



Crackley Hall  
School

2020-2021

# *Review*

A look back at an exciting and busy school year.





# Welcome

to the inaugural edition of the Crackley Review, as we take a look back at the 2020/21 academic year. Charting the life of the school in words and pictures, the Review celebrates our pupils and the school's ethos that together make Crackley Hall the next best place to home.

The 'annual yearbook' is something that I have looked forward to having, for several years now. I sincerely hope that it will help to enhance and cement your special memories for years to come. It would be impossible to capture everything. As such, in this first edition, we have tried to include a little about every aspect of school life, ensuring that we cover all classes.

This year was unique in many ways, we had to innovate and adapt to the rapidly changing 'pandemic' circumstances that we found ourselves in, so this edition pays special tribute to the resilience of the parents, teachers and the children in making sure that life and learning have gone on as near to normal as one could hope for. This collective effort is truly something to celebrate.

My sincere thanks are extended to all the members of staff who have contributed to the Review, both teachers and office staff, and especially Mrs Helen Stephenson who has devoted many hours of her time to bring this to fruition. So much happens here, day in day out, making it hard to capture it all. There were so many wonderful and memorable moments and plenty of achievements and rewards. We hope you enjoy reliving it all in the Crackley Review.

*Robert Duigan*  
Headmaster

*"This year was unique in many ways, we had to innovate and adapt to the rapidly changing 'pandemic' circumstances that we found ourselves in."*

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# Prize Giving 2021

## Prize Giving is the culmination of another exceptional Crackley Hall Year

Prize Giving at Crackley Hall is the culmination of the academic year, it is a chance to reflect, a chance to celebrate and a chance to give thanks. This year's Prize Giving took place on Monday 5 July, the ceremony was once again online but that in no way diminished the sense of occasion as the school recognised the achievement and progress of children across the school.

Headmaster, Mr Duigan gave a thought provoking speech, reflecting on the difficulties of the lockdown and thanking the many who give so much to the school in so many ways. He challenged every boy and every girl to be the best they can be, to never stop having fun and to never stop learning.

Crackley Hall's pupil leaders gave their reports speaking movingly about their time in office and their Crackley journeys, and the memories and friends they will take with them as they move on to secondary school.

And then there were the awards; book awards for progress, effort and diligence, school spirit and kindness, contribution to school life and achievement. They were followed by cups, shields and trophies galore, all recognising the diligence, effort and excellence that abounds at Crackley Hall.

**It was difficult to pick winners for this year's Special Awards as there were many worthy potential recipients so it was with great pride that Mr Duigan awarded the following:**

St Joseph's School Spirit Award	Freddie Young
Scholarship Award	Noah Cowlshaw
Sister Mary Patrick Trophy for Caring	Amelia Hunt
PTA Crackley Hall Shield	Thomas Zanyi

As the ceremonies concluded, all Crackley pupils were encouraged to reflect on their achievements this year, as prize winners or not, all should be rightfully proud, and all were challenged to go forward remembering the importance of kindness and of thinking of others.

Cup	Winner/s
<b>Our Head Pupil Awards of Service</b>	
To our outgoing Head Boy	Thomas Zanyi
To our outgoing Head Girl	Anabel Davis
<b>The Arts Awards</b>	
Lord Cup for Artistic Endeavour	Francesca Voisey
Abbotsford Cup for Art and Design	Alyx Bakewell-Beards
St Joseph's Salver for Progress and Endeavour in the Performing Arts	Millie Lammas
Crackley Award for Commitment to the Performing Arts	Jasper Nicholls
David Lloyd Performing Arts Trophy	Isabella Card
Penny Matthews Shield for Singing and Musical Theatre	Scarlett Hammond
Kyriakou Trophy for Music	Thomas Zanyi
<b>The Co-curricular and Sport Awards</b>	
Vaughan Trophy for Rounders: for ability, attitude and effort in rounders	Rosa Davis
Duigan Cup for Cricket: for ability, effort and achievement in cricket	Freddie Young
Vital Shield for Netball: for ability, sportsmanship, achievement and effort in netball	Scarlett Hammond
Crackley Hall Rugby Trophy	Henry Verity
Boraston Shield for Tag Rugby	George Fry
Fermahan Shield for Athletics	Max Kiely Rosa Davis
Wood Shield for Hockey	Maria Howe



# Prize Giving 2021



Vital Shield for Football	Max Kiely
Crackley Hall Award for the Most Improved Sports Person	Sam Beaman-Henderson Lily Tomkinson
Marshall Shield for Endeavour in Sport	Finlay Williams Anabel Davis
Crackley Hall Shield for Sporting Excellence	Rosa Davis
Dick Trophy for Sport	Max Kiely

## The Academic Awards

Mansfield Shield for Sustained Effort and Progress in Learning Support	Sam Beaman-Henderson
Doust Shield for Attitude and Approach to Learning Support	Amelia Hunt
Williams Cup for Sustained Effort and Progress	Isabel Reddish
Rhys Taylor Cup for Endeavour	Caythan Fletcher
Roderick Jones Trophy for French	Annalise Milburn
Timms Cup for ICT	Jasper Nicholls
Lammas Trophy for Geography	Thomas Zanyi
Keeley Cup for History	Theo Read-Jones
Simmonds Trophy for RE	Helayna Collins Isabel Reddish
Castens Award for Science	Jasper Nicholls
Head's Award for Lower KS2 Science	Blythe Camilleri-Willis
Le Poidevin Shield for English	Noah Cowlshaw
Clark Cup for Mathematics	Noah Cowlshaw
Da Vinci Shield (Boys)	Noah Cowlshaw
Da Vinci Shield (Girls)	Isabel Reddish



# Book Prizes

Form	Prize 2021	Name
<b>Reception</b>	Achievement	Hugo Stokes
	Effort and Diligence	Ashleigh Aston
	Progress	Jai Chahall
	School Spirit and Kindness	Chace Ward
<b>Junior 1G</b>	Achievement	Isabel Amaya-Johnson
	Effort and Diligence	Thomas Kettle
	Progress	Jessica Greevy
	School Spirit and Kindness	Teo Farrow
<b>Junior 1H</b>	Achievement	Angelica Latham
	Achievement	Beatrice Cowlshaw
	Effort and Diligence	Nieve Howe
	Progress	Savannah Haviland
	School Spirit and Kindness	Aaryan Lail
<b>Junior 2H</b>	Achievement	Charlette Chan
	Effort and Diligence	Evie Tompkinson
	Progress	Theo Hamblett
	School Spirit and Kindness	Lexi Jean Ellis
<b>Junior 3S</b>	Achievement	Elizabeth Edkins
	Effort and Diligence	Thomas Marshall
	Progress	Isabelle Cleland
	School Spirit and Kindness	Josie-Jean Swindells
<b>Junior 3V</b>	Achievement	Beatrice Parizzi
	Effort and Diligence	Sienna Farrow
	Progress	Rory Thomas
	School Spirit and Kindness	Jenson Stokes
	School Spirit and Kindness	Molly Hunka
<b>Junior 4W</b>	Achievement	Lucas Hobson
	Effort and Diligence	Matilda Clarke
	Progress	Jack Lawton
	School Spirit and Kindness	Arisha Shujaat

Form	Prize 2021	Name
<b>Junior 4B</b>	Achievement	Georgie Rea
	Effort and Diligence	Kate Knudsen
	Progress	Elena Tokarek Nieves
	School Spirit and Kindness	James Coleman
<b>Junior 5R</b>	Achievement	Joseph Hughes
	Effort and Diligence	Aaron Anderson
	Progress	Alfred Cowell
	School Spirit and Kindness	Summer Fletcher
<b>Junior 5L</b>	Achievement	George Knott
	Effort and Diligence	Mya Vincent
	Progress	Sidney Penn
	School Spirit and Kindness	Harry Turvey
<b>Junior 6V</b>	Achievement – highest overall academic achievement in the year	Noah Cowlshaw
	Effort and Diligence	Harry Faulconbridge
	Progress	Henry Wright
	School Spirit and Kindness	Alyx Bakewell-Beards
	Contribution to School Life	Isabel Reddish
	Compassion and Care	Helayna Collins
	Resilience and Progress	Max Batchelor-Brown
<b>Junior 6H</b>	Achievement – highest overall academic achievement in the year	Thomas Zanyi
	Effort and Diligence	Niamh O'Halloran
	Progress	Rafferty Jones
	School Spirit and Kindness	Isabella Card
	Contribution to School Life	Francesca Voisey
	Compassion and Care	Lily Tomkinson
	Resilience and Progress	Woody Osborn



# Achievements



## Crackley pupils take on the Primary Maths Challenge

At Crackley this year we had 32 pupils take on the Primary Maths Challenge, a fun and exciting mathematical challenge aimed at pupils in Years 5 and 6.

Designed to encourage enthusiasm, boost confidence in mathematics and develop problem solving and reasoning skills, the challenge gets pupils applying their knowledge and thinking outside the box.

Crackley was delighted to have a number of pupils awarded certificates including:

**Gold** Noah Cowlshaw

**Silver** Sebastian Darch, Jasper Nicholls, Thomas Zanyi, Helayna Collins, Annalise Milburn, Millie Lammas, Theo Read-Jones, Finlay Williams

**Bronze** Niamh O' Halloran, Yung Fan, Henry Wright, Rosa Davis, Joseph Sheeran, Woody Osborn, Isabel Reddish, Merry Cleary, George Knott, Joseph Hughes.

A huge well done to all the pupils who took part!

## Junior 2 come first nationally in Global Maths Challenge

Pupils at Crackley Hall joined millions of children across the world on Wednesday 5 May in a Live Mathematics challenge, a world-wide event that saw schools go head-to-head in maths quizzes to mark World Maths Day. Pupils took part online, completing 20 rounds of number-based questions answering as many sums as possible in 60 seconds.

Junior 2 were proud to come first in the country in the global maths competition that pitched children against their equivalent year group. The school's Year 3 class did nearly as well placing second nationally in the Year 3 league, while the Year 1 children came fourth overall.

Across the school there were also many excellent individual results with Junior 3 pupil, Arthur Cowell placing 13th nationally and taking the honour of being the top achieving pupil at the school.

It was a super result reflecting the high standard of teaching here at Crackley Hall.



*"It was a super result reflecting the high standard of teaching here at Crackley Hall."*



## Prize Winning Artists

Former Crackley Hall pupil, Cadie Hardwick, was awarded first place in the Independent Schools Association's Midlands Region Art Competition. Her entry, *2.20am*, a watercolour on paper, reflecting the sinking of the Titanic, which she produced last year when she was in Junior 6, was placed first in the Key Stage 2 Art 2D Individual class.

Former Junior 6 pupil, Neve Anderson, took second place in the Key Stage 2 Art 2D Individual class with her painting on card, a poignant reflection on the year's events, *View From My Bedroom*.

Elizabeth Edkins received highly commended in the Key Stage 1 2D Art class for her colourful oil pastel, *After Georgia O'Keeffe* and last year's Junior 3 took second place in the Key Stage 2 Art 2D group category for their watercolour on paper, *After Henri Rousseau*.



## Crackley Hall pupils achieve outstanding LAMDA results

At Crackley Hall children from Junior 3 to Junior 6 study for the London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art (LAMDA) examinations in their Drama lessons. Junior 3 and Junior 4 take the Introductory level, Stages 1 and 2 respectively. Children from Junior 5 study Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 1 while Junior 6 take Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 2.

The children prepare poems to perform. They are judged on interpretation, technique and knowledge. They have to consider their diction, expression and movement and be able to discuss their choices of poems with their examiner.

