



# Crabtree Junior School

12<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## The blogs

In addition to this newsletter, the blogs are a primary source of information from the teachers. They are updated at least fortnightly. Click on your child's year group to find out more.

**Year  
3**

**Year  
4**

**Year  
5**

**Year  
6**

## Weekly timetables

If you would like to see the weekly lesson plan for your child's class, please visit the school website at:  
[http://www.crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk/teaching\\_learning/timetables.html](http://www.crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk/teaching_learning/timetables.html)

**This term's school value is  
"Appreciation".**

## Diary Reminders

**15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June**  
**ASSESSMENT WEEK**  
(Year 3-5)

**Tues 16<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Kwik Cricket Festival**  
Musical Instrument  
demonstration, 6pm

## School letters

*Please ask the School Office if you require a paper copy*

School meal reminder  
invoices

## From the Headteacher

*It has seemed very quiet this week without Year 6 at the end of 'my' corridor. We are looking forward to welcoming them back this afternoon and hearing all about their stay on the Isle of Wight. Luckily the weather has been perfect for evening games on the beach ... and I wonder if our Crabtree palaeontologists found any significant fossils?*

*Thank you to everyone who returned the school trips questionnaire. An overview of the results is given below. One parent wrote to say out how we often take school trips for granted: some interesting points were made and I have therefore reproduced the letter in full at the end of this newsletter. I would particularly like to reiterate the thanks expressed to staff for all that they do to facilitate trips and enrichment activities for pupils at Crabtree.*

*Well done to our Year 5 Rounders Team who took part in the District Tournament in Year 6's absence. See below for their report. Next week is the turn of our cricketers.*

*Next week Years 3, 4 and 5 will have their termly assessments. Please make sure that children are in school promptly each day.*

*Congratulations to Mrs Clements who has given birth to a beautiful baby girl. Esme was born on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May weighing a very healthy 8lb 5oz.*

*May the sun continue this weekend – let's hope the forecasters are wrong!*

*Ian Patrick,  
Headteacher*

## Parent governor vacancies

No nominations were received for the parent governor vacancies. The governing body will now seek to appoint two governors.





Click on the WisePay logo for online school payments; or the Spend and Raise logo below to raise funds for the PA when you shop online.



## CRABTREE COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Please note that these notices are provided as a community service and Crabtree Junior does not take responsibility for or seek to endorse any of the advertisements printed in this section.

### E-Flyers:

**Sports Xtra  
Summer holiday club  
Crabtree Junior School  
27<sup>th</sup> July – 14<sup>th</sup> August**

### Flyers:

**Sports Xtra**

Saracens Rugby Camp  
Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Aug 15 - Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Aug 15  
Time: 09:30 - 15:15  
Harpden RFC  
6-14 years as at 17/08/2015  
Boys and Girls  
Cost: £135.00  
<https://bookings.rugbycamps.co.uk/>

### Situation Vacant

Noah's Ark Play School (part of Crabtree Church) on Crabtree Lane is looking for a part time assistant, term time only 8.45/9 am - 1.30pm for at least three mornings per week.

Ideally the applicant should be qualified in NVQ3 Childcare or equivalent, or willing to train at some point. Please send your CV or email for more details [info@noahsarkharpden.co.uk](mailto:info@noahsarkharpden.co.uk).

## Musical Instrument demonstration

Inspired by the summer concert? Would your child like to learn a musical instrument ... but isn't sure which one?

Musicale Ltd will be at the school together with our violin teacher, Mrs Lewis-Lim, on Tuesday evening from 6pm for approximately one hour. Short demonstration first and then the opportunity to 'scrape or blow' and try then instruments from themselves. Let us know if you are planning to come so that we can set out enough seats, but feel free to just turn up if you change your mind at the last minute.

## Scholastic Books, *from Mrs Duncan*

Your child should have brought home recently a catalogue of books from Scholastic. There are some super books to choose from to help to keep your children reading through the summer holidays. Even more appealing are the competitive prices and free post and packing on orders over £25. Why not combine your order with a friend to take advantage of this offer?

When you order online, please nominate Crabtree Junior School and we will then receive 20% on all orders over £10.

You can choose to have the books delivered to your home address or to the school if you order by 30 June.

Thank you for your support.

## School trips questionnaire

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete our short questionnaire on school trips. Based on the responses, it seems a majority think we are currently getting it about right with 3-4 day trips per year group per academic year and residential school journeys in both Year 5 and Year 6. We will aim to limit the total cost of trips per annum to around £30 and the cost of school journey to £300 – £350 (in current terms).

