



Critchill School Newsletter  
Spring Term 2026



## Head Teacher News

As we enter the spring term, the weather hasn't stopped our classes beginning to engage more in outdoor learning and external visits. Seeing the students happily covered in mud and exploring nature, really is a delight.

Student's progress is constantly monitored at Critchill and students continue to make progress on their personalised learning journeys. Thank you to all families that attended our PLIM evening this week, whether face to face or virtually. We had an increase in bookings and it's really important for us that you are aware of your child's progress and can celebrate this with us. Please do contact the school office if you need support accessing the App to see your child's evidence from home.

We continue to lead the way, with our Working Futures careers programme and have recently been selected for a National Impact Review. This is both an incredible testament to the work of staff at Critchill, but more importantly to the students who engage in careers right from EYFS up to Post 16 and wholeheartedly embrace the opportunities they are given.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable half term break and we look forward to seeing students back in school on Tuesday 24th February.

## Safeguarding

Keeping children safe online, is a developing challenge with the rate at which internet content is created and the now instant content creation with AI.

We teach children at Critchill key safety messages and what to do if they are to see something that isn't Kind/Safe online. However, we know that communication difficulties can prevent some of our student community from speaking out.

Therefore, it is even more important to fully monitor internet usage, to see exactly what students are accessing.

If you are worried about internet safety for your child, would like support setting up filters or would like help setting boundaries for your child online, please do reach out to Karen our PFSA who would be able to support you with these. Her email is [kfoster@critchill.mnsp.org.uk](mailto:kfoster@critchill.mnsp.org.uk)

We can create and personalise social stories about internet usage if this is helpful too.

## Attendance

At Critchill we strive to ensure students have access to a profoundly personalised curriculum. Students with a higher attendance figure, are able to access their profoundly personalised curriculum and can make sustained progress towards meeting their EHCP outcomes and PLI's.

Over the last term there has been a rise in requests for Term Time absences for holidays and events. Although we recognise that these experiences can be beneficial to students, please can we ask that these are booked outside of school term dates.

## Upcoming Dates

23rd Feb - Inset Day

5th March - World Book Day

3rd April - Bank Holiday

6th April - Bank Holiday

4th May - Bank Holiday

25th May - Bank Holiday

## School News

### Climate Action Plan

**Using reusable water bottles is a simple way to support student health, save money and care for the environment.**

### **Why reusable bottles matter:**

- **Healthy:** Encourages students to drink water throughout the day, supporting focus and energy.
- **Eco-friendly:** Reduces single-use plastic waste and helps protect our planet.
- **Cost-effective:** Refillable bottles save families money compared to buying bottled water.
- **Convenient:** Easy to refill.

**Bringing a reusable water bottle to Critchill School is a small habit that makes a big difference for our pupils and our environment. Let's keep making a positive difference.**



### **Critchill Celebration Assembly**

Our Critchill Celebration Assembly on a Friday is a highlight of student's week, celebrating each other and recognising how we are making progress within our Critchill Code.

Please continue to share external achievements of students with us so we can share these too. For example if your child attends an external club/activity and gets a certificate please do send these in to share with us. Also if they make progress in a particular skill please share these in link books and Senior Leaders will share these achievements in assembly.

### **Arbor In-app message**

#### **We use Arbor as our main form of communication with parents / carers**

An In-app message is a message sent directly to you on the Arbor app. You are able to see these messages in the communications section of the Parent Portal. Please ensure if you do not have push notification activated regularly check for messages on the app.