Drama teacher Mrs Wildey explains, "What's brilliant about the LAMDA exams is that they equip the children with communication skills which will serve them throughout life. They not only promote an appreciation of literature and poetry, but also help unlock their imagination and creative-thinking."

In 2020/21 all 54 Crackley Hall pupils who took the LAMDA examinations at the start of the school year were awarded the highest grade possible, a distinction. It was a fantastic achievement! The children worked so hard for their exams last year but had them cancelled at short notice due to the lockdown in 2020, their examinations finally took place when they returned to school in September. We were very proud of them.

Then pupils in Junior 3 and Junior 4 sat LAMDA exams in November and Mrs Wildey was delighted with another 100% pass rate with an outstanding top mark of 90%!

Junior 5 and Junior 6 sat their Grade 1 and Grade 2 LAMDA exams in March. The children all worked incredibly hard to achieve their results – with everyone achieving either a distinction or merit – it was another great set of results.

Congratulations to all of the children, Crackley Hall School is very proud of you. Your results are a reflection of your hard work both in and out of school.



## Musical Maestros

Across the year and with a little bit of ingenuity and organisation children sat the London College of Music examinations. From Pre-Preparatory and Step 1 and 2 Tests up through the grades from Grade 1 to Grade 5, on the Piano, Violin, Cello, Cornet and in Musical Theatre.

In December the examinations took place in school with 33 children passing their exams and 29 achieving a Distinction, lots of children scored over 90 but special mention must go to Scarlett Hammond, Merryn Cleary and Isla McVoy who all achieved a score of 95 or more.

The spring session fell foul of the lockdown restrictions. Despite the challenge of recording and submitting examination pieces online, all the pupils made the grade. 15 children were awarded a Distinction with a special mention to Joseph Beaman-Henderson, Freddie Young, Amy Carroll, Andrew Parizzi and Beatrice Parizzi who all achieved near perfect marks.

Then in the Trinity Term 18 children sat their exams with an amazing 17 achieving a Distinction, again lots of scores over 90 but special congratulations go to Evie Tomkinson on her super near perfect score of 96.

A big thank you for all the support parents gave at home encouraging the children to keep on practising and to the peripatetic teaching staff who went the extra mile to facilitate all the exams.

## Second place in ISA National Musical Theatre Competition

Junior 4 pupil, Julia Kozhan, took second place in the Junior Schools category of the Independent Schools Association's (ISA) Musical Theatre Competition.

Julia was one of some 200 entries from across the country who chose a song from their favourite musical, recorded a performance and sent it off for this year's virtual competition.

Judged by musical theatre star Christopher Draper, who was very impressed by the standard of entries, Julia clearly dazzled with her performance of *If Only I Had A Brain*.

Julia, who takes singing lessons in school and also trains with Stagecoach, put a lot of preparation into her entry and we were all delighted with her success.



# School Leaders

## 2020-2021 Student Roles of Office

In their final year, pupils in Junior 6 take on leadership responsibilities at the school. In a special ceremony in September Junior 6 gathered together to hear Headmaster, Mr Duigan, reveal the 2020-2021 Student Roles Of Office.

Mr Duigan spoke about the importance of the responsibilities and encouraged pupils to rise to the challenge of their new roles as excellent leaders and role models for the younger pupils at the school.



**Head Boy**  
Thomas Zanyi



**Head Girl**  
Anabel Davis



**Deputy Head Boy**  
Noah Cowlshaw



**Deputy Head Girl**  
Amelia Hunt



**Jupiter House Captain**  
Sam Beaman-Henderson



**Mars House Captain**  
Woody Osborn



**Saturn House Captain**  
Finlay Williams



**Venus House Captain**  
Lily Tomkinson



**RE Captain**  
Helayna Collins



**Student Council Captain**  
Isabel Reddish



**Student Council Captain**  
Caythan Fletcher



**Music Captain**  
Jasper Nicholls



**Performing Arts Captain**  
Scarlett Hammond



**Library Captain**  
Millie Lammas



**Library Vice Captain**  
Niamh O'Halloran



**Boys Sport Captain**  
Maxwell Kiely



**Boys Sports Vice Captain**  
Freddie Young



**Girls Sports Captain**  
Rosa Davis



**Girls Sports Vice Captain**  
Maria Howe





Continuing with the number theme, they learnt how to say dates (1st to 31st), putting months and dates together to say their birthdays in Mandarin.



After investigating Shakespeare's history, when and where he was born and how he built his own theatre in London, pupils then moved on to look at *Romeo and Juliet*, one of his tragedies. They read the prologue to the play, tried to understand the language Shakespeare used and thought about the rhythm and rhyme of the sonnet. They then looked at the rivalry between the Montagues and the Capulets and how they might have insulted each other back then in Verona.



In Science, Junior 6 worked hard to understand the 'ins-and-outs' of the digestive system! They developed an understanding of the different food groups, devised well-balanced plates of food and established how diet needs to vary depending on the demands of different people or jobs.



In Computing, we learnt about Internet Safety through completing missions, earning badges and playing games on Carnegie Gadets.



Junior 6 enjoyed making pizza on an Italian day and were even happier eating them!



In their French lessons they learned how to accurately name and pronounce items in their school pencil cases, the subjects that they study, the time of day and what their likes and dislikes are. They then conducted a survey, asking each other (in French of course!) about their favourite subjects.



## Shape Transformation

Junior 6 learned how to translate shapes in different directions, reflect shapes across mirror lines and through horizontal and vertical axes and rotate shapes round a point or vertex. They also looked at how to relay the position of a shape using coordinates and used a four-quadrant grid to do this.



## Marble Runs

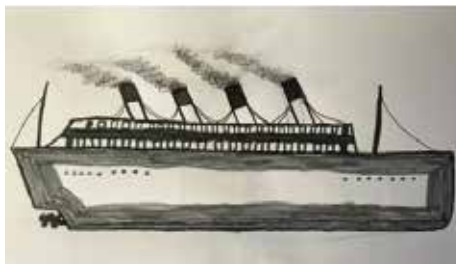
Junior 6 had enormous fun in DT making Marble Runs in the form of a wooden maze. They spent time planning out their designs carefully using paper strips, meticulously measuring exactly how their work will look when completed in wood.

The pupils learned to measure accurately, saw and secure their designs and are well on their way to becoming Games Masters of the Future.



## Tree Of Life

Junior 6 studied the work and art of Gustav Klimt, an Austrian artist, who helped develop the Art Nouveau movement. They researched his famous mural 'The Tree of Life' which is a symbolic painting representing life and growth and have interpreted it to be representative of their own unfurling and unfolding lives. Each class was given a different scenario and used mixed media to create their own representations of the original painting.



## Titanic Timetable

Junior 6 took a cross-curricular approach to their English lessons by linking them to their History theme – The Titanic. They investigated the ship itself, the passengers and the accommodation on board and learned about the events that led to the actual disaster. They researched the events and put together a timeline to tell the story, watched a 1950s movie adaptation of the disaster and then wrote diary extracts, imagining they had been on board and survived the tragic events of Sunday 14 and Monday 15 April 1912.



## Youngsters Fast To Fundraise For Food Bank

In November, eight Junior 6 pupils completed a sponsored fast to raise money for local food banks. The children, Amelia, Leyton, Millie, Annalise, Samuel, Jasper, Seb and Henry, set out to raise £100, but their thoughtful fundraiser touched people's hearts, and raised just over £2,000.

The idea for the sponsored fast came after the older children had reflected on empathy in RE lessons at school. Their empathy for local families and children who, through no fault of their own, might face a Christmas without food, led to the idea of a fast to raise funds for the food bank to help families in need, have a Christmas dinner.

Crackley was very proud of all of the children and their achievement which was shared with all the pupils in assembly in school.



## Fungus Free Feet

In Science, the children studied viruses, bacteria and fungi and they now have a much better idea of why they need to keep their hands clean. They then had a 'foot-fungus' competition... you'll be pleased to know our J6 all had fungus free feet!



## Light Reflection

Junior 6 explored reflection of light in Science and created experiments to prove that angles of incidence equal angles of reflection and that light can go around corners (if your mirrors are positioned just right!) They moved on to investigate the refraction of light and tested their hypothesis using a glass of water and a pencil!



## Bake Off

As part of their curriculum enrichment activities Junior 6 held their annual 'bake off', where cakes are decorated in style. This year we had all manner of creations from Covid bugs to unicorns and chip butties. The creativity was a sight to behold, and they all looked delicious!

# Junior 6



## Dissection

As part of their Activity Week, Junior 6 enjoyed enriching their Science learning with a little dissection. In their classes they examined hearts and eyes and whilst there was some initial revulsion, that was rapidly replaced with fascination as the children got hands on exploring the ventricles and valves. It was really interesting for them to see the organs in real life after studying them in their lessons during the lockdown and through the dissection, they were able to link their theoretical studies to the reality of how the organs work. It was a great reinforcement for their learning.



## Bonjour Mes Amis

There were big smiles and plenty of 'Bonjours' all round, when Junior 6 had the opportunity to meet their French pen pals. Madame Tatton used her existing links with École La Rédemption in Lyon, her home town, to set up pen pals and the children enjoyed writing letters and getting to know a little bit about each other.

In December, the children were delighted to have the chance to see and speak to their new friends and took turns asking and answering simple questions. It was a great opportunity to listen to and speak French to a native speaker. They asked about each other's favourite sports, lessons, hobbies and colours putting into practise vocabulary from the topics they learnt in school.



## Book In A Box

Junior 6 completed an in-depth study of a novel. Pupils were able to choose a novel and were tasked with reading it and then producing their own 'book in a box'. Pupils had to paint or colour the outside/inside of the box so that it represented the setting of the book; put in three objects that represented the main character and put in five (or more) objects that represented different things that happened throughout the story. We saw many fantastically creative interpretations.



## French Role Play

In their last term of French at Crackley Hall, Junior 6 enjoyed performing a role-play in a shop. In their lessons they looked at how to say 'some' in French to ensure they got exactly what they wanted to buy: a whole chicken or just some chicken? They also learned that 'une boîte' is a homonym, as it means both 'a tin', 'a can' and 'a box'!



## Greek War Horse Art

In Art and DT lessons, the children discussed famous horse paintings - including horses used in the trenches of World War 1. They discussed the wellbeing of the horses and how to care for them correctly and compassionately. Then focusing on Greek war horses, they began to sketch horses and look at the shapes that are needed to convey the image. Next they moved onto making 3D Greek horses using a variety of media.



## Human Evolution

Pupils studied the Evolution of Humans and the ideas of various evolutionary theorists that suggest the different development points over millions of years. The children researched additional facts at home and then created some fantastic posters explaining the changes to the brain, hips, feet, and, most importantly, the thumbs that have led to our current stage of evolution. The children also considered that evolution won't stop here... and went on to create an image of what they believe we will look like in another million years!



## Crowden Adventure Activities

Junior 6 had an extra early start when they set off at 5.45am for their activities trip to Crowden Outdoor Education Centre in June. They enjoyed two packed days of canoeing, stream scrambling, crate stacking, archery, zipwire and bush craft – no wonder they were tired when they returned! It was wonderful to see all the skills they've learnt over the years at Crackley Hall put into practise; team work, resilience and communication to name a few.

# Junior 5



**Junior 5L**



**Junior 5R**



## Musical Masterpieces

Junior 5 whipped up a masterpiece to the backdrop of Benjamin Britten's *Storm Interlude*. The dramatic piece of music provided ample inspiration for pupils who used chairs as a drumming base to tap out a rhythm, and pens and pencils as drumsticks.



