



# Critchill School Newsletter

## Summer Term 2025



## Head Teacher News

### **Summer Term 2025**

The Summer Term at Critchill is always a joy.

Students and staff can see the progress they have made across the year and this is shared with parents in our Annual Learning Journeys. It's with delight I read all the reports and reflect on the huge progress each individual makes across a year at Critchill. The videos and photographs captured on Evidence for Learning show the progress and determination from all young people.

This term we have young people who have; undertaken their Duke of Edinburgh expedition, been to the theatre, explored a theme park, taken part in work experience and played new instruments all as part of our Aspirational curriculum.

I would like to wish all our families and students an enjoyable summer break.

We look forward to the pupils returning to school on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

Kind regards,

Emma West

## Upcoming Dates

Friday 18th July - End of Summer Term

**Monday 21st July - Inset Day**

**Tuesday 22nd July - Inset Day**

**Monday 1st September - Inset Day**

**Tuesday 2nd September - Inset Day**

Wednesday 3rd September - Start of Autumn Term 1

Monday 22nd September - School Photographer

## School News

### **Critchill Sports Day 2025 - Sunshine, Smiles and So Much Fun!**

What a fantastic day we had for this year's Sports Day at Critchill School! The sun was shining, spirits were high, and the sound of laughter and cheering filled the air as students, staff, and families came together for a joyful celebration of movement, teamwork, and community.

The day was split into three parts, Lower Nest, Middle Nest and Upper Nest, each packed with energy and enthusiasm.

Upper Nest students showed great determination and excitement as they tackled the obstacle race, javelin throw, standard race, sock on a stick race, and of course, the ever popular parents race! Which had a fantastic turnout! Thank you to all the grownups who joined in with such brilliant energy.

Middle and Lower Nest events included their own mix of fun, with children taking part in the obstacle race, bean bag on the head race, standard race, sock on a stick race, and their own lively parents races. It was lovely to see so many families getting involved and cheering from the sidelines.

This year, our students were grouped into three uplifting teams! Team Be Kind, Team Be Safe, and Team Be Resilient, a reflection of the values we hold close at our school. While there were no official winners, the real victory was in the laughter, courage, and connection shared throughout the day.

We're so grateful to all the families who came along to support and take part, it was a true joy to see everyone together in the sunshine, your energy, enthusiasm, and support meant the world, whether you were racing, cheering, or simply being part of the day. A huge thank you as well to our amazing staff for helping to organise such an atmospheric and smoothly running day. A special thank you to Iszabela who energised our students with a fun-filled warm up to get us 'pumped up' for the events ahead. I would also like to thank one of the parent governors Craig Doughty, with his 'painter in crime,' Dad, in which the event would not have happened had they not painted the white lines for our lanes. I would also like to thank the catering team who was able to provide us all with much needed refreshments on such a hot day.

Looking forward to more joy, play and active fun ahead within the Critchill Community.

Mr. J Allen - PE Teacher







## EYFS & KS1

### **Wrens**

This term the class have explored a range of activities for our theme 'All around the world'. We have tried new foods and created artwork from different cultures. We have also been reading the story of Handa's Surprise and have tried different flavoured smoothies linked with this.

### **Wrens Class Head to Peppa Pig World**

Wrens class enjoyed a fantastic trip to Paultons Park. It was lovely to see all the pupils enjoy themselves and it was a great way to end the year. They were all so super brave and some even tried the big rides! It has been a pleasure seeing all of Wrens class make a massive progress through the year. Miss Rees

### **Bramblings**

This term we have been exploring the theme 'People Who Help Us'. We've learned all about the various 'Real Superheros' and had discussions about what they would like to be when they grow up. The children particularly enjoyed our key text 'The Jolly Postman' and joined in delivering letters around the school as well as visiting the Post Office to send a letter home.



Our local PCSO visited and talked to the class about her role and the children enjoyed sitting in the police car and testing the siren!

## Nuthatches

This term we have been learning about the theme 'People Who Help Us'. Students have enjoyed exploring various job roles through physical activities including a Firefighter obstacle course, engaging in Vet/Doctors role play and going on local community walks to post letters exploring the role of a Postman. We also had a visit from our local PCSO Shelley who read a story to the students and let them explore her Police Car. Miss Stenner and her team are very proud of what Nuthatches students have achieved this year and wish you all a wonderful summer.



