



# Critchill School Newsletter

## April 2025





## Head Teacher News

### Spring Term 2025

We have had a busy and exciting Spring Term at Critchill and you will see from the newsletter a range of external visits have taken place, to support and enhance the curriculum. We also welcomed back some previous students a part of our Working futures Alumni event, which is inspiring and a great opportunity for Key stage 4 and 5 students to see where they could go next in terms of education , employment and living.

This term we have continued to gather evidence of the students being taught their Personalised Learning Intentions and I am sure you can see within their evidence on EFL, the pride and enjoyment they have in their learning. We hope the EFL Parent App has made this evidence more accessible to you and would welcome feedback on this.

We also want to thank everyone who contributed to our Asda Cash Pot as this has raised £493.80 and will go towards some new interactive equipment.

Have a lovely Easter Break. We look forward to welcoming the students back on Tuesday 21st April 2025.

Kind regards,

Emma West



## Upcoming Dates

**Tuesday 22nd April - Start of Term 5**



**Monday 5th May - Bank Holiday**

Monday 19th May - Plim Evening

**Friday 23rd May - End of Term 5**

**Monday 2nd June - Inset Day**

**Tuesday 3rd June - Start of Term 6**

## School News

### **WORLD BOOK DAY - THURSDAY 6TH MARCH**

It was great to see lots of our pupils dressed up as we celebrated World Book Day on 6th March. Activities were planned throughout the day to encourage and promote a love for reading. The school council also went and collected books from Hunting Raven Books and these were shared out across the school.

### **MFL DAY - ITALY - FRIDAY 14TH MARCH**

This term we 'visited' Italy, learning about the culture through the 'Almalfi Coast' sensory experience, cooking pasta/pizza/biscotti and making lemonade.

We explored the landmarks in Italy, including the Eiffel Tower and Leaning Tower of Pisa and we were also treated to the Palette and Pasture gelato trailer who served us some delicious ice creams, kindly funded by Friends of Critchill.







14.03.25 - Maths,  
making pizza's for  
MFL Italy day



PIC•COLLAGE















## EYFS & KS1

### **Out and About**

**Wrens** enjoyed a picnic at Egford park, to finish off their theme - Out and About. We have been learning about the community and how to be safe when walking. All of Wrens class showed amazing safe behaviours, enjoyed the sunshine and played positively with their peers!

### **Up, Up & Away**

**Bramblings and Nuthatches** have been exploring the theme 'Up, Up & Away'. We have learned about various air transportation including helicopters, airplanes, hot air balloons and rockets. The children particularly enjoyed getting outdoors to fly kites and take a ride in a 'hot air balloon'.













































## KS2 & KS3

### This Term - Walk Like A Roman

**Finches** have been looking at the Romans! We explored Roman gods and goddesses through sensory experiences as well as building our own roman roads, going through roman soldier training and learning new signs.

**Starlings** have been exploring the Romans. They have enjoyed learning about what they did for us such as the Roman baths, aqueducts, mosaics and roads. We also explored the role of a soldier and enjoyed making our own shields. We engaged in stories about the Romans going to Gladiator fights and chariot races.

**Owls** have been exploring the Romans. We have looked at what life was like during the Roman era including what they would eat, what it was like to be a Roman soldier, what roman baths were like and what they invented and brought over to England when they invaded. We have dressed like a Roman soldier, made mosaics, gold coins and pots as well as cooking and eating roman food.



## **This Term - Around the World in 80 Days**

**Ravens** have been reading Darwin's Dragons. In art we have started making clay dragon eyes. When they have dried we will paint them bright colours.

**Kestrels** had a wonderful day at Longleat in the warm sunshine for their current theme of 'Around the World in 80 Days'. Kestrels started their day by travelling around the safari park and looking at Painted dogs and Giraffes that predominantly originate from Africa. Pupils then enjoyed exploring Jungle Kingdom on foot and learned about Koalas and their diet and habitat. Kestrels loved seeing Longleat whilst travelling on the train and had the opportunity to stroke a goat.