## Scrumptious Shadow Science

In Science Junior 5 studied shadows and how they are formed. They went outside to track their shadows and discussed how they changed through the day. They learnt how it looks like the sun is moving across the sky, when in fact it is the Earth which is moving. Then they studied facts about the moon and how the phases of the moon are created and then used Oreo cookies to recreate the phases of the moon - both educational and scrumptious!



## Aztec Art

In History Junior 5 studied the Aztecs. They found out that they were originally nomads that settled on Lake Texcoco and built their famous city, Tenochtitlan; they were fierce warriors who believed that if they made sacrifices to their gods, they would have a happier life; and that they created chinampas, floating pieces of land to grow crops on. The children enjoyed designing and creating their own Aztec art – mosaics, headdresses and more.



## Superheroes

Superheroes are awesome and they proved to be a very popular English exercise - everyone enjoyed creating their own and pupils were very happy to dive into writing lively comic strips and detailed fact files on their new fantastic friends.



## Forces And Friction

The Science topic of 'Forces' proved to be lots of fun, the pupils enjoyed estimating and measuring various classroom objects with the Newton meters. Those Crackley planners really do multi-task! They then used the Newton meters to measure force and vehicles travelling down ramps, with pupils ably predicting and measuring the friction created by various floor surfaces around school.

# Junior 5



## Kenzuke's Kingdom

Junior 5 were introduced to the amazing Michael Morpurgo book, *Kenzuke's Kingdom*, and thoroughly enjoyed finding out about the adventures of the main character, who gets washed up on a mysterious island. It was so lovely to share a novel with the children and become fully immersed in it! Inspired by the story, the children designed and wrote about their very own islands, including a range of figurative language, alliteration, personification and similes, and also ambitious vocabulary.



## Remembrance

Junior 5 commemorated Remembrance Day with a wonderful whole school assembly and were fascinated by Caretaker Michael Luis' recounts of his service in the military and the medals he had been awarded. The topic inspired pupils to create felt poppies in their Art lessons and Alfred penned a fabulous poem entitled *Poppies* for his English homework.



## Mastering Maths

In Maths, Junior 5 worked hard to master mathematical vocabulary to help them to understand written and oral word problems and instructions – they looked at different types of number from factors through to multiples and beyond. They put their skills to good use in the Primary Maths Challenge!



## Personal Pledges

Our Junior 5s are so caring and they were happy to spend time thinking about others. All the children made a personal pledge detailing what they will be doing to make the world a better place: picking up rubbish; not wasting food and donating food to Food Banks were just a few of the fantastic ideas they came up with.



## Dissolving Decisions

During the Spring lockdown all of Junior 5 completed a dissolving investigation in Science, carefully carrying out the experiment at home. Budding young scientists, Leo, Marley and Carolina impressively put much time and effort into this practical and the write-up afterward.



## Winter Landscapes

Pupils created Winter Landscapes during their Art lessons under the expert guidance of Mrs Clark. They created their landscapes using a media of their choice and there were some stunning photographs, pastels and sketches produced.



## World Book Week

Junior 5 don't do anything by halves so they had a World Book Week! As well as dressing up as book characters, they studied a variety of books, matched blurbs to the book covers, attended a David Walliams' assembly, explored the 'show not tell' technique, read a book in an unusual place and found as many words as they could from 'World Book Day'. It really was a wonderful week!



## Famous Scientists

For British Science Week, Junior 5 researched famous scientists and inventors and were so fascinated by their findings that they all produced fact files. Their creations were so inspirational that they then had no problem planning and drawing a range of their own fabulous inventions.



## Cookie Cooking

Everyone was excited when they made cookies in Science because of course it was an essential experiment to help them understand the effect of heat. Pupils observed that the cookie mixture started off gloopy and sticky but after heating in the oven, it became soft but not sticky, and when cooled the mixture became brittle. A fascinating experiment and well those delicious cookies couldn't go to waste could they!



## Netball Sports Training

Junior 5 always enjoy their sports and love fine-tuning their skills and they were all really excited at the prospect of some fixtures. In April, the girls loved training in the glorious sunshine, acclimatising themselves to playing again. They also enjoyed playing friendly matches demonstrating exceptional passing and teamwork skills.



## Living Things

For their Science topic on 'Living Things' Junior 5 carefully labelled the various parts of a flowering plant, identifying both the male and female parts. They then moved on to learn how flowers reproduce through pollination and by seed dispersal.



## The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe

Junior 5 were fascinated by our Trinity Term novel *The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe*, first published in 1950, and set in the fictional realm of Narnia, a fantasy of world of mythical beasts. They thoroughly enjoyed its magical atmosphere. All that reading was put to good use as the children then considered how to engage the reader more effectively with their story openers.



## Pop Art

Our Art project for the first part of the Trinity term was 'Pop Art' and Mrs Clark certainly inspired the children to produce some stunning pieces.



## Angles

To embed their mathematical learning, the children regularly recap their knowledge. It was clear that no one had a problem remembering angles as they all produced really super work!



## Nail Art

In Design Technology the children created nail-art (and, no, this wasn't painting their nails!) Their hammering could be heard throughout the school, and their finished products were fantastic.



## Chorus Line

Our wonderful Junior 5 pupils worked hard to learn their songs and actions, ready to support Junior 6 in their end of year production of *Joseph*.



## Book Fun

What excitement in Junior 5 when the Book Fair arrived. The children couldn't wait to visit, as we have so many bookworms, and they were delighted to choose a range of books and stationery. They also enjoyed the Book Exchange, bringing in books that they'd previously read with a £1 donation to exchange for new books to read. With so many avid readers in J5, this was another huge success.



## Forest School Fun

The pupils had great fun in the Forest School area with Mrs Clark and Mrs Thomas – they were set a task to build a structure and to make it as stable, strong and creative as possible. Some wonderful hedgehog hotels were constructed!



## Orienteering

As part of their Geography curriculum, Junior 5 went outdoors to partake in an exciting orienteering activity, led by Mrs Thomas, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

# Junior 4



**Junior 4B**



**Junior 4W**



## Familiar Tunes

Junior 4 enjoyed playing familiar songs on their recorders during their music lessons with Mrs Olden. All the children learned to play the recorder when they were in Junior 1 and their skills have developed as they have learned to read music and played together over the years.



## The Holy Trinity

During a RE lesson Junior 4 enjoyed learning about The Holy Trinity. They made a spinner to help them understand what the Holy Trinity represents – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The colours and words merged into one when they spun their spinners.



## Young Voices World Record

In June, pupils from Crackley Hall School joined children in schools across the UK and the world, to sing along with music legend Billy Ocean to help raise funds for the charity Place2Be. Streaming live from the O2 Arena in London, The Biggest Sing was also an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the 'Largest Simultaneous Sing'. Together the children performed the classic Bill Withers song *Lovely Day* and independent adjudicators were on hand here at Crackley to confirm the number of children and teachers singing.



## Teeth Tests

Junior 4 learned some very useful lessons about how to care for their teeth in Science. The children investigated which drink would be the most likely to give them tooth decay by immersing eggshells in cola, apple juice, orange juice, milk or water. They completed a fair test by changing only one of the variables. They were excited to observe the eggshells day by day and the final results showed water is definitely the healthiest drink for teeth.



## Extreme Weather

As part of their 'Extreme Weather' topic in Geography, Junior 4 rehearsed what to do if they were in a real-life earthquake. They learned how to 'drop, cover and hold on' and where a safe place to take cover would be.



### Forest School

Junior 4 had a cracking time enjoying the great outdoors in October in Crackley's Woods. They built dens and fairy tree houses, 'cheffed' in the mud-kitchen and displayed amazing creativity making clay people out of natural materials. It was wonderful to see them bringing their history learning to life, leading their own Viking and Roman confrontations and we think we even heard Boudicca's battle-cry echoing through the woods!



### Alphabetical Order

Junior 4 worked hard on alphabetical order in their verbal reasoning lessons. They were determined to 'Master' it to help with their verbal reasoning in Junior 5. They got so good they could even put words in alphabetical order to the fifth letter!



### Circuit Science

Junior 4 were excited to learn about electricity in Science. The children predicted and then tested complete and incomplete circuits using batteries, bulbs and crocodile clips. They also made human circuits in the playground in teams to see who could make the most creative complete and incomplete circuits. Then they experimented further with the equipment to find out more about different types of complete circuits. Every time a bulb lit up and a buzzer buzzed, the children were amazed by how they had made it work. They investigated whether materials are insulators or conductors and became so accomplished at making complete circuits that they designed electric Christmas cards that include a switch.



### Super Gran

Junior 4 wrote their own stories on the theme of Super Gran or Super Grandad. They had great fun creating their characters and considering what special gifts they had and how they would use them for the greater good. Our elderly superheroes certainly gave everyone a big surprise at their sudden agility, acrobatics and general heroics helping members of the public out of sticky situations. Zimmer frames became cages, walking sticks shot lasers, antique earrings frisbeed through the air and handbags were the ultimate weapon against those pesky villains! Not content with using everyday words the children used thesauruses to improve their vocabulary and included words that they've never used before such as: antiquated, hefty, bitter, hobbling, suspiciously, cobbled, haggard and lumbering.



### Odd Socks Day

For World Kindness Day Junior 4 noticed and acknowledged kind actions and words and they found the 'ripple-effect' of doing this very powerful. It was heart-warming to see and hear. The theme continued into Anti-Bullying Week where the children created a new display entitled 'Hanging Bullying Out To Dry'. They designed odd socks and hung them on the washing line to celebrate their differences.



### Drawing

As part of Mental Health Week the children completed a drawing task, that encouraged them to express their emotions creatively. Their sketches were incredible!



### Roman Designs

In Art and Design Technology pupils designed and made Roman style shields and Roman coil pots decorated using the method of sgraffito; a process whereby the clay pot is painted and a design scraped off revealing the underneath colour of the clay. Using a pencil in their art books, they designed Roman patterns and used Roman numerals to create their own designs, carefully transferring these onto their pots using a metal instrument or wire. It's really tricky, and requires fine motor skills but Junior 4 did a marvellous job!



### Vibrations

In Science, the children studied how vibrations cause sounds and how sounds travel, as well as how sounds can change pitch and volume. The children worked in a hands-on way to explore pitch, and used their understanding of how high and low sounds are made to create an instrument that could change pitch.



### Living Things

The Science topic of 'Living things and their habitats' kept pupils very busy! They explored a variety of ways to identify, sort, group and classify living things, learned how animals are split into 'vertebrates' and 'invertebrates' and began to consider the differences between living things within these classifications. They used classification keys to group, identify and name living things from the local habitat and beyond and had great fun on an invertebrate hunt around school.

# Junior 4



## French Dates

In their Lent Term French lessons, Junior 4 focused on writing the date in French. As easy as it may seem, the task involves three separate elements: numbers from 1 to 31, days of the week and months of the year. Then there are these French quirks, such as days and months not starting with a capital letter, and the French using cardinal, not ordinal numbers. The children practised with worksheets and games and then enjoyed live lessons. Finally they were ready to focus on a most important date: their birthday!



## Beowulf

Junior 4 delved into the historical world of the Anglo-Saxons by reading the epic ancient poem, *Beowulf*. The children were introduced to English folklore's world of wonderful monsters, heroes, warriors, kings and dragons and thoroughly enjoyed it. In English and Drama lessons, the children studied the colourful characters through techniques such as hot seating, drawing, observing, visualising, acting and writing. The gloomy swamp of Grendel's lair was contrasted with the indoor splendour of Hrothgar's Great Hall and they couldn't wait to meet the hero himself; Beowulf.



## Practical Science

In British Science Week Junior 4 investigated the role oxygen plays in burning flames. They imagined they were young Antoine Lavoisiers and Joseph Priestleys, discovering oxygen for the first time! They then investigated different melting points, their favourite being the chocolate experiment – unsurprisingly! Finally, they observed the changing state of water in the ice cube investigation, kettle boiling observation and the salt and ice investigation, it left them all with lots of questions – which were answered when they moved on to study the water cycle.



