

Critchill School Newsletter 2024

July



#### Head Teacher News

#### **Summer Term**

As we come to the close of the academic year, we reflect on the learning and achievements of our pupils at Critchill. I am sure you will agree the pupils Annual Leaning Journeys and reports show how much progress they have made on their Personal Learning Intentions and this is down to their continued focus and resilience. We have students who have learnt to do many skills all of which will help them prepare for adulthood. Skills including turn taking, budgeting, typing, independence in self-care skills to name a few.

Further to this we have students who have achieved their functional skills examinations in English and in Maths and also students who have achieved the Arts Award and elements of the Duke of Edinburgh programme. All aspirational achievements for our young people. It was a pleasure to present young people with these awards at their Graduation event.

Our pupil's outcomes are a direct result of the outstanding team of teaching and support staff we have at Critchill as well as the continued support they receive from families and care givers. So thank you to everyone who supports our pupils in achieving their potential.

This term we have had many extracurricular events. These have included Colour scape, Takeshi's Japanese Origami Dance and externally visits to places such as the theatre, wildlife parks and accessible Bike riding. All of which the students have thoroughly engaged with and been inspired by. The photos you will see in the newsletter show just how important these activities are to our pupil's personal development and preparation for adulthood.

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

We all look forward to the pupils return on Wednesday 4th September.

### **Staff Information**

We are excited to share the news that Mrs Osborne, Liz Buxton and Fran Kitching are expecting babies in the new term. We are busy recruiting for their maternity cover positions and will keep you updated.

This term we say goodbye to some teaching and support staff who have been a big part of Critchill and I know you will join me in wishing these people all the best for their future careers and life plans.

Sally Smiles is going to enjoy a well-deserved early retirement.

Sophie Wakeley is going to teach English abroad.

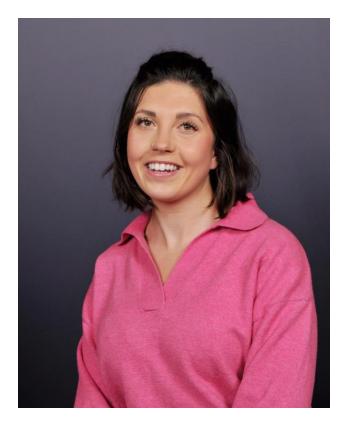
Lachan Read is relocating and will join another Special School.

Daniella Mekarska and Millie Davies will go on to University to further their studies

Jo Avalos is going onto a new adventure



1 - Sally Smiles



2 - Sophie Wakeley



3 - Lachan Read



4 - Daniella Mekarska



5 - Millie Davies



6 - Jo Avalos

## Sports Day 2024

On Friday 28th June children in all year groups took part in the Critchill School Sports day!

It was a lovely day filled with the upper nest starting off the proceedings in the morning followed by the middle and lower in the afternoon.

There were 3 teams, Red, Blue and Green and it was lovely to see the children dressed in their teams colours, and all the students collected a medal at the end.

It was lovely to see so many parents, siblings and grandparents watching and the day was filled with lots of excitement.

Special thanks to Garrie Webster and Frome Rugby Club for the loan of the line painting equipment.











Longleat - Kids Day Out



















On Wednesday 12th June - Starlings and Owls class enjoyed a wonderful day out to Longleat arranged by the 'Rotary of Frome' club.

The children were very lucky to see lots of the exotic animals, have a ride on the train and some were lucky enough to enjoy the boat ride on the lake.

#### My day at Longleat by Archie Turner

On Wednesday I went to Longleat. I saw tigers Lions and giraffes. I went to the safari and the park. My favourite was the park and safari. I had a good and happy day.

Special thanks again to Frome Rotary for making this day so special for the children.

### Colourscape

On Friday 14th June we were very lucky to have the wonderful 'Colourscape' team visit us for the day.

