part of the wider community and be a valued employee?

Your views will help us shape how we ensure that information about Supported Employment for young people with SEND is timely and readily accessible.

IMAGINE
the possibilities

BOOK YOUR PLACE on the Somerset Parent/Carer Engagement Sessions at venues across the County in October-November 2023
somerset-ebp.co.uk/events/workshops/somerset-parentcarer-engagement-sessions.htm

SCAN ME

Update from Supported Employment team in Somerset

We are honoured to be offering Somerset Parent/Carer Engagement Sessions across Somerset.

Does your young person want to go out to work, earn their own money, be part of the wider community and be a valued employee?.

Join us at one of these exciting in-person events across Somerset - designed to bring parents and carers together. Your views will help us shape how we ensure that information about Supported Employment for young people with SEND is timely and readily accessible.

These events are a fantastic opportunity for you to connect with others who share similar experiences and challenges. The sessions will be filled with informative discussions, engaging activities, and valuable resources.

There will be events across Somerset at various venues starting 31st October 2023. They are free to attend but would require booking through the information on the attached leaflet.

Friends of Critchill School

Friends of Critchill School is a group of staff and parents/carers who work together to fund raise for the school. We hold events to fundraise which enables us to pay for school trips, purchase play equipment and class resources.

We also work to bring us all together as a community through events such as the summer fun day and workshops we hold through out the year. We would welcome parents/careers to join us at our meetings through out the year and events. We have a vacancy for Treasurer from January 2024, unfortunately if this vacancy can not be filled FOC will have to fold. If you would like to know more about Friends of Critchill School, fundraise or wish to make a donation please contact Hazel or Claire in the school office.



Our main fundraisings goal currently is to buy a new Volkswagen transporter for the school.

This would allow:

- more pupils to access their learning in the local community
- extend our offer of work experience placements
- ensure skills that are learnt in the classroom are consolidated in a range of other environments



Just a reminder we have a clothing bank at the front of the 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

Please feel free to donate at your convenience, we welcome donations from the whole community. All monies raised will go to Friends of Critchill School.













Thank you to everyone who attend the Halloween Workshop and to all the staff who came to help. We raised £262 which will go towards our fundraising goal. A huge thank you to CIL Management Consultants who paid for the bouncy castle, the pumpkins and the arts and craft supplies.

Other Information



MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS



PLAYFUL EXPLORATION OF MUSIC, MOVEMENT, CHARACTERISATION AND PERFORMANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS - GROWN-UPS WELCOME TO STAY. DEVELOPING SELF-ESTEEM, EXPRESSION, AND CREATIVE THINKING.



THURSDAYS
4:30PM-5:15PM

EMAIL
TRI.ARTTHEATRESCHOOL@GMAIL.COM
TO BOOK!



Tri Arts - We are thrilled to host our new classes for children with SEN and their grown ups at our accessible studio. Performing Arts classes to be enjoyed by all; join us as we playfully explore storytelling, music, develop our creativity and characterisation and have fun, all whilst building on self-esteem and confidence. To enquire, email Tri.Arttheatreschool@gmail.com



Team Purple Panthers , made up of 7 Critchill Staff won the Westbury Netball Summer league. Team Captain Miss Beaven was delighted with the result "it was a fantastic team effort"

Family activities during October half term



FAMILY HOLIDAY



Activities in Frome for families in need of support.

Tuesday 24th Oct	10am to 1pm	Family cookery - make a tasty, healthy meal together	Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Frome BA11 3DN
Wednesday 25th Oct*	10am to 1pm	Accessible, fun print-art workshop - make your own bag for life	Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Frome BA11 3DN
Thursday 26th Oct*	10am to 1pm	Accessible, fun print-art workshop - make your own bag for life	Cricket Club, Rodden Road, Frome BA11 2AH
Friday 27th Oct*	3pm to 6pm	Active Science workshop outside with rockets!	The Key Centre, Feltham Lane, Frome BA11 5AJ
Saturday 28th Oct	10am to 12pm	Play and Take Away day - booking not required	Frome Library, Justice Lane Frome BA11 1BE

Suggested donation of £2 per child

*Free Fair Frome hot meal served one hour before end of session!

BOOKING ESSENTIAL - contact rebeccaharrison@purpleelephant.org.uk to
book a place or ask your school or support worker to refer you

Adults to accompany and remain responsible for their children at all times.



Family support workers available at all sessions.

www.PurpleElephant.org.uk



Purple Elephant have arranged 5 activities during the October half term for local families. Please see the poster below for details of the activities and use the referral form to refer families to us. We will then contact them to see which sessions they would like to book onto. Please make sure that the family details are correct as we will add them to our MailChimp mailing list and let them know about other services and ad hoc specials like free theatre tickets. Feel free to add to your school newsletter and share with other professionals supporting local families.



Book online at wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays

Threads through Creation

October 2023

Creative workshops for children inspired by the stunning 'Threads through Creation' exhibition. Take time to see the wonderful, super sized fabric panels before your craft session; pick up a free family trail leaflet and explore the kaleidoscope of colours, shapes, patterns – and of course many, many different creatures!

Felted Worlds Monday 23 October*
Make a mini felted Earth to hang at home, complete with your message for a better world.

Spectacular Spirals Tuesday 24 October*
Take inspiration from spirals in the exhibition and in nature. Try circular weaving or create a snazzy snake mobile.

Fabric Creations Wednesday 25 October*
Stitch a mini textile panel or use fabric and glue to create a colourful creature collage.

*Sessions at 10.00 a.m., 11.15 a.m., and 2.00 p.m.

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 that Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and no dogs are allowed at family activities.



Wells Cathedral are hosting creative workshops for children and their families over the half term holiday. These family holiday activities are inspired by the stunning Threads through Creation textile exhibition which will be showing at the Cathedral from 18th October to 28th November and which all are welcome to explore using our free exhibition trail leaflet.



HALF TERM SEND GYMNASTICS

Tuesday 24th October
Age 3-5: 1.45-2.30pm
Age 6-9: 2.45-3.30pm

£6.50

LEIGH ON MENDIP MEMORIAL HALL
TO BOOK: MESSAGE OR CALL AMIE ON 079205 73860



find

Frome's Family Information Network Directory, an easy to use platform to find the information you need for your family all in one place.

Communities, connections, services and resources for families and professionals to help support a strong and resilient town.

findfrome.co.uk



Family Support & Advice

Health and wellbeing
Employment
Pregnancy



Childcare

Childminders
Nurseries and preschools
After school clubs



Education

Local schools
Specialist schools
Educational resources



Young People

Activities and groups
Advice and support
Employment and training



Things to do, places to go

Activities for all ages
Family-friendly events
School holiday fun



Resources and Quick Links

Parenting support
Mental and physical health
Financial advice