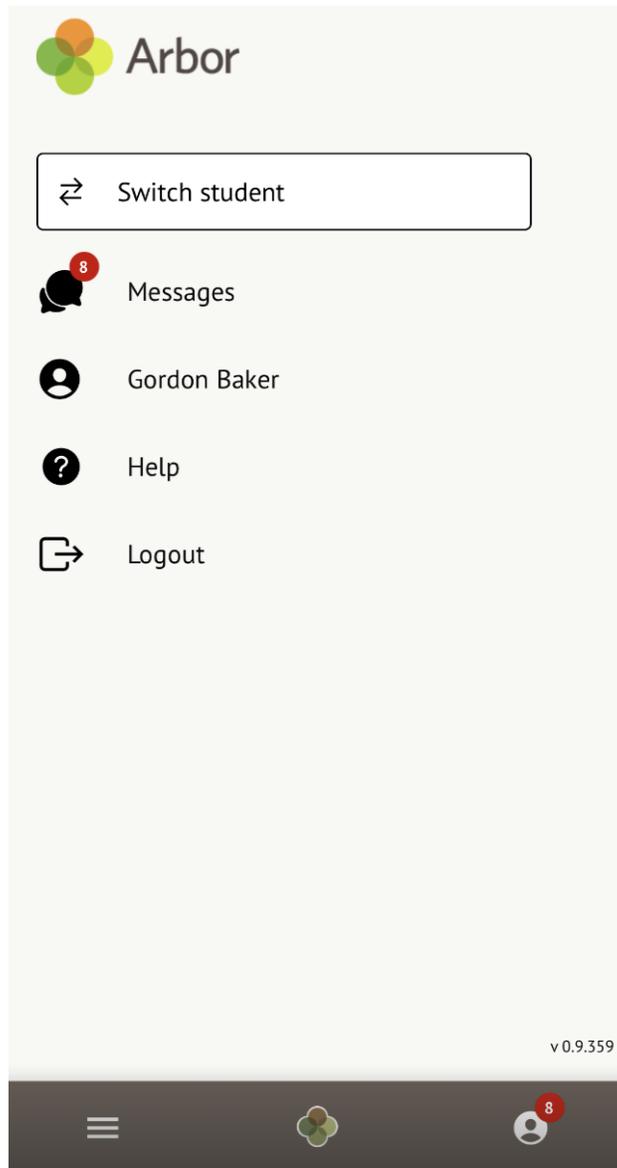
If you have downloaded the App and have enabled Push Notifications, you will be able to receive a reminder that you have a new message as a push notification on your mobile device.

To enable push notifications on the [Arbor app](#), you must allow them in your phone's general settings for the Arbor app (Settings > Apps > Arbor > Notifications on Android; Settings > [Arbor](#) > Notifications on iOS) and select 'Allow' when prompted during the initial app

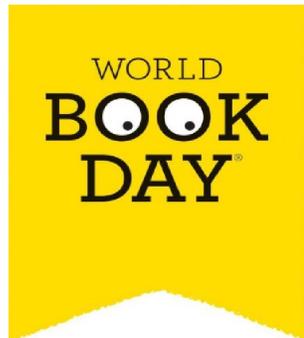
download. If you missed the prompt, you can enable them later in your device's notification settings for the Arbor app to receive alerts for new messages.

Emails are also sent from Arbor

If you need any help with the Arbor app please ask at the school office.



## World Book Day 5th March



**WORLD BOOK DAY:** Children can dress up as their favourite characters or bring in their favourite book to share.

Each Key Stage are focusing on a different author this year for World Book Day. This is to provide a deeper insight into the variety of books one author can produce

**KS1** - *Julia Donaldson* - The Gruffalo, The Snail and the Whale, Stick Man

**KS2** - *Roald Dahl* - The Twits, The BFG

**KS3** - *C.S Lewis* - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, The Dark Tower (adapted versions)

**KS4/Post16** - *Jane Austin* - Pride and Prejudice (adapted versions)

**READING AT HOME:** If you would like access to BugClub Ebooks or a physical reading book to access reading at home with your children please contact either the office or your child's class teacher!

On Monday 2nd March a group of pupils will be going to Hunting Ravens Books to exchange World Book Day Tokens for World Book Day Books. The books will come home with pupils later that week.

## Critchill School Tea and Chat



**Critchill School Tea and Chat**



**Come and have a hot drink and a cake from Working Futures Catering. A chance to meet other parents and carers, talk to our Parent and Family Support Adviser (PFSA), find out useful information and share any Worries.**

**First Wednesday of each month 2.15-3.15pm at Critchill School:**  
Wednesday 4th March  
Wednesday 1st April  
Wednesday 6th May  
Wednesday 3rd June  
Wednesday 1st July



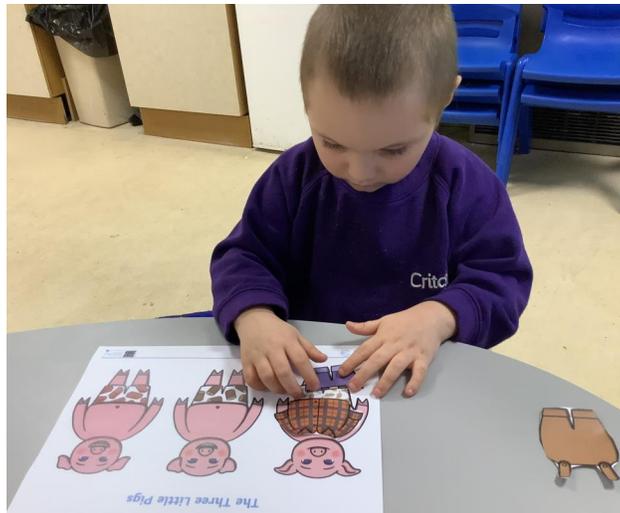
Come and have a hot drink and a cake from Working Futures Catering, a chance to meet other parents and carers.