Many of you used the comments section to let us know just how much you appreciate the trips provided at Crabtree, e.g.: *School trips offer a wide range of opportunities which go way beyond what is learned in the school environment and are therefore invaluable.*

There were some comments about the distance travelled for the Year 6 residential trip. This is something we will keep under review but another parent viewpoint was: *Please don't change trips – my eldest didn't go to IoW and he always feels he missed out.*

Clearly, the financial demands of school trips are more significant for some parents than others and the school will continue to support families where there is genuine need – through the funding for 'Ever 6' children and, in some cases, from school funds. It is worth pointing out that we have only ever had to cancel one trip due to insufficient contributions being received. One parent suggested that there could be an option for individuals to make an extra payment to create a 'trip reserve' fund to help other families. Thank you for this generous suggestion; this is something we could consider if we felt there was a need.

Other questions and comments were:

*I think the trips should be educational. I am not sure if the trip to HYMB is?*

We are absolutely convinced of the educational value of the Year 5 trip – not in an academic sense, but the teamwork, problem solving, social skills and emotional development that the experience promotes are invaluable.

*They don't need a trip in Year 6 as they have another one in Year 7 (October).*

Although we are aware that Sir John Lawes have a teambuilding trip in the first term of Year 7, that is not the case for all schools and other parents have told us that the Crabtree experience is quite different

*Could we possibly have a fund that we build for our children and simply agree to the release of each amount for the various trips?*

Unfortunately, WisePay cannot 'hold credit' as suggested and, administratively, we would find it difficult at this time to take an annual payment upfront.

*Can voluntary contributions for school trips be gift aided?*

No, because the benefit to you (to your child) is equal to the donation.

*Can school trips be paid for in all/part in childcare vouchers?*

No, the childcare voucher scheme does not apply to schools.

## Rounders Report, *from Ollie, Louis and Arthur*

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, Crabtree rounders team played in a tournament at Redbourn Junior School. Our first match was against High Beeches. We played really well when fielding and some outstanding catches from Arthur we managed to get their whole team out. Rounders from Lauren and Ollie meant the final score was 2-nil to Crabtree.

Next we played St Helen's. Unfortunately we bowled two no balls and lost that match by half a rounder.

The match against Manland saw a number of no balls. Louis scored a rounder and the final tally was four rounders each.

After losing our next two matches, we knew we had to up our game. Our final match was against Redbourn but we were unable to gain a victory. Overall we finished Joint 7<sup>th</sup> but 4<sup>th</sup> in our league.

Many thanks to Mrs Moxham for coaching us, our parents for supporting us and to the rest of the team for playing so well.

## From the Parents' Association

**Countdown to the Summer Fayre, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 11.30 – 2.30pm  
Three weeks to go!**

### Raffle tickets

We hope you have managed to sell many of your raffle tickets: please return stubbs and cash to the school office. Please let us know if you would like more tickets – remember all money raised goes to our schools.

### Summer Fayre donations

In order to make the summer fayre as successful as possible, we need your donations. Please can you start to collect the following:

Toys, books, DVDs (No videos), old bikes and scooters, jars to fill with sweets for the kids tombola, adult tombola items like alcohol bottles and unwanted gifts.

## Stars of the Week



<b>Cedar</b>	<b>Luke</b> , for a huge improvement in focus during lessons.
<b>Rowan</b>	<b>Sevi</b> , for great enthusiasm at the summer concert.
<b>Ash</b>	<b>Ross</b> , for being a fantastic challenge champion in English.
<b>Birch</b>	<b>Inaki</b> , for showing a more responsible approach to his learning in Maths.
<b>Teak</b>	<b>Liam</b> , for working well and focusing on the concert performance fantastically.
<b>Redwood</b>	<b>Kasia</b> , for excellent enthusiasm in all areas of school life.

### Contact us:

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[governors@crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk](mailto:governors@crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk)

For further information about events at Crabtree Junior School – including term dates and copies of previous newsletters – please visit the school website at [www.crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk](http://www.crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk)

If you have any comments on the newsletter or items for the Noticeboard, please contact the School Office.



## Letter from a parent re. School Trips

Personally, I've always been a fan of school trips and any learning experience outside the classroom. We all know that there are many learning and 'life' experiences that our children get from travelling out of the school, whether for the day or longer: how to be independent, to look after yourself, to manage friendships in a different dynamic/environment; how to learn independently, how to observe, manage spending money, seeing new places, enjoying new experiences and many more tangible and intangible benefits.

However, until recently, I took them for granted – just assumed they would happen. It wasn't until a friend from France was visiting that I realised how lucky we are in this country (and at Crabtree) to be offered such an amazing choice of trips. In France, school trips don't exist. The reason for this is that the teachers see them as an additional duty and insist on being paid for the extra time that they are away out of normal working hours. This means immediately that any trip is not viable from a cost point of view. Our friend was in awe of all the various trips that my children (in junior and secondary school) were able to participate in – and her children were extremely envious.

So – I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking all the teachers who take time out of their own busy lives to take our children on these wonderful trips and journeys. We're so fortunate and privileged that they do it so well.

Thank you