## Hans Zimmer

Pupils learned about Hans Zimmer, a German film score composer and record producer, whose works are notable for integrating electronic music sounds with traditional orchestral arrangements. His film scores include *Gladiator*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *The Lion King* and *Dunkirk*, to name but a few. Capturing the sense and scale of drama, Junior 4 looked at the majesty and beauty of our home – the Earth – as if seen from space. In groups, they used their imaginations and drew what they thought our Earth would look like, each talking about their creation in turn. This culminated in pupils using instruments to compose music to accompany their imagery of Earth from space.



## Indian Art

Whilst investigating India, the children discovered it has six different climate regions, amongst a host of other fascinating facts. Mrs Clark then helped enthuse the children further by introducing them to Mehndi Henna patterns in Art. Then during our 'India' themed afternoon Mrs Hill helped the children to demonstrate their artistic talents by creating their own rangoli patterns out of chalk on the playground. Finally, they used their knowledge of Indian patterns to create a traditional decorated elephant using scratchwork.



## Diaries Added To National Archives

Junior 4 helped to capture the everyday life of people in the UK today when they wrote diary extracts for National Diary Day. Their handwritten snapshots of their lives were submitted to the UK's Mass Observation Archive joining thousands of diaries stored in the archive at The Keep, near Falmer in East Sussex.

The Mass Observation Archive first called on people to write a diary for a day on 12 May 1937, the day of George VI's Coronation, and since then they have regularly called for diary entries to record the thoughts, feelings and opinions of everyday people in the Britain.

The diary entries share the lives, hopes and dreams of our young pupils and gave a wonderful insight in to how life was for the children during lockdown.



## Persuasive English

Junior 4 explored the powers of persuasion in English. The children identified effective persuasive language from a range of texts including holiday brochures, letters and online debates. Some groups even presented their points of view via TV infomercials and they were extremely convincing! Finally, the children wrote their own persuasive arguments on topics ranging from the danger of mobile phones to a letter of complaint from the Big Bad Wolf about the evil of little girls in the woods.

# Junior 3



**Junior 3S**



**Junior 3V**



## Stone Age

For their first History topic of the year, Junior 3 explored the wonders of the Stone Age. They enjoyed finding out about the famous caves at Lascaux, before creating their own cave paintings using recycled paper, pastels, chalks and lots of crumpling and ripping to create a realistic rocky surface. It was very messy but everyone had lots of fun!

Linking their History studies into DT, the children focussed on Stone Age jewellery and enjoyed designing and creating their own Stone Age necklaces.



## Acrostic Poetry

After studying some effective language features, such as alliteration, onomatopoeia and similes, Junior 3 set about listening to and watching firework displays on the interactive whiteboard. Then they thought about all the sounds and sights and smells that surround us on firework night and used all these thoughts to create the phrases for their acrostic poems.



## Shadow Investigators

Junior 3 had great fun exploring shadows. Shadows are formed when an opaque object or material blocks rays of light. The opaque material does not let the light pass through it. The light rays that go past the edges of the material make an outline for the shadow. Using torches Junior 3 investigated the effect.

The children then explored how shadows change during the day. They went out onto the playground and drew around their partner's shadow. When they returned to the same spot later in the day they discovered that their shadows had moved and changed length. They had become shorter.



## Digestive System

Everyone had great fun making a working model of the digestive system; starting with the mouth, where the teeth grind, tear and cut up the food, then passing the mushy food down a long squeeze tube called the oesophagus, and into a big stretchy bag called the stomach, and onto the small and large intestine until the waste is passed out.



## Number Day

For Number Day the children had a whole heap of fun investigating patterns in the times tables. Junior 3 worked outside in the playground and enjoyed the fresh air alongside their learning.

# Junior 3



## Place Value

Junior 3 used place value counters to help them add and subtract with exchange. Everyone worked in pairs, discussing their methods with each other, undertaking it practically and then displaying it in its written form. They all perfected their knowledge and understanding of place value.



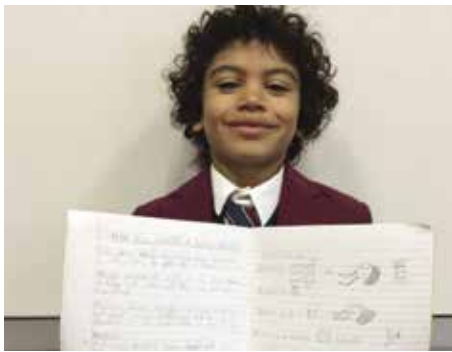
## Boning Up

The children studied the anatomical names for bones in the human body, ably assisted by Roy, Crackley Hall's resident skeleton. Junior 3 explored the function of bones, learning how they develop and the important jobs they do for us. Building on their knowledge of bones, the children learned the various types of joints and then created their own paper skull, to show the movement of a hinge joint.



## Forest School

In November, Junior 3 spent a wonderful morning immersing themselves in their Stone Age topic in the Forest School area. They worked together to build some amazing shelters and tried their hand at fashioning stone-age weapons such as spears, bows and arrows and other simple tools. Everyone enjoyed creating paintings on 'animal hide' and recording messages for each other using symbols made from sticks, stones, shells and leaves.



## Wicked Writing

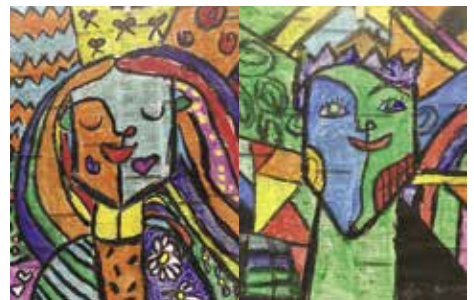
Bossy verbs, time adverbials, prepositions and exciting introductions are just some of the skills that Junior 3 put to good use in their writing when they completed their hilarious instructions for How to Wash a '.....'. Some even suggested a sabre tooth tiger but we weren't sure whether it would pass the classroom risk assessment. The children showed such a wonderful attitude towards improving their writing.



## Fossil Fun

The children embraced the Science topic of 'Rocks and Soils', devouring non-fiction texts and finding out so much about different types of rocks and fascinating fossils. Pupils made replica fossils, learned about the erosion of coastal areas and really channelled their inner palaeontologist! There was even a fossil worthy of being a museum exhibit, shared in our live form time by Darcey.

Junior 3 then studied the amazing work of 19th Century Paleontologist, Mary Anning. Everyone was lured in by her mysterious 'curiosities' and enjoyed learning about her astonishing discoveries, such as the incredible Ichtyosaurus fossil. Working on their non-fiction writing, pupils developed their ability to write in paragraphs and to use connectives to add some extra detail. The children then worked together to produce wonderful 3D non-chronological reports to display their findings about the amazing Mary Anning.



## Romero Britto

Junior 3 loved finding out about the life of world-famous Brazilian pop artist Romero Britto and what inspired and motivated him to become such an acclaimed artist. Together they explored his bold use of colour, striking geometric shapes and clearly defined lines before setting about creating their own vibrant and joyful self-portraits.

They were even lucky enough to receive a special video message from the artist himself, causing such excitement amongst the children. A huge thank you to Romero for that wonderful surprise.



## Easter Cards

Junior 3 made Easter cards to give to their family and friends. They used a template of a cross on the front of the card to remember that Jesus died for us, before deciding how to decorate it. They then very carefully sewed around the edge. The children wrote 'He Is Risen' clearly across the top and included messages inside for their families.

It was a wonderful creative activity that allowed them all to reflect on what Jesus did for us and why we celebrate Easter every year.



### Ancient Egypt

Junior 3's History topic in the Lent Term was the Ancient Egyptians and pupils began by sketching some fantastic pharaohs. They conducted their own research into the different gods and goddesses, learned all about the gory process of mummification and enjoyed reading an Egyptian folktale called *Egyptian Cinderella* together.

In their Art lessons, they made scarab beetles, Egyptian necklaces and even, mummified cats! The children became so accustomed to hieroglyphs, that they even had an Ancient Egyptian Maths lesson using their ancient number system.



### Tiger Art

How loud is your ROAR?! Inspired by French artist, Henri Rousseau, Junior 3 produced some ROARsome pictures of tigers. A fearsome task, but one that inspired Junior 3 to produce some impressive work!



### Magnetic Force

During the lockdown the children investigated magnetic force, rummaging around their houses to find various materials and then separating them into magnetic and non-magnetic groups.



### Fabulous Fractions

In Maths, the children improved their understanding of fractions, represented as decimals; they all created some lovely 'Books of Tenths', demonstrating various ways to represent each fraction. The children also became experts at adding and subtracting fractions and even began to simplify their answers.



### Mirror Magic

In Science, Junior 3 enjoyed investigating mirrors, discovering what happens when light rays encounter the shiny reflective surface.



### Ancient Greece

Junior 3 went out into the sunshine to read a really exciting version of the Greek myth of *Icarus and Daedalus*. It was a comic strip and had lots of brilliant pictures and speech bubbles. After sharing the story together, the children got into groups and acted it out. It was so much fun. Everyone knows the story really well and can share who their favourite character is and why.

The children also learned all about democracy in Ancient Greece. They recreated their own Ecclesia, Boule and Pnyx. Some were 'free men' and voted in the 'ballot' using black or white 'pebbles'. Some formed the Boule and read out the proposed laws for approval or veto. It was great fun.



### Feather Art

In Art lessons, Junior 3 worked on a collaborative project to create an enormous pair of wings (just like Daedalus and Icarus) inspired by the modern-day street artist, Kelsey Montague. Of course, with their wings, they will remember 'not to fly too close to the sun!' Their wonderful enormous feathers, made a spectacular mythical display.



### Date And Time

Time is precious as Junior 3 discovered when they gallivanted around with clocks. The children practised what each number on an 'analogue' clock means; improved their understanding of 'quarter past' and 'quarter to' as they got to grips with telling the time. They took their time learning outside using a clock mat and created their own hula hoop clocks. All those clocks led to an exploration of time concepts, days, weeks, months and even leap years. They are now much more proficient in reading a calendar and put their skill to great use calculating how long the summer holiday would be.

# Junior 2



**Junior 2H**



## A Toothy Treat

Junior 2 explored the Living World in Science and investigated the topic of teeth. They were delighted to meet local dentist and dental nurse, Mr and Mrs Kharbanda, through Teams, for a special fang-focused fact-finding session.

Junior 2 now know that to keep your teeth in tip top condition, you need to eat healthily, avoid sugary drinks and snacks, brush your teeth for two minutes twice a day and go to see your dentist regularly.

The session finished with the tooth-brushing song and the children all practised saying it together. It was a great way to remember a really important message.

## Habitats

Junior 2 took part in an informative virtual session with the Education Team at Twycross Zoo. The class studied habitats and to develop their knowledge and understanding, they took a quick trip around the world. They investigated mountains, grasslands, oceans, deserts, rainforests and even the Arctic. They considered the climate in each habitat and the adaptations that animals who live there have made to survive successfully. They finished their lesson finding out about the importance of recycling and the impact that can have on the rainforest.



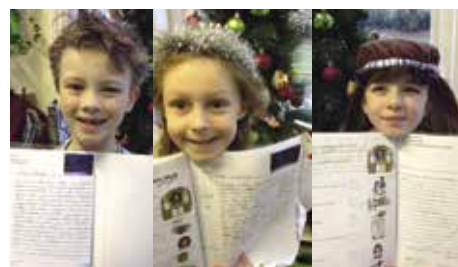
## Body Song

Junior 2 enjoyed learning a new song which involved actions and movement. They were encouraged to take turns as the leader, and come to the front of the class to re-enact the moves. The song *With My Hands On My Head* goes through all the various parts of the body. They used the hall for their music lessons, and made the most of the great space available and enjoyed learning how to transfer note values into movement.



