



Crabtree Junior School

13th February 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

This term's school value is "Hope".

Diary Reminders

**NEXT WEEK IS
HALF TERM**

**SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON
MONDAY 23RD FEB**

Monday 23rd Feb
Anti-bullying workshop
for Year 6 girls

Tuesday 24th Feb
Year 5 London Aquarium
visit

Wednesday 25th Feb
Spring Festival rehearsal,
am (selected choir)

School letters (email)
*Please ask the School Office if
you require a paper copy*

**Voluntary Contributions
Scheme**

PA Quiz Night

S4YC Holiday Club

From the Headteacher

The Year 6 assembly – the children's last ever assembly to parents! – was a joy this morning and parents learned all about how Hogwarts has inspired the Crabtree classrooms this term, with exploding volcanoes in Science and, in Literacy, Harry Potter flashback stories about 'Riding on Buckbeak'. Having opened the assembly with the boys' choir, the assembly ended on a tear-jerking rendition of 'Count on me'. We do count on you, Year 6, to continue being excellent role models for the younger pupils. Well done for a fantastic performance and many thanks to Mrs Doran and Mrs Wellham for rehearsing the children so well in such a short timeframe.

And on the subject of the assembly, I trust parents appreciated the new chairs! Many thanks to the Parents' Association for buying these for us.

With best wishes for a very happy half-term – stay safe.

*Ian Patrick,
Headteacher*

Hold the Date! Summer Concert, 4 June

A big thank you to Sir John Lawes for allowing us to hold a summer concert at their school on the evening of Thursday 4th June.

As part of the school's response to parents' comments regarding the increase in music provision at the school, the whole school, orchestra, pupil choirs – and a staff choir ... yes, the teachers will sing a song or two! – will be performing to parents.

We are giving you the 'heads up' now as there is an expectation that all 256 pupils will perform on the night in one way or another. Timings for the event will be sent out in due course but we envisage the event will last 1 – 1 ½ hours.

Voluntary Contributions Scheme

Please see the attached letter from the Chairs of Governors of The Crabtree Schools regarding the Voluntary Contributions Scheme that will be launched after half term.



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.



No nail varnish

A reminder please that children are not permitted to wear nail varnish to school.

Eisteddfod

Don't forget that the deadline for entries is **27th February** but do send forms in as soon as they are completed. All the details and the entry form are at http://www.crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk/news_dates/letters_notices.html

Sports notices, *from Miss Thomas and Mrs Mercer*

A huge thank you to all the pupils for their hard work this half term. As always, they have been amazing in lessons, clubs and fixtures.

Another wonderful week for sport at Crabtree.

Tuesday afternoon saw our rugby team compete at the Harpenden Rugby Club in the District Tag Rugby tournament. See below for a picture of the muddy but victorious team, with their very proud coaches. 14 schools entered the competition and Crabtree had to play six round matches, all of which we won by a least two tries. The team work and energy was second to none. In the final we were up against Redbourn, who had also won their section with no losses. It was a great match with Crabtree ultimately being victorious 10-8. A huge thank you to the magnificent players, tremendous supporters and brilliant coach, Mr Andrews. See below for a photograph of the team with their proud coaches.



We have also had two netball matches this week ... and, wow, what a start to league. The girls played Redbourn on Wednesday in their first match of the season and yesterday we played St. Hilda's. Everyone played brilliantly and applied skills we had been practising at training over the last term. It was a pleasure to be umpiring on the sidelines and to see such great competitive spirit. The results were-

Crabtree A 10 - Redbourn A 4
Crabtree B. 2. Redbourn B 10

Crabtree A 23 - St. Hilda's 5
Crabtree B 12 - St Hilda's 1

Well done to all the girls. Thank you to everyone who supported and for the help with timings and refreshments, it is really appreciated.



Sports practices after half term.

For timings of sports practices please consult the schedule published on the school website at:

http://www.crabtreejm.herts.sch.uk/teaching_learning/clubs.html

Indoor athletes: Keep training hard!

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.

Flyers:

Luton Town FC

Living the Dream (lower school only)

E flyers:

Charity Football Match at Sir John Lawes, 18th Feb

Frogmore Paper Mill

**Saracens
Derby Day**

28th March

**School Promotional
Ticket Offer**

**See eflyer for
details**

S4YC Half Term Holiday Club

S4YC will be at Crabtree Junior School from 9am to 3.30pm Monday to Thursday next week. There are still places available, so just turn up on the day if you would like your child to attend or telephone 07734 705559/07814 389469 for more details. Cost £15 per child per day.