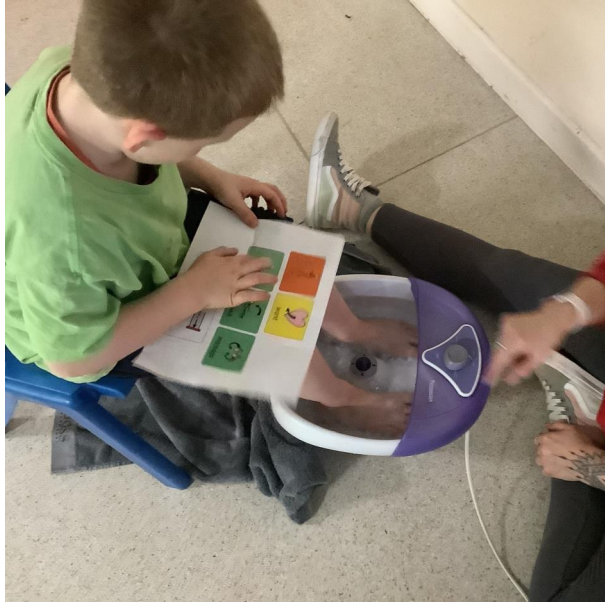
































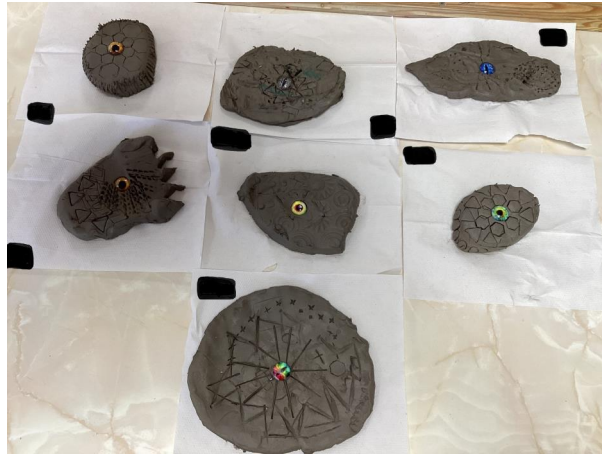








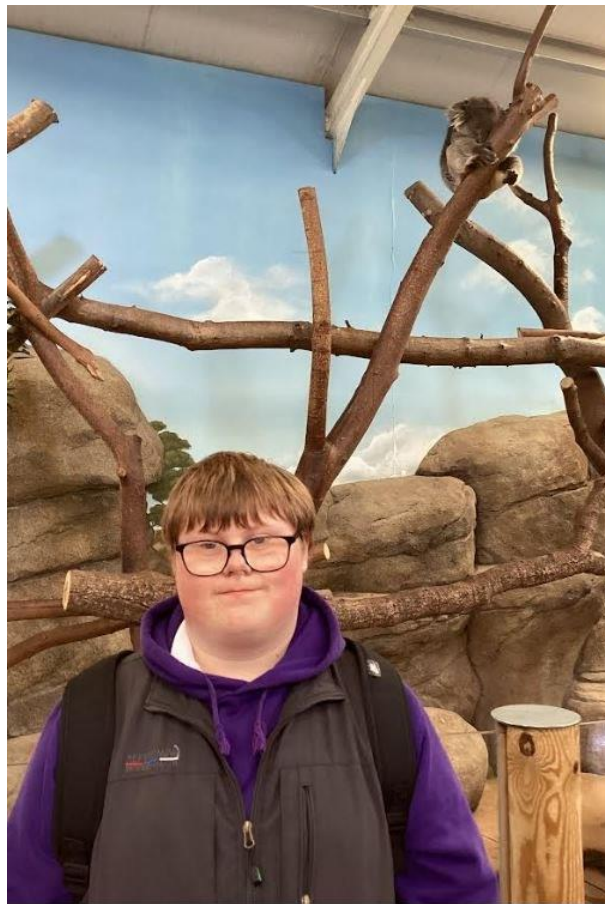




















## Working Futures - KS4 & P16

### **Coding Visit**

Pupils in P16 and Hawks Class recently had a visit from Microsoft staff to learn about computer coding.

The whole day session taught pupils how to use code to complete a range of tasks and create simple games on a portable 'Microbit'. These Microbits have been donated to the school so we can further develop our coding skills. The day was a fantastic success and we have received very good feedback from our visitors.

The pupils have also used their computing skills to communicate with a real life spacecraft called Hera. In English, we wrote thank you emails to the Microsoft team and wrote about space and time travel.

We would like to thank Gareth and Nicola from Microsoft and Jenny from Somerset Careers.

### **Duke of Edinburgh ( Road Safety)**

Pupils in Post 16 have had a very busy term so far. Preparations for our Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition are well underway with pupils learning about map reading, walking



equipment, fitness and teamwork. We were visited by Harry Orso who took the pupils out on a road safety walk around Frome. During Careers Week we were visited by Nikki Blackwell (careers advisor) who taught the class about interview technique and undertook some excellent role play interviews. In class, we have been learning about appraisals and having a positive mindset.