## Earth Art

The children took inspiration from nature when they used natural materials to create their own works of art. They worked individually and collaboratively to create their masterpieces, making patterns using stones and leaves found in the school grounds alongside shells and other natural resources.



## Descriptive Writing

Junior 2 worked their socks off when writing a descriptive letter to an imaginary friend penning their amazing thoughts on the vision of a Christmas tree discovered in a winter wonderland. Pupils loved the task and it was fabulous to see such focus and delight. One described the lights from the tree as 'dancing upon her tongue' others mentioned 'twinkling colours', 'shivering branches', 'snow squirrel babies' and 'glimmering shades of blue, gold and pink'. What a lot of Christmas excitement.



### Green Fingered Gardeners

Junior 2 enjoyed studying plants in Science, getting to grips with plant life cycles and the importance of soil, observing seeds and learning about germination and plant nutrition. They were excited and delighted to get outside and get their green fingers growing their very own vegetables with a little help from Mr Robertson from the Grounds Team.

The children planted runner beans, radishes, carrots, onion sets, peas, tomatoes, lettuce and sunflowers seeds. Some went in pots, some straight into the planter and some were scattered along a line of sand. They took great pleasure in their planting, and their enthusiasm was great to see. They organised a watering rota and observed and recorded how their seeds grew and were amazed and delighted with the results.



### Multiplication

Making the most of the winter snow, Junior 2 made 'multiplication arrays' with snowballs, it was a brilliant visual aid to learning all about numbers. The children really enjoyed finding new ways and resources to show their mathematical understanding.



### Globetrotters

Junior 2 were globetrotters in the Michaelmas term and their journey took them to all seven continents of the world. They explored plenty of famous landmarks and used their fact-finding skills to research physical and human features. They learned that a continent is a massive area of land that is separated from others by water or other natural features and that the seven continents together cover one third of the world!



### Maths Magicians

Junior 2 were Maths Magicians and after working hard were more than ready to solve tricky maths challenges. Maths word problems can be problematic because not only do you have to read the question correctly, you must make sure the accurate operation is used in order to solve the problem. After starting using concrete resources, pupils moved on to working out the problems without them. They were so smart that they even explored two-step questions.



### Capacity and Volume

The children finished off their Maths topic of 'Capacity and Volume' with a practical session in the Art room, where water was carefully measured and poured – only a little bit splashed on the floors! Junior 2 challenged each other to measure accurately in litres and millilitres using a variety of containers.



### Castles

The topic of 'Castles' caused much excitement and Junior 2 enjoyed finding out all about Motte and Bailey castles. The children explored 'defence and attack'; from the crenellations to the magnificent trebuchet, and tactics such as firing hot stones and rocks on the fortresses around Britain.

Pupils moved on to imagining what life would be like living as a young person in a medieval castle. Thinking about the different jobs available and whether or not they would be a suitable applicant. They decided that life would be very tough and scary living within the walls of a castle.

# Junior 2



## Diwali

In November Junior 2 celebrated Diwali. Diwali is the 'celebration of light', 'making a fresh start', and 'new beginnings'. Many people consider that Diwali marks the start of their new year, enabling them to make plans for a new start, a little like New Year's resolutions. The children looked at the importance of having the house cleaned just before Diwali and then had fun trying on a variety of outfits with sequins and sparkles. They learned about the story of Rama and Sita and how lights play such an important role in this festival. What fun it was learning all about this wonderful festival.



## Puppets

Everyone enjoyed the challenge of designing, making and evaluating puppets at the start of the school year and Ms Holmes was seriously impressed with their marionettes. The project involved skills from marking out and cutting to joining and decorating and everyone took time to get it just right.



## Plant Science

In Science, the children studied a variety of flora and fauna. In pairs, they recorded their observations and then described the leaves and plants. After their investigations, they listed and drew all the trees and shrubs in their right categories. In addition, they also looked at plant leaves, such as pineapple, spinach, strawberries and red chard.



## Fire

Work on the theme of 'Fire' flickered through lots of the learning in the Trinity Term. From 'The Fire of Warwick,' 'The Great Fire of London,' to Pentecost in RE. The children developed their writing and created fabulous work in Maths, English, Art and DT, using 'fire' as their inspiration.

The children really enjoyed being 'curious' journalists - working out how to get news to the masses - talking to the Londoners fleeing the chaos and their Fire Houses were something to behold.



# Junior 1



Junior 1G



Junior 1H



## Forest School

There is nothing better than learning in the fresh air and the children always enjoy the opportunity to get outside. Crackley's wood is the perfect place to build self-confidence, develop interpersonal skills and nurture a relationship with the environment.



## Mr Gumpy's Outing

Junior 1 enjoyed the story – *Mr Gumpy's Outing* and what a funny and silly story it is! There are so many animals and people who decide to go on a boat ride with Mr Gumpy, there was only one wet outcome that could happen at the end – to the delight of all the children! They produced such beautiful story sequences.



## Materials

Junior 1 investigated the properties of materials. They linked their Science studies to their English topic by testing the strength of the materials used to build the *Three Little Pigs* houses - straw, sticks or bricks. They then worked independently to join different materials to make structures, it was very tricky as they had to make them stand up without toppling over! Junior 1 also tested the properties of an elastic band and playdough, as well as finding different materials around school. Then they investigated which materials were waterproof by predicting the outcome and completing an experiment to check the result.



## Red Riding Hood Writers

The children embraced the story of *Little Red Riding Hood* with enormous enthusiasm and the two Junior 1 classrooms were buzzing with lots of energetic little writers. They dressed up to retell the traditional tale, drew a story map and wrote their own alternative endings. Some decided on a very gruesome ending for the poor wolf, whilst others included new characters to make their story more interesting. The children also looked carefully at woodland pictures and listened to woodland sounds to imagine what it would be like to actually be walking through the wood. Finally, they used their different senses to create atmosphere when describing the story setting.

# Junior 1



## Traffic Survey

Junior 1 headed out with their clipboards ready and eyes alert, to complete a traffic survey for their Geography topic on the local area. They counted how many cars, vans, lorries, buses, bikes and motorbikes came past in a 10-minute period. Their keen eyes and eager faces showing just how much they enjoyed spotting all the traffic that came past. The children enthusiastically filled in their tally charts before heading back inside to evaluate their findings.



## Homes

The children completed a whole year group piece of art work based on the topic of 'Homes'. They spent a long time collecting cardboard boxes, turning them inside out and decorating them to look like houses. They were then stuck onto a display so they look like houses on a hillside – quite remarkable don't you think?



## Rain Gauges

In Science the classes looked closely at the weather, in particular the symbols used in a weather forecast. Each class made rain gauges and put them outside to see how much rain fell over the course of a week. Everyone kept their fingers crossed for rainy and stormy days so there were interesting results to plot onto their bar charts!



## Cave Constructions

Junior 1 enjoyed creating caves in DT. First, they used Mod-roc to create the cave shape. Then when it was dry they painted it to look like stone. On the inside they drew pictures, just like the cave people did thousands of years ago. Finally, they put a candle inside to represent a fire. What spectacular cave constructions!



## Paul Klee

In Art Junior 1 looked at the artist Paul Klee. They completed some wonderful oil pastel pictures inspired by his artwork *Castle and Sun* and *Cityscape* collages and then moved on to focus on *Cat and Bird*. After carefully drawing the cat and bird in pencil, the children used watercolours to paint each part a bright colour, making their work all different and unique.



## Weight And Measures

In Maths, the children enjoyed investigating the measurement of weight and mass. Junior 1 learnt that to balance scales they needed weights that are lighter, heavier and equal. They also learnt the importance of precise measurements when they took on the tasty challenge of baking their own cakes! They finished off their measuring topic by looking at capacity and volumes of containers.



## Advent

Junior 1 were delighted when Advent arrived, with the customary visit from the cheeky elves. They welcomed Chippy and Poppy into their classrooms and were excited to see where they were hiding each day. The elves brought cups and candy canes, and a special letter from the North Pole and the children were keen to respond and immediately busied themselves by writing their replies. The children learnt about the Advent wreath and what each of the candles represent. They discovered the wreath is made with evergreen leaves in a complete circle to represent God's everlasting love. So much excitement at the end of the Michaelmas term.



## Paper Rocking Birds

In Science pupils investigated birds, looking at what they are and what features they have which make them different to other creatures. This linked in nicely with their Design Technology task - making a paper rocking bird.



## Starting Recorder

In Junior 1 the children all learn the recorder – playing is easy once you master the basics of fingering, blowing and tonguing. It's a simple instrument just perfect for inspiring children to play.



### Mother's Day

In preparation for Mother's Day everyone thought about a very important person in their lives. The children worked hard to write thoughtful acrostic poems and made beautiful Mother's Day cards. They also decorated heart biscuits and put them in a special basket for their mummy. For their extended writing, they thought carefully about what their mummy looks like and used adjectives to describe them.



### Nocturnal Owls

Junior 1 enjoyed learning about nocturnal animals, in particular owls. After discovering lots of information about owls, they wrote up brilliant facts, which went on display in the classrooms in the disguise of an owl itself. This led on to owls being created from card tubes in our Art/DT lessons, they were so such fun to make.



### Geography VR

Junior 1 explored the capital cities of the UK in their Geography lessons. Both classes were so excited to use the Virtual Reality headsets to look around Scotland's capital, Edinburgh, and it was wonderful to hear their squeals of delight when it felt as though they were actually there! The children then went on to write a postcard to describe all that they had seen.



### Viking Longboats

In their History lessons, pupils learnt about the Viking longboats and then made their own. There was much to do to make the boats authentic, but it gave them a great introduction to an early form of transport.



### Plants And Seeds

Junior 1 explored plants and growth in Science. They began by cutting open different fruit to examine the seeds inside. The lesson ended with the children planting their own sunflower seed to take home to nurture over half term. Everyone remembered to put their pot in a sunny place and water it regularly, and all the tiny seeds emerged from the soil as green shoots.



### Water Lilies

Linking in to the topic on Plants and Growth the children took part in a lovely art and craft activity creating water lily paper plates inspired by the impressionist artist Claude Monet.



### History Of Flight

Junior 1 enjoyed flying high in their History lessons when they learnt about the history of flight. They discovered that the Montgolfier brothers from France launched the first flight of a hot air balloon in 1783, paving the way for further human exploration of the sky. They had interesting discussions about how a hot air balloon is powered and what makes it lift up into the sky. Everyone then made their own hot air balloon to take home.



### Coin Calculations

In Maths Junior 1 learned to recognise coins and notes and the values that each one is worth. This built up to adding up amounts and trying to work out which coins could be used if they went shopping.



# Reception



**Reception**



## Forest School

The Reception class just loved Forest School with Mrs Clark. All dressed up ready to explore, they enjoyed rolling down the bank, balancing in the hammock and on the swing and climbing the branches. It is fantastic to have our own wood at the rear of the school and it is an excellent venue for our Forest School.



## Monkey Puzzle

Reception really enjoyed the book *Monkey Puzzle* by Julia Donaldson and it prompted them to discover more about life in the jungle. They took their learning outside and loved exploring the different textures which can be achieved from bark rubbing.

The children were then inspired to learn the poem *Monkey Babies* and to add flair to the recitation, they designed and made monkey headbands and made up actions to accompany the words. Great fun was had performing the poem and pretending to be cheeky monkeys!