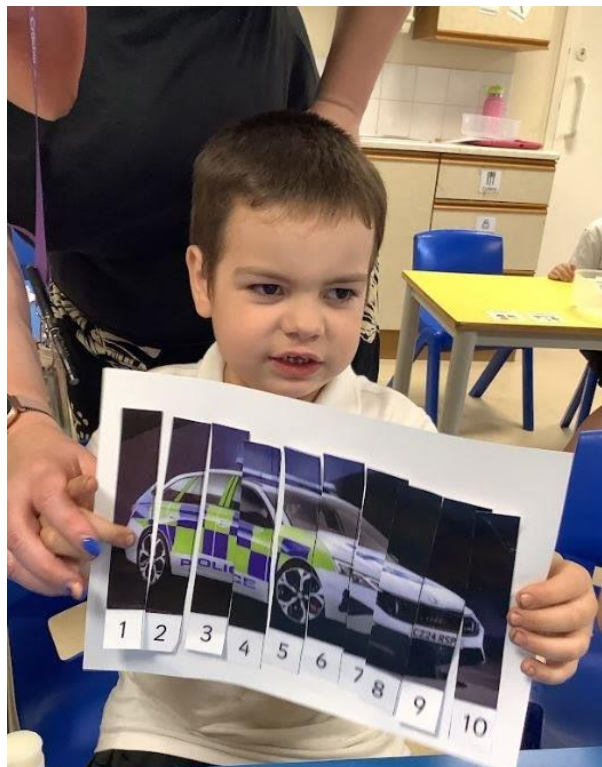




















KS2 & KS3

### Finches

This term we have been very busy! In theme we have been learning about Roald Dahl. We have explored the books through role play and attention autism.



Through Critchill code we have been learning about mental wellbeing. We have learnt to identify emotions, how to regulate and relax and how our bodies may feel when we are feeling certain emotions. We also had a special visit from PCSO Shelley Day who taught us all about stranger danger!

### **Starlings**

This term Starlings Class have explored the author Roald Dahl. We have listened to the story of George's Marvellous Medicine, acted out the story and made our own mixtures. We explored how we could separate mixtures and what is meant by a solid, liquid and gas. We also learnt about Charlie and the Chocolate factory, exploring melting and cooling whilst designing our own chocolate bar. We have also had fun exploring being outdoors during Critchill Code.

### **Owls**

This term we've been exploring Roald Dahl and looked at lots of his books and famous characters. Willy Wonka and the Umpa Loopas came to visit, we've made our own marvellous medicine and we made potions that turned one of the staff into a mouse! We've also tried snozzcumbers, whizzpopping juice and hot frogs!

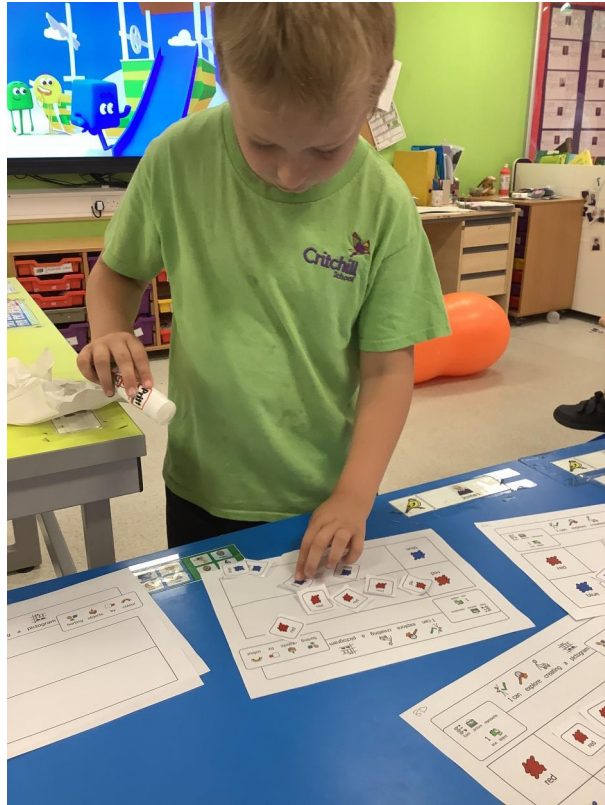
### **Ravens**

This term we have enjoyed sessions with Jackdaws this term. They have explored Verdi through dancing and exploring different musical instruments. They will finish the unit of work by performing to other classes in the school.