## EYFS & KS1

### Wrens

Wrens class have been learning about 'Fairy Tales' this term. We have looked at a range of different stories and had our WOW activity: growing our own beanstalks. Wrens class have enjoyed watering them each day and watching them grow super tall.

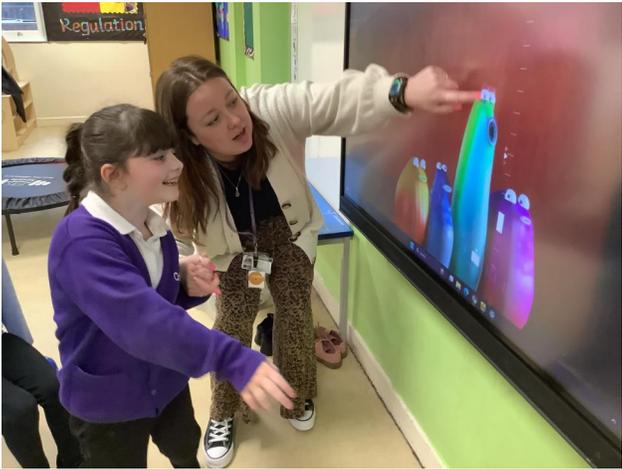




### **KS1 - Bramblings and Nuthatches**

This term Bramblings and Nuthatches have been learning about the Carnival of Animals by the Story Orchestra. We have explored making sounds through body percussion, Jabadao,

technology and musical instruments. Bramblings have experienced creating crafts linked to each of the animals as well as exploring sorting by colour and shape. We have had lots of fun with this theme!









KS2 & KS3

### Finches

Finches Class have been exploring print and still life paintings. We have been listening carefully to instruction before proceeding to begin creating our own still life artwork using paper that we have printed ourselves.



## Starlings

Throughout Term 3, students in Starlings Class have been learning about the topic Ancient China. We have enjoyed making a range of Chinese food and sharing them with the other KS2 classes during our Chinese feast. We have also engaged in many creative tasks including making jade jewellery, designing and creating Chinese lanterns and learning about the artist Zhu Da, creating paintings inspired by his techniques.

We have also been fortunate to attend 2 gymnastics sessions at Liberty Gym. Students loved going on this trip and showed fantastic engagement to try a range of activities. The class favourite was certainly exploring the foam pit!









## Owls

Owls Class have been learning about Ancient China. We started off the term with a Chinese Feast and have since explored writing in Chinese, creating a Chinese dragon using natural resources at Forest School, role play markets, exploring Chinese landmarks, making jade bracelets, baking mooncakes and learning about Zhu Da, a famous Chinese artist. Some of the children have learned how to say key words in Chinese, such as hello, my name is... and goodbye. We are looking forward to an Ancient Chinese themed performance in school at the end of term.







## Ravens

Raven's have particularly enjoyed our theme of Africa this term! We have looked at african artefacts, created rainforest landscapes while looking at Madagascar and took part in an African Drumming workshop! A special thanks to Victoria at DrumWest.







## Kestrels

This week Kestrels class had a visitor in to do some African drumming. The students had the opportunity to listen to some African drumming and to have a go themselves. Students had a go at African drumming – doing some call and response – they also had the opportunity to do some dancing. All of the students really enjoyed the experience.







## Working Futures - KS4 & P16

This half term pupils have been working on their theme 'Connections around the World'. Pupils have been learning about a variety of different countries such as France, Spain and Colombia and have been resilient when tasting new foods. Pupils have enjoyed learning a range of facts about these countries and have made their own travel leaflets. Hawks have been enjoying their visits to Park Rangers and have been helping to revamp the Frome share boxes and some pupils had the opportunity to sit on a tractor whilst learning about how to keep themselves safe around machinery. On Fridays, Hawks class have had the opportunity to participate in Table Cricket sessions, which all pupils have engaged really well in.





A busy term for pupils within our Working Futures cohort, with a number of internal and external visits. Post 16 visited Bath College's Somer Valley Campus to learn about their options for when they move on from Critchill. The college had all kinds of courses on offer from mechanics, to animal care to carpentry.

A number of pupils from Kestrels, Hawks and Post 16 participated in an internal visit from GSRMX. Gary bought in some of his own motocross bikes and equipment. He showed our students how the bikes worked, some of the safety equipment and got them thinking about the different careers within the sport of motocross.