## Here We Are

Thinking about our place in the world led them to consider how they need to care for and protect the environment. Exploring *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers helped the children to understand this more.



## Diwali

Reception celebrated Diwali by inviting Mrs Verma to come and talk to them about this very important festival. Everyone enjoyed tasting different traditional foods such as naan bread, poppadums, raita and mango chutney; dressing in traditional clothing and wearing multicoloured bracelets, it gave them a wonderful insight into how many people celebrate with family and friends. They also learnt about Rama and Sita and had great fun re-enacting the story using the masks they had made. Using rice, they made rangoli patterns and they discovered that they absolutely love the smell of the incense used in Diwali prayers.



## Autumn

Reception investigated the season of autumn. They used magnifying glasses to examine pine cones, acorns and different types of pumpkins and squashes – what a wonderful selection of colours and patterns they have! They continued their exploration by reading *The Scarecrow's Wedding* which tells the story of Betty O'Barley and Harry O'Hay and their wonderful wedding on the farm. They made a giant class collage, and turned themselves into scarecrows, complete with straw hair. They turned their attention to nocturnal animals, researching hedgehogs and using their knowledge, they made a hedgehog in clay. It was great fun using scissors to create the spikes!



## Down On The Farm

Reception were down on the farm – virtually, that is! There were plenty of 'oinks' 'neighs' and 'baas' as they explored different farm animals through poetry, speech bubbles, writing, radio podcasts and internet research. Leading on from this, they solved farm animal puzzles and even conducted 'egg-speriments' to make bouncy eggs in our Understanding the World lessons.



## Maths Shapes

The children explored spatial reasoning using tangram shapes in their Maths lessons. Extending their maths vocabulary further, they discovered that two right-angled triangles not only make a parallelogram but a larger triangle too! Great fun was also had as they challenged themselves to recreate a variety of shape pictures.



## Remembrance

Reception spent a week finding out about Remembrance Day and the importance of remembering all those who have given their lives to enable them to live in peace.

They began with a presentation from Mr Luis, the school caretaker. Mr Luis has served in countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq, and the children thoroughly enjoyed quizzing him on his military service with the RAF. They learnt how to stand to attention, do a proper salute and saw some impressive medals too! They then found out about the significance of wearing a poppy and made a class wreath for the classroom door.

They enjoyed learning and reciting a poppy poem, painted poppy pictures and listened to the *Last Post*.



## In The Dark

Linking to their topic of 'In the Dark', the children explored the Dark Den, using UV lighting, glow in the dark tape, torches and projector torches. The addition of a small disco light really helped the children to understand that there are lots of different types of lights. The theme continued with the story *Funnybones* as they noticed the repeating phrase of 'dark, dark'. Great fun was then had by writing labels for the skeleton model – who knew there were so many bones in the human body?



## Christmas Visitor

Reception received a special visitor in the form of an elf from the North Pole! They were so surprised when Mr Duigan came rushing into the classroom clutching two mysterious but very magical looking parcels.

Inside they were delighted to find an elf, a letter from Father Christmas and some of Mrs Claus' cookies too!

And so began the preparations for Christmas, making paper chains, writing cards and Christmas lists, playing in the snowy small world and even making lovely gifts for their families too. In fact, they were so industrious that they were pretty sure that Father Christmas would give them all jobs as elves!



## Big Garden Birdwatch

Linking into the RSPB's 'Big Garden Birdwatch' the children had a wonderful week of bird-themed live lessons and enjoyed lots of exciting associated activities. They investigated how important it is to feed garden birds in the winter and made a fantastic array of bird feeders before undertaking their own 'Birdwatch'. In English the children carefully labelled robins, enjoyed writing about their favourite birds and learned and performed a bird poem with actions. Their Art lessons saw incredible creations from paper plates – including a particularly stunning parakeet.



## Seaside Past And Present

As part of their topic on summer the children enjoyed writing about the seaside. They investigated the differences between seaside holidays nowadays and in the past. Some of the bathing costumes made them laugh because they were just so different!



## Number Ordering

During the lockdown the children developed their knowledge of numbers exploring the numbers 9 and 10, the children had great fun representing, sorting, and ordering the numerals – and they even had a game of Bingo too! Then the children used their developing knowledge of numbers to count up and down like an astronaut.

Back in school Reception began to explore numbers to 20 and beyond, using a variety of resources to help them understand these larger quantities. Great fun was had building towers with cubes, putting counters in 10 frames and they even started trying to estimate amounts too!



## Sowing And Growing

For their topic of 'Sowing and Growing' the children investigated the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, thinking about the different food he ate and how he changed into a beautiful butterfly. The children learned important new words, such as chrysalis and metamorphosis and had much fun in Art painting caterpillars, butterflies and leaves with water on the path outside.

Thinking about what conditions plants need to grow, they discovered that light, water, warmth and soil are all needed and applied their knowledge to growing their own cress. It was great fun seeing who was 'Star Grower' each week!

# Little Crackers

At Little Crackers Nursery we believe that it's never too early to start on an exciting journey into learning. In our natural look nursery rooms and outdoor areas we provide carefully structured sessions for children's first steps into education. Life in nursery is always so busy as the children enjoy a wonderful wide range of activities.



**Little Crackers**



## Reading

The Little Crackers reading corner is a welcoming space where the children share books with friends, give life to the characters, retell favourite tales and begin their own learning adventure.



## Writing

Early writing skills are encouraged through story-telling and mark making such as the cone hunt in our Autumn Treasure Adventure.



## Maths

Getting a head start in Maths is so important so we never miss an opportunity to put the spotlight on Maths. The children played with poppies, picking up petals to explore mathematical ideas and developing their knowledge of numbers, as well as sharing, adding, subtracting and matching – without even realising it was Maths!



## Expressive Arts And Design

Creative play with foam helped the little ones explore their senses, encouraging fine and gross motor skills, hand-eye co-ordination, cognitive and language development and much much more. The lovely Little Crackers squirted their foam, then swirled it with a stick and placed paper on top. After lifting the paper off, they discovered lots of marvellous marbled patterns.



## Knowledge Of The World

The nursery children watched and played with melting ice – enjoying the opportunity to explore the changing shapes, the feel and texture of the melting blocks and the different ways we could speed up the melting process! It was a fantastic stimulus for conversation allowing them to talk through their ideas about what was happening.



## Outdoor Learning

Wearing their waterproof wetsuits and wellies, they squeezed blobs of paint onto the paper, then stomped on them to make them go 'splat!' They created a wonderful picture with their feet. Learning outside is exciting and enriching for the children, they enjoyed working collaboratively and creatively on a stimulating and active learning task.

*"We love how wonderful the ladies are at making our son love every minute of nursery."*



### Forest School

Our Little Crackers' explorers are drawn to the mud and make the most of getting their wellies on, getting outside and digging through it. Exploring nature is a natural process for our early learners, whether at Forest School, or in our outdoor area, they love being out and about whatever the weather.



### Nursery Sports

Our Little Crackers had a fabulous time at their Nursery Sports Day. The children headed out to the front lawn excitedly in their teams with everyone ready to rocket down the course laid out on the front lawn. The determination and concentration on their little faces was amazing as they took on the challenges of the hoops, cones, hurdles and bean bags.



### Satisfaction Survey

Little Crackers Nursery is friendly, caring, nurturing and brilliant preparation for school was the resounding feedback from parents in the nursery's parental satisfaction survey. Parents clearly valued the input of Little Crackers' qualified early years teachers and the nursery staff.

They also ranked the specialist teaching their children receive in subjects such as French, PE and Music, along with the benefits of outdoor play in Forest School.

100% of the respondents judged the overall quality of provision on offer and the range of activities as good or excellent and all respondents stated they would recommend Little Crackers to a friend.

Parent comments included: 'We love how wonderful the ladies are at making our son love every minute of nursery' and 'Thank you for looking after our children so well'.



### Nursery Graduation

The Little Crackers Nursery team organised a very special 'Graduation Ceremony' to celebrate the pre-school group 'moving on' to big school. It was a wonderful event that reminded them all of the good times this year and marked an important moment for the little ones.

# Whole School Initiatives

## British Science Week

Crackley Hall School thoroughly enjoyed British Science Week and exploring the theme *Innovating For The Future*. Junior 5 Teacher and Science Lead, Julia Roberts explained, "It was so interesting for the children to learn about famous inventions from the past. Across the school pupils were fascinated by the variety, range and ingenuity of the scientists and their inventions and really enjoyed the challenge of thinking up their own."

Junior 1 learnt about Chester Greenwood, the 15-year-old who invented ear-muffs. They went on to investigate which materials were good at keeping things warm, testing different materials wrapped around containers of hot water. Their temperature measurements showed a towel did the best at keeping the heat in and Junior 1 agreed that if used for ear muffs it would be soft and warm on your ears!

In Junior 2 the children studied John Boyd Dunlop who developed the first practical inflatable tyre and John McAdam, the man behind the Tarmac Empire. They also enjoyed watching Wallace and Gromit as inspiration for Heath Robinson style invention ideas and then had great fun creating their own. Charlotte invented a 'Fur Protector' which stops you from being allergic to animal fur, and hoped that she would now be able to have a cat! While Malachi made a fantastic invention that helps look after your dog. Not only does it wash and dry your dog, it will play with it and clean up after it. They had so many creative ideas.

Junior 3 read the story of *Rosie Revere Engineer* as inspiration for their innovations and found out that after many set-backs, Rosie eventually invents a machine to help her great aunt fly. The children loved it and were inspired to create their own marvellous creations. They also studied fossils and pioneering palaeontologist Mary Anning and many children chose to invent tools and machines that would help fossil hunters, including Sara's particularly innovative fossil hat.

During the week Junior 4 considered two very famous scientists, Joseph Priestley and Antoine Lavoisier, who were responsible for discovering oxygen. They went on to complete experiments observing how the amount of oxygen affects the length of time a flame will burn. Junior 4 made sensible predictions before testing out their thoughts. The children created their very own inventions at home and we really enjoyed seeing them in school the next week.

Junior 5 discussed, planned, drew and then pitched (Dragon's Den style) their inventions to the class. The audience pretended to be the 'Dragons' and lent their (pretend) money, as an investment, there were so many young scientific entrepreneurs.

In their lessons Junior 6 considered how different inventions have affected our lives and set out to create their own ingenious ideas to change the world for the better. They also studied Stephen Hawking and his theories on Black Holes, developing an understanding of the Event Horizon and what happens if they should cross that! They had great fun discussing what might be on the other side...and then went on to create their very own versions of Black Holes.

Mrs Roberts, continued, "The British Science Week topic 'Innovating For The Future' really inspired us all and I am sure we have some future scientists and inventors within our Crackley community!"

*"I am sure we have some future scientists and inventors within our Crackley community!"*



## Blythe Wins National Poster Competition

Junior 3 pupil, Blythe Camilleri-Willis was awarded first prize in the Infant Category for his amazing British Science Week poster with his Volcano Energy Extraction System.

Blythe was one of well over 2,500 budding young scientists from across the UK who took part in the competition, showing their passion for Science and submitting many exceptional innovation ideas.

It was an amazing win for Blythe. His volcano energy extraction invention was a marvellous innovation and his brightly coloured poster showed off both his scientific and design skills!





## Chinese New Year

Crackley Hall School celebrated Chinese New Year with pupils exploring Chinese culture. Across the school pupils researched what the Chinese do to prepare, how they celebrate, why the Chinese are so fond of the colour red and which zodiac animal year is coming up. They loved sharing in the celebration and produced stunning work in school and at home.