#### Colourscape:

While exploring the many interconnected chambers you experience the intensity and subtlety of colour in a new way. The only colours actually used in the structures are translucent red, blue, green, yellow and opaque grey, but you will see mixtures of colours that you may not be able to name.

Colour Scape is' a mobile sensory structure set up on the field. Colourscape transports you to a whole new world of colour, light & music . The immersive sensory experience was a huge highlight of this term and the pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Colourscape is for all ages, enjoyed by all from babies to 100 year-olds! Before you enter Colourscape you put on a coloured cloak so that you become part of the colour experience. After that you can explore freely, creating your own journey and experience.













All Cycle Bath and West



















On Tuesday Post 16 went on an external visit to All Cycle Bath and West, Odd Down Sports Ground, Bath. Their session was an hour long in which they were able to try out a variety of different bikes and trikes for all abilities. Everyone enjoyed riding alone and with each other on tandem trikes around an enclosed purpose-built track. There is also a nice cafe there, where staff were welcoming and friendly.

The bikes are suitable for ages 7 to adult. They are open on Tuesdays at 4 pm and Saturdays at 12 pm. This venue gets a big thumbs up from our Post 16 students!

# Takeshi Matsumoto







Back in May we had Takeshi Matsumoto a dance psychotherapist and his team join us for two days for an incredible Japanese origami dance performance, workshops and a CPD session for staff. During the first day we welcomed a local trust school to join us for the performance which was enjoyed by all. It was a truly interactive performance the hall was full of smiles and laughter. Some of our pupils on the second day took part in small group workshops with Takeski and his team where communication and interaction were developed through dance and music. A memorable experience for all.

### Japan Day - 17th July 2024

For our final MFL Day of the year we explored Japan. Children engaged in a variety of activities such as sushi making, drawing anime characters, writing in Japanese and creating cherry blossom trees, lanterns and koi streamers.

In the afternoon, we all enjoyed a Japanese Banquet with some food kindly donated by WagaMamas.

The children enjoyed tasting different food from the cuisine.















# Other School News



Bramblings Class - As part of our thematic learning on 'What's on the Menu', Bramblings visited Beckington Farm Shop to explore the fresh food in the shop as well as order and enjoy an ice cream! Following this, the children enjoyed their time in the play park.

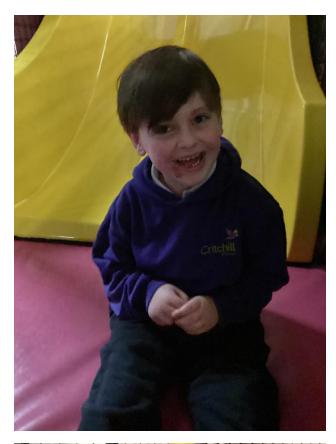


Nuthatches class visited the Critchill School catering van this week as part of their theme 'What's on the Menu?' All students enjoyed learning about the work of Critchill School students in the catering van, as well as exploring and ordering from the menu. They were then treated to a range of tasty treats from the catering van. Nuthatches students also showed great interest in exploring the local market whilst learning about their local town.



























Wrens have been exploring the theme of 'All Around the World'. Students have enjoyed learning about different countries, their cuisines and their cultures. They have also attended to lots of learning opportunities whilst exploring the natural world around them. Students have especially enjoyed developing their gross motor skills whilst going on a variety of local walks and community visits to the park and to soft play. Miss Stenner and Wrens team are super proud of how far all of the students have come during their first year at Critchill School.

### Critchill School Council



Meet the new Critchill Council











Refugee Week 17-23rd June 2024















Frome Town Council supported some pupils to take part in refugee week. Owls, Starlings and Nuthatches all enjoyed sharing a donated story on the theme of developing empathy. They also worked together to decorate large cardboard characters from the stories. These were then displayed at Refugee Week Family Fun Day in June



**The Well being Group**, which meets on a Friday afternoon, welcomed Kathryn Clements from the Red Cross. Kathryn delivered a workshop about empathy and migration. The pupils were engaged and offered thoughtful comments regarding the experience of a child who was forced to leave his country as a result of war.