Library Update, *from Mrs Duncan and Mrs Goody*

Since re-opening the library in October we have been delighted by how much the children are using the facility. There is always a rush of children coming in to choose a book or to read during their break.

If your child does not feel confident to use the library, please ask them to come and see the librarians, it's very easy to find and borrow books and we are always happy to show new users around.



Opening Times

The library is open on Monday and Thursday lunchtimes.

Classroom Libraries

Did you know that every classroom has between 200-400 library books, both fiction and information books. We are in the process of rotating all of these to keep the classroom shelves exciting and interesting. The children have been coming in a class at a time to choose five books each for the shelves and we have also tried to ensure that classrooms are well stocked with relevant topic books. Unfortunately books do go missing from classroom shelves (we have lost up to 100 per class over the last two years!) and we cannot trace who has lost these. It is often our most popular titles that are lost (Jacqueline Wilson, Harry Potter, Wimpy Kid, Percy Jackson), which means that other children miss out on reading them.

Book Amnesty – The Great Half Term Book Hunt

Please spend some time looking for school books at home over half term and bring them in either to the school office or to the box just outside the library. It costs a huge amount to replace lost books so we really need them back as soon as possible. There won't be any fines, even if you've had the books for a long time.

Book Donations

We are often asked whether the library accepts new or second-hand book donations. The answer is "Of Course!" We are very grateful for either fiction or information books. Just ensure that they are relevant and appropriate for our readers and in good condition. You can leave these with the school office or put them in the Library Returns Box outside the library door with a note.

Scholastic Book Fair returns to Crabtree Junior School w/c 16th March

We receive commission from sales at the book fairs and this is used as our main source of new books for the school library. By supporting these events you help to keep the library well stocked and up to date with the latest titles. Look out for posters nearer the time – we are promised a new selection of books.

Our Top 10 most-borrowed books this school year so far are:

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Roderick Rules – Jeff Kinney – 15 loans
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid – Jeff Kinney – 12 loans
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw – Jeff Kinney - 12 loans
- Tom Gates is Absolutely Fantastic – Liz Pinchon – 11 loans
- The Boy in the Dress – David Walliams – 10 loans
- The Brilliant World of Tom Gates – Liz Pinchon – 10 loans
- Gangsta Granny – David Walliams – 9 loans
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth – Jeff Kinney – 9 loans
- Billionaire Boy – David Walliams – 8 loans
- Tom Gates: Excellent Excuses and Other Stuff – Liz Pinchon – 8 loans

Reading Challenge: Creative photography

Half term would be the ideal time for the children to work on this term's first reading challenge, which is to take a creative picture with the theme of "Reading" or simply "Books".

The photos will be displayed, so we recommend children take time to think about the composition of their picture and the message they are trying to convey. Photo editing is allowed. Photos should be printed out and handed in to the class teachers, with full name, age, class and year group neatly on the back. **Closing date: Friday 27th February.**

From the Parents' Association

Crabtree Quiz Night -Saturday 28th March

It's time to test your brain power at the annual Crabtree Quiz night, which will take place on Saturday 28th March from 7.45pm. A hot supper will be provided and there will be a well-stocked bar serving beer, wine and soft drinks. Tables are limited so if you would like to reserve a table please email shazzacowell@yahoo.co.uk and make sure you return the table booking form with full payment to the school office by Thursday 19th March. A table booking form is attached to this newsletter. We hope to see you there.

Summer Fayre helpers

We are rather desperately looking for a few volunteers to help with preparation for the summer fayre. If you could spare a few hours in the next few weeks please email chloeandclaudio@yahoo.co.uk.

Stars of the Week

Cedar	Libby , for working extremely hard in maths this half term.
Rowan	Olivia , for a brilliant PowerPoint presentation on animal diets.
Ash	Elana , for being an absolute joy to teach every single lesson of every single day.
Birch	Cameron S , for being such a superstar this week.
Teak	Sophia , for continuous effort and a wonderful attitude to learning.
Redwood	Phoebe , for being a kind and conscientious member of the class.
Elm	Amelie , for being an all-round maths superstar this half term.
Elder	Joella , for showing real confidence in maths this half term.



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Challenge Champion

Harry (Ash) for becoming an absolutely fabulous author.

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

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