The children in Nursery joined in the fun exploring Chinese numbers and taking part in their own lion dance while pupils in Reception wished one another 'Gong Xi Fa Cai' 'Wishing you great health and prosperity' as they learned about the traditions associated with Chinese New Year.

Pupils in Year 3 explored the Legend of Nian and wrote Chinese setting descriptions. In their History lessons they compared the Terracotta Army with the Egyptian Pyramids creating presentations about both historical wonders. The children also drew Chinese dragons and made a Chinese dragon from an egg box in their Art lessons. Ivy's mum sent through information about Lucky New Year Fish and instructions on how to make them - which the children really enjoyed.

Junior 5 also enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year making dumplings, a long-held Lunar New Year ritual, usually done over festive reunion dinners to usher in a celebration of new beginnings, wealth and good fortune.

Mr Vaughan, a black belt and British and European Gold Medallist in Aikido, who also studied Taiho Jutsu and Wing Chun, organised live Wing Chun lessons for pupils. It was an fantastic opportunity for the children to experience the martial arts.

Mandarin teacher, Mrs Huang played zodiac animal martial art with her younger pupils and taught them a Chinese 'Happy New Year' song while her Key Stage 2 pupils enjoyed a fun quiz.

Chinese New Year was another wonderful opportunity for the children to take a cross curricular approach to their learning, an approach we know excites and engages them.



## Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week took place in early February, organised by the charity Place2Be with the theme 'Express Yourself', the event focused on finding ways to share feelings, thoughts and ideas.

Across the school, there were activities in lessons, form time, 'Dress to Express Friday' and much more. At the beginning of the week Mrs Glen-Roots introduced the initiative in her Candelmas assembly, reminding us that we can bring light and hope to our family and friends. Lessons gave plenty of opportunities for children to express themselves with lots of amazing art, super stories and perfect poetry. In form time and PHSE there was plenty of healthy debate about what makes us happy and how that can help improve your mood and nurture your well-being. Pupils were encouraged to identify their passions and all the different things that make them smile. They have even learned to encourage each other to find ways to get creative and express yourself.

'Dress to Express Friday' was a great way to finish Children's Mental Health Week. It was a lot of fun with Mrs Burley and Mr Stedeford going the extra mile! Learning how to feel good about yourself was an important lesson for us all.



# Whole School Initiatives

## Pi day

Crackley Hall celebrated Pi day as a fun way to get the children excited about Maths. The circle is often the first shape many learn in childhood and can be observed in nature everywhere and it was great to join in the celebrations and get to grip with the mathematical constant Pi.

Little Crackers joined in exploring the circumference of a circle, following the rounded edge with their feet led to some interesting discussions about foot size! They then thought about measuring circles in different ways and developed this interest into the creative area.

Reception had great fun exploring Pi in their lessons. They learnt that the shape which is important to Pi is a circle and played the Pi Circle game. They put the first 18 digits of Pi in order and looked to see which of the numbers could combine to make bonds to 10.

Junior 1 celebrated Pi Day by learning that Pi helps us to find the circumference of a circle. On number blocks a new character was introduced -  $\pi$ . Everyone had the chance to design their own Pi character with many different variations, from Victorian Pi, Mr Pi, Miss Pi, Cute Pi and Douglas Pi. There was even a Spy-Pi!

Junior 3 spent a fun filled Maths lesson learning new vocabulary for the parts of a circle. They spent time measuring all the circular objects they could find before investigating the special relationship between the circumference and the diameter. They were fascinated with this amazing number that never ends, so much so, that many pupils decided to try to memorise the digits of Pi. Darcey managed an incredible 40 digits!

Junior 4 also had great fun investigating Pi. They enjoyed becoming more and more accurate with their measurements and there was great delight when one pair of children calculated 3.14 as Pi!

Junior 5 took part in lots of different challenges including measuring the circumference of a circle using ribbon, then measuring its diameter and comparing the two. They then used string, to measure the circumference of circular objects in the classroom and the diameter to further explore the relationship between the two.

Finally, Junior 6 enjoyed their investigations into the relationship between the circumference and diameter of a circle, testing their theories using compasses, string and ruler and a little bit of brain power! The children then explored Pi Art made totally of circles and tried to create their own versions.



## Remembrance Day

On Wednesday 11 November, Crackley Hall School paused for Remembrance Day. Across the school the children took part in assemblies in their year group bubbles. Headmaster, Rob Duigan, led the virtual service, reminding the children about the significance of the poppy and why we all take time to remember. At 11.00am Isabella played the Last Post on her cornet and the children and staff observed the two-minute silence.

In school Remembrance featured in the children's learning, both in written and creative activities. Junior 2 created a Remembrance Wall featuring images of their hands holding poppies. Mr Luis from the Estates team visited the children in Junior 5 and Reception, he spoke to them about the RAF Reserves and the support he gave to the military in Afghanistan and Iraq. He brought his medals in for the children to see and explained their significance and he taught them how to do a RAF salute. The Reception children also learned a poem about poppies and why we remember them, you can watch them reciting the poem here:

<https://vimeo.com/478854494/f434e359d6>

Though learning activities and across the community at Crackley Hall School the children and staff took time to remember.



## Mathletics World Maths Day

Crackley Hall joined schools across the country on Friday 7 May, for a mega maths fundraising day for the NSPCC. It was a fantastic end to a whole week of mathematical fun after pupils in Junior 1 through to Junior 6 also took part in the Mathletics World Maths Day.

Maths lead, Mrs Van Zyl, and her Junior 3 class gave 100% out on the playground in their Maths lesson and across the school the children took part in a host of mathematical activities. Pupils made a donation to come to school in number themed costumes and together raised an amazing £404 that was donated to support the work of the NSPCC.



## World Book Day

World Book Day is much-loved at Crackley Hall and it is always lots of fun. The children enjoy dressing up as book characters, revisiting their favourite books and joining in a whole host of story themed activities. It's a day to focus on books and reading simply for pleasure a skill that we know is proven to help the children get ahead.

In Nursey staff enjoyed dressing up and sharing their favourite stories and many of the children dressed up too, there was a Highway Rat, a Viking, a fantastic Snail and the Whale costume and a number of Gruffalo and dinosaur themed little people!

Reception's live lessons were full of super characters too including *The Worst Witch*, *Lily Bobtail*, *Peter Rabbit*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The White Witch* and many, many more! The children enjoyed sharing their favourite books and characters and even sang along to a special World Book Day rap!

Junior 1 excitedly showed off their costumes to the rest of their class on Teams. They then watched the story of *The Huey's In The New Jumper* and had the chance to design Rupert a new jumper. There were so many lovely bright and colourful designs.

Junior 2 went on a book Scavenger Hunt – finding characters or events within stories they had at home. They then researched authors, Tom Fletcher and Jess French, before completing their own book review.

Junior 3 had great fun playing *The Masked Reader* and enjoyed watching an extract from David Walliams' *Fing*. It linked in really nicely to their non-fiction writing on their own made-up creatures.

Across the Junior 4 classes pupils linked World Book Day to their Beowulf topic studying their favourite heroes and heroines. They endured Miss Trunchbull playing a book character guessing game and studied one of our most famous modern poets, Michael Rosen, watching clips of his famous performance poems.

Junior 5 studied a variety of books throughout the week, matching blurbs to book covers to inspire the children to read them. They focused on authorial techniques such as 'show rather than tell' and had great fun in a challenge to read in the most unusual of places!

Finally, Junior 6 delved into all things Shakespearean continuing their focus on *Romeo and Juliet*. They chose from a range of activities including writing a comic strip, designing and making potions for the star-crossed lovers or even designing a symbol of peace. They joined a session with the RSC and Michael Morpurgo introducing and discussing his book *Tales from Shakespeare*.

It was a busy and wonderful World Book Day.

# Productions



## Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

This year's full-scale musical production was the multi award winning musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. Performed by pupils in Junior 6 ably supported by a chorus of pupils from Junior 5, the children rose brilliantly to the occasion as the cast surpassed themselves to ensure the show could go on. The energy and clear enjoyment of all involved was a joy to see. Crackley as always you were amazing congratulations to you all!





## Christmas Nativities

There was no way we were going to miss out on our Christmas Nativities. So with much planning and plenty of preparations and the help of a film crew we put together four nativities for parents to enjoy.

This year Nursery performed *A Bundle of Joy*, a story of about Grumble, a very grumpy donkey. The children really enjoyed learning all the songs and dances that help tell the story of the birth of Jesus and Grumble's realisation that life isn't so bad after all.

Reception's nativity was *The Angel Who Nearly Missed It All* and the children put on an excellent show. The angel chorus really did rehearse for hours to be ready to spread the joyous news and we met a whole host of familiar characters as we followed Late Angel's dash to join in the fun.

Junior 1 performed *Noisy Nativity*, filled full of songs, actions and plenty of excitement, as the story unfolded the children discovered that Christmas is not just about presents. It was a lively retelling of the story of Jesus' birth.

Junior 2's nativity was *It's A Miracle*, and it was a story of wow and wonder. Set in heaven and on earth (the playground) it captured all the beauty and wonder of the true Christmas story.

Filming took place in the school hall and also this year out on location – in a real stable (the outside classroom) and even included a real pony! You couldn't get more magical than that!



# Sport

In the Trinity Term pupils in Key Stage 2 were finally able to take part in sports fixtures.

## Netball

Having not played a sports fixture for over a year, you can only imagine the excitement for all the girls in Key Stage 2 as all year groups looked forward to their first fixture of the year.

The Junior 5 and 6 girls were due to play Crescent on Wednesday 5 May but the weather was against them. Freak hail storms made the courts at Crescent unplayable, meaning a cancellation of the matches and a group of extremely disappointed girls! However, our courts remained playable, so the teams set a challenge between them and they played their matches internally at home. The J5A and B teams took on the J6A and B teams respectively! What closely fought games they were!

Luckily, we rearranged the Foundation fixtures and the girls travelled to Crescent on Wednesday 19 May.

For their first competitive match, the U10A and B teams both played well, and impressed all with their great skills and fitness levels. The A Team, led by Captain, Isabella, won by an incredible 10-1. Both Olivia and Lily shot accurately and the whole team really gelled together. The B team, led by Elle, also played superbly, and impressively won 12-1. Again, a great team effort, and both Elle and Willow shot with great skill.

The U11A team had a very close match and although their possession was good they just lost out on accuracy in the net. Despite a valiant effort and strong passing skills, they went down 8-4. The U11B had a better time, the whole team played excellently and with great shooting they won 8-3.

This was the first opportunity for most of Junior 3 and Junior 4 to play in a netball match, but they really rose to the challenge! A group of extremely excited (and somewhat nervous) children travelled to Crescent School for their first competitive outing in their netballing careers. Having had little opportunity to prepare, plus no other games to compare, we didn't know what to expect from the girls but in true Crackley style, they really rose to the occasion.

The U8 team gelled so well as a team, showing great energy and enthusiasm, resulting in a 9-0 win. The U9A and B teams were closely matched with the Crescent girls and had to hold their nerve. The U9A team were eventual victors with a 2-1 score-line. The U9B team result was a very fair 2-2.



## Cross Country

Crackley Hall was delighted to welcome Crescent School for a fantastic Foundation Schools' cross-country challenge. Junior 5 and Junior 6 boys and girls raced against Crescent's Year 5 and 6 pupils.

With rain and hail that morning conditions were definitely damp underfoot but the sun came out for just long enough for all to enjoy a dry run!

The children were very keen to compete, and the runners set off on the winding course around the school field with plenty of energy and enthusiasm. Determination and perseverance kept them going on the 1500m run.

A huge well done to all the competitors, who ran excellent races and cheered their peers on.