### **Kestrels**

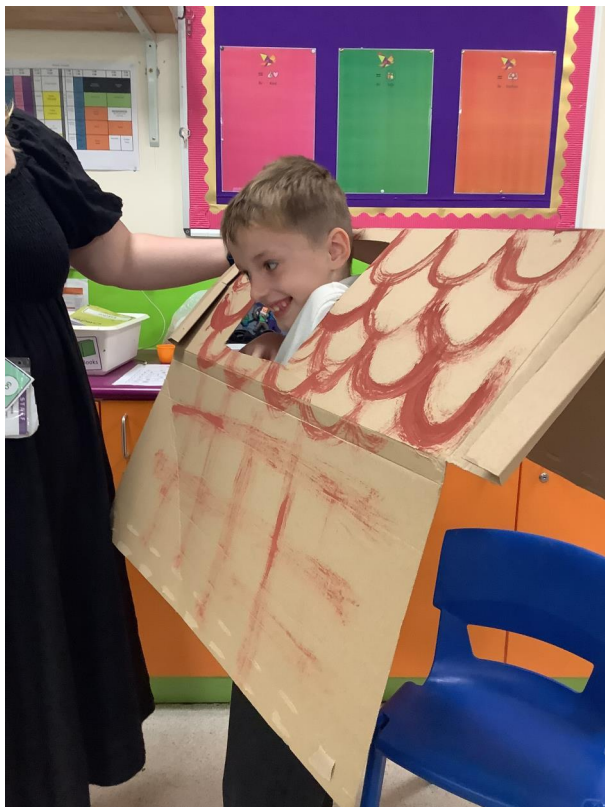
This term we have been learning about Farming and the countryside. Pupils have grown cucumber, sweetcorn, beetroot and carrot plants. Pupils have enjoyed watching their seeds germinate and grow into small plants that they have been measuring in their maths sessions. Pupils have enjoyed making foods such as carrot cake and apple crumble using locally grown produce. Kestrels class have also been exploring where foods are grown and farmed from across the world and how these are transported to other countries.















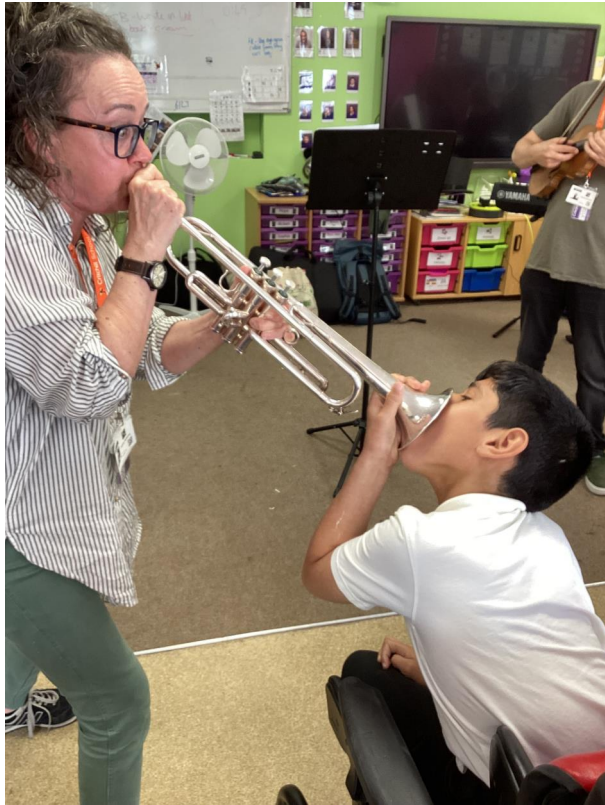














## Working Futures - KS4 & P16

### **Hawks**

This term we have enjoyed developing their understanding of what it takes to be an entrepreneur. We have enjoyed learning about what a profit is and how to make a profit, buying items and selling them by making their own homemade lemonade and selling it to staff at Critchill School.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Expedition 2025**

On the 9th and 10th of June, our Duke of Edinburgh participants undertook the final 'Expedition' part of the award. This involved 2 days walking along Colliers Way cycle track which links Frome to Radstock. On their journey, pupils learnt about local history and had a special task to investigate habitats.