### **Functional Skills**

The Fit for Work initiative continues to be a fantastic success with excellent engagement and amazing team work by all pupils. Some pupils in Post 16 have just started their Functional Skills tests and the initial results have been outstanding.











## Critchill School Council



### Critchill Council Update

As well as being busy in school, Critchill Council have had several highlights including:

World Book Day 4.03.25



Critchill Council represented the school when they walked into Frome town centre to visit Winstones bookshop. Here, Manager Tina Gaisford-Waller made everyone feel very welcome and she talked through the World Book Day books that could be exchanged for vouchers. Everyone made their selection and we were able to take back a book for each child at Critchill. We were very lucky with the weather and it was a delight to see our young people walking so safely in the community.

Frome Kindness Festival 11.03.25

Alison and Esme came along with their kindness capes and a special heart shaped cushion, to discuss the importance of kindness. Critchill Council were able to share that being kind is central to the Critchill Code and something that is celebrated across the school.

Energy Sparks 14.03.25

Nicola Webb met with Critchill Council and some other interested pupils to discuss how the school could reduce its energy consumption. Pupils were motivated to both save school money and make positive steps towards protecting the planet too.

We look forward to sharing updates of progress in this area.

Melody Hunter Evans ( Children and Young People's Project officer ) 21.03.25

Discussion about local government and the role of CYP in shaping the community's future. Critchill Council drew and talked about what they like best about Critchill and their home communities. These drawings and comments will be part of an exhibition in Frome Town Hall. Details to follow...

Other news..

In response to a unanimous vote, Critchill Council will now be the proud wearers of pink, School Council, baseball caps.

Re:Fresh Re:fresh are a local charity who provide schools with toiletries to support children and young people who may struggle financially or for other reasons. Please let Diggy know if this is something you would be interested for your child [ccoe@critchillschool .com](mailto:ccoe@critchillschool.com)











## Important Parent Information

### School Meals

School meals are now available to book on Parent Pay for after the Half Term. Please make sure these are booked by **Thursday 17th April** ready for the start of term on Tuesday 22nd April.

### Hydrotherapy

Please be advised that following a Sickness/Diarrhoea episode the hydrotherapy rules are 2 weeks without entering the pool. We have to adhere to this rule in order to be compliant with pool rules.

### Warmer Weather

With the warmer weather , please ensure Sun Cream is applied to students before school. If your child needs this to be reapplied in the school day please advise the class team in the link book whether they need support or can do this themselves and ensure sun cream bottles are labelled. We need a signed note to be able to reapply this. Please be mindful that we cannot have sunscreen that has 'nuts' in the ingredients on site.

Students should also have labelled hats for outside wear.

### Head lice – Free Treatment

Head lice will cause discomfort and distract children and young people from learning. We need your support to ensure that this is treated effectively.



Information and Support for the Treatment of Head Lice- including how to get free headlice treatment: NHS Minor Ailment Scheme:

[https://www.boots.com/nhs-services/minorailments?srsId=AfmBOorN6blaAGWHXeCPEuBYp51LJws-JWI\\_Np7V-2zoBWNdA6C3xdsS](https://www.boots.com/nhs-services/minorailments?srsId=AfmBOorN6blaAGWHXeCPEuBYp51LJws-JWI_Np7V-2zoBWNdA6C3xdsS)

You may be able to use the NHS Minor Ailments scheme through participating pharmacies to get advice and when appropriate free treatment for certain common illnesses including head lice.

Locally these include:

- Lockwoods Pharmacy, Trowbridge, 01225 775543
- St Aldhelm's Pharmacy, Frome (Medical Centre) 01373455436

## **Attendance**

Pupil attendance at Critchill School continues to surpass national bench marking figures for Special Schools, we are proud of this and grateful for the huge role that our parents and carers play in relation to this. At Critchill School we continue to endeavour to provide our pupils with access to a profoundly personalised curriculum and there is a correlation between pupils with higher attendance and sustainable progress made in their personalised curriculums. We have previously sent out communications regarding a rise in requests for term-time absences for holidays and to visit events. This continues to be the case and therefore please can we again ask that these are booked outside of school term dates. It is also worth mentioning the importance of arriving at school on time, missing just 10 minutes a day will equate to 32 and half hours of lost learning time throughout an academic year.