Critchill Council highlighted a desire expressed by pupils for more school trips. In response Critchill hired out a screen at the Westway Cinema and all pupils from Finches and Starlings made their way there either on foot or by school transport. Everyone enjoyed the film, and the popcorn! We are hoping to visit the cinema again soon with some of the other classes. It was great to see our children and young people being able to access this community resource

September will see the opportunity for new Critchill Council representatives. We look forward to welcoming them and supporting them to represent their peers. The Critchill Council would like to thank Friends of Critchill for their generous donation of two sets of accessible, outdoor seating. It is so important that our school continues to be inclusive. (Photos taken by Critchill Council representative James Taylor)

Critchill Council Contact Details: critchillcouncil@critchillschool.com

## Working Futures

This term we have celebrated a successful first year working in collaboration with Shaw Trust, Palmer Gardens. The supported internship has been a great success and it has been a pleasure to see the Interns develop and grow. We look forward to welcoming the new intake of interns in September.

As part of the project to improve digital engagement in schools Kestrels, Hawks and Post 16 welcomed Marcus from Fablab, Devon. The students created laser cut keyrings. It was great to see the students using their computing skills. Marcus spoke to the students about the gap in digital careers. He was very impressed with the skills of our students. We are hoping to be able to welcome Marcus back to school.

Jonathan Dicker from Numaic also visited and the students learnt about how to build a Henry vacuum . The students used their questioning skills to learn about working at Numatic.

We continue to build on relationships with local employers and secure both work placements and employer engagement opportunities. If you are able to help at all then please contact the school office.

As you will know this is my final year here at Critchill School. It has been a pleasure working with so many students over the years and to learn about their success as they moved on from Critchill. Wishing you all the best.

### Sally Smiles

We recently held our **Graduation at Frome Rugby Club**. It was a lovely evening celebrating all the achievements of the students during this academic year. Frome Mayor and our Chair of Governors, Andy Jones attended the event and congratulated all the student's on their achievements. Thanks to Frome Rugby Club for providing the venue and to the students, parents, carers, staff, governors and other stakeholders who attended and made it such a lovely evening of celebration











### Friends of Critchill School

It's been a busy year for Friends of Critchill, with a full change of committee seeing the office staff handing over to a group of parents. The new committee would like to thank Hazel, Kirsty and Claire in the office for all their hard work on the committee, as well as ongoing work as they pass over the baton.

Over the course of the last year Friends of Critchill successfully ran a Halloween workshop and Easter event. It was lovely to see the children enjoying themselves. Friends of Critchill also treated the children to Easter eggs before the Easter break, and to ice lollies on sports day.

We held a bake sale on the penultimate day of term, which was a great success, raising £191 for the school. A big thank you to everybody who supported the sale, whether by baking cakes, buying them, or both!

We expect to run a fundraising raffle in September, and tickets will be available to purchase in the new term.

As well as providing fun activities for the children, Friends of Critchill exists to raise money for the school. Following a successful year of fundraising we were recently able to purchase two new accessible picnic benches for the students to enjoy.

We are always looking for more volunteers to get involved with the running of Friends of Critchill.

Please email friendsofcritchill@gmail.com if you would like to help.

- Emily, Jess and Chrissy (Friends of Critchill)