They compiled an A-Z of animals and plants along the route. A wide range of plants and animals including deer, kites, oxeye daisies and giant leaves were discovered! Participants showed fantastic teamwork over the journey especially when making their own lunch, helping to motivate each other and share the task of carrying the equipment.

A fantastic time was had by all and we are delighted to announce that everyone who completed the Expedition has now achieved the highly regarded Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

### **Post 16**

As part of their ongoing work in preparation for adulthood, pupils in Post 16 were visited by Barclays Bank staff. They learnt about a wide range of banking related matters such as debit, credit, mortgages, scams, fraud and savings interest. Pupils put their maths skills to good use by adding up the cost of frequently bought items and then budgeting by making decisions about what they didn't really need to buy. Post 16 pupils were also visited by a representative from Fair Frome. They learnt about how food at a food bank is collected, how it is distributed and the other services Fair Frome provides. Pupils were keen to find out which was the most donated item to the food bank (baked beans). They also learnt about the various employment opportunities organisations such as Fair Frome have to offer.







## Graduation 2025

**MAYOR OF FROME** - It was an absolute delight this evening, to attend the Critchill School Graduation Ceremony. Some incredible achievements by some extraordinary students. Well done to everyone involved and huge thanks to Emma West, Head of Critchill, for the invitation. It's wonderful to see so many young people making their way in the world.





## Critchill School Council



### **School Council Voice Project**

Melody Hunter Evans: Children and Young Peoples Project Officer, joined Critchill Council March 21st to gather pupils' priorities regarding school and also the areas they live in.

14 different schools in the Frome area took part in the project and contributions were then made into word clouds and displayed in an exhibition in Frome Town Hall the week beginning May 6th.

Critchill Council walked down to view the exhibition and were given a tour of the town hall.

In short Critchill Council had the exciting opportunity to work alongside Frome Town Council's Communities Team and their contributions will now help to shape and inform planning for children, young people and families in the future.





### Energy Sparks

Critchill Council have been thinking about how school can save money, energy and support the planet. They have created posters that show energy saving tips. These were shared in assembly and are now on display through out the school.

### Critchill Council meet with the Govenors:

Critchill Council have enjoyed getting to know the school governors. Each week a different governor joined the Critchill Council meeting. School Council members took it in turns to ask the governors questions about their role and find out a bit more about them. Thank you to all our governors for supporting our school and Critchill Council. We look forward to meeting a new team of representatives who will join Critchill Council in September.



## Friends of Critchill

Friends of Critchill school would like to say a huge thank you to all of the parents and carers who baked lots of delicious goodies for our cake sale last month. We raised an amazing £175!!

A big thank you to our wonderful secretary of friends of Critchill school, Kirsty O'hara, for organising our summer raffle. With lots of generous prizes donated from local businesses and families we raised a whopping £605!!

All monies raised will go back into the school for the children so we really do appreciate everyone's support with our events. We are always looking for more volunteers to help as much or as little as they can to enable us to run bigger events and to raise as much money for Critchill school as we can. If you are interested in joining the FOCS family please pop us an email on [friendsofcritchill@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcritchill@gmail.com) and either Sunny, Emily or Kirsty will get back to you.

## Important Parent Information

### **Uniform**

Please ensure students are wearing school uniform - details can be found on our website <https://www.critchillschool.co.uk/parentscarers/uniform.htm> Please ensure all uniform is clearly labelled

On PE Days Primary aged children (Wrens- Owls) Please wear their PE kits all day. Secondary aged students( Ravens - P16) - Please bring PE kit to school so that they can be supported to change for PE.

Class Teachers will inform parents and students of PE days in September.

### **Snack time**

Parents can send their child to school with a piece of fruit, a vegetable or a suitable healthy snack for morning snack.

All EYFS and Key stage 1 children (Wrens, Bramblings and Nuthatches) will continue to receive government funded 'Free fruit for schools.'