## **Personal Belongings**

Please can we ask that toys and books are not brought into school as we cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage. Feel free to upload photos of special toys/books on EFL for the class to view with your child.



**Evidence for  
Learning - Family**  
theTeacherCloud Ltd



### **Evidence for Learning – Family App**

Families should now have access to the EFL Family app. This tool is designed for easier engagement and allowing families to share activities from home.

Once the app is downloaded, you will be able to log in. The domain is Critchill (this is case sensitive) and your username will be your email address and your existing EFL password. You will not have to log in again unless you change your details or need to reset your password (reset password is on the log in screen on the app)

If you have not received the information that was sent in February please check your emails from Parent Pay. If you need any help please contact the school office.

### **Parent Pay**

We have a number of families who have not registered for Parent Pay. This is the schools form of communication to families. If you have not registered please contact Emma in the office.



### **Safeguarding**

#### **SAFEGUARDING**

Sharing concerns and things that worry us is a focus for classes when teaching using technology safely. See below for a poster made by the NSPCC to support Online Safety at home.



## Online safety: top tips

Going online is a huge part of most young people's lives so it's important to talk to them about online safety. Here's our tips to get you started.



### Chat to them about what they like to do online

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to talk to them and have regular conversations so that online safety is part of everyday discussion. Ask them open-ended questions like 'What's your favourite game or app to play on?'.

- Listen to what they have to say and show an interest. They could give you a demo of their favourite app or show you their favourite YouTube or TikTok account.
- They will probably be able to teach you things you don't know! This will also give you an opportunity to chat about any safety settings they might already have in place.
- Regular conversations with your child will encourage them to come to you if they ever need support or advice.

### Talk about who they are in contact with online

There are lots of different ways that children can talk to people online – messaging apps, on social media, and less obvious ways such as chat on online games. Talk to your child about who they are talking to and what they are sharing with them.

- Use settings to help limit who can contact your child.
- Remind your child that they shouldn't share personal information with people they don't know online.
- Let your child know they can come to you or another trusted adult if any conversation makes them feel uncomfortable.

### Help manage what they see and do online

Parental controls and privacy settings can help you manage how your child spends time online and help to keep them safe.

- Device settings – manage things like location sharing, screen time and in-app purchases. Most tech and gaming companies have dedicated pages to support with setting these up.
- App or game settings – in-app tools that can help to keep your child's account private and manage who they're talking to. You can normally find information on these in account settings or directly on the platforms website.
- Mobile or network provider settings – help to manage browsing access and stop your child from visiting inappropriate sites or downloading apps that aren't suitable. Contact your mobile or broadband provider for more information about setting this up.

Make sure to talk to your child first before implementing any new settings and explain to them how they help to keep them safe.

### Remember it's ok to ask for help!

Remember you don't have to be an online safety expert – that's our job! We're here to help, with resources and advice to help support you and your child.

If your child asks you a question you don't know the answer to, or speaks to you about a negative experience they had online, here are some of things you could do:

- Visit the NSPCC online safety hub: [nspcc.org.uk/online-safety](https://nspcc.org.uk/online-safety)
- Call the NSPCC helpline 0800 800 5000 to speak to an advisor
- Ask another parent
- Speak to your child's teacher
- If your child needs more support, they can contact Childline: [childline.org.uk](https://childline.org.uk)



**NSPCC**

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

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## What's on locally this Easter

### PALETTE AND PASTURE - EASTER FUN

#### Lamb feeding, Palette and Pasture

Join Palette and Pasture for a 30-minute group (up to six people) lamb-feeding session where you'll feed and pet three adorable lambs (£50). A farmer will be available to answer questions. For more details, [visit their website here](#).

#### Easter on the Farm with the Easter Bunny

Come and join us at Palette and Pasture for our exciting Easter Trail where you will get to meet the Easter Bunny himself at his New Burrow!!

When you check in, pick up your activity sheet, pop on your Bunny Ears (included with child's ticket), and hop off around the farm to hunt where the Easter Bunny has hidden the Eggs!

Complete your activity sheet and work out the sum of the eggs so you can visit the Easter Bunny at his Burrow to collect your Easter reward.



There will be Real Life Rabbits, Calves, Lambs, Piglets, Sheep, Goats, Cows, Ponies and Chickens. One Whopping Size Birds Nest, and lots more to see and enjoy.

### [Easter Trail Tickets](#)

\*Child £9 Includes Bunny Ears, Bag of Animal Feed, Trail Activity Sheet & Easter Themed Reward given by the Easter Bunny.