New work placements started up again at The Newt with pupils working in the Productive Growing Gardens, The Warehouse and Staff Food.

Withywood continued into the New Year with students working hard to get the garden ready for Spring and Summer.

At the end of January, Post 16 participated in the 'Try a Train' scheme. This gave them an opportunity to take a train from Frome to Bath and back again. They found out about how and where to purchase tickets, safety on the platform and what assistance you can access when taking the train. Finally, Post 16 attended a well-being session with Frome Open-Storytellers. We are looking forward to working more closely with them throughout the rest of the year.

Despite the cold wet weather, pupils from Post 16 enjoyed a morning planting trees in our Forest School area. They were supported with expert advice from the Frome Town Rangers. Pupil's learnt about the needs of newly planted trees and the benefit plants bring to our environment. We look forward to watching the trees grow in future months and years.









Post 16 and Hawks were visited by Nikki Webb from Energy Sparks to learn about how we could cut down energy use at school to save money and look after the planet.





Critchill School Council held their first meeting of the term last week in the new school Library.

I thanked the Council members for their hard work last term and gave them their School Council badges. We celebrated our achievements, including posters and reminders for light switches to be turned off to support the Climate Action Plan. The council members thought of some great questions for Andy, Chair of Governors, who joined us at our last meeting.

Our next meeting will be the first for 11 new Council members. They will be representing pupil voice until the Summer term and will be checking the pupil suggestion box regularly.

We are looking forward to welcoming one of the Governors to our last meeting of each half term, continuing to support the Climate Action Plan and to working with Frome Town Council to get ready for Frome Kindness Week in March.

Karen Foster (PFSA)



Wishing you all a Happy New Year from Friends of Critchill School. We have been rather quiet as we get back into the swing of things after Christmas. Speaking of Christmas, the Christmas grotto we organised for the children was a HUGE success and it warmed all of our hearts seeing the children meet Father Christmas. As it was such a beautiful experience we will be doing a grotto every year for the children.

We are planning a bake sale soon as the children always enjoy the yummy treats, so keep your eyes peeled for that. Remember the clothes bin outside of school, all clothes donated are weighed and the money raised goes back into the school to buy equipment for the children. We are always keen for more volunteers to help us, so please pop us an email if you would like to join FOCS at [friendsofcritchill@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcritchill@gmail.com).

All the best Sunny, Emily and Kirsty.



We want to remind families of the car park usage that follows our Risk Assessment for student safety.

- Where possible, please park off site and walk to collect students.
- If you use the car park, you must be entitled to and have a blue badge displayed
- Entry to the car park for parents/carers will not be until 8.40am/ 3.10pm and you may be asked to leave if you enter before these times
- Please ensure parking is within allocated spaces and if there are no spaces you exit the car park and do not circle around the car park.
- Parking is not permitted on yellow hatched areas/on zig-zag lines.
- Please do not use the transport bays at pick up and drop off.
- Once your child is dropped off/collected please move off site to allow other parents access to designated spaces

We thank you in advance for your co-operation, to ensure the car park is able to remain open to parents, where needed.

# Let' Talk SEND & Inclusion

 **Wednesday 4th March**

 **The Assembly Rooms, Frome**

 **10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

We're delighted to be bringing **Let's Talk SEND** to **Frome**, a friendly, relaxed event designed to bring parent carers and service providers together, share knowledge, and open up conversations around SEND & inclusion.

This event will include:

- **Discussion tables** focused on current SEND topics, giving you the chance to share experiences, ask questions, and join meaningful conversations
- **Local Offer Live:** information stalls from a wide range of local services and providers, all in one place

This **free** event is open to **all parent carers**, and **no diagnosis is needed** to attend. Whether you're just starting your SEND journey or have lots of experience, you'll be very welcome.



**SEND** Somerset's  
Local Offer



## Frome Community Group

for parents & carers of children with  
**SEND**

FLOC is a supportive space to find community. Facilitated by trained and experienced parent carers who get it. Come as you are.

Connection changes everything.

**4th  
Wednesday  
of every  
month**  
7:45pm - 8:45pm



 **Starting February 25<sup>th</sup> 2026**  
The Good Heart  
7 Palmer Street  
BA11 1DS  
Contact Amelia  
Flocforsend@gmail.com  
or scan code to WhatsApp





Frome, Somerset , 14-21 Mar 2026

Fancy taking part?

Taking part as a Windowmaker is FREE, and everyone's welcome. You can make a display in the windows of your flat, house, business, school, nursery, car, campervan, shop – or your front garden!

[For more details click here](#)