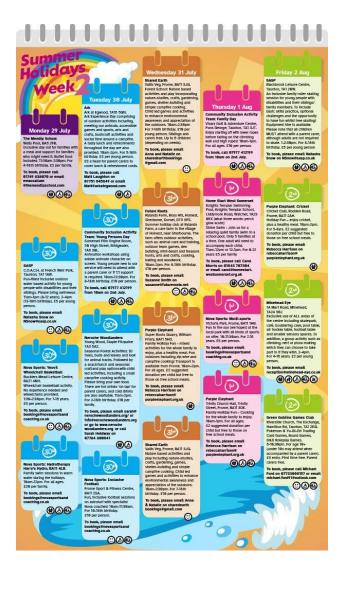


Family activities during The Summer Holidays

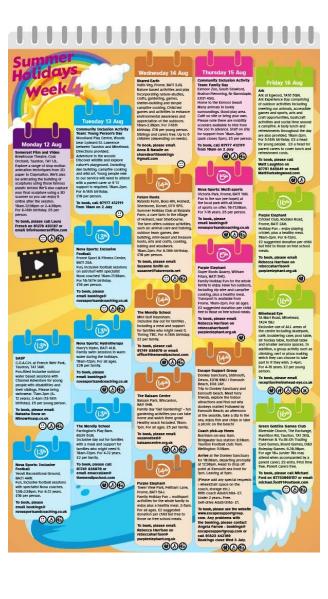


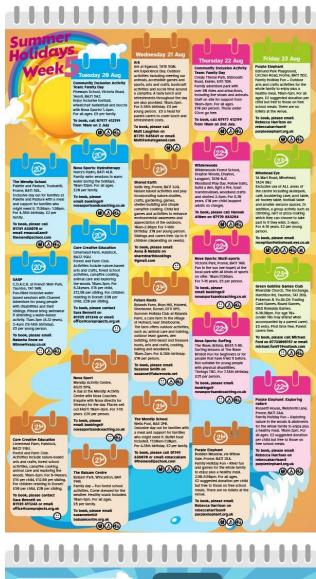




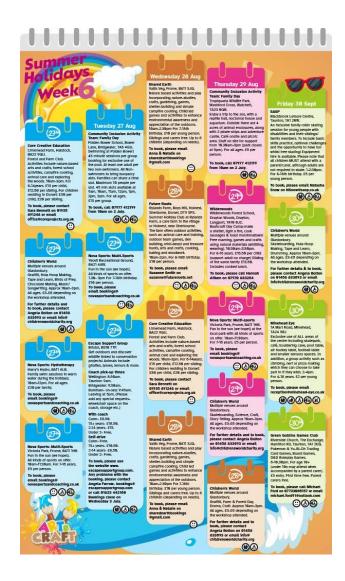








- Family Activity for all members of the family to and enjoy
- Child/Young person can attend on their own under group supervision or with parent/carer if additional 1:1 support is required please call the organisation to have a chat
- Child/young person must attend with a parent or carer
- Staff provided by the organisation to support the child/youn person 1:1 if required please call the organisation to see what they can provide as this may not include personal care
- Some parts of the activity are wheelchair according to the call the organisation to find out more
- Accessible toilets are available, please che regarding changing facilities.



# More Exciting things to do this Summer



Visit more for less! Summertopia starts this weekend as does great value with our Boomerang Pass!

**Open daily Saturday 13th July - Sunday 1st September.** The Boomerang Pass returns for the Summer, offering exceptional value and more fun filled days out! Pay standard entry on your first visit and pick up

a Boomerang Pass to receive 25% off your 2nd visit, 50% off your 3rd visit, 75% off your 4th visit with your 5th visit being completely FREE of charge!

Make your summer a splash with our **giant slip n slide, sand and water play, giant paddling pool and end of day foam parties!** We bring the fun, you bring the towel and change of clothes!

We will be inviting kids to the stage to show off their favourite skill or song in 'Avon Valley's Got Talent!' The sky is the limit on what they want to perform Are they a Swifty or the next Benson Boone? Can they write poetry or tell a good joke? Could they show the England team some football skills or bust some dance moves? Whatever their talent we want to celebrate it.

The event field will transform into a mini festival with entertainment, flags and circus skills equipment ready for the next budding acrobats to try. For those feeling adventurous there is a new **8m vertical climbing tower** to clip in and climb from the 20th July.

There will be lots of opportunities to chill out with **storytelling** led by our entertainment team and a new **Bubble Station** for children who want to relax.

You can round summer off with our infamous **Massive Family Water Fight** on the 31st August, save that date now!