## Rounders

The U8 girls enjoyed their first competitive rounders match just before the half term, the A team played Bilton Grange, a tough challenge, which they faced head-on. They started with a coaching game and showing real aptitude the girls won by 6-2½. In the second game, the Crackley girls faced the tougher U9B team but learning and adapting with each ball, the girls also won this game 6-5!

Then in June the team played Crescent School. This time, all girls had the opportunity to play. Our B team started their campaign, batting extremely well to win by 4-2½. The A team then took to the pitch and used the skills they had learnt from their previous match to field and bat with accuracy and confidence. They won by 6½-3.

The Junior 4 U9 girls also enjoyed a super afternoon of rounders against Crescent School.

The A team won 2-1½, while the B team lost 2½-4. Plenty of fantastic fielding and brilliant batting by them all! Fielder of the game was Olivia and batter of the game was Esme. Well done to all the girls!

Just before half term Junior 5 faced Bilton Grange, the U10 girls played two games losing the first match 11-3 but regrouping and getting their big batters out to win the second 10-7. An amazing effort by all the girls.

In June, Junior 5 and Junior 6 played Crescent School. They fielded an U11A, U10A and U11/U10 mixed team. All the girls had the opportunity to play, which was a fantastic and very successful experience for them. The U11/U10 mixed team won by 10-7½, a special mention for Helayna for her amazing batting. The U10A team won by 11- 6½ helped by Olivia's batting and Issey's superb fielding and the U11A team won by a massive 18½-10.



## Cricket

On Wednesday, 29 April the U11A team played against Bilton Grange away. It was a great game although the boys just lost narrowly. Most of the team had not played a cricket match for Crackley Hall before. Yung was Man of the Match on his debut for Crackley. Maxwell got a wicket and three catches. Freddie got a run out and Fin got a wicket maiden (0 runs 1 wicket in 6 balls). Well played to everyone.

The U8 and U9s then enjoyed a fantastic friendly match against Crescent School before the U8s ventured off to Bilton Grange. Thanks go to Phoebe, Lizzie, Issy and Amy, who stepped in to make it possible for Crackley Hall to play a second team, ensuring that every boy had an opportunity to play. The highlight of the B team match was some outstanding fielding by Blythe, whose energy and enthusiasm, saved the ball from going to the boundary on many occasions. In both matches, Bilton Grange achieved narrow victories.

## Football

On Wednesday 19 May the U11A and B football teams played the Crescent.

The U11A football team won 4-1 after going down 1-0 in the first half. The boys played a great last game for Crackley Hall with Max scoring a hat-trick and Freddie adding one to make the total four. Everyone played brilliantly and was very proud to be able to represent the school. Fin Williams was voted Man of the Match.

The U11B football team also faced Crescent but lost 7-0. Despite the score, the team played really well and it was great to play our fellow junior school. The Man of the Match was George Fry. For most of the boys this was their first and last football match in their last year at Crackley Hall and they really appreciated the opportunity to play.

On the very next day the U8 team also faced the Crescent. The A Team luckily came from 2-1 down to get a draw. In the B team match, the boys played really well against Crescent A team, even though they conceded 5 goals in the first half. Their second half was better and the team was satisfied that despite missing some goals they had played a good match overall.



# Sport



## Reception and Key Stage 1 enjoy a Super Sports Day

Reception and Key Stage 1 enjoyed a super morning out on the 'big field' sprinting, jumping and winding their way through all the sporting fun.

Their challenges included a carousel of different activities with sprinting, endurance running, long jump, throwing, target practice and a speed obstacle course. Each event enabled them to compete to earn points for their house and the event finished with the traditional relay race.

Decked out in House colours and with happy smiles they enthusiastically launched themselves into each activity and clearly all had a super time.





### Key Stage 2 Sports Day

Our Key Stage 2 Sports Day was a super success, as race after race, event after event our outstanding young athletes leapt, threw and dashed.

Sports Day took place just before Half Term out on the school's playing fields and the school made a full day of it. The children took part in sprints, the Long Jump, High Jump, a Throwing Challenge and a Relay Race. All of the events were hotly contested with so much determination on show in both the track and field events. Well done to everyone for taking part so enthusiastically and showing such fabulous house spirit. It was a fabulous fun-filled day enjoyed by all!



### Crackley takes the Top Spot in the ISA Limitless Skills Challenge

During the spring lockdown Crackley Hall School took first place in the Independent Schools Association's (ISA) Limitless Skills Challenge amassing a huge total of 7,558 points, nearly double the score of the second placed school.

The six-week programme of physical challenges was designed to encourage pupils to stay active harnessing technology in a fun and engaging way to transform time spent on-screen into time being active.

Two Junior 3 pupils, Isaac and Ted placed 1st and 3rd respectively in the Age 7 and under category. While Junior 3s, Isaac and Arthur and Junior 5s, Alfred and George, were four of just 26 children who completed all of the challenge's 40 skills.

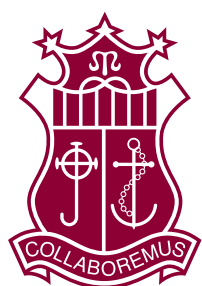
Headmaster, Rob Duigan, commented, "Pupils really engaged with the ISA Limitless Skills Challenge and their commitment, determination and sheer enthusiasm helped our school take the top spot. I am really very proud of them all."

To recognise their achievement the ISA awarded trophies and Mr Duigan was delighted to present them to the boys.

**ISA  
LIMITLESS  
SKILLS  
SERIES  
AT HOME**

*"Pupils really engaged with the  
ISA Limitless Skills Challenge."*

# Sports Teams



2020-21 saw limited opportunities for Crackley's Sports Teams to compete but that didn't stop the girls and boys. As well as enjoying fixtures with our fellow Foundation Junior School, Crescent School, they also had plenty of internal matches when the teams mixed and matched to get in plenty of games. We still took team photos and we think you will agree that they all look great! Well played everyone – when we could!



**U8A Cricket**



**U8A Football**



**U8A Netball**



**U8A Rounders**



**U8B Football**



**U8B Rounders**



**U9A Cricket**



**U9A Football**



**U9A Netball**



**U9A Rounders**



**U9B Football**



**U9B Netball**



**U9B Rounders**



**U10A Cricket**



**U10A Football**



**U10A Netball**



**U10A Rounders**



**U10B Cricket**



**U10B Football**



**U10B Netball**



**U11 Cross Country**



**U11A Cricket**



**U11A Football**



**U11A Netball**



**U11A Rounders**



**U11B Football**



**U11B Netball**



**U11B Rounders**

# Spiritual

## First Holy Communion Mass

Friday 11 June was an important day for 17 Crackley Hall pupils as they celebrated their first Holy Communion Mass. Junior 3's Blythe Camilleri-Willis, Adreana Greevy, Ted Higginbotham, Evie Kettle, Elsie Woodall-Pagan, Beatrice Parizzi and Josie-Jean Swindells; Junior 4's Sebastian Crawley, Jay Jonah, Julia Kozhan, Andrew Parizzi, Mairén Steel, Elena Tokarek Nieves, Amelia Turvey, Beatrice Wood and Eve Wood; and Junior 5 Sebastian Williams, gathered together excitedly with friends, family and representatives from the Crackley Hall school community at St Francis of Assisi Church in Kenilworth.

The children had been preparing for this special day for a while, learning about their faith so that they understood what they were committing to. In May they took the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. In the joyful and celebratory Eucharist, Father Kevin Hooper spoke about the nourishing love of God that would sustain the young communicants throughout their lives before the communicants received the sacrament with the utmost sincerity and reverence.

It was a very special day for all concerned.



## Blessing Of The Stones

In September we welcomed Father Kevin into school to preside over the blessing of pupils' stones. All the children in Reception had decorated a small stone in readiness and the service took place outside in St Joseph's Prayer Garden where Father Kevin, ably assisted by Mrs Jackson-Mayne, shared with the children how each stone symbolises their unique contribution to Crackley Hall School.

Intended as a place for prayer and reflection, this special location within Crackley's confines continues to offer a peaceful place for students and staff throughout the year. Under the cross is a box that contains stones laid by the children of the school, each stone is individual, it represents a member of the Crackley Hall community and provides a lasting legacy of the children's time at Crackley Hall School.



## Food Bank

During December, Crackley Hall School families contributed gifts of non-perishable food in a Reverse Advent Calendar collection for Warwickshire Food Bank. The response was overwhelming! It was wonderful to see our Crackley Community practising our virtues of 'Grateful and Generous' and being 'Active' participants in our neighbourhood.



# PTA News

Although the PTA did not have the chance to hold all their usual fairs and other social events they worked hard to raise funds through the following activities:

**Christmas Cards:** £775.32

**PTA Quiz:** £98.56

**The Big PTA Raffle:** £265.50

**Book Sale:** £407.50

**Bingo:** £313.70

**Non-uniform Days:** £365.35

**Pre-loved Uniform sales:** £3,023.75

**Easy fundraising:** £69.20

## Enchanted Crackley Christmas

The magic of Christmas arrived early at Crackley when Father Christmas and his reindeers popped in to see everyone. It was a super surprise for the children to meet Fergie and Buddy, some of Father Christmas' reindeer and to learn lots of fascinating reindeer facts. But of course, that wasn't all, for accompanying the reindeer on their visit was the big man himself. Father Christmas had taken time off from all of his festive preparations to come and meet the children. What a magical morning they all had. The Christmas experience was provided thanks to the generosity of businesses and individual families within the Crackley Community who donated towards the cost of the event enabling the PTA to run the activity at no cost to PTA funds.



## The Great Playground Makeover

Work on the playground was completed in two parts. Over Easter the area at the bottom of the main playground, behind the netball courts, was transformed. The area was prepared with a rubber mulch before being overlaid with astro-turf. Fencing was replaced, creating two separate areas to allow for flexibility of use. A balance beam and stepping stones were installed as play equipment for the children to explore. The trees were protected to allow them to continue to grow and a wonderful wooden gazebo constructed, that can be used both as a quiet retreat for the children at break and lunchtimes but also as a further outdoor classroom and teaching space.



## Other items purchased this year...

- Three composite benches
- Belgrade Theatre Panto recording
- Astroturf
- Easter Bunny gifts
- End of year disco treats
- Junior 6 Leavers celebrations

# *Staff 2020-21*



Rob Duigan



Duncan Cottrill



Susan  
Glen-Roots



Faye Burley



Verity Clark



Anne-Marie Convey



Jayne Ellis



Claire Ewen



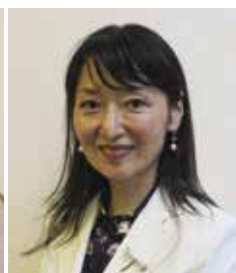
Catriona Hardwick



Carrie Holmes



Sorcha Horan



Helen Huang



Susanne Jackson-  
Mayne



Antony Kefalas



Sarah Lammas



Emma Malcolm



Susan Olden



Julia Roberts



Richard Stedeford



Claire Tatton



Anna van Zyl



Kat Vaughan



Steve Vaughan



Nicki Wildey



Clare Bird



Lisa  
O'Carroll-Bailey



Nicola  
Whitehurst



Sophie Blyth



Mina Bhogal



Gail Buswell



Anupa Chauhan



Eva Cowlshaw



Wendy Duigan



Lorraine Dyer



Harriet Edkins



Emma Fazakarley



Wasay Foladi



Ana Green



Clare Hill



Gurinder Kaur



Michael Luis



Mary O'Brien



Victoria Osborn



Rod Paphitis



Adam Peters



Tom Pike



Ian Sansum



Dolores Simmonds



Lois Thomas



Ruth Townsend



Jenny Vaughan



Karmel Verma



Jo Walter



Zoe Wild



Karen Wright





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